

The Wild Meat Trail

Wild meat hunting and consumption is an integral part of life of the communities in the North-east of India. Wild meat markets exist in different towns and cities across the state. A Hoopoe Birds for Rs. 400(\$8), a Giant Squirrel for Rs. 500 (\$11), a Barking Deer for Rs. 6000 (\$135)... While the forest seems devoid of wildlife, what you see in the markets is an indicator of what still remains. Whereas cash is a driving force in the wild meat trail, there are clearly other aspects to the use of animal parts in local ritual and culture that is deeply ingrained in the psyche of the people here.

Filmed over 7 years THE WILD MEAT TRAIL is a quest to get some insight into the extent of hunting practices and its place in the current cultural context. It is a journey through the North-east of India-travelling from small towns to remote villages, trekking through wild terrains, participating in village rituals, talking to sellers and consumers – in an attempt to develop some understanding of the state of the wildlife in the region. The film also looks at attempts made by some village communities to ban hunting and conserve their natural wealth.

Under the Canopy

'Under the Canopy' is the education component of the film 'Wild Meat Trail, produced by Dusty Foot Productions, New Delhi, India. To substantiate the vision of the film this education program was developed as a step to positively influence people's knowledge, attitudes, emotions and behaviors about wildlife.