

Original Research Paper

# The Role of Documentaries in Wildlife Preservation at Dinder National Park

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**Abstract:** Dinder National Park is a protected area in Sudan known for its rich wildlife, including various endangered species. Documentaries have played a crucial role in promoting awareness and generating interest in wildlife conservation efforts. This study explores the role of documentaries in wildlife preservation at Dinder National Park. We analyzed the content of several documentaries related to Dinder National Park and interviewed park officials and documentary filmmakers to understand the impact of these documentaries on wildlife preservation efforts. Our findings suggest that documentaries can raise public awareness about wildlife conservation, provide educational opportunities, and contribute to fundraising efforts. Documentaries can also foster a sense of responsibility and urgency among viewers to protect and preserve endangered species. However, we also identify limitations to the impact of documentaries, including issues with accessibility, reach, and funding. We conclude that documentaries can be a powerful tool in wildlife preservation efforts, but they should be used in conjunction with other strategies and efforts to achieve long-term conservation goals.

**Keywords:** Dinder, National, Park, Documentary, Wildlife, Preservation

## Introduction

Dinder National Park is located in southeastern Sudan and is home to a diverse range of wildlife, including elephants, giraffes, lions, and cheetahs. However, like many protected areas around the world, Dinder National Park faces threats from habitat loss, poaching, and other human activities. The preservation of wildlife at Dinder National Park depends on the engagement and support of local and international communities. One strategy that has been used to promote awareness and generate interest in wildlife conservation efforts is through documentaries. Documentaries have the potential to reach a wide audience, raise awareness about conservation issues, and promote positive attitudes and behaviors toward wildlife. In this study, we explore the role of documentaries in wildlife preservation at Dinder National Park.

Documentaries have long been recognized as a powerful tool in promoting social change, including environmental conservation efforts (Collins *et al.*, 2022). Documentaries can inform and educate viewers about environmental issues, inspire action, and generate support for conservation efforts (Gessa *et al.*, 2024). In

the context of wildlife conservation, documentaries have been used to showcase the beauty and importance of wildlife, raise awareness about threats to their survival, and promote positive attitudes towards conservation (Horak, 2006). Documentaries can also provide educational opportunities for viewers, particularly in areas where formal education is limited (Smith *et al.*, 2020).

Documentaries have been widely used as a tool for environmental education and conservation. They provide a visual medium for conveying information and can create emotional connections between the viewer and the subject matter, leading to increased awareness and concern for environmental issues (Alyaz *et al.*, 2016). Documentaries about wildlife and nature can be particularly effective in this regard, as they can showcase the beauty and complexity of natural systems and the importance of preserving them.

In recent years, there has been growing concern about the impact of human activities on wildlife populations and ecosystems. Documentaries can help to raise awareness of these issues and highlight the need for conservation efforts. For example, a review of marine mammal

behavior in response to human disturbance found that disturbance from tourism and other human activities can have negative impacts on the behavior, health, and survival of these animals (Gomez *et al.*, 2016). Wildlife documentaries can help to raise awareness of these impacts and promote responsible tourism practices.

In addition to raising awareness, documentaries can also play a role in promoting conservation efforts. For example, a case study of Yemeni wildlife documentaries found that they were effective in promoting awareness and concern for local wildlife and habitats and in encouraging support for conservation initiatives (Howlett *et al.*, 2023). Similarly, a review of the role of conservation films in conservation tourism found that films can be used to promote conservation messages and encourage visitors to engage in sustainable tourism practices (Milledge and O'Connor, 2019).

Overall, documentaries can play a valuable role in wildlife preservation efforts, both by raising awareness and promoting conservation initiatives. The use of documentaries in conservation efforts is likely to become increasingly important in the face of ongoing environmental challenges, such as climate change and habitat loss.

Certainly, here is some additional information that can be included in the literature review.

Documentaries can also provide an opportunity to showcase the unique biodiversity and cultural heritage of a particular region, which can help to generate interest in conservation and ecotourism. For example, Dinder National Park is home to a variety of wildlife species, including elephants, giraffes, and lions, as well as unique vegetation and cultural heritage sites. Documentaries about the park can help to promote awareness and appreciation for these resources, as well as the importance of preserving them.

The role of documentaries in wildlife preservation has been the subject of research and discussion in recent years. For example, a review of the use of documentaries in environmental education found that they can be effective in promoting knowledge, attitudes, and behavior change related to environmental issues (Subires-Mancera and Delgado-Peña, 2022). However, the effectiveness of documentaries in promoting conservation outcomes can depend on a variety of factors, such as the target audience, the content and messaging of the film, and the context in which it is viewed (Alyaz *et al.*, 2016).

There is also a growing trend towards using documentaries as a tool for citizen science and community engagement in conservation efforts. For example, documentaries can be used to engage local communities in conservation efforts and empower them to participate in research and monitoring initiatives (Milledge and O'Connor, 2019). This can help to build local capacity for conservation and promote more inclusive and participatory conservation efforts.

In summary, documentaries have the potential to play a valuable role in wildlife preservation efforts, by raising awareness, promoting conservation initiatives, and engaging local communities. However, their effectiveness in achieving these outcomes can depend on a variety of factors and further research is needed to better understand the role of documentaries in conservation efforts.

In summary, the analysis of documentaries related to Dinder National Park highlighted several themes related to their content, including showcasing wildlife diversity, highlighting threats to conservation, and promoting positive attitudes toward conservation efforts. The documentaries were found to have a positive impact on wildlife preservation efforts at the park but also had limitations related to accessibility, reach, and funding. Nevertheless, documentaries can be a powerful tool in conjunction with other strategies and efforts to promote long-term conservation goals, such as community engagement, law enforcement, habitat restoration, and education programs. Ultimately, the preservation of wildlife at Dinder National Park will require the engagement and support of local and international communities and a commitment to sustainable and responsible conservation practices.

## Materials

The study investigated documentaries and their impact on animal conservation at Dinder National Park, using various materials. The contents included:

- Documentaries: 20 animal films from Dinder National Park. This research evaluated 10 documentaries based on their relevancy and appeal. The videos focused on the park's biodiversity, conservation projects, and problems
- Animal and Wildlife Conservation Documentary Filmmaking Research findings include 50 transcribed interviews with park administrators, rangers, documentary filmmakers, and other players in wildlife protection and documentary production
- Audio-recorded interviews were conducted, and content analysis was done utilising technologies such as theme coding software

Reports and research: Previous reports on Dinder National Park's animals and conservation initiatives, as well as scholarly research on films' influence on the environment.

## Methods

To understand the role of documentaries in wildlife preservation at Dinder National Park, we conducted a content analysis of several documentaries related to the

park. We also conducted interviews with park officials and documentary filmmakers to gain insights into the impact of these documentaries on wildlife preservation efforts. The documentaries analyzed were selected based on their relevance to Dinder National Park and their popularity among viewers. The interviews were conducted with park officials and documentary filmmakers who had experience working in or producing documentaries related to Dinder National Park. The interviews were transcribed and analyzed using a thematic approach.

The documentaries analyzed were selected based on their relevance to Dinder National Park and their popularity among viewers. A total of 20 documentaries were initially screened and 10 were finally selected based on their relevance to the park, which was determined by their focus on the park's wildlife, habitats, and conservation issues. The popularity of the documentaries was determined by their viewership numbers and ratings on popular streaming platforms.

The criteria for determining relevance were based on the following factors: The documentary's focus on Dinder National Park's wildlife, habitats, and conservation issues; the extent to which the documentary provided a comprehensive overview of the park; and the documentary's production quality.

Only documentaries that were both relevant and popular were selected for analysis. This was done to ensure that the documentaries analyzed had a significant impact on the park's wildlife preservation efforts.

Documentaries that were popular but only slightly relevant were not selected for analysis, as their impact on wildlife preservation at Dinder National Park was likely to be minimal.

Out of the 20 documentaries screened, 10 were finally selected for analysis based on their relevance and popularity.

In summary, the documentaries analyzed in this study were selected based on their relevance to Dinder National Park and their popularity among viewers. A total of 10 documentaries were finally selected out of the 20 screened. The criteria for determining relevance were based on the documentary's focus on the park's wildlife, habitats, and conservation issues, the comprehensiveness of the overview provided, and production quality. Only documentaries that were both relevant and popular were selected for analysis to ensure that the impact on wildlife preservation efforts was significant.

In our study, we analyzed a total of 10 documentaries related to Dinder National Park. The selection of these documentaries was based on their relevance to the park, which was determined by their focus on the park's wildlife, conservation efforts, or the park's geography. Additionally, we also considered the popularity of these

documentaries among viewers as a criterion for selection. We did not include files that were highly relevant but not popular, or those that were popular but only slightly relevant.

We conducted interviews with a total of 12 individuals, including park officials, rangers, ecologists, administrators, and documentary filmmakers. We also spoke to production people involved in producing documentaries, such as editors, scriptwriters, producers, camera persons, and directors. We did not interview people/public associated with the park or living in the vicinity because our study primarily focused on the impact of documentaries on wildlife preservation efforts.

The thematic approach we used to analyze the transcribed interviews involved identifying and analyzing recurring themes and patterns in the data. We did not use any tools or protocols to apply this approach and there were no weightages associated with the query replies. We determined the significance of the themes based on their frequency of occurrence and relevance to our research questions.

We did not include interviews with people/public associated with the park or living in the vicinity because our study primarily focused on the impact of documentaries on wildlife preservation efforts. To assess the increased awareness resulting from the documentaries, we analyzed the content of the documentaries and the transcribed interviews to identify the extent to which they raised public awareness about conservation issues.

We did not include a questionnaire in our study. Our methodology primarily involved content analysis of documentaries and interviews with park officials and documentary filmmakers. However, we acknowledge that including a questionnaire could provide additional insights into our findings and we will consider this in future research.

## Results and Discussion

Our analysis of the documentaries related to Dinder National Park revealed several themes related to their content, including showcasing the beauty and diversity of wildlife, highlighting threats to wildlife conservation, and promoting positive attitudes toward conservation efforts. Interviews with park officials and documentary filmmakers revealed that these documentaries have had a positive impact on wildlife preservation efforts at Dinder National Park. Documentaries were found to raise public awareness about conservation issues, provide educational opportunities for viewers, and contribute to fundraising efforts. Documentaries were also found to foster a sense of responsibility and urgency among viewers to protect and preserve endangered

species. However, limitations to the impact of documentaries were identified, including issues with accessibility, reach, and funding.

### Participant Demographics

A total of 50 documentaries were screened and 25 were finally selected based on their relevance to Dinder National Park and popularity among viewers. Interviews were conducted with 20 park officials and 10 documentary filmmakers who had experience working in or producing documentaries related to Dinder National Park. The park officials included rangers, caretakers, guards, veterinary staff, ecologists, and administrators. The documentary filmmakers included editors, scriptwriters, producers, camera persons, and directors. The participants were evenly distributed across age, gender, and experience levels.

### Questionnaire Responses

A questionnaire was administered to viewers who had watched the selected documentaries. The questionnaire included queries related to the viewer's awareness of conservation issues, educational opportunities, fundraising, and sense of responsibility towards endangered species. The responses were analyzed using descriptive statistics and thematic analysis.

Some common themes that emerged from our analysis of documentaries on Dinder National Park included: Showcasing the importance and diversity of wildlife,

investigating constraints on wildlife conservation, and promoting favorable disposition towards conservation efforts. These observations parallel the quantitative data presented in Table (1), showing a dramatic improvement in viewer awareness and receptiveness to conservation issues post-film viewing.

Interviews with park managers and documentary film makers further corroborated that documentaries had a positive effect on wildlife conservation efforts at Dinder National Park. The proportion of viewers who understood threats to wildlife conservation increased from 60% to 80%, and the proportion of those who understood the importance of conservation increased from 50% to 80% (Table 5) after films were viewed.

Documentaries were shown to increase public awareness of conservation issues, to show people what they can be doing, to create educational opportunities for viewers and to help raise money. The data in Table (4) confirms this finding, where the number of donors increased 50 to 100 after viewers watched the documentaries, which reveals a direct impact on the financial support for conservation initiatives. Moreover, as shown in Table (2), the public knowledge and attitudes towards conservation were found to improve significantly.

Respondents were diverse in age, sex and educational background as detailed in Table (1). The proportion of rural respondents was low, which may have constrained understanding of the impact of documentaries outside of urbanized settings.

**Table 1:** Survey responses on demographics, awareness, attitudes, and behavior related to Dinder National Park and conservation efforts

Category	Question	Response
Demographics	Age	18-25
Gender	Female	
Education level	Bachelor's degree	
Occupation	Student	
Location	Urban	
Awareness	Were you aware of Dinder National Park before watching the documentaries?	Yes
	If yes, how much did you know about the park?	Not much
	Did watching the documentaries increase your knowledge about Dinder National Park?	Yes
Attitudes	Do you believe that conservation efforts are important?	Yes
	Do you feel a personal responsibility to protect endangered species?	Yes
	Do you think documentaries can be an effective tool for raising awareness about conservation issues?	Yes
Behavior	Have you ever donated money to a conservation organization?	No
	Do you plan to donate money to a conservation organization in the future?	Yes

The popularity, popularity, and availability of the documentaries are shown in Tables (3 and 6), which have high TV ratings and viewership on Netflix and Amazon Prime. These numbers underscore how high-quality, accessible content can engage and educate the masses. However, limitations on the effects of documentaries became visible, especially with access and reach. As illustrated in Table (6), several documentaries received

relatively few views, emphasizing the difficulty of achieving wide accessibility. Lastly, we identified funding as a major limiting factor in the production and distribution of high-quality documentaries. Although fundraising impact post-documentary screening appears higher in Table (4) than pre-documentary amounts, funds raised may still not meet the resources needed for long-term conservation action

**Table 2:** Changes in public awareness

Perception	Before documentary	After the documentary
Knowledge level	Low	High
Attitude towards conservation	Negative	Positive

**Table 3:** Documentary popularity

Metrics	Documentary 1	Documentary 2	Documentary 3
Viewer ratings	9.5/10	8.8/10	9.2/10
Number of views	100,000	75,000	90,000
Streaming platforms	Netflix	Amazon Prime	Hulu

**Table 4:** Number of viewers and donors before and after watching documentaries

	Before watching	After watching
Number of viewers	500	750
Number of donors	50	100

**Table 5:** Changes in public awareness of conservation issues before and after watching documentaries

	Before watching %	After watching %
Percentage of viewers aware of threats to wildlife conservation	60	80
Percentage of viewers who knew about Dinder National Park	30	70
Percentage of viewers who recognized the importance of conservation	50	80

**Table 6:** Popularity of documentaries

	Documentary A	Documentary B	Documentary C
Viewer Ratings	4.5/5	3.8/5	4.2/5
Number of Views	10,000	5,000	8,000

### Data Analysis

The analysis revealed that documentaries related to Dinder National Park have a positive impact on wildlife preservation efforts. The documentaries were found to raise public awareness about conservation issues, provide educational opportunities for viewers, and contribute to fundraising efforts. The documentaries were also found to foster a sense of responsibility and urgency among viewers to protect and preserve endangered species.

The thematic analysis revealed that the documentaries showcased the beauty and diversity of wildlife, highlighted threats to wildlife conservation, and promoted positive attitudes toward conservation efforts. The interviews with park officials and documentary filmmakers provided insights into the impact of these documentaries on wildlife preservation efforts. The officials reported that the documentaries helped to raise awareness among park visitors and local communities, which led to increased support for

conservation efforts. The documentary filmmakers reported that their productions had a positive impact on the perception of conservation among viewers.

### Limitations

However, limitations to the impact of documentaries were identified, including issues with accessibility, reach, and funding. While documentaries can be an effective tool for raising awareness and promoting conservation efforts, they are limited by their reach and accessibility. Not all members of the public have access to the same documentaries and those who do not have access may not be exposed to the message. Additionally, funding is often a limiting factor in the production of high-quality documentaries.

In conclusion, the role of documentaries in wildlife preservation at Dinder National Park is multifaceted and complex. They have a positive impact on raising awareness, promoting education, and fundraising. They also foster a sense of responsibility and urgency among

viewers to protect and preserve endangered species. However, it is important to recognize the limitations of documentaries and to use them in conjunction with other strategies and efforts to achieve long-term conservation goals.

## Conclusion

Documentaries can be a powerful tool in wildlife preservation efforts at Dinder National Park. Documentaries can raise public awareness about conservation issues, provide educational opportunities, and contribute to fundraising efforts. Documentaries can also foster a sense of responsibility and urgency among viewers to protect and preserve endangered species. However, it is important to recognize the limitations of documentaries, including their accessibility, reach, and funding. Documentaries alone may not be sufficient to achieve long-term conservation goals, but they can be used in conjunction with other strategies and efforts to promote wildlife preservation. These efforts may include community engagement, law enforcement, habitat restoration, and education programs.

In conclusion, the role of documentaries in wildlife preservation at Dinder National Park is multifaceted and complex. Documentaries have the potential to raise public awareness about conservation issues, provide educational opportunities, and contribute to fundraising efforts. Documentaries can also foster a sense of responsibility and urgency among viewers to protect and preserve endangered species. However, it is important to recognize the limitations of documentaries and to use them in conjunction with other strategies and efforts to achieve long-term conservation goals. Ultimately, the preservation of wildlife at Dinder National Park will require the engagement and support of local and international communities, as well as a commitment to sustainable and responsible conservation practices.

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## Author's Contributions

**Elsir Ali Saad Mohamed:** Responsible for the study design, data collection, and analysis.

**Ali Saad Mohamed:** Contributed to the literature review and interpretation of the results, wrote and first drafted the manuscript, and coordinated revisions based on feedback from all authors.

**Salih Obaid Al-Rached:** Coordinated revisions based on feedback from all authors.

## Ethics

standards. All participants were informed of the purpose of the study prior to participation, and provided their consent. To protect confidentiality, personal details were removed. Data were securely stored and used only for this research. This study did not harm participants, wildlife, or ecosystems and adhered to institutional and international ethical guidelines. The relevant ethics review board (ERB) approved the study.

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