

# Environment Award

Climate change dominated the suite of entries that we received. Many were broadcast or published in the run-up to the Copenhagen summit, and focussed on impacts of climate change on the developing world.

Although we were impressed with the quality of many entries, we felt that others had not "joined the dots" effectively between causes and effects. We were concerned, too, about the paucity of the offering from radio, still the medium with the biggest potential for reaching the planet's poorest people.

That said, we had some excellent entries to choose from; and the first of our runners-up is **ITV News for Expedition Everest**. This series of short films, broadcast just before the Copenhagen summit, gave primetime viewers a close-up look at ice melt in the Himalayas, and asked what it might mean for people living in the region. The potential impacts on people and their food supply was an important feature of the series. We liked the filming and the graphics, but we liked even more the fact that correspondent James Mates did not shy away from mature discussion of issues such as uncertainties in the science. We felt it brought the difficulties of doing scientific investigation in such a remote region alive, as well as airing concepts such as the precautionary principle that are key to climate policy. If only the presenters could refrain from calling every development "alarming"...

Our second runner-up is Channel Four News, with **Lindsey Hilsum's reports from Bolivia and China**. These reports laid bare the social and environmental costs of apparently green technologies that the western world wants - costs borne by local people. The Bolivian film was stunningly shot, and captured some of the reasons behind the government's insistence that profits deriving from its rare lithium deposits must be used to benefit Bolivians. We felt that these reports broke important ground by airing issues and stories that would have been unfamiliar to the audience.

But our winner - in the end, our unanimous choice - is **The End of the Line** - the story of humanity's over-exploitation of the world's fisheries, and what it implies for the future. For us, this was an impressive film, both editorially and visually. The facts and the causes of ocean depletion were laid bare, with due regard also paid to uncertainties in projecting the future. The ecological and social relationships between industrial-scale and artisanal fishing were explored in a compelling, human way, including Western depletion of African waters. Yet the film also offered solutions, at governmental and personal levels. Its messages have been heard, not least by corporations that are signing up to sustainable fishing codes. This is the rarest of beasts - a film about environmental destruction that entertains, with a positive and engaging finale.

## Jury panel:

CHAIR: Richard Black, Environment Correspondent, BBC  
David Viner, Climate Change Programme Leader, British Council  
Winnie De'Ath, Director of Communications, WWF  
Ed Gillespie, Co-founder, Futerra

