



# FREEK SAVES THE SHARKS TV SERIES

**ENDANGERED ANIMALS • SHARKS • DOCUMENTARY SERIES • DR. FREEK VONK  
• 2x50 MIN • DUTCH PUBLIC BROADCASTING**

## **TV SHOWS ABOUT THE LOVE FOR NATURE**

Dr. Freek Vonk is world famous in the Netherlands for his television programs, in which he shares his love for wildlife with his viewers. Last year he made a revealing documentary series about rhino poaching: Freek versus the poachers. Freek followed the route of rhino horn all the way from the African savannah to Asian markets and shops. In 2017, in a new documentary series, he will unveil the threats towards shark species worldwide, in collaboration with WWF.

Per year, around 8 people are killed by sharks. The other way around about 100 million sharks are killed each year by men. Just in order to make soup out of the fins or to process the shark meat in fishburgers and Fish & Chips. That means up to 3 sharks are being killed every second... In a cruel way, this beautiful creature is being slaughtered, while it has lived on our planet for more than 400 million years.

But the shark is not a very lovable animal. Despite of the fact that not many people are attacked or killed, we fear it. Freek Vonk captures the beauty of these animals and its unique biology, after all it is one of the most fascinating animals of all time. They are mysterious, and scientists are not even close to fathom all of it's aspects.

Besides showing the beauty of the species, Freek will follow the trail that 100 million sharks make each year: From the well protected clear blue waters of, for instance, the Bahamas via the battlefield on the oceans to the harbors and trading markets in Asia. Freek goes on board of a fishing boat to see how they embark the sharks or sharkfins and where they go after it. He will also visit the markets where shark fins and meat are being sold, after which he ends up in a restaurant to talk to the customers of the famous soup.

Last but not least, he will be investigating the fear and love for the Great White Shark in South Africa. He talks to a victim of a shark attack, shows the measures like shark nets at the coast, but also dives in the ocean to search for the biggest predator of the sea. In order to once and for all make clear that these beautiful and special animals should be saved and not be slaughtered to extinction.





### **ABOUT DR. FREEK VONK**

Dr. Freek Vonk is an internationally renowned Dutch biologist with a PhD in snake venom (Leiden University, 2012). He works at the Naturalis Biodiversity Center in Leiden. Dr. Vonk has 15 years of experience in handling reptile species, and published in prestigious scientific journals like Nature, Science and Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA.

His publications include, among others, the discovery of the evolution of snake fangs; the discovery of venom glands in monitor lizards; as well as the sequencing of the very first venomous snake genome .

In addition, Dr. Vonk is a highly respected science communicator. He is a writer for National Geographic Magazine and a host/presenter for several successful TV-documentaries about evolution and biodiversity. In 2012 he won the prestigious Eurekaprize in 2012 for Science Communication awarded by the Dutch Organization for Scientific Research and the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences.

### **SECOND NATURE TV**

Television production company Second Nature develops and produces formats in collaboration with biologist and scientist Freek Vonk. What do all of these programs have in common? They are all high-quality productions, combined with a lot of passion and a great fascination for nature and animals. Second Nature is a collaboration between Freek Vonk and production company TVBV, part of the Endemol Shine Group.



**For more info: [Second-Nature.tv](http://Second-Nature.tv)**

**Freek Vonk and his television programs:**

[Freek Versus the Poachers](#)

[Freek's Wild World](#)

[Freek Vonk in Latin America](#)

[Freek Vonk in Australia](#)

[Freek Vonk @ DWDD University](#)

**Freek Vonk and his fans:**

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/freek.vonk.1?fref=ts>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/freekvonk>

Museum exposition: <http://www.naturalis.nl/nl/het-museum/specials/freeks-favorieten/>

Live shows: <http://www.freekvonklive.nl/>

Campaign: <http://www.ah.nl/over-ah/pers/persberichten/bericht?id=1314026>

