



## **Galapagos**

*First-catch your iguana*

### **VOICE OVER**

Most of the islands in the Galapagos archipelago are uninhabited. In fact you need permission to land on them. Everywhere the human species goes, it affects the environment. This is one of the few remaining places on the planet where human influence and access is being tightly controlled. It took Martin months to secure permission to work here. More people have been up Mount Everest than have been allowed to come to this place.

This will be the group's laboratory, eating and sleeping quarters. Everything needed for the three months stay on the island, has to be brought with them and it's a condition of their permission that everything is taken away at the end. So now they're here, what are they going to do?

First catch your animal. The iguanas don't fear him, but are slightly wary. Staying beyond arms length again, this remarkable lack of fear of humans. It doesn't like being handled but it is astonishingly passive. The basic data first, body temperature obtained by putting a thermometer into the cloacal pouch, which all reptile species, males and females have.

### **Martin**

Its thirty point zero.

### **David Robinson**

For a cold blooded animal the temperature may seem high, close to an ambient blood heat but it has spent most of the day soaking up the sun. Next, length and weight. These are basic pieces of information but are crucial in understanding how this creature lives.

That's two kilos and a hundred grams. And for the next three months, this animal is one of the sample that are going to be intensively scrutinised. So it needs to be picked out from the crowd on the rocks. Each animal is given a distinctive mark and number.

The range of species found here and here alone makes these islands an endless source of fascination for biologists.