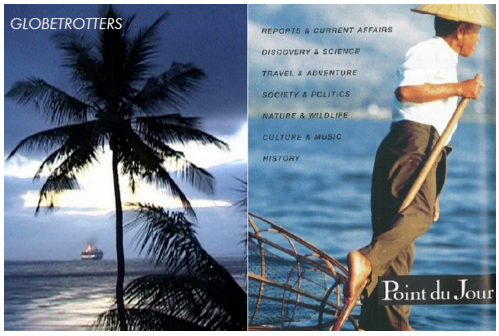
Point du Jour INTERNATIONAL

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# PAPUA NEW GUINEA: THE CROCODILE MEN

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The Sepik river in the north of Papua-New-Guinea is the kingdom of crocodile. They are so many that most villages on the river have a crocodile as totem, which is not the only way to prove their ultimate fascination for this animal. Every nine years, the people of the river villages organise an initiation ceremony: the skin of young boys is scarified to resemble that of a crocodile. Thus, they achieve the much respected status of crocodile men. We are invited to the ceremony in the village of Yenchemangua.

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Categorie(s): Collections - Series
Tag(s): Ethnography/Civilization, Reports

Producer(s): POINT DU JOUR
Length: 1x12 / Format: One-off
Original version: French
Versions available: International
Nationality: France, 1995
Rights: tv worldwide

http://www.pointdujour-international.com/catalogueFiche.php?idFiche=29763&lang=en