

1909

2009

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ON THE TRAILS OF THE GLACIERS



Produced by
sd cinematografica

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Marco Desati



The mission...

Glaciers provide a reliable indicator of the global climate and environmental changes that our planet is experiencing.

A hundred years after the Duke of the Abruzzi's mountain climbing and photographic expedition to the Baltor glacier in Karakorum, a team of scientists and photographers is following in his wake with the aim of carrying out an accurate climatological analysis and to compile a visual record of the transformations that have taken place in the glacier and the environment in general of the last century.

Premise...

Glaciers are undoubtedly one of the environmental systems that is most sensitive to the climate change that is currently taking place, and one of the most accurate ways of measuring it.

New data from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) indicates that the speed at which some mountain glaciers in various parts of the world are melting has doubled in recent years.

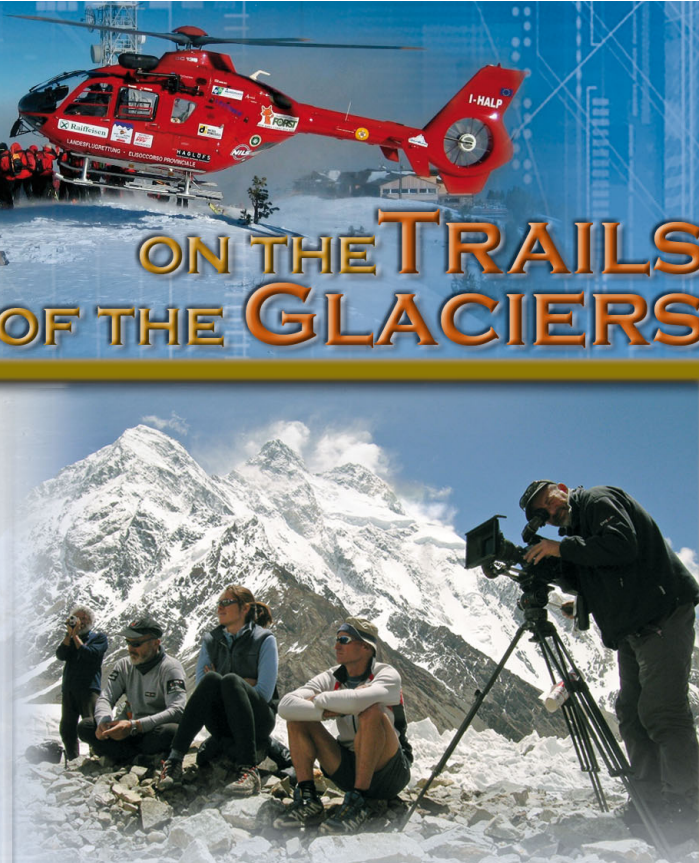
This is not just an aesthetic or purely environmental problem. Achim Steiner of the UNEP reminds us that, "millions, if not billions, of people depend directly or indirectly on these natural water storage facilities for drinking water, agriculture, industry and power generation during key parts of the year."

Location...

The **Karakorum** is a mountain chain in Asia, a continuation of the Himalayas that for around 450 km forms the border between Kashmir (Pakistani and Indian) and China.

Apart from the polar icecaps, it probably has more glaciers than any other part of the world. The altitude and rough terrain mean that it is considerably less inhabited than the contiguous Himalayas.

The mission will take place on the Baltor glacier, which is about 60 kilometres in length and one of the largest valley glaciers in the world. It is an area of unparalleled beauty, surrounded by some of the highest peaks in the world, such as K2 and the Broad Peak.



The past...

In 1909, Luigi Amedeo of Savoy, Duke of the Abruzzi, led an expedition the Karakorum, its main aim being to climb K2. The expedition included photographer Vittorio Sella.

Although the expedition failed to reach the peak, it did manage to identify the route along the southeast spur of a mountain (thereafter known as the Abruzzi Spur) and, in an attempt on the nearby Broad Peak, reached a height of 7493 m, a world record at the time.

During the expedition, a considerable amount of scientific data was collected. Furthermore, thanks to the tireless Vittorio Sella and his assistant Erminio Botta, they took the first, invaluable photographs and film of the area.

The aim today...

The goal of the mission is to highlight the changes in the glaciers and the environment that have taken place over the last century in this most sensitive and important system, by comparing Vittorio Sella's historic images with new images, as well as field data and laboratory analysis. Glaciers are reliable indicators of the climate and environment changes that our planet is experiencing.



Produced by:

SD Cinematografica

Lungotevere delle Navi, 19 - 00196 Roma

Tel. +39-063215114 - Fax +39-06 64520220 - www.sdcinematografica.it

LENGHT:

52 minutes

SHOOTING FORMAT:

HD