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SCIENCE

Radio 4

COSTING THE EARTH

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PROGRAMME INFO

Thursday 21:00-21:30

Costing the Earth tells stories which touch all our lives, looking at man's effect on the environment and at how the environment reacts. It questions accepted truths, challenges the people in charge and reports on progress towards improving the world we live in.

LISTEN AGAIN 30 min

Listen to 6 May

PRESENTER

ALEX KIRBY



'I really enjoy working on Costing the Earth, because it has the time to get its teeth into a subject and the resources to look at it critically. I hope it manages to say something new about most of the subjects it covers.'

Alex Kirby

PROGRAMME DETAILS

Thursday 6 May 2004



The island of Vis is the last example of unspoilt Mediterranean coastline.

Last Jewel in the Med.

220 million people holiday in the Mediterranean basin every year. Unsurprisingly every island, every beach and every inch of coastline has been developed. Forty years of mass tourism has changed the culture and environment of the whole region.

This week Costing the Earth visits the last example of unspoilt Mediterranean beauty - the Croatian island of Vis.

On Vis, the lifestyle, culture and wildlife once shared by the rest of the Mediterranean has been preserved by historical accident. During WWII, it was Tito and Fitzroy Maclean's last bastion against the invading Nazis. After the war, the island remained a military base, closed to outsiders for fifty years.



Marina Radic wants to protect the natural beauty of the island.

The World Wide Fund for Nature has declared that Vis is one of the last jewels of the Mediterranean and they want to protect the island from mass tourism. But after fifty years of isolation, there is a desperate need for employment opportunities to bring young people back to the island and many of the remaining locals are keen to sell their land to developers and grab their chance of a better life.

Alex Kirby asks if there is a way to bring in enough tourists to create employment without destroying the last outpost of traditional Mediterranean culture.

RELATED LINKS

- Sunce (Croatian NGO working with WWF)
- WWF Mediterranean
- Alternatura (Alternative Travel Agency on Vis)
- Travel, The Independent
- The Island of Vis - Tourist Association
- Green Action, Croatia
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