

Synopsis:

THE BISHNOIS

Ecologists since the 15th century

A photographic essay by
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For over five centuries, men and women living in the Thar desert in Rajasthan, India, have been willing to give their lives to protect wild animals and trees, living with them in total harmony after considering them as members of their family. Recognized as the world first ecologists, the Bishnois, which means 29 in local language, are following the 29 rules established in 1485 AD by guru Jambheshwar. This followed an apocalyptic environmental vision that showed mankind slowly digging its own grave.

Many individuals, from various casts, have joined this movement. Today over 600,000 Bishnois are fighting to preserve nature and wildlife in the Thar desert.