



Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Education**  
MIMAROPA REGION  
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF MARINDUQUE



Office of the Schools Division Superintendent

December 15, 2023

**DIVISION MEMORANDUM**  
No. **82**s. 2023

**VIEWING OF SCIENCE FILMS**

To: Assistant Schools Division Superintendent  
Chief Education Supervisors  
Public Schools District Supervisors  
Public & Private Elementary & Secondary School Heads  
All Others Concerned

1. With reference to Regional Memorandum No. 139, s. 2023 re: 2023 Science Film Festival, this division shall conduct the Viewing of Science Films in the respective schools from January 3-19, 2024 with the theme "United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration". The festival aims to promote science literacy and enhance awareness of contemporary scientific, technological, and environmental issues through the medium of film and television.
2. In this regard, learners from both public and private elementary and secondary schools, particularly the Science, Technology and Engineering (STE) and Special Science Elementary Schools (SSES) are invited to watch the film intended for a particular level. Learners and teachers may access the film through this google link: <https://shorturl.at/kvCY3>. Further, Science teachers are requested to download the films enumerated for a particular level ahead of the scheduled film viewing.
3. In addition to the list of films intended for the elementary level and secondary Level, there are also lists of films intended for the general public in which learners and teachers may also watch if interested.
4. School Science Coordinators are requested to submit a report on or before January 24, 2024 through this link: <https://shorturl.at/sCUX8>.

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Malusak, Boac, Marinduque  
Email: [deped\\_marinduque@yahoo.com](mailto:deped_marinduque@yahoo.com)  
Tel. No.: (042) 754-0247 • Fax No.: (042) 332-1611  
Facebook Page: DepEd Tayo Marinduque

5. Attached are the lists and descriptions for each film and suggested schedule for film viewing.
6. For information, guidance, and compliance of all concerned.

  
**LYNN G. MENDOZA, EdD**  
OIC, Schools Division Superintendent

Encls: As stated  
Reference: Regional Memorandum No. 139, s. 2023  
To be indicated in the Division Perpetual Index  
Under the following subjects:

LEARNERS  
SCIENCE ACTIVITIES

LEARNING AREA, SCIENCE  
TEACHERS

Enclosure No. 1 to Division Memorandum No. \_\_\_\_\_ s. 2023

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### Suggested Schedule for the Elementary Level

Title of Films	Number of Minutes	Viewing Schedule		
		Option 1 (Before Science Classes)	Option 2 (During Lunch Break)	Option 3 (After Science Classes)
Jane	22		/	
Pia and Wild Nature	25		/	
Animal Intelligence	9	/		/
The Village Illuminator	10		/	
Plastic Challenge	8	/		/
The Life and Times of Jena	8	/		/
E.C.O. Agents	13		/	

### Suggested Viewing Schedule for the Secondary Level

Title of Films	Number of Minutes	Viewing Options		
		Option 1 (Before Science Classes)	Option 2 (During Lunch Break)	Option 3 (After Science Classes)
Wild Hope-Does Nature Have Rights	28		/	
Checker Tobi: The Waste Check	25		/	
Dressing the Princess	10		/	/
The Living Sea	15		/	/
Women of the Wild	23		/	

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**Suggested Schedule for the Elementary Level**

Title of Films	Number of Minutes	Viewing Schedule		
		Option 1 (Before Science Classes)	Option 2 (During Lunch Break)	Option 3 (After Science Classes)
Jane	22		/	
Pia and Wild Nature	25		/	
Animal Intelligence	9	/		/
The Village Illuminator	10		/	
Plastic Challenge	8	/		/
The Life and Times of Jena	8	/		/
E.C.O. Agents	13		/	

**Suggested Viewing Schedule for the Secondary Level**

Title of Films	Number of Minutes	Viewing Options		
		Option 1 (Before Science Classes)	Option 2 (During Lunch Break)	Option 3 (After Science Classes)
Wild Hope-Does Nature Have Rights	28		/	
Checker Tobi: The Waste Check	25		/	
Dressing the Princess	10		/	/
The Living Sea	15		/	/
Women of the Wild	23		/	

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## PHILIPPINES FILM SHORTLIST 2023

34 Films

### FOR PRIMARY LEVEL

**Title:** Jane  
**Category:** Family Edutainment  
**Director:** J.J. Johnson  
**Produced by:** Sinking Ship Entertainment, Jane Goodall Institute, Apple TV+  
**Running Time:** 22 minutes  
**Country:** Canada  
**Year:** 2022  
**Age Guideline:** Primary School (9–11)

Jane is a series inspired by the mission of Dr. Jane Goodall and features a budding 9-year-old environmentalist on a quest to save endangered animals. Using her powerful imagination, Jane Garcia takes her best friends David and Greybeard the chimpanzee on epic adventures to help protect wild animals all around the world.

**Title:** Pia and Wild Nature – The Miraculous Creatures of the Namib Desert  
**Original Title:** Pia und die wilde Natur: Die Wunderwesen der Namib Wüste  
**Category:** Family Edutainment  
**Director:** Marcella Müller  
**Produced by:** text und bild GmbH | Bayerischer Rundfunk  
**Running Time:** 25 minutes  
**Country:** Germany  
**Year:** 2021  
**Age Guideline:** Primary School (9–11)

Pia has traveled to the Namib Desert. Far away from civilization, she visits the Gobabeb Desert Research Station and learns amazing things about the miraculous creatures of the Namib Desert. First, Pia meets a dune shark. Contrary to its dangerous-sounding name, it is a very cute little animal. It spends most of the day hidden in the sand dunes, where it swims under the sand. With the young researcher Ndelimona, Pia can get a close-up look at the amazing desert animal. After that, Pia goes in search of a wondrous desert plant: The Welwitschia consists of only one pair of leaves, it can survive with a few drops of water a year in the middle of the desert and lives to be over 1,000 years old! But not only Pia finds this persistent plant interesting – a desert chameleon also appears on top of the Welwitschia. While searching for nocturnal animals, Pia discovers that also at night, there is a lot going on in the Namib Desert. She encounters an eight-eyed desert spider, a luminous web-footed gecko and finally hears the laughing call of a barking gecko

CC

UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF  
**ECOSYSTEM  
 RESTORATION**  
 2021-2030

**Science  
 Film  
 Festival**  
[sciencefilmfestival.org](http://sciencefilmfestival.org)

**Title:** **Animal Intelligence**  
**Original Title:** **Inteligencia Animal**  
**Category:** **Family Edutainment**  
**Director:** **Andres Sehnkman**  
**Produced by:** **Canal Pakapaka**  
**Running Time:** **9 minutes**  
**Country:** **Argentina**  
**Year:** **2021**  
**Age Guideline:** **Primary School (9-11)**

How do the snakes see the world? Why do hummingbirds love flowers? Why do frogs sing? *Inteligencia Animal (Animal Intelligence)* is a television series for kids about animal life, with outstanding images, questions and fun trivia. In 13 chapters we'll get to know Latin America's wildlife and their secrets with the unique voice of the Argentine singer, Hilda Lizarazu.

**Title:** **The Village Illuminator**  
**Original Title:** **Sang Penerang Desa**  
**Category:** **Family Edutainment**  
**Director:** **Astu Prasiya**  
**Produced by:** **Ashoka Foundation**  
**Running Time:** **10 minutes**  
**Country:** **Indonesia**  
**Year:** **2023**  
**Age Guideline:** **Primary School (9-11)**

Since she was a little child, Puni loves visiting and living in a village. However, the village can be a boring place without any electricity. What did Puni do to generate power and enliven villages?

**Title:** **Plastic Challenge**  
**Original Title:** Retoplástico  
**Category:** Family Edutainment  
**Director:** Fernando Garabedian y Daniela Liendo Fluxá  
**Produced by:** The Circular Plastic in the Americas Program Chile (CPAP, programa de la Unión Europea), Fundación Chile, NTV  
**Running Time:** 8 minutes  
**Country:** Chile  
**Year:** 2021-2022  
**Age Guideline:** Primary School (9–11)

All of us can make a difference and protect the environment. In each episode of Plastic Challenge, we will invite you to know how. We will learn about the "7Rs" that we must activate to take care of our planet: Reflect, Redesign, Reduce, Reject, Reuse, Recycle and Repair. In a playful and entertaining way, we will review the plastic history, from its creation to the present, showing its contributions to humanity and also the problems that plastic has caused, due to the lack of awareness about circular economy. Besides that, we will visit Jorge Huneuus, a public school of La Pintana, where children are taught early on about caring for the environment through simple but important actions.

**Title:** **The Life and Times of Jenah**  
**Category:** Non-Verbal & Science Shorts  
**Director:** Yew Aun-Quek  
**Produced by:** Yew Aun-Quek  
**Running Time:** 8 minutes  
**Country:** Malaysia  
**Year:** 2023  
**Age Guideline:** Primary School (9–11)

Jenah, the black-spot snapper, spends her life in all three tropical marine ecosystems - born in the mangroves, grows up in the seagrass beds and lives her adult life in the coral reefs. These ecosystems are as beautiful as they are threatened by human activity. Join her as she navigates the challenging path to adulthood, swimming amongst the feet of giants, greener on the other side and nature's art gallery. The Life and Times of Jenah is a labour of love. It is aimed at placing the viewer in the shoes, or rather the fins, of a fish that uses all three tropical marine ecosystems within its life cycle. Growing up, she encounters new ecosystems, meets new friends and faces human-induced threats. Yew Aun is a marine biologist by training and is currently working in the realm of biodiversity policy. He has a keen interest in biodiversity and conservation.

UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON  
**ECOSYSTEM  
RESTORATION**  
2021-2030

 **Science  
Film  
Festival**  
[sciencefilmfestival.org](http://sciencefilmfestival.org)

<b>Title:</b>	<b>E.C.O. Agents</b>
<b>Original Title:</b>	<b>Agentes E.C.O.</b>
<b>Category:</b>	<b>Family Edutainment</b>
<b>Director:</b>	<b>Darío Vejarano</b>
<b>Produced by:</b>	<b>Canal Capital</b>
<b>Running Time:</b>	<b>13 minutes</b>
<b>Country:</b>	<b>Colombia</b>
<b>Year:</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Age Guideline:</b>	<b>Primary School (9-11)</b>

Rafaela, Rubén, Richie, and Rosita are the E.C.O. Agents, young secret agents with the mission of saving the planet. After identifying an adult suspected of polluting or wasting resources in their city, an undercover agent infiltrates his environment to identify his environmental bad practices, and with the advice and practical solutions of a real girl or boy who advises the mission, raise awareness to transform each person into another E.C.O. agent.

## FOR SECONDARY LEVEL

**Title:** Wild Hope – Does Nature Have Rights?  
**Category:** Ecology & Environment  
**Director:** NA  
**Produced by:** An HHMI Tangled Bank Studios and Part2 Pictures production in co-production with Wild Elements  
**Running Time:** 28 minutes  
**Country:** United States  
**Year:** 2022  
**Age Guideline:** Secondary School (12–16) [No Online Screenings]

This series of films highlights the intrepid change-makers who are working to restore and protect our planet. Each episode inspires audiences with stories of bold interventions, unexpected alliances, and nature's resilience. The series reveals how local action can spark powerful change - and provides a refreshing dose of hope in an increasingly cynical world. This episode examines what, if any, rights nature has.

**Title:** Checker Tobi: The Waste Check  
**Original Title:** Checker Tobi: Der Müll-Check  
**Category:** Family Edutainment  
**Director:** Amelie Cram  
**Produced by:** megahertz film and fernsehen | Bayerischer Rundfunk  
**Running Time:** 25 minutes  
**Country:** Germany  
**Year:** 2021  
**Age Guideline:** Secondary School (12–16)

Today, Tobi checks which garbage goes into which bin and what happens to our waste afterwards. He accompanies Roland and Werner from the waste collection service. They explain to him what sorting is and what belongs in the residual waste garbage bin. The Checker then visits a waste sorting plant and looks at sorting machines. He finds out how new things can be made from plastic from our packaging waste. Finally, Tobi even goes to the sea. Here he meets Annika, a conservation expert. She explains to him why our oceans have such a big garbage problem, who suffers most from it, and what each of us can do about it. Can Annika and Tobi rid the Baltic Sea beach of waste?

**Title:** Dressing the Princess  
**Category:** Ecology & Environment  
**Director:** Carter Kirilenko  
**Produced by:** ReWild Africa  
**Running Time:** 10 minutes  
**Country:** South Africa  
**Year:** 2022  
**Age Guideline:** Secondary School (12-16)

Dressing the Princess is a short film that follows the story of two urban conservationists, Denisha Anand and Alex Landsdowne, as they empower an entire community to restore Princess Vlei, a culturally significant wetland located in one of the most marginalized neighbourhoods in South Africa - the Cape Flats. The Cape Flats is a region characterised by gang violence and poverty, and many young people in these communities are growing up with no access to the natural world, and as a result, are cut off from their own cultural roots. Princess Vlei, which became an abandoned wasteland during apartheid, is now being restored by the community who are reintroducing native species to the area. Through the process of restoring the ecology of this space, Denisha and Alex are also re-introducing people to their land and thereby helping to restore the culture and dignity of the surrounding communities. The restoration of Princess Vlei is the first successful community conservation project in the city of Cape Town. This story shows why it is critical that we address the social injustices of the past when engaging in conservation today.

**Title:** The Living Sea  
**Category:** Ecology & Environment  
**Director:** Ema Poposka  
**Produced by:** Kids4Kids Powered by Youth Forum Hong Kong  
**Running Time:** 15 minutes  
**Country:** Hong Kong (China)  
**Year:** 2021  
**Age Guideline:** Secondary School (12-16)

12-year-old scuba diver Ema sets on a quest to find out why corals around the globe are dying but somehow in Hong Kong they are more resilient. We are the only planet with oceans, and they are indispensable for our survival. However, many people are unaware of the importance of ocean creatures and how to protect them. This is because they don't really see them every day. Sea creatures are just lunch or dinner or an ingredient in cosmetics. Young scuba diver Ema Poposka believes if people could see the beauty of the ocean and of the corals, they will change their minds about sea protection. This inspired her to join Action for a Cause to produce a documentary film about Hong Kong corals. Ema's aim with the documentary film made by kids is to raise awareness about the uniqueness of Hong Kong corals, the need to start taking care of corals, and how we can do this in our everyday life. This documentary was made by a crew of 12-15-year-old students.

**Title:** **Women of the Wild**  
**Category:** Ecology & Environment  
**Director:** Molly Ferrill, Jaye Callahan  
**Produced by:** Molly Ferrill, Luis Palomino, Brandon Lewis  
**Running Time:** 23 minutes  
**Country:** United States  
**Year:** 2023  
**Age Guideline:** Secondary School (12–16)

Wildlife protection officers defending protected areas are perhaps our world's most passionate and knowledgeable champions of wildlife, but we don't often get the chance to learn from them in their remote corners of the world. It is particularly rare for us to hear from women working in this historically male-dominated profession. There are, however, many bold and talented women protecting wildlife in the field, and they have riveting stories to tell. In this series, strong female wildlife protection officers defending important parks and species around the world share their perspectives on wildlife conservation, explaining the critical threats to wildlife that they are witnessing on the ground. In this pilot episode of the documentary series, correspondent and National Geographic Explorer Molly Ferrill follows National Park Director Maricarmen Garcia Rivas, an expert in marine life, through an eventful day in her life protecting the National Reef Park of Puerto Morelos in Mexico, which forms part of the second largest barrier reef system in the world. Maricarmen takes us on a journey to show us her daily fight to preserve the coral reef and the whale sharks, manta rays, and sea turtles that depend upon it for survival.

## FOR UNIVERSITY AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC

**Title:** Reabsorbing Carbon  
**Category:** Ecology & Environment  
**Director:** Naomi Hogarty  
**Produced by:** Bracken Hollings  
**Running Time:** 7 minutes  
**Country:** United States  
**Year:** 2022  
**Age Guideline:** University and General Public

Vesta are a company accelerating carbon capture from natural chemical weathering. With more than 2 trillion tonnes of excess carbon dioxide in the atmosphere today, we need to accelerate efforts to capture existing CO<sub>2</sub> as well as reduce our emissions. The oceans are one of the largest carbon sinks on the planet, absorbing up to 25 percent of the atmospheric carbon-dioxide we emit each year, and research is underway to make it even more effective - and reduce ocean acidity at the same time. Vesta is pioneering techniques to speed up the natural process of natural chemical weathering - the gradual breakdown of rocks as they come into contact with rainfall - which is a highly effective way of removing carbon from the atmosphere, but only over a very extended time-frame. This coastal carbon capture approach relies on the carbon-absorbing potential of olivine - one of the most abundant, naturally occurring minerals worldwide. By grinding olivine into a fine sand and transporting it to coastal areas where it dissolves in the sea to form a stable form of carbon called bicarbonate, Vesta is hoping to remove up to a billion tonnes of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere every year. At the same time the team is also looking into olivine's relationship with the local ecosystem, the carbon footprint involved in extracting and transporting it, and any reduction in ocean acidity - a potentially invaluable environmental benefit.

**Title:** Repackaging Naturally  
**Category:** Ecology & Environment  
**Director:** Frances Molesworth  
**Produced by:** Bracken Hollings  
**Running Time:** 7 minutes  
**Country:** United Kingdom  
**Year:** 2021  
**Age Guideline:** University and General Public

Nearly 10 billion tonnes of plastic have been produced in little more than a hundred years - with an additional half a billion tonnes being produced each year. While plastic has revolutionised the way we live, it has created oceans and mountains of waste which can't be absorbed by nature. We need to come up with alternatives to plastic packaging if we are to protect the ecosystems on which we depend. Notpla have created a home compostable alternative to plastic which is derived from seaweed, a diverse and abundant organism found all round the world. Renewable and biodegradable, seaweed cultivation doesn't compete for land with food crops, doesn't need fresh water or fertilizer and actively contributes to de-acidifying our oceans. Notpla's food packaging, edible bubbles, paper and pipettes are already being used commercially and the company was selected as the winner of Prince William's Earthshot Prize 2022, in the category of 'Build a Waste-Free World'.

**Title:** RESTORE - The Climate Frontier  
**Category:** Ecology & Environment  
**Director:** UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration  
**Produced by:** UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration  
**Running Time:** 7 minutes  
**Country:** United Arab Emirates  
**Year:** 2023  
**Age Guideline:** University and General Public

The Arabian Sea is among the hottest on the planet, and climate change has been driving mass die-offs of coral reefs. At the same time, scientists noticed that some species seem to be more resilient than others. This has kicked off a drive to restore coral reefs, mangrove forests and seagrass off the coast of Abu Dhabi - an important home to vulnerable species like the Dugong. Restoration of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems of Abu Dhabi has been recognized as a World Restoration Flagship under the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. These initiatives represent Earth's frontiers of hope, as countries agreed to a new Global Biodiversity Framework. Under the agreement, countries promise to protect 30% of the planet's lands and seas and bringing back 20% from degradation.

**Title:** **The Last Seed**  
**Category:** Ecology & Environment  
**Director:** Andrea Gema  
**Produced by:** Jan Urhahn, Refiloe Joala, Famara Diédhjou  
**Running Time:** 77 minutes  
**Country:** South Africa  
**Year:** 2022  
**Age Guideline:** University and General Public

The film focuses on broad themes relating to the state of food and agriculture in Africa in the 21st century. Placing the struggle over the control of seed at the centre, it explains the processes that have led to this moment in human history and what it would take to interact with the planet in a way that does not threaten the very basis of life on Earth. The film raises two fundamental questions - what have we lost, and who can show us a better way? - and attempts to answer these questions using music, dance, moving visuals and the lived experiences and stories of African small-scale food producers. Experts outline the extent of the corporate capture crisis, explaining the underlying science, politics and economics in simple terms, punctuated by vibrant animations. Agroecological farmers from various African nations give testimony on the sustainability and adaptability of their agricultural practices and share morsels of wisdom worth exploring.

**Title:** **Redesigning the Wheel**  
**Category:** Ecology & Environment  
**Director:** Bruno Centofanti  
**Produced by:** Zoe Jones & Parisa Shirvani  
**Running Time:** 6 minutes  
**Country:** United Kingdom  
**Year:** 2021  
**Age Guideline:** University and General Public

Some 28% microplastic pollutant in our oceans comes from an unexpected source: tyre dust. A single car produces around 2.08g of tyre dust each day, and the microplastics this dust contains make their way into our waterways, pollute the air we breathe and contaminate our food. It is estimated that we eat around a credit card's worth of plastic per week. The Tyre Collective addresses this problem by collecting the tyre dust at source. The group of four, who met at Imperial College London during their studies, realised that the dust coming off the wheels was positively charged and so could be collected using electrostatics, and then reused to make other products; including new tyres, inks and the soles of shoes. Electric vehicles tend to be on average 25% heavier than their petrol counterparts, and therefore generate larger volumes of tyre dust, so Tyre Collective's innovative approach is a timely intervention to what has been, until now, something of an unknown problem.

**Title:** RESTORE - Big Ocean States  
**Category:** Ecology & Environment  
**Director:** UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration  
**Produced by:** UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration  
**Running Time:** 8 minutes  
**Country:** St. Lucia, Comoros and Vanuatu  
**Year:** 2023  
**Age Guideline:** University and General Public

So-called Small Island Developing States are among the most impacted by the climate crisis. The countries of St. Lucia, Comoros and Vanuatu are teaming up and turning a threat into a fresh start. They call themselves Big Ocean States. The Small Islands Developing States Ecosystem Restoration Flagship has been recognized as a World Restoration Flagship under the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. These initiatives represent Earth's frontiers of hope, as countries agreed to a new Global Biodiversity Framework. Under the agreement, countries promise to protect 30% of the planet's lands and seas, and bringing back 20% from degradation.

**Title:** RESTORE - The Sinking Shore  
**Category:** Ecology & Environment  
**Director:** UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration  
**Produced by:** UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration  
**Running Time:** 8 minutes  
**Country:** Indonesia  
**Year:** 2023  
**Age Guideline:** University and General Public

We are experiencing a dangerous decline in nature: One million species are threatened with extinction, soils are turning infertile and water sources are drying up. But there are glimmers of hope: Made up of over 17,000 islands, Indonesia is the world's biggest archipelago. Through climate related sea level rise, its shores are sinking. Fishing communities are now pioneering an ingenious solution to the challenge. Learn how they turn the tides.

**Title:** RESTORE - A River Back to Life  
**Category:** Ecology & Environment  
**Director:** UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration  
**Produced by:** UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration  
**Running Time:** 10 minutes  
**Country:** India  
**Year:** 2023  
**Age Guideline:** University and General Public

The Ganga river basin is not only home to twenty-five thousand animal and plant species, such as the Ganga River Dolphin, it also forms the spiritual and economic lifeline for almost half of India's population. With increased pollution, the country's greatest natural asset is at risk. Watch how farmers, wildlife advocates and government experts are teaming up to bring a river back to life. Namami Gange has been recognized as a World Restoration Flagship under the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. These initiatives represent Earth's frontiers of hope, as countries agreed to a new Global Biodiversity Framework. Under the agreement, countries promise to protect 30% of the planet's lands and seas, and bringing back 20% from degradation.

**Title:** RESTORE: The Forgotten Forest  
**Category:** Ecology & Environment  
**Director:** UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration  
**Produced by:** UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration  
**Running Time:** 9 minutes  
**Country:** Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina  
**Year:** 2023  
**Age Guideline:** University and General Public

The Atlantic Forest once covered a swath of Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina. It has been reduced to fragments by centuries of logging, agricultural expansion and city building. Watch how hundreds of organizations across three countries are succeeding in bringing back this forgotten forest. The Trilateral Atlantic Forest Pact has been recognized as a World Restoration Flagship under the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. These initiatives represent Earth's frontiers of hope, as countries agreed to a new Global Biodiversity Framework. Under the agreement, countries promise to protect 30% of the planet's lands and seas, and bringing back 20% from degradation.

**Title:** **RESTORE: The Mighty Mountains**  
**Category:** Ecology & Environment  
**Director:** UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration  
**Produced by:** UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration  
**Running Time:** x minutes  
**Country:** Uganda, Rwanda, Serbia and Kyrgyzstan  
**Year:** 2023  
**Age Guideline:** University and General Public

Mountain regions face unique challenges. Climate change is melting glaciers, eroding soils and driving species uphill – often toward extinction. Yet, in Uganda, Rwanda, Serbia and Kyrgyzstan vulnerable animal species are bouncing back. Watch to learn how mountain countries are creating opportunities for people – to help nature recover.

**Title:** **Retrieving Plastic**  
**Category:** Ecology & Environment  
**Director:** Simon Van Gorcum & Mark Lindenberg  
**Produced by:** Zoe Jones & Parisa Shirvani  
**Running Time:** 6 minutes  
**Country:** The Netherlands  
**Year:** 2021  
**Age Guideline:** University and General Public

The Great Bubble Barrier is preventing plastic waste reaching the ocean from rivers and canals. More than two-thirds of plastic in our oceans comes from rivers and canals. Preventing this plastic waste reaching the sea is essential if we are to protect marine environments and biodiversity. The Great Bubble Barrier is an innovative approach to capturing fugitive plastic in waterways, developed by a fast-growing Dutch start-up located in the north of Amsterdam. By pumping air through a perforated tube at the bottom of a waterway, it creates a screen of bubbles which blocks and diverts plastics into a catchment system, capturing plastic from the entire width and depth of the waterway without hindering ship traffic or marine life.

**Title:** Powering Puerto Rico  
**Category:** Natural Science, Life Science & Technology  
**Director:** Adam Fischer  
**Produced by:** Adam Fischer, Eugene Smotkin, Renata Nyul  
**Running Time:** 40 minutes  
**Country:** United States  
**Year:** 2022  
**Age Guideline:** University and General Public

Puerto Rico, 2017: It all started with a storm and a car battery. Eugene Smotkin, a Northeastern University professor, was home in San Juan for the summer when two disasters struck: His wife had a stroke and Hurricane Maria slammed into Puerto Rico, leaving more than 3 million people without electricity. After days of powering a cell phone and a small fan with a car battery, Eugene and his wife were finally able to make it to Boston for the medical treatment she desperately needed. Back on campus, he has an idea: In conjunction with just a few solar panels, Eugene believes he can make a fully functional, affordable, renewable nanogrid system powered by reconditioned hybrid car batteries. And he wants to do so all over Puerto Rico, giving back electricity to a neglected energy populace at a fraction of the current cost. This is a film about Puerto Rico's resilience through hardship—and one man's ingenuity in bringing power to the masses.

**Title:** Remapping Restoration  
**Category:** Ecology & Environment  
**Director:** Daniel Hager  
**Produced by:** Zoe Jones & Parisa Shirvani  
**Running Time:** 6 minutes  
**Country:** Switzerland  
**Year:** 2021  
**Age Guideline:** University and General Public

A mapping platform for the global restoration movement, combining ecological data with artificial intelligence. A collaboration between the Crowther Lab, ETH Zurich and Google, Restore is a mapping platform for the fast-growing global restoration movement. Traditionally, detailed scientific data and resources have been difficult or expensive to access, with information spread across a mix of outlets and platforms. Restore plans to reinvent this space by combining the latest scientific data collected from ground data points with artificial intelligence and machine learning, connecting people to scientific data, supply chains, funding, and each other, with the aim of increasing the impact, scale, and sustainability of restoration efforts around the world.

**Title:** RESTORE - The Dry Corridor  
**Category:** Ecology & Environment  
**Director:** UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration  
**Produced by:** UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration  
**Running Time:** 7 minutes  
**Country:** El Salvador  
**Year:** 2023  
**Age Guideline:** University and General Public

The Central American Dry Corridor has long been suffering from droughts and floods that drive food insecurity and migration in the millions. Farmers are now rising up to the challenge. Learn how they protect what they have, and bring back what was lost. The Central American Dry Corridor has been recognized as a World Restoration Flagship under the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. These initiatives represent Earth's frontiers of hope, as countries agreed to a new Global Biodiversity Framework. Under the agreement, countries promise to protect 30% of the planet's lands and seas, and bringing back 20% from degradation.

**Title:** Roots of the Sea  
**Category:** Ecology & Environment  
**Director:** Simone Ducci  
**Produced by:** Asa, University of Pisa, Livorno Aquarium  
**Running Time:** 10 minutes  
**Country:** Italy  
**Year:** 2023  
**Age Guideline:** University and General Public

Posidonia Oceanica is an endemic plant of the Mediterranean Sea; it gives rise to expanses of submerged prairies which constitute one of the richest and most productive ecosystems of our sea. For us, it is very important because it represents a huge reservoir of biodiversity, produces oxygen and contains the marine erosion of the coast. It is a very widespread plant but at the same time extremely threatened by external agents such as pollution, trawling, anchoring, and global warming. A project carried out by Asa, the University of Pisa, the Livorno Aquarium and ISPRA aims to repopulate Posidonia Oceanica meadows on the seabed of the Tuscan coast through innovative and sustainable techniques that do not impact the underwater environment. We know how important the protection of habitats is and how much nature is endangered by continuous human actions. Despite this we continue to behave as if we had more planets available, regardless of the danger we are running in not protecting the environment around us. This is why good deeds and virtuous projects must be told; because they can serve as an example and stimulate positive attitudes of people towards the world, we live in.

**Title:** Searching for Sea Turtles in Carriacou, Grenada  
**Category:** Ecology & Environment  
**Director:** Dan Mele  
**Produced by:** Virgin Islands - EPSCoR, Ocean Spirits, The Hawksbill Project,  
University of the Virgin Islands  
**Running Time:** 6 minutes  
**Country:** U.S. Virgin Islands  
**Year:** 2022  
**Age Guideline:** University and General Public

With exception to nesting sea turtles, there have been zero surveys of the in-water population of sea turtles around the Grenadian island of Carriacou. This film explores the collaborative efforts between multiple Caribbean based NGOs and their mission to provide Grenada with the first data set on how many and what species of sea turtles they have around Carriacou.

**Title:** Gardening Marine Forests: A Hands-on Approach to Restoration  
**Category:** Ecology & Environment  
**Director:** Stefan Andrews  
**Produced by:** Adriana Verges, Aaron Eger, Stefan Andrews  
**Running Time:** 20 minutes  
**Country:** Australia  
**Year:** 2021  
**Age Guideline:** University and General Public

What if people could be the secret to transforming ocean deserts into rich forests filled with an abundance of life? Join two marine scientists as they explore how a hands-on approach to marine restoration is working to revive marine kelp forests in South Korea. During their trip, they witness how a deep connection with the ocean is inspiring change. In Korea, this connection runs across society, from a hundred's year-old guild of female free divers to the Korea Fisheries Agency using the latest techniques to manage their kelp forests. By recognising that while people may take from the sea, people can also take care of the sea, they are charting a new course to thriving kelp forests all around the world.

**Title:** **Kelp – South Africa's Golden Forests**  
**Category:** Ecology & Environment  
**Director:** Akshata Mehta  
**Produced by:** Akshata Mehta, iKraal Studios, BlueConnect: Blue growth opportunities in changing kelp forests (SANOCEAN Project Number 287191 funded through the South African National Research Foundation and Norwegian Research Council)  
**Running Time:** 14 minutes  
**Country:** South Africa  
**Year:** 2022  
**Age Guideline:** University and General Public

Journey to South Africa's Western coastline and catch a glimpse of a unique forest not many know about. The film sheds light on the multitude of values around the Great African Seaforest, and the many contributions it provides - as a harvested resource that supports multiple livelihoods, to the sense of peace kelp forests imbue into those lucky enough to dive through. In an era of increasing climate change, this short film makes a case for the sustainable management of these golden underwater forests as a space of deep natural heritage, touching upon aspects of conservation, livelihoods, race, and culture.

**Title:** **Wild Hope – Coffee for Water**  
**Category:** Ecology & Environment  
**Director:** NA  
**Produced by:** An HHMI Tangled Bank Studios and Part2 Pictures production in co-production with Wild Elements  
**Running Time:** 28 minutes  
**Country:** United States  
**Year:** 2022  
**Age Guideline:** University and General Public [No Online Screenings]

This series of films highlights the intrepid change-makers who are working to restore and protect our planet. Each episode inspires audiences with stories of bold interventions, unexpected alliances, and nature's resilience. The series reveals how local action can spark powerful change - and provides a refreshing dose of hope in an increasingly cynical world. This episode examines growing coffee to save Mozambican rainforests.

**Title:** A League of Extraordinary Makers: Rise of the Makers  
**Category:** Culture & History  
**Director:** Mayurica Biswas, Dipti Chadha  
**Produced by:** Soon Ling - Commissioning Editor (CNA)  
**Running Time:** 48 minutes  
**Country:** India  
**Year:** 2022  
**Age Guideline:** University and General Public

Every movement needs its superheroes. They inspire, they lead, they create, they sacrifice. And we went in search of them. Rise of the Makers is part of the series A League of Extraordinary Makers where we trace the birth and rise of the Maker Movement - it begins in the American DIY garages, seeps out of the fringes onto the streets, studios, labs and factories where Makers are rising to become the superheroes the world needs today. These are people who don't buy stuff. Instead they just make their own. Or hack, repair, and remake. A chair, a laptop, a drone, a dress that reads your mind, a brand-new material that can build cars, ships and space settlements... Sometimes it's a cold brew coffee machine, sometimes a million face shields, it can even be a city, or our futures. This is where artists, designers, inventors can make almost anything and hack everything.

**Title:** Duty of Care - The Climate Trials  
**Category:** Ecology & Environment  
**Director:** Nic Balthazar  
**Produced by:** Sarah Tak, Nic Balthazar  
**Running Time:** 56 minutes  
**Country:** Belgium  
**Year:** 2022  
**Age Guideline:** University and General Public

This film tells the inside story of Roger Cox, the lawyer who initiated ground-breaking legal actions against the Dutch government and oil giant Shell. The result: two landmark rulings that sent shockwaves through political offices and corporate boardrooms around the world and led to a wave of international climate cases. This is a character-driven journey through the highs and lows of his trials, featuring a cast of creative lawyers, activists, and ordinary citizens pursuing what they see as the legal showdown of the century. The story is set against interviews with world-leading experts on the principles of justice that can be applied to the greatest challenge humanity has ever faced.



UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON  
**ECOSYSTEM  
 RESTORATION**  
 2021-2030



sciencefilmfestival.org

**Title:** Forest Partners  
**Category:** Ecology & Environment  
**Director:** Fred Rahal Mauro  
**Produced by:** Fred Rahal Mauro  
**Running Time:** 52 minutes  
**Country:** Brazil  
**Year:** 2022  
**Age Guideline:** University and General Public

The documentary highlights an often-unseen side of forests – the economic ecosystems thriving between public and private organisations and local communities. The film demonstrates solutions that combine technology and traditional knowledge to protect tropical forests, with shared benefits. Forest Partners showcases successful innovations in sustainable production systems worldwide, proving it is possible to obtain social, environmental, and economic benefits by preserving or restoring forest landscapes. The initiatives documented by the film are set in South America, Africa, and Asia, in regions where there are still preserved forest landscapes, but where the impacts of deforestation and forest degradation are already widely felt.

Directed by  
 Produced by  
 Screenplay by  
 Edited by

Produced by

Produced by  
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