

To mark World Environment Day 2016 the United Nations and WWF present

Racing Extinction



Pierre-Yves Cousteau

Pierre-Yves is the youngest son of Jacques-Yves Cousteau and is working to find innovative solutions for sustainable development, specifically for the protection of marine ecosystems. An avid scuba diver and underwater photographer, Pierre-Yves is always eager to return to the sea to be reminded of its beauty and importance. In 2009, Pierre-Yves launched Cousteau Divers and he also works for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as a marine program officer.



Philippe Mayaux

Philippe is the leader of the team Biodiversity and Forests in the unit in charge of Environment, Ecosystems, Biodiversity and Wildlife at DEVCO/EUROPEAID. After four years on the ground in Senegal and Tanzania, Philippe started a scientific career at the EC Joint Research Centre in Ispra (Italy) from 1995 to 2015, in charge of ecological monitoring of African ecosystems, in particular Congo Basin forests and West and Central Africa national parks.



Jorge Rios

Jorge is the Chief of the Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Jorge has been working on the issues of drugs and crime for over 20 years. He has been leading the delivery of technical assistance by UNODC to countries affected by wildlife and forest crime, including the implementation of the Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit. He is also a Senior Expert for the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC).



Deborah Seward

Deborah is Director of the United Nations Regional Information Centre (UNRIC) in Brussels. Prior to arriving in Brussels, she served as Director of the Department of Public Information's Strategic Communications Division at UN Headquarters New York. Before joining the United Nations in 2011, Ms. Seward was an international journalist for nearly 25 years, with postings in Berlin, Bonn, Moscow, New York, Paris, Prague and Warsaw. She holds an honours degree in history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

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UNRIC is the communication hub for the United Nations in Europe. Based in Brussels, the Centre covers 22 Western European countries and maintains a website in 13 languages. Visit www.unric.org for more information.

“There have been five major extinctions in the history of the planet...this may be the sixth”

A team of artists and activists exposes the hidden world of extinction with never-before-seen images that will change the way we see the planet. Two phenomena drive extinction across the globe – trade of international wildlife and the hidden actions of oil and gas companies – both potentially resulting in the loss of half of all species.

ILLEGAL TRADE IN WILDLIFE

It is estimated to be the fourth largest transnational organised crime after trafficking in drugs, humans and counterfeit goods. On World Environment Day #WED2016, we stand against this crime, which is eroding Earth’s precious biodiversity, robbing us of our natural heritage and driving species to the brink of extinction.

-  Around 30,000 elephants are poached each year in Africa for their ivory.
-  2015 was a record year in Africa for rhino poaching with at least 1,312 rhinoceros illegally killed.
-  Up to 1.2 million Oceanic Whitetip Sharks, which are fished for their large and distinctive fins, pass through the markets of Southeast Asia every year and over 4,000 manta rays are harpooned for their gills.

ARE YOU WILD FOR LIFE?

Celebrities from around the globe teamed up with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)* to launch an unprecedented campaign to curtail the illegal trade in wildlife. One of the fantastic aspects of the #WILDFORLIFE campaign is that anybody can get involved and participate. Visit the campaign website and take part by choosing your animal, taking the pledge or supporting the work of campaign collaborator: <https://wildfor.life/>

TURN UP THE VOLUME OF NATURE!

Enjoy being serenaded by birds on your way in this evening? Those were the sounds of WWF’s new campaign: Turn Up The Volume! Nature in Europe is protected by European laws, which are now at risk. Ask the European Commission not to weaken them and to ensure nature is better protected. Create your nature song in 1 minute and send it with a message to the European Commission now: www.wwf.eu/natureup/ and tweet using #NatureAlert

***WANT TO KNOW MORE?** www.racingextinction.com, www.wed2016.com,

www.unep.org, www.wwf.eu, www.unodc.org, www.undp.org, www.cites.org, www.panda.org

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