Sea of Shadows

Richard Ladkani
Director of Sea of Shadows

Richard Ladkani is an internationally renowned director and cinematographer, having photographed more than fifty documentaries, of which he has directed or co-directed eleven. In early 2015 Richard and his wife Anita Ladkani founded Malaika Pictures. Malaika Pictures produces films that shine a bright spotlight on the most pressing environmental and political issues of our time. Richard is currently working on a narrative feature film based on the bestselling book "City of Thorns". The film will focus on the life of refugees in Dadaab, the largest UN Camp in the world. Richard currently lives near Vienna Austria with his wife and two daughters.

Grace O’Sullivan
Greens/EFA MEP

Grace O’Sullivan is an Irish MEP, representing the Ireland South Constituency since June 2019. She is the Greens/EFA group’s coordinator on the Parliament’s Fisheries Committee, and a full member of the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee. She has previously served for three years a Senator in the Irish upper house of Parliament, the Seanad, where her work focused on oceans governance and marine protection, housing, climate action and environmental protection. She has also worked as an ecological educator, and spent over two decades with Greenpeace, sailing on such ships as the Rainbow Warrior. Grace is a native of Tramore, Co Waterford, but has previously lived in Amsterdam, and spent many years on Greenpeace vessels in her time as an environmental activist.

Jenna Dawson-Faber
UNODC Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime

Jenna Dawson-Faber manages the UNODC Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime, including the FishNET project. Previously, she was the UNODC regional anti-corruption adviser for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region, working with the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Centre (ROLACC). She has worked across three Divisions in UNODC, including as a programme officer and research expert, and has authored several of UNODC's flagship publications. From Canada, Jenna was formerly a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and holds a Masters’ degree from the Monterey Institute of International Studies in international trade and security.

António Ferrari
Desk Officer, United Nations Regional Information Centre

António Ferrari is the Desk Officer for Portugal at UNRIC, the United Nations Regional Information Centre in Brussels. He started his career at the United Nations in 2017 and has since worked at UN offices in New York and Brussels. He studied Communications and Media Studies at the Universidade Nova de Lisboa and International Relations and European Affairs at Universidade de Lisboa. Antonio has also worked as a press advisor and journalist.

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World Wildlife Day

The 3rd of March is World Wildlife Day, a day to celebrate and raise awareness of the world’s wild animals and plants; it is aligned with the sustainable development agenda and Sustainable Development Goals 14 and 15 in particular. This year’s theme is “Sustaining all life on Earth”. Earth is home to countless species of fauna and flora, and this rich biodiversity is precisely what has made our planet inhabitable for all living creatures, including humans. Unsustainable human activities, and over exploitation of many species and natural resources, exacerbate biodiversity loss and make it difficult to mitigate effects of climate change.

Sea of Shadows

Sea of Shadows is a National Geographic documentary film, produced by Terra Mater in Association with Malaika Pictures and executive produced by Leonardo DiCaprio. It is a poignant case study of the role organized criminal groups play in wildlife crime, showing the inter-linkages between conservation, poverty alleviation and the challenges faced by law enforcement. The documentary explores the links between poaching and transnational organized crime; the high profitability and low risk of such crimes; how pervasive corruption facilitates wildlife trafficking; the importance of working with local communities and civil society actors to confront this scourge; and how difficult it can be to protect and reintroduce a species that is facing extinction.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Global Programme

UNODC implements a comprehensive Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime, working with actors along the criminal justice chain to effectively investigate, prosecute and adjudicate such crimes. While each criminal market has its own drivers, beyond specificities there are common characteristics. The trafficking of totoaba, pangolins, ivory, rhino horn, high value tree species, amongst other examples, is only possible due to a series of common vulnerabilities. UNODC works to mitigate these vulnerabilities, by working with key actors to strengthen legislation and build capacity; prevent and mitigate corruption; strengthen regional and international cooperation; and conduct assessments to understand context, patterns and trends. UNODC works with countries across Africa, Asia and Latin America to address these issues and build their capacity to prevent and combat wildlife, forest and fisheries crime.