

About DREFF

The environment has been at the forefront of GFDD/FUNGLODE's mission since its very beginning. The Foundation's work in the development of national and international networks, the discussion of pressing issues, training programs that have brought national experts together with the most prominent international leaders in the field, comes to fruition with the creation of an Environmental Film Festival as a natural addition to its environmental program.

DREFF aims to raise awareness and deepen the understanding of environmental issues among Dominican audiences. At the same time, the Festival celebrates the beauty and diversity of the Dominican Republic's natural heritage and offers insights into attitudes and actions that will contribute to its appreciation, conservation and sustainable use.

By screening a diverse selection of high quality films that deal with pressing issues, and by organizing discussion panels with environmental experts, filmmakers and other stakeholders, the Festival seeks to promote dialogue and inspire Dominican viewers to adopt practices that will ensure the country's environmental sustainability and health.

By bringing together young people, scholars, experts, activists, filmmakers, representatives from the public and private sector, non-governmental organizations, as well as wide audiences from all walks of life, the Festival promotes programs and projects that contribute to environmental protection, conservation and sustainability.

International Advisory Committee

- Charlotte Vick
- Debbie Kinder
- Fabien Cousteau
- Peter O'Brien
- Suzan Beraza

National Advisory Committee

- Adolfo López
- Cesareo Guillermo
- Claudia Catrain
- Ernesto Reyna
- Eladio Fernández
- Fernando Báez
- Ginny Heinsen
- Idelissa Bonnelly
- Jake Kheel
- José Alejandro Álvarez
- José Miguel González Cuadra
- Marialicia Urbaneja
- Omar Ramírez
- Omar Shamir Reynoso
- Oswaldo Vásquez
- Patricia Cardona
- Ydalia Aceveda Monegro
- Yolanda León



The Dominican Republic has been blessed with an exceptional wealth of biodiversity, which encompasses twelve different geographic regions.

The protection and conservation of this natural legacy represents a huge responsibility, as well as an important economic resource for institutions, elected officials, civil society and the population at large. Achieving optimal protection, exploitation and sustainable use of this natural resource base is a delicate balance, not easily maintained, but a challenge that we assume with enthusiasm.

Gatherings like the Dominican Republic Environmental Film Festival (DREFF) present a valuable opportunity in which stakeholders from all sides of the equation come together to share ideas and proposals aimed at conserving the environment and promoting a sustainable use of its resources for the benefit and enjoyment of generations to come.

Dr. Leonel Fernández
DREFF President

Collaborating Institutions



The Dominican Republic Environmental Film Festival (DREFF) provides audiences the opportunity to see the most inspiring and educational - local as well as international - environmental films of the year while learning about the pressing issues facing the world's ecology. The selected films address many of these global concerns including pollution, climate change, biodiversity, globalization and consumption, and ocean conservation.

Simultaneously, the Festival offers ample opportunities for spectators to interact with leading figures in the environmental community - producers, directors, researchers, adventurers, and explorers - through a series of expert panels and "hands on" workshops. These panels are designed to enable participants to collaborate on national and international programs that highlight best practices and support sustainable development in the country.

With one of the highest levels of endemic species in the region, the Dominican Republic is fortunate to have been blessed with incredible natural wealth and beauty. It is in all of our interests to help promote an increased stewardship of the environment and a more educated and responsible citizenry. As we gear up to share another fantastic occasion, with many special events in store, the DREFF welcomes you and looks forward to having you join us in this film journey which promises to be as exciting and multi-faceted as the marvelous environment around us.

Natasha Despotovic
DREFF Director

Testimonials



“I think the DR Environmental Film Festival is a very positive initiative. Amongst the means that are available to communicate knowledge, a film is very powerful tool whether it tells a story that conveys the truth or documents facts. It does foster knowledge, and with knowledge comes a sense of care. If you do not know, you cannot care. Now that we begin to receive knowledge about nature and our place in it, we begin to truly care about the surrounding we live in.”

Sylvia Earle
World Recognized Oceanographer
and Founder of Sylvia Earle
Alliance



“This morning I gave a speech in front of 200 students followed with the screening of my film. It was a wonderful experience for me; the children were very interested, asked good questions and honestly, I felt the connection. Thank you for your hospitality. It is an honor to be here!”

David Guggenheim
Marine scientist and ocean
explorer



“It was a real pleasure to be a part of the launch of this wonderful film festival and the educational initiative. I think it was a great success and it has certainly laid the foundation for a very empowering event in the future. One’s dedication to the environment, education and common good must be commended.

Moreover, the gracious hospitality shown to me and other guests was most appreciated. I really look forward to working with the team again soon on furthering our common goals.”

Deborah L. Kinder
CEO/Executive Director
BLUE Ocean Film Festival &
Conservation Summit



“The choice of films does a great job at explaining what the problems are and what the solutions can be. I think it’s important that films like these are watched and a festival like this takes place. Having filmmakers, scholars and professors who deal with these problems and attend the festival is an added value, as it makes us look at the problems from a different dimension in the search for new solutions.”

Mark Terry
Director of *The Polar Explorer*



“It was a great treat to spend time with GFDD staff in DR, and I am constantly watching all the videos on your website with fond memories! I have already shared links with so many individuals and organizations, including many film industry leaders. Everyone is impressed!

Thank you for documenting what was not only an incredible opportunity to exchange ideas, but also the birth of many friendships for life.”

Lisa Kaas Boyle, Esq.
Legislative Policy Director and
Co-founder Plastic Pollution
Coalition



“I was very much looking forward to this year’s GFDD Environmental Film Festival and it has exceeded my expectations.

From the incredibly beautiful *Wasteland* to the revealing *Revenge of the Electric Car* and the important issue-based films *Some Place with a Mountain* and *My Village, My Lobster*, all the attendees became quite inspired and motivated to act.

The local Dominican film *Pico Duarte* about the empowerment of youth was an inspiration not only for students but for the rest of the audience too. Panel discussions on the value of nature economically and socially, and how to solve some of our planet’s most pressing problems left us all with anticipation for a dialogue that will continue next year in 2013. BRAVO!”

Charlotte Vick
Content Manager for Google Earth’s
Explore the Ocean Layer

National and International Guests



DREFF in Numbers

5,000+ Audience

3 Dominican Productions

20 Environmental Specialists

12 Venues

20 International Guests

7 Screening Sites

10+ Schools in Action

4 Workshops

2 Exhibits

9 Discussion Panels

6 Short Films

13 Feature Films

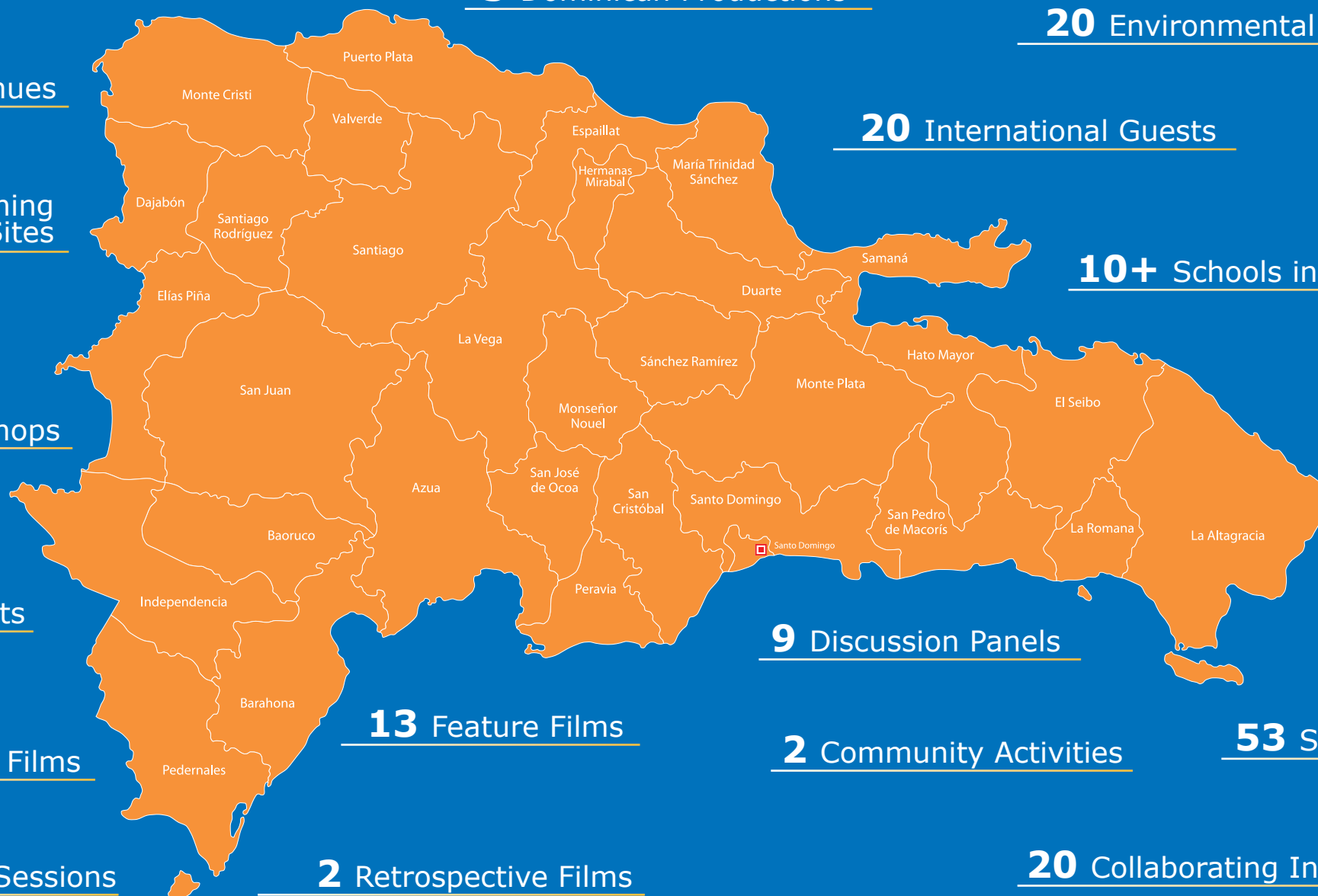
2 Community Activities

53 Screenings

15 Q&A Sessions

2 Retrospective Films

20 Collaborating Institutions



DREFF Year Round Programs



The Eco-Huertos Program seeks to support the creation of organic and sustainable vegetable gardens in schools and communities throughout the Dominican Republic. Through ongoing field activities, the program bolsters the natural sciences curriculum in the schools. Also, Eco-Huertos creates awareness of the importance of a balanced diet, achieving a greater appreciation for and receptiveness towards the consumption of vegetables.

To date, the program has successfully created vegetable gardens in public and private schools in the cities of Santo Domingo, Baní and Azua. The program also published a manual entitled "How to Create Vegetable Gardens", which has been in circulation since September 2012.

www.eco-huertos.org



The Educational Expedition to Pico Duarte initiative, an outcome of the 1st DREFF held in September 2011, takes participating students on a four-day trek to the highest peak in the Antilles. The initiative aims to provide students with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity designed to test their physical limits and help them gain appreciation for their shared natural heritage and the importance of protecting it for future generations.



The impetus behind the ReCreatearte Program arose from the interest sparked among students who participated in the Recycled Art Workshop conducted by Bertha Santana at the II DREFF in 2012. The ReCreatearte Program aims to raise awareness of the 3Rs of solid waste management: reduce, reuse, recycle. The workshops also emphasize and demonstrate how recycling waste into art can empower individuals and communities alike.

Through this brand new program, GFDD hopes to engage youth groups, educators and women's associations into reformulating the way they think about trash and raise awareness of the plastic pollution problem.

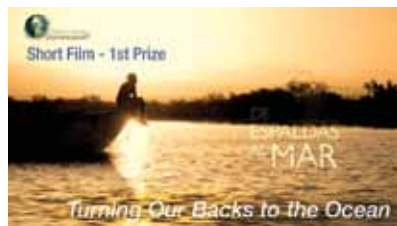
www.r3create.org





The Globo Verde Dominicano Award was launched within the framework of the II Dominican Republic Environmental Film Festival, September 2012. The contest is divided into two categories: short films and public service announcements. With this contest, GFDD and FUNGLODE seek to promote environmental filmmaking as a platform to educate and raise awareness. Moreover, the award provides an opportunity for young producers, students and professionals to dive into a fairly unexplored area in the Dominican Republic: the production of environmental audiovisual material.

www.gloverdedominicano.org



GFDD Shorts Productions

Complementing the DREFF's mission, the GFDD has risen to the challenge and, since 2012, has started producing its own short documentary films that highlight and raise awareness about important local environmental issues. To date, GFDD's multimedia department has produced three short films entitled: *The 1st Educational Expedition to Pico Duarte*; *The Growth of Lake Enriquillo: Environmental, Social and Scientific Implications* and *Google Earth Tour Showcasing the Coastal and Marine Ecosystems of the Dominican Republic*. Others are currently in production. These shorts have been presented at prestigious festivals such as the DC Environmental Film Festival and at international events like Rio+20 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



www.youtube.com/globalfoundation

Year Round Environmental Film Screenings

As part of its mission to reach more communities, institutions and individuals around the country, the DR Environmental Film Festival organizes film screenings year-round, providing the opportunity to bring successful film programs to new and remote communities. By showing a diverse selection of quality films on critical environmental issues and organizing discussions and workshops, the year-round film screenings seek to foster and inspire dialogue, raise awareness and promote sustainable practices.

www.dominicanscreenings.org



During DREFF

Beach Cleanup



La Caleta Swimming Competition



Special Events



Exhibits