

ENTERTAINMENT FILM

Environmental film festival opens in Dominican Republic

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Festival director Natasha Despotovic of the 4th Dominican Republic Environmental Film Festival, or DREFF speaks during the opening in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. EFE/Orlando Barría

The 4th Dominican Republic Environmental Film Festival, or DREFF, has opened, screening films in 11 cities across this Caribbean nation.

The festival, which runs until Sept. 18, aims to educate and raise environmental awareness among the public.

The DREFF started in 2011 with attendance of 2,000 and drew a total of 10,000 filmgoers last year, festival director Natasha Despotovic told EFE.

"For us, it's very important to use film as an educational medium to raise awareness and promote better public policies, and greater social action and behavior by the private sector. The change can be seen at many levels," Despotovic said.

Films from the Dominican Republic, Germany, Spain, France, Portugal, the Czech Republic, South Korea, Japan, India, Iran, Mexico, Argentina and the United States are being screened at the DREFF.

Among the films being shown is "The True Cost," which examines the textile industry's impact on the environment.

The Green Film Network, or GFN, prize will be handed out during the festival.

The GFN brings together 30 environmental film festivals from around the world.

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