

About DREFF

Since its creation in 2011, the Dominican Republic Environmental Film Festival (DREFF) –an initiative of the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development (GFDD) and the Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo (Funglode)– has been providing Dominicans with a platform of knowledge and debate on the environment and sustainable development, along with its challenges and best practices, while celebrating the unique beauty and wealth that is the Dominican Republic’s natural heritage.

With a diverse selection of films and numerous panels, workshops, seminars, and community activities, DREFF promotes dialogue and the exchange of knowledge and experience, inspiring Dominicans to adopt actions that contribute to the appreciation, conservation, and sustainable use of their environmental resources.

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

Thanks to the participation of more than 70 private, non-governmental and public institutions, every September the Festival reaches more than 10,000 viewers, in 11 cities in the Dominican Republic, with over 100 free film screenings at some 30 venues around the country.

To fulfill GFDD/Funglode’s commitment to contribute to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals, DREFF implements programs that operate throughout the year and work with diverse communities: ReCrearTE, EcoHuertos, and RDescubre. It also organizes film screenings, panels, workshops, and activities with the community year round throughout the national territory. The DREFF Blog is a dynamic platform for information exchange and debate on issues related to the environment and sustainable development, at both the national and the international level.

In its mission to promote environmental filmmaking and raise the level of public awareness, DREFF organizes the Premio Globo Verde Dominicano contest and produces its own documentaries.

Some Partners and Collaborators



Testimonials



Sylvia Earle

"I think the DR Environmental Film Festival is a very positive initiative. It exploits all the means that are available to communicate knowledge. Films are a very powerful tool whether they tell a story that conveys the truth or documents facts. All of this fosters knowledge, and with knowledge comes a sense of care."

Louie Psihoyos



"I heard a lot of my friends in the business speak about the Festival and it's fun to finally be here. *The Cove*, my first movie, was shot here, as well as some of the scenes from my new movie, *Racing Extinction*, which were filmed here up in Samaná. So it's fun to come full circle; to have a film shot here and to have it screened here before such a receptive audience."

Jon Bowermaster



"One of the great rewards in making films is sharing them. When I traveled to the Dominican Republic to show my documentaries, the real pleasure came from watching the audiences react and their questions and follow-up afterwards. The highest compliment I received traveling around the country, showing films in theaters and on campuses, was when someone said 'I had no idea!' and took something new away from my films."

Fernando Báez



"DREFF is an ideal venue to promote cinematography with an environmental content, to educate and create a real environmental conscience on our island and in the world."

Lisa Kaas Boyle



"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."

Charlotte Vick



"I am particularly excited about the energy I see here among the young people, who are very excited by film and who are working hard to bring their skills forward to become filmmakers and to tell true and valid stories."

Gaetano Capizzi



"The festival is great, because of the quality of the movies, a good selection, organization, and screenings in different places on the island. It is great that the audiences are young people, mostly students, because this is the future."

Lucy Walker



"I don't know where to begin! I'm having such a beautiful, inspiring time with these beautiful and inspiring people, in this beautiful, inspiring place and learning so much about so many important things. I can't thank the festival, Funglode and GFDD enough for this wonderful event, which I think is changing the world for the better. I'm so grateful for this opportunity to learn about the Dominican Republic and also be part of this fascinating and critical conversation."

Welcome to DREFF



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



The DREFF provides audiences the opportunity to see the most inspiring and educational international environmental films of the year, while learning about the pressing issues facing the world's ecology. The films selected by the DREFF team address many of these global concerns including pollution, climate change, biodiversity, globalization and consumption, and ocean conservation, among others.

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.

Natasha Despotovic
DREFF Director

Some of Our National and International Guests



Allison Argo



Bobbi Hunter



Caleb Farro



Charlotte Vick



Chris Paine



Cosima Dannoritzer



Cris Farro



David Guggenheim



Deborah Kinder



Denis Delestrac



Eladio Fernández



Emily Hunter



Enrico Cerasuolo



Ernesto Reyna



Fabien Cousteau



Fernando Báez



Gaetano Capizzi



Idelisa Bonnelly



Jon Bowermaster



Jorge Requena



Karim Mella



Lisa Kaas Boyle



Louie Psihoyos



Lucy Walker



Marcelo Ferder



Marcos Díaz



Max Campos



Michael Parfit



Omar Ramírez



Oswaldo Vásquez



Richard O'Barry



Roberto Herrera



Stephani Brendl



Stuart Sender



Suzan Beraza



Suzanne Harle



Sylvia Alice Earle



Yann
Arthus-Bertrand

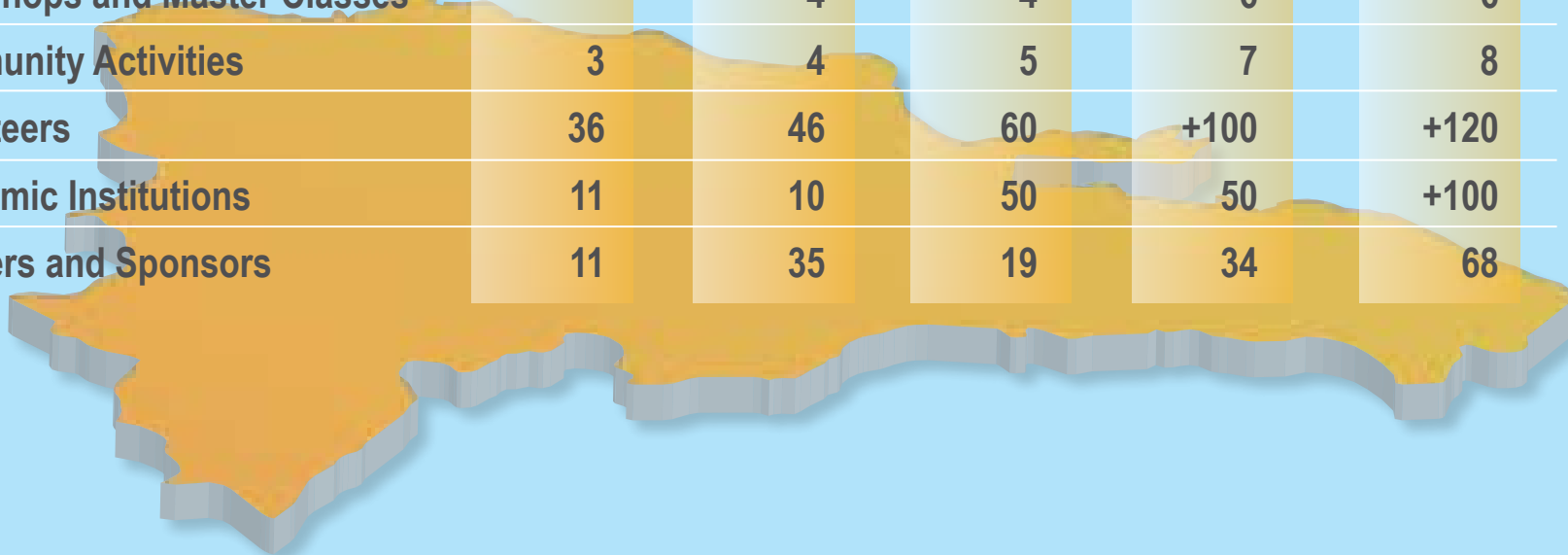


Yolanda León

DREFF in Numbers



	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Cities	2	7	8	11	11
Venues	4	12	19	20	30
Screenings	19	53	65	80	120
International Guests	19	20	23	24	35
Feature Films	13	13	15	16	21
Short Films	4	6	6	8	5
GFDD Productions				5	2
Dominican Productions		3	5	5	6
Retrospective Screenings	2	2	2	2	4
Audience	+2,900	+5,000	+6,500	+7,000	+10,000
Workshops and Master Classes		4	4	6	6
Community Activities	3	4	5	7	8
Volunteers	36	46	60	+100	+120
Academic Institutions	11	10	50	50	+100
Partners and Sponsors	11	35	19	34	68



Since the inception of the Dominican Republic Environmental Film Festival (DREFF) in 2011, Global Foundation for Democracy and Development (GFDD) has created and developed 7 year round programs that make a significant contribution to the sustainable development of the Dominican Republic.



www.eco-huertos.org

The EcoHuertos program seeks to support the creation of organic and sustainable vegetable gardens in schools and communities throughout the Dominican Republic. It also supports hands-on workshops in the field of natural sciences contained in the educational curriculum. The program generates awareness on the importance of a balanced diet, contributes to food security and independence, as well as creation of small local business.

GFDD Short Productions



Value of Life



*Garbage or Resource:
A Dominican Republic Experience*

<http://documentaries.globalfoundationdd.org>

GFDD short productions raise awareness about important environmental and socioeconomic challenges, while highlighting best practices and promoting innovative solutions. They also encourage young filmmakers to produce documentaries on environmental issues.

This program works with the most disadvantaged communities who receive training in the art of recycling and creating new objects from waste and, at the same time, learn to develop an alternative source of income. The program revolves around the "three golden rules" - or 3Rs - for the proper management of solid waste: reduce, reuse, and recycle. The workshops demonstrate and emphasize the idea that recycling waste and transforming it into art strengthens both individuals and communities alike.



www.recreate.org



www.globoverdedominicano.org

It is the only national competition that recognizes audiovisual materials with environmental and sustainable development content. Comprising of four categories: Short Film, Public Service Announcement, Photography and Junior, it provides opportunities for Dominican students and young professionals to showcase their talent in front of a national and international audience while generating awareness on environmental and sustainable development issues. The winners receive their prizes during a special celebration within the framework of the Dominican Republic Environmental Film Festival.

Year Round Environmental Film Screenings



www.dominicanscreenings.org

The program complements DREFF's mission to reach more communities, institutions and individuals around the country with high quality films on critical environmental and sustainable development issues. It organizes film screenings year round with local partners and for diverse audiences, such as parents, children, teenagers, adults, academics and scientists.



www.rdescubre.org

RDeScubre offers students from underserved communities in the Dominican Republic the opportunity to develop an emotional bond with the environment and to value their natural shared heritage, while helping them develop leadership abilities with a focus on personal growth and interpersonal skills. Participants attend lectures on environmental and sustainable development issues as well as participate in educational activities that strengthen their teamwork and community organizing capabilities.

The DREFF Blog is a platform for the exchange of opinions on issues related to the environment and sustainable socio-economic development that stimulates both individual and community actions within this field. Containing articles and photo reports by national and international experts, the DREFF Blog raises awareness about our planet and offers practical advice on addressing today's environmental challenges.



<http://blog.dreff.org>

During DREFF



The Community in Action



Social Events



Workshops and Master Classes