Wildscreen Festival Nairobi 2023 Programme

Friday 30 June - Saturday 1 July 2023 | Alliance Française
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Host

Jahawi Bertolli
CEO • Africa Underwater & East African Ocean Explorers

Jahawi Bertolli is a National Geographic Explorer, iLCP Associate Fellow, NEWF Fellow and Mentor, American Society of Cinematographers fellow, award-winning filmmaker, musician, photographer, and TV presenter. Growing up in Kenya, Bertolli nurtured a deep curiosity and love for the natural world. His work highlights themes of environmental, marine, and shark conservation to portray the beauty, power, and vulnerability of wild environments.

Friday 30th June

09.30 - 10.00
Welcome Address

Speakers: Dr Erustus Kanga and Silvia Museiya

Dr Erustus Kanga
Director General • Kenya Wildlife Service

Dr. Erustus Kanga (HSC) is the Acting Director General of Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS). With over 20 years of experience in biodiversity conservation, climate change assessment, and community livelihood support. Driven by his passion, he holds a PhD in Natural Resources Conservation and has authored numerous publications.

Silvia Museiya
Principal Secretary • State Department for Wildlife

A young woman who comes from a multi-ethnic and multi-cultural background. Born to a small hunter-gatherer indigenous community in Laikipia. She is a creative and a critical thinker who strongly believes that the solutions to a better community lie within us and just need a little activation and attention.
The importance of finding sustainable solutions harmonizing development and conservation in modern Africa cannot be understated. Recognizing the complex interplay between political, cultural, social, and economic dimensions, the panelists will highlight the crucial role of storytellers in shaping conservation narratives, influencing policy, and inspiring collective action. By leveraging storytelling to raise awareness, educate, and advocate for change, Africa can strive towards a future where development and conservation coexist for the benefit of the present and future generation.

**Conservation Storytelling in Africa**

Speakers: Nancy Githaiga, Dr Winnie Kiiru, Dickson Kaelo, Damaris Agweyu

Moderator: Dr Leela Hazzah

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**Dr Winnie Kiiru**  
Executive Director • Mpala Research Center

Dr. Winnie Kiiru is the Executive Director of Mpala Research Center and a founder of WE Africa. WE promotes the participation of women in conservation leadership across Africa. I believe that the climate crisis, biodiversity loss and extinction can only be resolved through empowered and intentional equity, inclusion and diversity.

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**Nancy Githaiga**  
Country Director • Africa Wildlife Foundation

Nancy is an 'environmental advocate', a scientist and a Natural Resource Governance and Management expert passionate about making inter and intra-generational equity a reality. She believes it is not a choice between development and conservation, but a just world is possible where people and nature can thrive.

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**Dickson Kaelo**  
CEO • Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association

Dickson is the founding CEO of Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association (KWCA) and has a passion for working with communities and landowners to conserve and benefit from wildlife conservation. A Kenya Wildlife Service Honorary Warden and winner of the Sustainability Science Award from the Ecological Society of American, Dickson has over two decades of experience in conservation.
Four up and coming Kenyan creatives share their journey in the wildlife filmmaking industry. From early inspiration to key influences, roadblocks and the role of mentors, we will discuss their experiences and celebrate their achievements.

Sponsored by Wildstar Films

Speakers: Faith Musembi, Manu Akatsa, Peter Ndung’u, Clement Kiragu
Moderator: Chloe Sarosh

11.30 - 12.30

Creative Pathways

Damaris Agweyu
Founder • Qazini
Damaris Agweyu is the founder of Qazini, a storytelling platform that challenges the disempowering narrative about Africa. Through Qazini, she shares her vision to shape conversations, catalyze systemic change, and amplify underrepresented voices on the African continent.

Dr Leela Hazzah
Cofounder and Director • Lion Guardians & WE Africa
Leela is Cofounder and Director of Lion Guardians & Women for the Environment Africa (WE Africa). Leela has worked in conservation for over twenty years and is especially passionate about elevating voices of indigenous communities and women. She has been recognized for her groundbreaking work through numerous awards.

Faith Musembi
Producer Director • BBC Studios, NHU
Faith Musembi is a Producer Director based in Bristol, England. She is drawn to telling narratives which showcase the beauty of Africa’s natural resources, while highlighting the complex, but pertinent issues regarding their sustainable conservation. If you don’t find Faith in an office in Bristol, you’ll find her in one of Kenya’s breathtaking wilderness areas.
Manu Akatsa
Cinematographer • Sonara Collective

Manu Akatsa is a documentary filmmaker, cinematographer, and animator with a passion for natural history and cultural preservation. Akatsa’s work captures the beauty and complexity of the world around us, while also highlighting the importance of preserving our planet’s rich natural and cultural heritage.

Peter Ndung’u
Photographer & Filmmaker

Peter Ndung’u is an award winning photographer and filmmaker from Nairobi, Kenya with a passion for documenting nature, wildlife and people stories. He has been featured on global platforms such as Apple, Canon, National Geographic and CNN and is currently working with National Geographic Society’s Impact Story Lab as an Associate Producer to develop a film in Kenya.

Clement Kiragu
Filmmaker • ClementWild Limited

Clement Kiragu is a storyteller on a journey to illuminate issues facing predators in Africa, through photography & film. He hopes his work highlights the vital role predators play in keeping balance in nature and calls attention to the extinction risks these species face as their numbers dwindle every year.

Chloe Sarosh
Executive Producer • Wildstar Films

As Executive Producer at Wildstar Films, Chloe is showrunner for the upcoming NatGeo/D+ series Queens exploring female power in nature and supporting the next generation of female filmmakers. She is also Vice Chair of the Wildstar Academy; championing the growth of underrepresented talent in all areas of wildlife television.
12.40 - 13.40 **Lunchtime Screening: The Elephant Whisperers**
Bomman and Bellie, a couple in South India, devote their lives to caring for an orphaned baby elephant named Raghu, forging a family like no other that tests the barrier between the human and the animal world.

14.00 - 15.00 **Myth-busting International Commissioning**
What does it mean to be a commissioner? And how does the process actually work? In this session Senior Vice President of Development and Production for National Geographic Channel, Janet Vissering and Head of Natural History, BBC Commissioning Sreya Biswas lift the lid on what it really means to be a commissioner. We’ll delve into the process from idea pitch to tx and everything in between, how streamers and broadcasters differ and how we work with suppliers across the world.

Speakers: Sreya Biswas, Janet Han Vissering

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**Janet Han Vissering**
SVP Development & Production • National Geographic Channel
Janet Han Vissering oversees the natural history slate and animal content across the channel and Nat Geo on Disney+. She’s responsible for hundreds of hours of programming commissioned each year across platforms worldwide, including the Emmy-Award winning Secrets of the Whales.

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**Sreya Biswas**
Head of Natural History, BBC Commissioning • BBC
Sreya Biswas is the Head of Natural History for BBC Commissioning, overseeing a number of series including: Planet Earth III, The Watches, Big Little Journeys, Wild Scandinavia and Our Changing Planet and feature docs Lion: The Rise and Fall of the Marsh Pride and My Gorilla Dream.
Explore the different routes to finance your wildlife film project. Spanning government funding, NGOs, private investment, new media platforms to pre-sales, distribution and acquisitions, walk away armed with a playbook of strategies to bring your idea to life.

Speakers: Carol Wachira, Catherine Wanjiku Njari

Moderator: Barbara Lawrence-Strydom

15.15 - 16.15

Carol Wachira
Director: Marketing, Content Acquisition & Digital Transformation
Royal Media Services

Carol is a well-seasoned media executive and the Marketing Director at Royal Media Services. Her role involves the spearheading of the Group’s Digital Transformation and Demand Creation for its brands. This is in addition to her role in Television Content Acquisition for the group, for all externally acquired content.

Catherine Wanjiku Njari
Senior Manager; Media & Content • Safaricom PLC

An experienced Senior Manager at Safaricom PLC, focusing on Media and Content. Demonstrated 14 years of experience working in the TV & Media space; building strategic partnerships, deal structuring, channel management & operations and 7 years in the Telecommunication industry driving strategy development & execution, partnerships and business development.

Barbara Lawrence-Strydom
Chief Enlightenment Officer- CEO • BDLS AFRICA

Barbara a former Bank Manager, visionary, storyteller, explorer, strategist, an author, diversity Practitioner, a Transformation Translator, an ESG facilitator and a sort after vision board expert with a passion for capacity building on the continent from board rooms to under Africa’s Trees.
From jack of all trades to master of one! Join Faith Musembi, Caroline Cox and Samson Moyo as they discuss the transition from lone filmmaker to being part of a large international production team, and demystify the roles and responsibilities of editorial, production management and craft specialisms.

In this session they will take you step by step through the different job families on a production team, how they interact together, at what points each role is involved with a project, and discuss how local filmmakers can fit into this structure.

Speakers: Faith Musembi, Caroline Cox, Samson Moyo, Anthony Njuguna

Faith Musembi
Producer Director • BBC Studios, NHU

Faith Musembi is a Producer Director based in Bristol, England. She is drawn to telling narratives which showcase the beauty of Africa’s natural resources, while highlighting the complex, but pertinent issues regarding their sustainable conservation. If you don’t find Faith in an office in Bristol, you’ll find her in one of Kenya’s breathtaking wilderness areas.

Caroline Cox
Production Executive • BBC Studios, NHU

Caroline has worked across multi-genre TV production for nearly 20 years. In 2019 she delivered the BBC1 landmark series ‘Seven Worlds, One Planet’ as Production Manager, before moving into the Production Executive role, including BBC1 titles ‘Green Planet’, ‘Frozen Planet II’ and ‘Fantastic Beasts: A Natural History’ as well as the much anticipated ‘Planet Earth III’.

Samson Moyo
Wildlife Filmmaker
Elephants have long been a source of wonder and mystery with their rich emotional lives and almost supernatural ways of navigating the world. Now, in the second instalment of the ground-breaking, Emmy award-winning, natural history franchise, “Secrets Of”, we travel the globe to, meeting different families of elephants, each with their own specific set of cultural behaviours passed between them, to reveal not just how truly extraordinary they are in their own right, but also how similar they are to us, humans.

Sponsored by National Geographic

Kenya Premiere Screening and Q&A: The Secrets of the Elephants

Speakers: Dr Paula Kahumbu, Janet Han Vissering, Ednah Bonareri, Andreas Knausberger

Moderator: Dr Erustus Kanga

Dr Paula Kahumbu
Presenter • National Geographic

Dr Paula Kahumbu is an ecologist, filmmaker and educator and CEO of WildlifeDirect. Producer of Wildlife Warriors TV series, and presenter of Nat Geo’s Secrets of the Elephants. She lectures at Princeton University, and is on the Boards of National Geographic and WWF International.

Janet Han Vissering
SVP Development & Production • NatGeo Channel

Janet Han Vissering oversees the natural history slate and animal content across the channel and Nat Geo on Disney+. She’s responsible for hundreds of hours of programming commissioned each year across platforms worldwide, including the Emmy-Award winning Secrets of the Whales.

Edna Bonareri
Sound Recordist
Andreas Knausenberger
Director / DOP • Africa Wildlife Productions

Andreas is a wildlife camera and drone operator based in Kenya. He is the director of Africa Wildlife Productions Ltd, a wildlife production company based in Nairobi. His latest project was filming for "Secrets of the Elephants" for National Geographic and Disney+.

Dr Erustus Kanga
Director General • Kenya Wildlife Service

Dr. Erustus Kanga (HSC) is the Acting Director General of Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS). With over 20 years of experience in biodiversity conservation, climate change assessment, and community livelihood support. Driven by his passion, he holds a PhD in Natural Resources Conservation and has authored numerous publications.
Saturday 1st July

09.30- 10.30 Craft Masterclass: Cinematography

Speakers: Manu Akatsa, Erica Rugabandana, Clement Kiragu

Moderator: Jeff Wilson

Sponsors by VI Rentals

Manu Akatsa
Cinematographer • Sonara Collective

Manu Akatsa is a documentary filmmaker, cinematographer, and animator with a passion for natural history and cultural preservation. Akatsa’s work captures the beauty and complexity of the world around us, while also highlighting the importance of preserving our planet’s rich natural and cultural heritage.

Erica Rugabandana
Freelance Wildlife Cinematographer

Erica is a wildlife cinematographer from Tanzania, with a background in Wildlife Management and community development. Her passion is being behind the camera; capturing the magnificent wildlife behavior, and telling stories about the connection between wildlife and people. She builds strong stories that audiences find captivating and believe in.
Oscar-winning Director Kartiki Gonsalves talks to Dr Paula Kahumbu about her journey with ‘The Elephant Whisperers’ and the impact she hopes to make for nature, humanity and storytelling.

In Conversation with: Kartiki Gonsalves

Oscar-winning Director Kartiki Gonsalves talks to Dr Paula Kahumbu about her journey with ‘The Elephant Whisperers’ and the impact she hopes to make for nature, humanity and storytelling.

Sponsored by iLCP

Speaker: Kartiki Gonsalves
Moderator: Dr Paula Kahumbu

Jeff Wilson
Series Producer • Silverback Films

Over the last 20 years, Jeff Wilson has worked as a film maker on some of the most influential and iconic blue chip wildlife series - from Life of Mammals, Planet Earth, Frozen Planet and The Natural World, Jeff has used his upbringing in East Africa and his biology degree to understand and capture wildlife behaviour sequences in over 65 countries and on all 7 continents.

Clement Kiragu
Filmmaker • ClementWild Limited

Clement Kiragu is a storyteller on a journey to illuminate issues facing predators in Africa, through photography & film. He hopes his work highlights the vital role predators play in keeping balance in nature and calls attention to the extinction risks these species face as their numbers dwindle every year.

Kartiki Gonsalves
Director • Associate Fellow • iLCP

Documentary filmmaker from the Nilgiri mountains in Southern India, Kartiki is the first ever Indian Film Director to win an Academy Award in the history of India for her debut film ‘The Elephant Whisperers’. One of first women chosen as a Sony Alpha Artisan of Imagery in India, an Associate fellow with iLCP. She founded Earth Spectrum to use the power of storytelling to raise awareness about biodiversity and cultural life. She focuses on capturing the diversity of cultures and tribes across the world to give a platform to women & indigenous tribes, especially those working to conserve nature.
A selection of natural history short films from AFRISOS fellows.

**Lunchtime AFRISOS Shorts**

Six filmmakers will have 3 minutes to pitch their wildlife project to a jury of leading international commissioners and senior executives live on stage. Following a 3 minute pitch, the pitchees will get immediate feedback from the judges. The judges will choose the top three projects, which will walkaway with a prize fund totalling $19,000.

Supported by National Geographic

**Wild Pitch**

Six filmmakers will have 3 minutes to pitch their wildlife project to a jury of leading international commissioners and senior executives live on stage. Following a 3 minute pitch, the pitchees will get immediate feedback from the judges. The judges will choose the top three projects, which will walkaway with a prize fund totalling $19,000.

**The Judges**

**Janet Han Vissering**
SVP Development & Production • National Geographic Channel

Janet Han Vissering oversees the natural history slate and animal content across the channel and Nat Geo on Disney+. She’s responsible for hundreds of hours of programming commissioned each year across platforms worldwide, including the Emmy-Award winning Secrets of the Whales.
Jonny Keeling
Head of Natural History Unit • BBC Studios
Jonny has worked at the Natural History Unit producing and directing wildlife and adventure documentaries for 27 years. His credits include BAFTA and Emmy award-winning series Planet Earth, Planet Earth II, and Seven Worlds, One Planet, which he executive produced. Jonny is currently Head of BBC Studios Natural History Unit.

Loise Makato
Presentation Editor/Transmission Controller
Royal Media Services
Loise is a media enthusiast with over 10 years experience in TV programming, currently working at Royal Media Services. She was a jury at Kalasha International Film & TV Awards. Holds a Masters Degree in International Studies, Bachelor’s in Journalism and a diploma in Film Production. Her mantra is impacting positive change in the society.

Sreya Biswas
Head of Natural History, BBC Commissioning • BBC
Sreya Biswas is the Head of Natural History for BBC Commissioning, overseeing a number of series including: Planet Earth III, The Watches, Big Little Journeys, Wild Scandinavia and Our Changing Planet and feature docs Lion: The Rise and Fall of the Marsh Pride and My Gorilla Dream.

Pauline Kyalo
Assistant Film Producer • WildlifeDirect
Pauline is an Environmental Scientist and Filmmaker. She enjoys human/nature stories that spark people’s love for the natural world inspiring actions of conservation. Currently, Pauline works as an Assistant Film Producer at WildlifeDirect, producing nature and TV series - #TeamSayari on NatGeo Wild and #WildlifeWarriors.
As the modern world threatens to swallow their traditional way of life and their land, Hadza hunter-gatherer children Ng’uba and Nguilabe are fighting to preserve their tribe’s 50,000-year-old connection to nature. In their journey to find balance between two worlds, they are guided by Hadzabe cosmological myths about wildlife.

Between Two Worlds

Jigar Ganatra

KIRIMA KIA NYAGA: HOUSE OF GOD is a 6-part limited documentary series that explores the rich cultural, geographic and ecological history of Mt. Kenya and the communities that live and have lived in its shadow, interrogating the current human and climate challenges in a mix of live-action documentary and animation.

KIRIMA KIA NYAGA: HOUSE OF GOD

Mary Wanjiku & Arnold Mwanjila

Jigar Ganatra is an award-winning visionary Tanzanian filmmaker whose ecophilosophical documentaries challenge humanity to rethink our connection to nature. He has made films in collaboration with communities in remote areas including the East African Savannah, Amazon Rainforest, and the Himalayas.

Jigar Ganatra
Chairman • AFRISOS

WildPitch Finalists
From climate change and environmental destruction, Mt. Kilimanjaro’s glaciers melt into Amboseli National Park’s swamps. New permanent lakes have formed, forcing Elephants out of the park; but is there land available outside the park? Can we create a win-win situation; saving the last open spaces and Elephant migratory routes?

Feisal Malik
Producer - Director - Camera • Visual Africa Films Ltd

Feisal, an honorary warden with the Kenya Wildlife Service, runs Visual Africa Films Ltd. His first stint at wildlife film making was in 2009. They produce wildlife films and service productions that want to film in Kenya. He has diversified into also publishing coffee table books with Augmented Reality.
Wildlife, climate change and environmental conservation show dedicated to educating the present and future generations about the importance of conservation. Our wildlife, environment, and planet's survival are reliant on our present and future generations' knowledge and recognition of us having one shared fragile home with finite resources.

Buoyant: A Turtle Tale

"Buoyant: A Turtle Tale" takes us on a remarkable journey with Bob, a resilient green turtle. Through his story, we rediscover our humanity, witness the immense power of human compassion, and confront the urgent reality of plastic pollution's devastating impact on our oceans.

Trishala Naidu & Devin Trull

Trishala Naidu
Presenter

Trishala is a wildlife presenter, biologist and safari guide. She is passionate about connecting people to the natural world through media, hoping to popularise science and foster curiosity. She aims to create engaging wildlife content as a presenter and producer, inspiring others to value and grow empathy for our planet.

Devin Trull
Documentary Filmmaker & Conservation Storyteller

Matata and Friends on Safari

Wildlife, climate change and environmental conservation show dedicated to educating the present and future generations about the importance of conservation. Our wildlife, environment, and planet's survival are reliant on our present and future generations' knowledge and recognition of us having one shared fragile home with finite resources.

Anthony Onyango & Fedelis Kyalo
Embark on the captivating and transformative journey of “Ūūndūire: The Balance We Seek,” where nature, culture, and mental wellness converge. Follow a curious millennial as she leaves behind the hustle of Nairobi to immerse herself in the wilderness, uncovering resilience, interconnectedness, and inner harmony along the way. Disenchanted with the fast-paced modern world and yearning for a deeper connection with herself, she embarks on a transformative pilgrimage to discover her personal legend.

Wambui Wachira & Manu Akatsa

Meet Wambui, a Kenyan transitioning from tech to conservation and aerial cinematography. With a project management background, she explores natural history, seeking ancient wisdom to unravel life’s enigmas. An avid explorer, dreamer, and nature enthusiast, Wambui’s passion drives her mission to protect our planet’s wonders.

Anthony Onyango
Wildlife Ecologist, Conservation Photographer and Filmmaker

Fedelis Kyalo
Puppeteer and Filmmaker

Wambui Wachira
Project Manager
Manu Akatsa
Cinematographer • Sonara Collective

Manu Akatsa is a documentary filmmaker, cinematographer, and animator with a passion for natural history and cultural preservation. Akatsa’s work captures the beauty and complexity of the world around us, while also highlighting the importance of preserving our planet’s rich natural and cultural heritage.

Kavila Matu
Production Manager • Vivid Features Ltd

Kavila started editing on tape 25 years ago, later moving to non-linear systems like Avid and FCP. He has worked on numerous documentaries, films, news packages and commercials. His passion is to create powerful stories by using the tools available in the film industry. Current manager at Vivid Features Ltd.

Angela Wanjiku Wamai
Film Editor • Inpost Production

Angela Wanjiku Wamai has been working as a film editor in Nairobi for 8 years and loves to edit documentaries. Her debut feature film Shimoni (The Pit) premiered at the Toronto International film festival and has received several awards including the Etalon de Bronze at the prestigious FESPACO in Ouagadougou.

Jeff Wilson
Series Producer • Silverback Films

Over the last 20 years, Jeff Wilson has worked as a film maker on some of the most influential and iconic blue chip wildlife series - from Life of Mammals, Planet Earth, Frozen Planet and The Natural World, Jeff has used his upbringing in East Africa and his biology degree to understand and capture wildlife behaviour sequences in over 65 countries and on all 7 continents.
Africa stands apart as continent of diverse cultures, untamed landscapes and extraordinary biodiversity that has inspired the global environmental movement. This panel brings together a distinguished group of visionary filmmakers, conservationists and experts who have harnessed the power of storytelling to conserve cultures at risk, to change the narrative in storytelling and to drive conservation behaviour change to ensure that Africa’s wildlife endures.

Sponsored by Save the Elephants

17.00 - 18.00

Can wildlife films really make a difference for conservation?

Speakers: Jigar Ganatra, Catherine Enane, Trish Sewe, Feisal Malik

Moderator: Dr Paula Kahumbu

Jigar Ganatra
Chairman • AFRISOS

Jigar Ganatra is an award-winning visionary Tanzanian filmmaker whose ecophilosophical documentaries challenge humanity to rethink our connection to nature. He has made films in collaboration with communities in remote areas including the East African Savannah, Amazon Rainforest, and the Himalayas.

Catherine Enane
Outreach Specialist & Theatre Director
The Elephant Queen Outreach Programme

An all-round performer, theatre maker and director with eleven years' experience in performing arts. She has extensive experience Managing Theatre, coordinating social development projects and community engagement through arts. Currently she is part of the conservation education and engagement team and Theatre director for The Elephant Queen Outreach program.

Trish Sewe
Chief of Party - Team Sayari & Nature Positive Kids Outreach
WildlifeDirect

Trish Sewe is the COP for Team Sayari & Nature Positive Kids Outreach Program at WildlifeDirect. She has over 18 years of experience in the communications and development sector and leads the technical, implementation and management of all aspects of the project, ensuring that the core activities are successfully delivered.
Wildlife cameraman Vianet Djenguet returns to his beloved Congo to explore the extraordinary wildlife of this remarkable country.

Sponsored by BBC Studios, NHU

BBC Studios, NHU Screening,
Natural World: My Congo

Wildlife cameraman Vianet Djenguet returns to his beloved Congo to explore the extraordinary wildlife of this remarkable country.

Intro from Jonny Keeling & Pre-recorded message from Vianet Djenguet

Feisal Malik
Producer - Director - Camera • Visual Africa Films Ltd

Feisal, an honorary warden with the Kenya Wildlife Service, runs Visual Africa Films Ltd. His first stint at wildlife film making was in 2009. They produce wildlife films and service productions that want to film in Kenya. He has diversified into also publishing coffee table books with Augmented Reality.

Dr Paula Kahumbu
CEO • WildlifeDirect

Dr Paula Kahumbu is an ecologist, filmmaker and educator and CEO of WildlifeDirect. Producer of Wildlife Warriors TV series, and presenter of Nat Geo's Secrets of the Elephants. She lectures at Princeton University, and is on the Boards of National Geographic and WWF International.

Jonny Keeling
Head of Natural History Unit • BBC

Jonny has worked at the Natural History Unit producing and directing wildlife and adventure documentaries for 27 years. His credits include BAFTA and Emmy award-winning series Planet Earth, Planet Earth II, and Seven Worlds, One Planet, which he executive produced. Jonny is currently Head of BBC Studios Natural History Unit.
Wildscreen Festival Nairobi

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