

WILD HOPE
PROTECTING PARADISE

	TIME CODE	VIDEO	AUDIO
1.	01:00:03:00	TEASE	CALLIE VEELENTURF: I think that the ocean is what makes this planet habitable.
2.	01:00:09:15		CALLIE VEELENTURF: The health of the ocean and our health are very closely intertwined. We have been becoming more and more out of balance with nature. Our unsustainable fishing practices are evidence of that. We need a law that recognizes the rights of all nature, all ecosystems, all species. I hope that we can create opportunities to protect nature for this future generation.
3.	01:00:37:17	GRAPHIC: TITLE OPEN WILD HOPE PROTECTING PARADISE	
4.		ACT 1	
5.	01:00:47:05	LOWER 3rd: Callie Veelenturf Marine Conservation Biologist	CALLIE VEELENTURF: I did my first dive here on the reef in front of Saboga Island and within one hour of snorkeling I saw 12 endangered turtles. I was just totally blown away. I think I came up with tears in my eyes.
6.	01:01:04:10		NARRATOR: CALLIE VEELENTURF FIRST CAME TO PANAMA IN 2019 TO STUDY SEA TURTLES ON A GRANT FROM NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC. SHE HAD BEEN STUDYING OPEN OCEAN LEATHERBACKS FOR THE LEATHERBACK PROJECT THAT SHE FOUNDED WHEN SHE NOTICED THAT ONE WAS LINGERING IN PANAMANIAN WATERS.

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7.	01:01:22:15		CALLIE VEELENTURF: I remember being fascinated and wondering what these leatherback turtles were doing in the Gulf of Panama. Were they foraging? Are there nesting sites there?
8.	01:01:32:10	LOWER 3rd: Aida Magaña Community Leader & Environmental Engineer	NARRATOR: CALLIE FIGURED THE BEST WAY TO FIND OUT WAS TO SEE WHAT SHE COULD LEARN FROM THE LOCAL EXPERTS. ON THE SMALL ISLAND OF SABOGA, SHE MET ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER AIDA MAGAÑA, WHO INTRODUCED HER TO THE COMMUNITY AND THE ISLAND'S RICH BIODIVERSITY.
9.	01:01:50:10	A nosotros, la naturaleza es parte de nuestro vivir. Es muy importante que lo conservemos.	AIDA MAGAÑA: For us, nature is part of our life. It is very important that we preserve it.
10.	01:01:58:00		NARRATOR: AIDA TEAMED UP WITH CALLIE TO KICK START THE RESEARCH ON SEA TURTLES. ACCESSING LOCAL INSIGHT WAS KEY TO THE ENDEAVOR.
11.	01:02:07:05		CALLIE VEELENTURF: Part of my work here has been to document the local ecological knowledge and make sure that it's clear that this knowledge is what has informed the science.
12.	01:02:17:12	Es un hermosa con muchos animales que están en peligro de extinción.	AIDA MAGAÑA: It is a beautiful place with many animals that are in danger of extinction.
13.	01:02:24:10	GRAPHIC MAP: Map starting wide to see where Panama sits in Central America, then zoom into the Pearl Island archipelago	NARRATOR: THE ISLAND OF SABOGA SITS IN THE GULF OF PANAMA, PART OF AN ARCHIPELAGO OF OVER 200 ISLANDS AND ISLETS KNOWN AS THE PEARL ISLANDS.

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14.	01:02:36:16		<p>CALLIE VEELNTURF: The Pearl Islands are unique from an environmental perspective.</p> <p>Humpback whales, hammerhead sharks, whale sharks, migratory birds, they're passing through the Pearl Islands. It's a vital stop in their circle of life.</p>
15.	01:02:51:10		<p>CALLIE VEELNTURF: The local communities living here have known that these species are present for generations.</p>
16.	01:02:57:05		<p>NARRATOR: THEY'VE ALSO NOTICED CHANGES IN RECENT YEARS.</p>
17.	01:03:05:05	Yo naci en la pesca	<p>ARIEL CAJAR: I was born into fishing.</p>
18.	01:03:07:15	LOWER 3rd: Ariel Cajar Boat Captain	<p>NARRATOR: ARIEL CAJAR, A FISHERMAN WHO GREW UP ON SABOGA, HAS SEEN A SIGNIFICANT DROP IN THE NUMBER OF FISH.</p>
19.	01:03:16:00	<p>El tiempo de antes se veía mucho pescado. Tú sales uno una horita y traía un tanda de pescado demasiado y ahora no se está viendo eso.</p> <p>Ahora es muy difícil pescar. Ha cambiado mucho porque los botes de afuera.</p>	<p>ARIEL CAJAR: Before, we saw a lot of fish. You'd go out for an hour, and you brought back a catch of so many fish, and now you're not seeing that.</p> <p>Now, it is very difficult to fish, because of the boats from other regions.</p>
20.	01:03:35:05		<p>NARRATOR: GIANT FOREIGN FISHING OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HISTORICALLY LAX REGULATIONS TO OVER FISH THESE WATERS.</p> <p>THREATENING THE COMMUNITY'S LIVELIHOOD.</p>

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			RECENTLY, AUTHORITIES FOUND THAT A TOTAL OF AROUND 40% MORE FISH HAD BEEN TAKEN FROM PANAMA THAN HAD BEEN REPORTED.
21.	01:03:57:10	LOWER 3rd: Marino Abrego Research Associate	NARRATOR: THAT DISCOVERY CAUGHT THE ATTENTION OF MARINO ABREGO FROM THE NATIONAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, HIS DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN WORKING TO TIGHTEN REGULATIONS AND ESTABLISH PANAMA AS A LEADER IN MARINE CONSERVATION.
22.	01:04:10:08	Es sumamente importante trabajar en la proteccion y conservacion de los recursos costero- marinos. Y el involucramiento con esta comunidad, para mejorar su calidad de vida.	MARINO: It is extremely important to work on protection and conservation of coastal-marine resources. And to involve this community, to improve their quality of life.
23.	01:04:24:05		NARRATOR: TO HELP SUPPORT CONSERVATION AND THE COMMUNITY HERE IN SABOGA, MARINO JOINED FORCES WITH CALLIE AND THE TEAM.
24.	01:04:31:10		CALLIE VEELNTURF: Part of this work that I've been doing here in the Pearl Islands is satellite tagging endangered species. We've had a lot of participation from the local kids. These turtles have been their neighbors for all these years, but they haven't necessarily had the opportunity to see them.
25.	01:04:50:15		NARRATOR: NOW THEY'RE HELPING THE TEAM TRACK THE MOVEMENTS OF THE SEA TURTLES, ALL OF WHICH ARE THREATENED WITH GLOBAL EXTINCTION.
26.	01:04:58:00		CALLIE VEELNTURF:

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			Of the sea turtles that we've tagged so far, it's very clear that a majority of their time is spent around Saboga Island. And so, it's clear that Saboga is like an anchor point.
27.	01:05:08:10		NARRATOR: IF THEY CAN SHOW THAT THESE ISLANDS ARE CRITICAL TO THE TURTLES' SURVIVAL, IT WOULD GIVE THEM THE EVIDENCE THEY NEED TO FIGHT FOR PROTECTION OF THESE WATERS.
28.	01:05:17:15		CALLIE VEELNTURF: I see the Pearl Islands as a place where we can work to show the world what living in harmony with nature looks like.
29.	01:05:26:10		NARRATOR: CALLIE'S COMMITMENT TO CONSERVATION HAS BEEN HARD-FOUGHT, A DIFFICULT EXPERIENCE EARLIER IN HER CAREER NEARLY DERAILED IT.
30.		ACT 2	
31.	01:05:37:12		CALLIE VEELNTURF: In 2018, I took my first job as a marine biologist out in California, and very shortly I started experiencing pervasive and consistent sexual harassment. And I began this process of learning what my rights were and seeking legal counsel to defend those rights. So, I was able to come to a resolution. And in the process of healing from this negative experience, I wanted to see how I could apply it to my work as a conservationist.
32.	01:06:12:15		NARRATOR: A YEAR LATER, AS SHE PREPARED FOR HER FIELD WORK IN PANAMA, CALLIE CAME UPON A PROMISING CONNECTION POINT.
33.	01:06:20:10		CALLIE VEELNTURF: It was in the middle of the night, and I was researching online, I learned about this book called The Rights of Nature, a Legal

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			Revolution that Could Save the World by David Boyd.
34.	01:06:30:05		<p>NARRATOR: THE BOOK ARGUES THAT HUMANS AREN'T THE ONLY LIVING THINGS WITH RIGHTS AND PRESENTS EXAMPLES OF HOW TO ENSHRINE THE RIGHTS OF NATURE INTO LAW.</p> <p>AS CALLIE SETTLED INTO HER TURTLE RESEARCH IN PANAMA, SHE KEPT THINKING ABOUT HOW TO TURN THAT IDEA INTO REALITY.</p>
35.	01:06:48:14		<p>CALLIE VEELNTURF: The research assistant that was working with us at the time, he had some contacts with the First Lady and with Congressman Juan Diego Vázquez.</p> <p>In February of 2020, I presented the concept of the rights of nature, how it's been used in other countries around the world to protect nature.</p> <p>And I obviously prefaced all of this with the fact that I'm not from Panama, but I just have fallen in love with Panama and the biodiversity here.</p>
36.	01:07:18:20		<p>NARRATOR: THE PRESENTATION INSPIRED CONGRESSMAN VÁSQUEZ TO BEGIN DRAFTING A LAW.</p>
37.	01:07:24:18	<p>MARINO: Muchas personas tambien contribuyeron a fortalecer esta propuesta de norma, sobre los derechos de la naturaleza</p>	<p>MARINO ABREGO: Many people also contributed to strengthen this proposed regulation on the rights of nature.</p>
38.	01:07:34:15		<p>CALLIE VEELNTURF: And then the law was officially proposed by Juan Diego Vázquez to Parliament.</p>

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			I'm incredibly excited to say that Panama passed their rights of nature law on February 24 th , 2022.
39.	01:07:47:02		NARRATOR: THE BOLD ACTION HAD BIG IMPLICATIONS.
40.	01:07:52:07		CALLIE VEELENTURF: The law recognizes the rights of all nature throughout Panama, all ecosystems, all species.
41.	01:07:59:00		NARRATOR: IT TREATS NATURE AS AN INDIVISIBLE COMMUNITY OF LIVING BEINGS THAT HAS THE RIGHT TO EXIST AND ENDURE. ECUADOR LED THE WAY ON RIGHTS OF NATURE, BECOMING THE FIRST COUNTRY TO ENSHRINE IT INTO THEIR CONSTITUTION IN 2008. BOLIVIA AND A CASCADE OF OTHER COUNTRIES SOON FOLLOWED SUIT WITH THEIR OWN LAWS. FOR PANAMANIAN, THEIR NEW LAW GRANTS CITIZENS NEW POWER.
42.	01:08:27:22		CALLIE VEELENTURF: Now every Panamanian citizen has been given the right to represent nature legally in court. It gives people that power to help enforce the law.
43.	01:08:41:00		NARRATOR: THAT PROVIDES LEVERAGE FOR THOSE ALREADY FIGHTING AGAINST UNSUSTAINABLE PRACTICES AND OPENS THE DOOR FOR MORE SUSTAINABLE GROWTH.
44.	01:08:50:07	La normativa insta a que haya oportunidades de trabajo en la comunidad, Y que tambien la comunidad se fortalezca.	MARINO ABREGO: The regulations urge that there be opportunities for work in the community, and that the community is strengthened.

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45.	01:09:02:05		<p>NARRATOR: IT WAS A WATERSHED MOMENT. ONE THAT OPENED THE DOOR FOR FURTHER ACTION.</p> <p>SOON, ANOTHER GROUP CALLED PAN TORTUGAS HELPED PASS A LAW AIMED SPECIFICALLY AT SEA TURTLES.</p>
46.	01:09:16:03		<p>CALLIE VEELENTURF: To our knowledge, sea turtles are now the first marine species group to have their rights recognized in national law.</p>
47.	01:09:24:12		<p>NARRATOR: ALL SEA TURTLES NOW HAVE LEGAL PROTECTION IN PANAMA FROM FISHERIES BYCATCH, POLLUTION, AND NEST DISRUPTION.</p>
48.	01:09:33:05		<p>CALLIE VEELENTURF: This new law recognizes the rights of sea turtles to a healthy environment means that by proxy, the environment also needs to be healthy.</p> <p>That's really exciting because it's using sea turtles to affect many other species down the line.</p>
49.	01:09:49:20		<p>NARRATOR: ANY WILDLIFE THAT SHARES THE SAME SAFEGUARDED ENVIRONMENT WILL REAP REWARDS AS WELL.</p>
50.		ACT 3	
51.	01:09:56:10		<p>NARRATOR: THE NEW LAW ALSO MAKES CALLIE'S RESEARCH EVEN MORE CRITICAL.</p> <p>ANY HABITATS THAT THE TEAM CONFIRMS THE TURTLES ARE USING NOW QUALIFY FOR PROTECTION THEMSELVES, AND THAT COULD HELP INCREASE THE ENFORCEMENT AGAINST OVERFISHING.</p>

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52.	01:10:15:10		<p>CALLIE VEELENTURF: In order to understand the presence and habitat use of the sea turtle species here in Saboga Island, we've been doing these night surveys.</p> <p>We're scanning the reef, going back and forth looking for these turtles that are sleeping. We try and catch as many turtles as we possibly can.</p>
53.	01:10:40:17		<p>NARRATOR: THIS ONE IS A YOUNG FEMALE HAWKSBILL.</p>
54.	01:10:47:17		<p>CALLIE VEELENTURF: We bring them into the boat, and we put the towel over their head, it allows them to pretty quickly go back into sleep mode and that's better for us and better for the turtles.</p>
55.	01:10:56:10		<p>NARRATOR: ALREADY, THEIR RESEARCH IS DOCUMENTING WHAT THE LOCAL COMMUNITY ANTICIPATED.</p> <p>THE ISLANDS ARE CRITICAL NESTING AND FORAGING GROUNDS FOR BOTH HAWKSBILL AND GREEN SEA TURTLES.</p>
56.	01:11:08:00		<p>CALLIE VEELENTURF: We're up to 94 turtles that have been caught and tagged on this reef here. And it's clear that this place is important for all life stages of these species.</p>
57.	01:11:22:00		<p>NARRATOR: WITH THAT DATA IN HAND, CALLIE AND MARINO SAW ANOTHER WAY TO BUILD ON THE RIGHTS OF NATURE LAW, TURN SABOGA ISLAND INTO A NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.</p>
58.	01:11:34:19	Para poder llegar a tener un Refugio de Vida Silvestre, se ha tenido que levantar informacion	<p>MARINO ABREGO: In order to have a Wildlife Refuge, we have had to gather information to indicate what are</p>

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		indicar cual es son los beneficios de tener un area protegida en este lugar.	the benefits of having a protected area in this place.
59.	01:11:48:07		NARRATOR: ONE KEY BENEFIT IS ECOTOURISM.
60.	01:11:51:20	Esto va a ayudar a fortalecer la gesti.n de los recursos y de la propia comunidad y mantener la sostenibilidad en el tiempo.	MARINO ABREGO: This will help strengthen the management of resources and of the community itself and maintain their sustainability over time.
61.	01:12:00:15		NARRATOR: TO MAKE SURE THE COMMUNITY WAS ON BOARD WITH THE WILDLIFE REFUGE IDEA, AIDA AND CALLIE CANVASSED THE TOWN, WITH UNANIMOUS RESULTS.
62.	01:12:09:20		CALLIE VEELENTURF: Every single person said yes, a hundred percent. Which of course was just incredibly exciting.
63.	01:12:15:05	Yo opino que eso puede ser excelente porque me puede llamar mucho turismo.	ARIEL CAJAR: I think that can be excellent because it can attract a lot of tourism.
64.	01:12:21:15		NARRATOR: ARIEL HIMSELF PLANS TO WORK AS AN ECOGUIDE AND IS PREPARED FOR AN UPTICK IN TOURISTS SHOULD THE REFUGE COME TO BE. HIS CHANGE IN CAREER MIRRORS THE SHIFT ALREADY HAPPENING IN HIS COUNTRY. IN A CLEAR STANCE FOR SUSTAINABILITY PANAMA RECENTLY SHUT DOWN A COPPER MINE THAT ACCOUNTS FOR SOME 5% OF ITS GDP.

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			DRIVEN BY CIVILIAN LED ACTION AND THE NEWLY PASSED RIGHTS OF NATURE LAW.
65.	01:12:55:20		CALLIE VEELENTURF: Action is what gives me hope for the future of our planet. I'm hoping it will inspire other countries to follow suit going forward in the next few years, we have no time to waste.
66.	01:12:55:20	Como islenda y como madre, yo sueño con darle un mejor future a mi hija, a mi familia, a mi descendencias, a mi generacion.	AIDA MAGAÑA: As an islander and as a mother, I dream of leaving a better future for my daughter, my family, my descendants, my generation.
67.	TRT: 01:14:09:06		END