

EVENT

Civil Society Forum

► June 6-7, 2022



Thematic Discussion: “Strengthening the role of environmental defenders in protecting forests from illegal deforestation”



Amaru Ruiz. Biologist and Environmentalist, Defender of Environmental Rights and Indigenous and Afro-descendant Peoples. President of Fundación del Rio, Nicaraguan Civil Society Observer in the Climate Change Negotiations to the UNFCCC and with specialized studies in Forests, Protected Areas, and Climate Change



Andrea Crosta, Executive Director and Board Member, Earth League International (ELI)

Andrea has over 30 years of experience in conservation projects around the world and, in a parallel professional career, he has been working for over 17 years as an international consultant to companies and governmental agencies on high-end security technologies & services, homeland security, anti-piracy, investigations and risk management. He now applies this unique knowledge to conservation and wildlife protection.

He is the founder of Earth League International (ELI), among the founding members of the Wildlife Justice Commission, in The Netherlands, a Member of the Board of The Africa Conservancy Foundation, and the creator and project manager of WildLeaks, the world’s first wildlife crime whistleblower initiative.

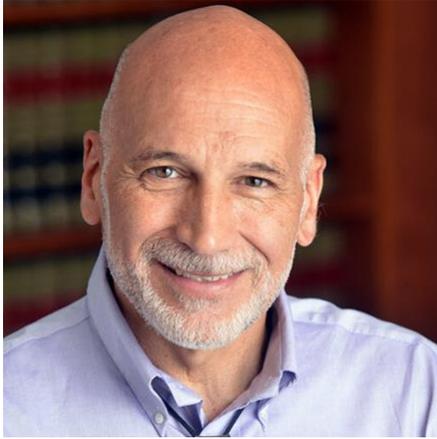
Andrea is among the main protagonists of the Netflix’s documentary ‘The Ivory Game’ and of the NatGeo documentary ‘Sea of Shadows’, about the international trafficking of Totoaba and the potential extinction of the Vaquita porpoise in the Sea of Cortez, Mexico (premiered at the Sundance Film Festival 2019 – Audience Award Winner).

He is a Fellow of The Explorers Club. As an entrepreneur in 1998 he founded ‘Think Italy’, among the very first e-commerce start-ups in Italy. He holds a Master’s Degree in Natural Sciences, a Master’s Degree in Business & Innovation, and a BSc in Psychology.

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Joseph Berra, Human Rights Professor, University of California, Los Angeles

Joseph Berra is Human Rights in the Americas Project Director with the Promise Institute for Human Rights at UCLA School of Law. His teaching and research interests include immigrant rights, international human rights, and the rights of Indigenous and Afrodescendent peoples in Central America. Berra coordinates projects with organizational partners in the U.S. and Latin America to engage students in human rights advocacy and the Inter-American system for

human rights. Current projects include collaboration with Indigenous organizations resisting extractivist industries in their territories, litigation at the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights, and research on the human rights challenges faced by Indigenous migrants in the U.S. detention and immigration systems.



Jose Fernando Ochoa Pineda, Defensa Ambiental del Noroeste (DAN)

Jose Fernando Ochoa Pineda is Executive Director and Founding member at Defensa Ambiental del Noroeste (DAN), a public interest lawyers nonprofit organization working to protect biodiversity and environmental human rights in Northwest Mexico. Fernando holds a Law degree from the Universidad Intercontinental (Mexico City) and Postgraduate studies in Environmental Law and Policies and Criminal Law. His work experience includes four years as associate lawyer in a private attorney's office bureau, as well as more

than 19 years of experience in environmental conservation and environmental human rights in the nonprofit sector. Fernando is an active member of the Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (E-LAW) and is former legal advisor for the Waterkeeper Programs of the Baja California Peninsula. Throughout his career, Fernando together with a team of specialized lawyers has halted the construction or operation of ill-advised developments and activities all along the Gulf of California region protecting important wildlife species and ecosystems.



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Fernando has been a keynote speaker sharing his experience at various academic forums and conferences all around the world.



Sarah Gardiner, Senior Policy Advisor at Oxfam America

Sarah Gardiner is Senior Policy Advisor for civic space at Oxfam America. In her role, she supports Oxfam affiliates and partners in responding to threats to global civil society, including restrictions on freedoms of association, expression, and assembly, and reprisals against human rights and environmental defenders. She has a decade of human rights advocacy experience in the government and non-profit sectors. She has previously worked as Policy Director at Freedom for Immigrants, a national nonprofit dedicated to the abolition of immigration detention, and The Sentry, an investigative nonprofit focused on exposing and disrupting the financial incentives of conflict. She began her career as a Foreign Service Office at the U.S. Department of State, serving tours in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, and Madrid, Spain. She is a proud alumni of the Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship and holds degrees from Georgetown University and the John Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies.



Soledad Garcia Muñoz, REDESCA Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights

Feminist lawyer, with extensive experience in national and international litigation. She has a Diploma in Advanced Studies in Human Rights from the Carlos III University of Madrid with Research Proficiency obtained in the Doctorate Program of the same university. Professor at numerous universities and study centers, design and taught the course Gender, Women's Rights and Sexual Diversity in the Master's degrees in Human Rights at UNLP (Argentina), Rafael Landívar University (Guatemala), and the Diploma in Gender and Politics FLACSO Uruguay Publics. With numerous publications on her specialty, she highlights her research efforts in comparing the inter-American and European human rights systems, such as gender and women's

A microphone is positioned in the upper right corner of the page, pointing towards the left. Behind it, several colorful triangles in shades of blue, orange, green, and red are scattered, creating a vibrant, abstract background. The overall image has a soft, out-of-focus quality.

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rights. It is worth highlighting her participation in the elaboration of the "Montreal Principles on the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of Women", or the book "Human Rights in the population and development agenda. Conceptual and legal links, application standards "(IIHR-UNFPA). She was President of Amnesty International Argentina, Vice-President of AI's International Executive Committee, and President of its Working Group on Gender and Diversity. In these roles, she led the adoption of policies on abortion and sexual and reproductive rights, as well as the gender and diversity strategies of the organization. She was also part of the Expert Commission on Youth and Human Rights of the Ibero-American Youth Organization (OIJ). Likewise, she has served as a consultant for prestigious national and international organizations and study centers, including several UN agencies. She led the CEDAW-Argentina project of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights, which contributed decisively to the ratification by Argentina of the Optional Protocol to CEDAW, within the framework of a broad educational and advocacy process in the country. From 2009 until she joined the IACHR, she headed the IIHR Regional Office for South America, based in Montevideo, Uruguay. As the first regional representative of said Institute, she managed numerous projects to promote and educate on human rights in the countries and institutions of the Mercosur space. Since September 2017, she assumed the position of Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights (REDESCA), after being elected by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) within the framework of an inter-American public process. She is the first person to carry out the mandate of the IACHR.