

Media Release

Bern, 16th July 2025

The Wyss Academy for Nature joins hands with the Locarno Film Festival as an Impact Partner

Connecting science, culture, and creative voices for systemic change

The Wyss Academy for Nature at the University of Bern is proud to be an Impact Partner of the 78th Locarno Film Festival (August 6 to 16, 2025). By engaging in the Pardo Verde Award, the Diplomacy Day, and the Open Doors program, the Wyss Academy aims to harness the power of culture to drive the systemic change urgently needed to transform our relationship with nature - going beyond scientific evidence alone.

As an Impact Partner of the Locarno Film Festival, the Wyss Academy for Nature supports storytelling that inspires action and intergenerational engagement.

On August 11, it will co-host the Diplomacy Day, marking the 100th anniversary of the Locarno Peace Treaties. The event will convene around 200 representatives from diplomacy, business, civil society, and culture to explore pathways to peace and cooperation. Prof. Dr. Peter Messerli, Director of the Wyss Academy, will contribute insights on the nexus between conflicts and environmental crises and how science, policy, and business can better harness the co-benefits between security and sustainable development.

The Wyss Academy also supports the Pardo Verde Award, which honours films that address environmental and societal challenges. Seta Thakur, Head of Communications & Social Innovation, will serve on the 2025 Jury, bringing expertise in inclusive sustainability storytelling.

The Open Doors Connect - Wyss Academy Development Track, supports film production in Kenya and Madagascar, two countries where the Wyss Academy's Hub East Africa promotes the coexistence of nature and people by preserving the connectivity, functionality, and health of ecosystems. This initiative includes a Film Production Fund and is aimed at filmmakers whose work highlights innovative approaches to biodiversity conservation and human well-being alike, promoting systems transformation towards more inclusive and just sustainable development practices. It will run during the Locarno Film Festival 2026.

Through its presence at the Locarno Film Festival, the Wyss Academy underscores its commitment to cross-sector collaboration and cultural engagement as catalyst for positive change for nature and people.

ABOUT THE WYSS ACADEMY FOR NATURE

The Wyss Academy for Nature at the University of Bern is a place of innovation, where research, business, policymakers and communities come together to co-design solutions for sustainable futures. The Wyss Academy's mission is to turn scientific knowledge into action. Combining ambitious, innovative goals with a transformative approach, it was founded to develop innovative long-term pathways that strengthen and reconcile biodiversity conservation, human well-being and the sustainable use of natural resources in a variety of landscapes throughout the world. We co-design and implement concrete projects across a swathe of regions and countries. This global structure facilitates the replication of successes and learning. The Wyss Academy for Nature currently operates Hubs in Central Europe (Bern, Switzerland), Southeast Asia, East Africa and South America.

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