

# The Map to Paradise

An adventure-filled tale about the birth of the movement to protect the sea



# SYNOPSIS

IF A 'MAP TO PARADISE' EXISTED, WHAT WOULD THIS MAP LOOK LIKE?

We will take you on a journey to discover what 'underwater paradise' might look like, and to show you that dreams do come true.

We will tell you a tale about the birth of the movement to protect the world's oceans, and will aspire to convince viewers to feel and believe that it is possible to save our planet.

Travel from the underwater lands of ice and corals to the headquarters of the United Nations to engage with a character-driven collection of stories about how we can help to save the sea from today's greatest perils, which threaten life itself.

Through the eyes of the likes of a prince, a president, a pirate and an island chief, discover the magic of what a bountiful underwater paradise means for humankind.

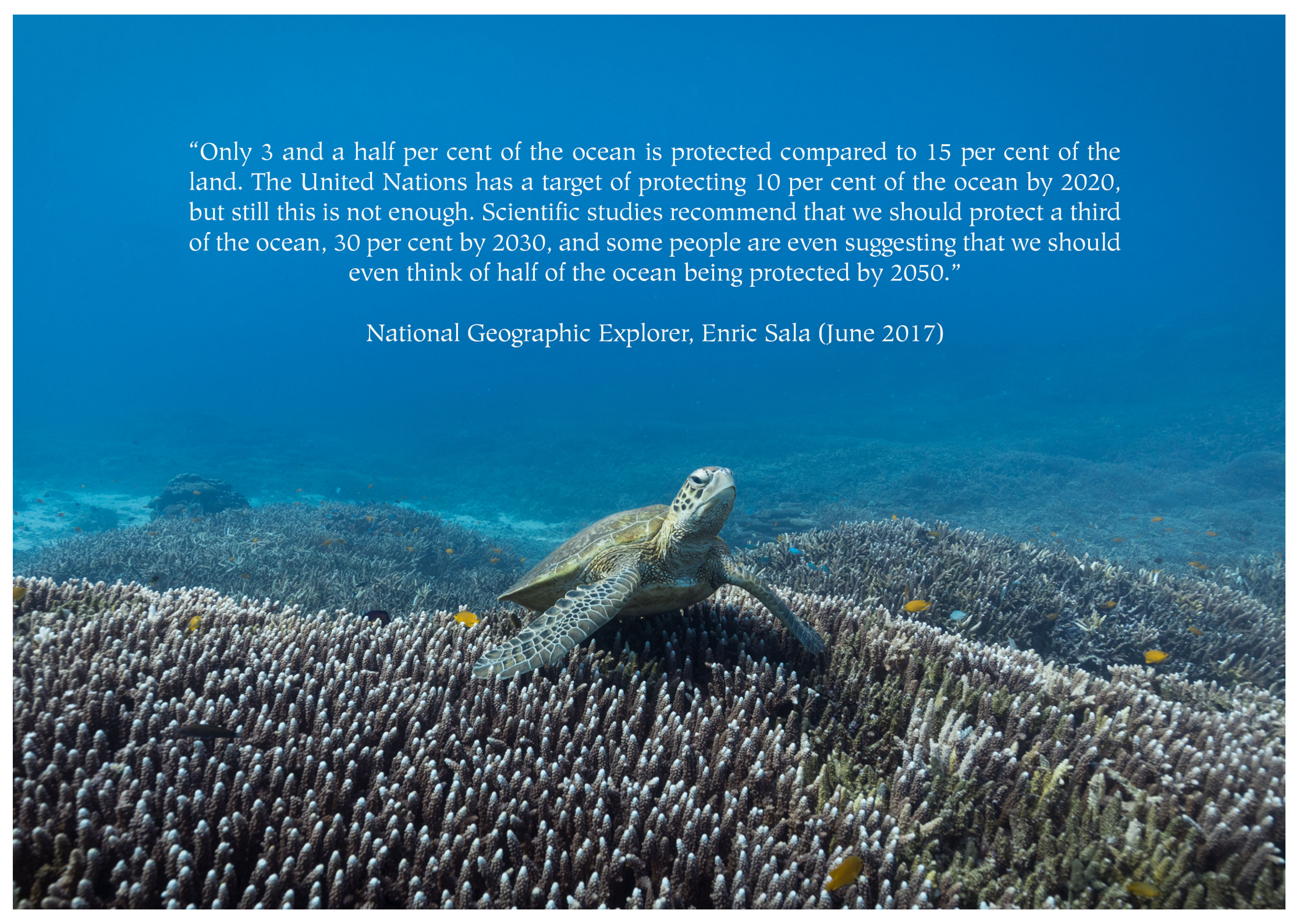
On the way, we will visit the old wealthy fishing ports of Europe and some remote islands in Asia where an old chief sets sail to spread the knowledge of what a new world might look like. A president shares a telling tale about a mermaid legend, and you'll meet a fisherman from a sleepy fishing village of Greece, who laments that he is the last generation of fishermen – as he says there are no fish left to fish. Meanwhile, in his neighbouring country of Italy, lives a scientist, who dreams big and beyond his time. He meets a prince, who helps him on his quest to save the ocean, while a marine biologist studying whales in Antarctica learns how to step outside of the world of science to do everything in his power to change the fate of our dying underwater world, to turn it back into a brilliant underwater paradise like it once was.

However, the adventure doesn't end here. Viewers will be transported to California and Australia to learn about how the global movement to protect the sea began. They will feel a sense of shock as they learn how Australia has been stripped of its title as a world leader in ocean conservation as the nation plans to take away the largest area of marine protection ever contemplated by any country.

Today's most famous pirate of the sea laments over Australia's fall from grace, as the nation turns a blind eye to the giants of the sea being slaughtered in the sanctuary it cares for at the End of the Earth. The quest to protect the sea is both arduous and long. It rests upon the dreams of individuals and nations to find paradise. Saving our ancient oceans and rediscovering the paradise humans once enjoyed is possible, but we must move quickly to enshrine the world's big blue map.

“Only 3 and a half per cent of the ocean is protected compared to 15 per cent of the land. The United Nations has a target of protecting 10 per cent of the ocean by 2020, but still this is not enough. Scientific studies recommend that we should protect a third of the ocean, 30 per cent by 2030, and some people are even suggesting that we should even think of half of the ocean being protected by 2050.”

National Geographic Explorer, Enric Sala (June 2017)



# CHARACTER SPOTLIGHT



**Prince Albert II of Monaco**

He is an Ocean Elder, who spends his time advocating for marine protection on an international level. He brought the idea of protecting blue fin tuna onto the world stage.



**President of Palau, Tommy Remengesau**

He has done something no other leader has done. He has protected 80 per cent of his country's waters from fishing and other human activities.



**Australia's Former Environment Minister, Tony Burke**

He announced the largest network of marine reserves in the world in 2012. He is presently fighting to keep these areas in place, as the current government moves to wind them back.



**National Geographic Explorer, Enric Sala**

He is a leading scientific spokesperson on marine protected areas. Working with National Geographic's Pristine Seas Campaign, he has encouraged governments to protect 13 areas.



**Captain Paul Watson, Sea Shepherd**

He is famously known as a pirate internationally for his activism in his efforts to stop illegal fishing. He confronts perpetrators wherever they dare to go, as in the case of Antarctica.



**Mario Pascobello, Former Chief - Apo Island, Philippines**

His efforts to protect his island have made Apo famous around the Philippines for having kick-started the movement to protect the sea in his country.

# CHARACTER SPOTLIGHT



**Ari Friedlaender, University of California  
- United States**

He is one of the world's leading marine biologists, who specialises in researching foraging species, such as whales in Antarctica.



**American Ocean Conservationist,  
Michael Sutton**

As the former Vice President of Monterey Bay Aquarium, he worked to ban California's shark fin trade. Former Governor Schwarzenegger asked him to create California's MPA network.



**Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara,  
Marine Biologist - Europe**

He bravely approached Prince Rainier of Monaco in the 1990s to create the first international marine sanctuary to protect the whales and dolphins.



**Mary Jean Samson Tabanera, Future Apo  
Kids Program - The Philippines**

Her story is symbolic of the story that many women face around the world - women don't have an adequate say in the future of our ocean resources and how they are managed.



**Frank Talbot, Former Director Australian  
Museum**

He helped to protect Lord Howe Island and was responsible for setting up the Lizard Island Research Centre on the Great Barrier Reef.



**Nicola Benyon, Head of Campaigns  
Australia, Humane Society International**  
She and her team fought for about 10 years bringing the case in the International Court of Justice which found that whaling operations in Antarctica are illegal.

# CHARACTER SPOTLIGHT



**Georgios Troupis, Greek Fishermen**

From when he was just a baby, he grew up on his dad's fishing boat. He has witnessed the loss of marine life in his lifetime and laments that dark times are coming for humanity.



**Keobel Sakuma, Director, Palau National Marine Sanctuary**

He has overseen Palau's proactive approach to combating illegal fishing in the nation's marine sanctuary, helping to make Palau a global leader in marine conservation.



**Ruffino, Boat Captain of an illegal fishing vessel from General Santos, Philippines**

In his desperation to make a living, Captain Ruffino has become caught up with the law in Palau and was under house arrest for illegally fishing in Palau at the time of filming.



**Cindy Walter, Restaurant Owner, Passionish, California**

After growing up in a family of fishermen and fisherwomen, Cindy opened her own sustainable seafood restaurant. She is also an advocate for marine sanctuaries.



**Gerald Tuayon, Future Apo Kids Program**

He grew up catching sharks with his grandfather, but has now embraced a new way of living, inspired by his mentor, the retired Chief of Apo Island, Mario Pascobello.



**Laurent Martin, Dive Instructor, Plongeurs du Monde, France**

He and his fellow colleagues from Plongeurs du Monde taught and personally paid for the Dive Master certificates of the Future Apo Island Kids, including Mary Jean and Gerald.

# CHARACTER SPOTLIGHT



**Kip Evans, Photographer & Explorer**

He travelled the Californian coastline with Ocean Conservationist, Michael Sutton, taking photographs to show the public and convince decision-makers that it was worth protecting.



**Pat Hutchings, Consultative Committee, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority**  
She helped to teach Former Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser how to dive on the Great Barrier Reef. When he returned to parliament, he legislated to protect the reef.



**Dave Gumban Alboa, Philippines Reef & Rainforest Conservation Foundation**  
He works on projects with the community to protect the ocean and the land, including managing the conservation areas of the only NGO-owned island in the Philippines.



**John Day, Ex-Director (1998-2014), Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority**

He has 39 years of professional experience as a planner and manager of protected areas.



**Aki, Japanese Tourist**

He represents a shift in cultural attitudes. He is a young Japanese person, who cares deeply about conserving the largest creatures on Earth - whales.



**Charles Littnan, Drone Pilot**

He is a monk seal expert in his day job but, in this documentary, he is assisting whale researcher, Ari Friedlaender, film whales from an aerial perspective.

# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

## Co-Director Danielle Ryan

The notion of 'paradise' has always been shrouded in mystery. It is a place where we all desire to go, but do we really know how to get there? Do we even know what 'paradise' looks like?

In *The Map to Paradise*, we wanted to take viewers on a journey to realise that paradise exists already here on Earth - we just have to believe in it.

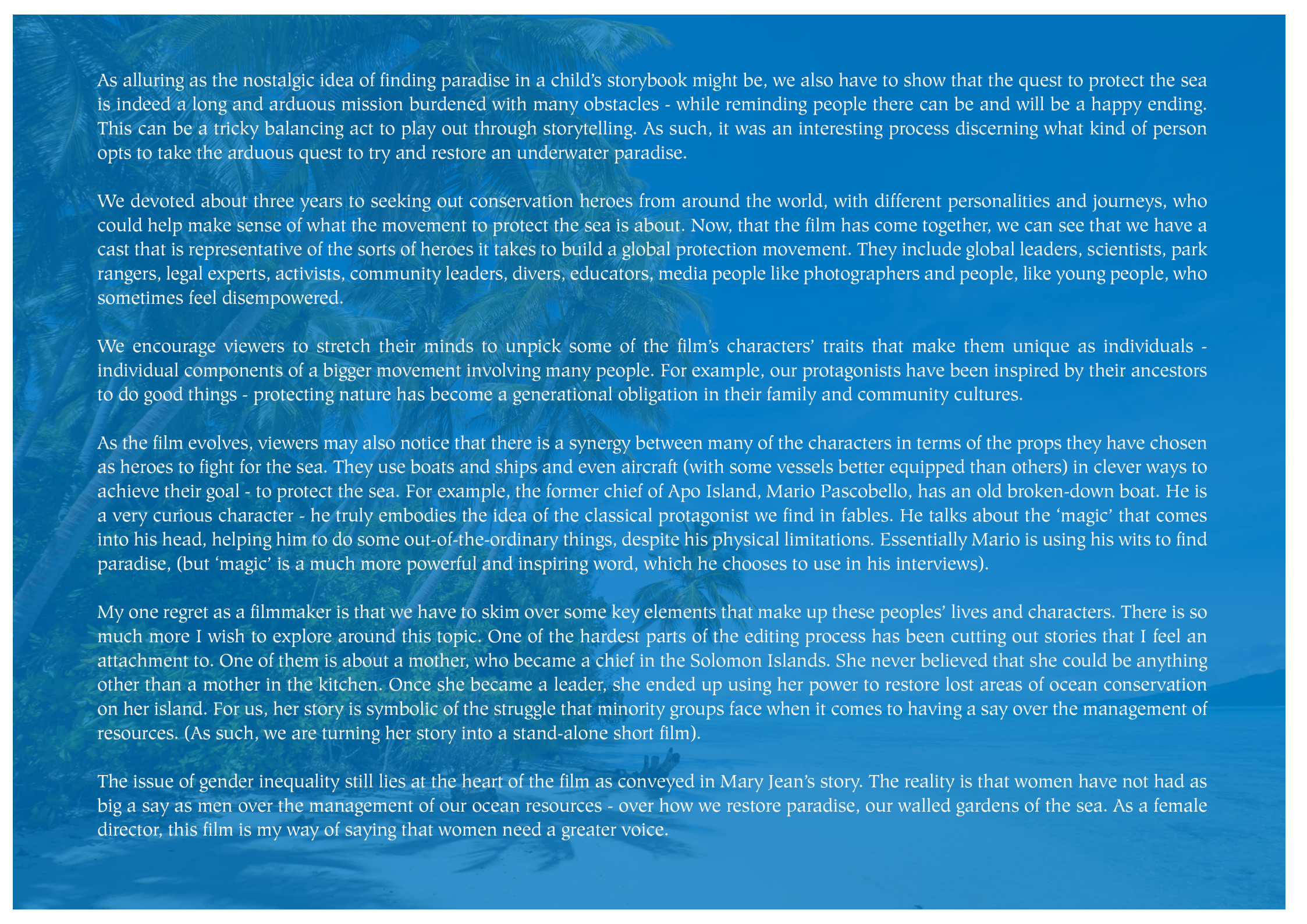
The word 'paradise' originates in the meaning of 'walled enclosure' and also 'walled garden', which is why our film is appropriately titled '*The Map to Paradise*' - as individuals and nations move to protect patches of the wild sea from the perils of human exploitation, they are essentially closing off spaces like coral gardens to allow our underwater landscapes to thrive the way they once did without interference. I, like many people, have always been intrigued by the notion of paradise, whether it be through studying the pastoral period in literature and art in Western culture, or in the legends of ancient, oral-storytelling cultures.

In order to find this place of paradise in the world of modern-day storytelling, we chose to break a few rules as documentary-makers. For example, the prologue at the beginning of the film is unusually long - the viewer must wait 5 minutes and 33 seconds listening to an orally-driven story before they get to the opening titles. We have done this because we want viewers to be lured into a magical state of mind, so they become as curious as we are about what paradise in the sea could look like before we get to the main title, *The Map to Paradise*. It is this sense of nostalgia for the past (a world without human interference) that led to our decision to format *The Map to Paradise* as a collection of short character-driven tales. We aspire to remind adults of what it was like as a kid growing up, reading fairytale novels and falling in love with the idea that dreams do come true, since many decision-makers often put the quest to protect nature in the too-hard basket.

I believe that, as adults, we need to claw back this state of youthful thinking, if we are ever going to truly solve some of the world's most wicked problems when it comes to conserving nature. As children, we believe that anything is possible. Why do we forget to dream big? As American Conservationist Mike Sutton says in the film "people have said that those of us in the conservation community are often better at the 'I have a nightmare speech' than the 'I have a dream speech' - we need to get better at the 'I have a dream' speech."

This statement sums up the entire journey in *The Map to Paradise* perfectly.





As alluring as the nostalgic idea of finding paradise in a child's storybook might be, we also have to show that the quest to protect the sea is indeed a long and arduous mission burdened with many obstacles - while reminding people there can be and will be a happy ending. This can be a tricky balancing act to play out through storytelling. As such, it was an interesting process discerning what kind of person opts to take the arduous quest to try and restore an underwater paradise.

We devoted about three years to seeking out conservation heroes from around the world, with different personalities and journeys, who could help make sense of what the movement to protect the sea is about. Now, that the film has come together, we can see that we have a cast that is representative of the sorts of heroes it takes to build a global protection movement. They include global leaders, scientists, park rangers, legal experts, activists, community leaders, divers, educators, media people like photographers and people, like young people, who sometimes feel disempowered.

We encourage viewers to stretch their minds to unpick some of the film's characters' traits that make them unique as individuals - individual components of a bigger movement involving many people. For example, our protagonists have been inspired by their ancestors to do good things - protecting nature has become a generational obligation in their family and community cultures.

As the film evolves, viewers may also notice that there is a synergy between many of the characters in terms of the props they have chosen as heroes to fight for the sea. They use boats and ships and even aircraft (with some vessels better equipped than others) in clever ways to achieve their goal - to protect the sea. For example, the former chief of Apo Island, Mario Pascobello, has an old broken-down boat. He is a very curious character - he truly embodies the idea of the classical protagonist we find in fables. He talks about the 'magic' that comes into his head, helping him to do some out-of-the-ordinary things, despite his physical limitations. Essentially Mario is using his wits to find paradise, (but 'magic' is a much more powerful and inspiring word, which he chooses to use in his interviews).

My one regret as a filmmaker is that we have to skim over some key elements that make up these peoples' lives and characters. There is so much more I wish to explore around this topic. One of the hardest parts of the editing process has been cutting out stories that I feel an attachment to. One of them is about a mother, who became a chief in the Solomon Islands. She never believed that she could be anything other than a mother in the kitchen. Once she became a leader, she ended up using her power to restore lost areas of ocean conservation on her island. For us, her story is symbolic of the struggle that minority groups face when it comes to having a say over the management of resources. (As such, we are turning her story into a stand-alone short film).

The issue of gender inequality still lies at the heart of the film as conveyed in Mary Jean's story. The reality is that women have not had as big a say as men over the management of our ocean resources - over how we restore paradise, our walled gardens of the sea. As a female director, this film is my way of saying that women need a greater voice.

**From the coast to the high seas, and from underwater lands of ice to corals, we need to make sure that there are places that have been left untouched by humans forever.**

“The new binding treaty for the high seas biodiversity can, to borrow a phrase, be the next giant leap for humankind. It may make it possible to create marine protected areas on the high seas and protect their resources for the shared benefit of all. I urge the people in charge of negotiating this treaty, many of whom are no doubt in this room today, to be bold, to give this treaty teeth and vision, and to make it a game-changing Paris Agreement for the oceans.”

Sir Richard Branson, Ocean Elder - recorded at the United Nations (June 2017)



# THEMES / CHARACTER QUOTES

## THE NOTION OF PARADISE

“A paradise means to be truly connected to nature. When you wake up, you hear the sound of the birds. You see the horizon where the sky and the sea meets. You breathe fresh air and you see animals around you and plants, you notice them more - I think that is what paradise could be.”

**Dave Gumban Alboa**

Philippine Reef & Rainforest Conservation Foundation

## WISDOM

“The older people who have been worrying about conserving the beauty and the functions of the natural world all their life have a long experience of course, so they have many things to tell to the younger generation and to inspire them - but, altogether, we as a generation, we have been doing very bad work.”

**Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara**

Marine Biologist - Italy

## URGENCY

“We absolutely need in a very desperate way to protect more areas, to have more marine protected areas and sanctuaries in different seas and oceans of the world.”

**Prince Albert II of Monaco**

## MORAL VALUES

“The right thing to do is narrated through the legend. The values of the legends have been the moral stories, the lessons to be learned.”

**Tommy Remengesau**

President of Palau

## SELF-REFLECTION

“People have said that those of us in the conservation community are often better at the ‘I have a nightmare speech’ than the ‘I have a dream speech’ - we need to get better at the ‘I have a dream’ speech.”

**Michael Sutton**

Ocean Conservationist - United States

## CONNECTIVITY

“We are starting to see that collective international opinion is starting to change and really adopt what the Pacific countries have known all along - that not only the Pacific Ocean, but all oceans are interconnected, and what happens in one country is not necessarily isolated to one country.”

**Keobel Sukuma**

Palau National Marine Sanctuary

## THE DESIRE FOR A CURE

“I used to be a professor of the university of California describing how the ocean was dying, writing the obituary over again and again with more precision, and I decided to quit that and work on the cure to this problem.”

**Enric Sala**

National Geographic Explorer

## MAPPING OUT OUR FUTURE

“There is a blue print. There is a plan in place, people have done this before. We should be able to do this.”

**Ari Friedlaender**

Marine Biologist

## OBSTACLES

“We have all the rules and regulations we need to protect the ocean, but none of that means anything without enforcement. And there is a lack of political and economic enforcement, so the poachers get to do whatever they want.”

**Captain Paul Watson**

Sea Shepherd

## GENDER INEQUALITY

“The typical island women, when it comes to dreaming, they have a broad dream, but they just keep on their mind, no matter how broad the dream, they think that they can't do it.”

**Mary Jean Samson Tabanera**

Future Apo Kids Program - The Philippines

## THE POWER OF THE MIND

“There is magic that sometimes comes into my head. When you get older, the dream also gets bigger and sometimes I say it is an impossible dream, but I also have the courage to make my dream happen.”

**Mario Pascobello**

Former Chief, Apo Island - Philippines

# THE CREW

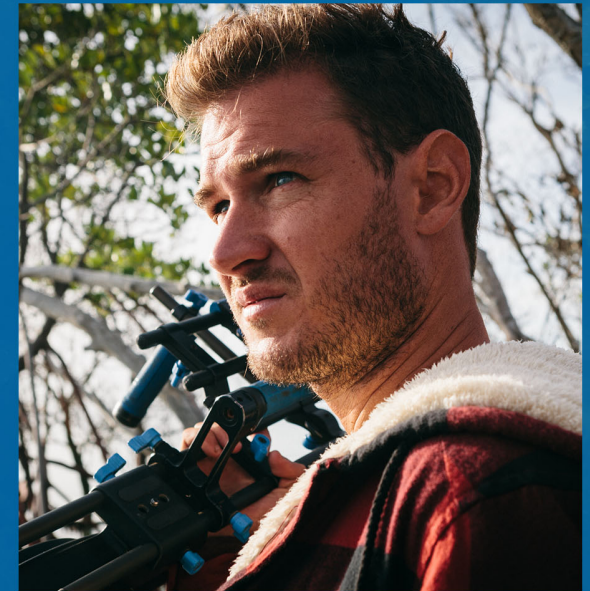


## CO-DIRECTOR, DANIELLE RYAN

Danielle Ryan is a director, producer, writer and editor. She first undertook documentary, film and publishing (in magazines, books and journals) internships at high school and at university. However, she felt the idea of documentary filmmaking was a pipe dream, until her introduction to broadcast began at Nine Network Australia where she trained with the news desks. In 2011, she convinced film and post-production expert, James Sherwood, to join her on her adventure, leading the way as a journalist and producer to secure a story about child labour in Nicaragua, which aired on Dateline SBS. Seven years later, the duo has won eight film festival awards for categories such as best underwater world film, best environmental journalism, audience choice, and a Sylvia Earle Ocean Conservation Award. Danielle was also a Youth Ambassador at the IUCN World Parks Congress (2014) where she was given the mission to reconnect young people with nature. She has a degree in creative writing and a master of international relations at Macquarie University, and has also studied editing and filming for broadcast in Canberra and New York at technical colleges. She and Co-Director James Sherwood are life partners, living on the northern beaches of Sydney, Australia. They share a deep connection with the sea.

## CO-DIRECTOR, JAMES SHERWOOD

James Sherwood is a director, cameraman and editor, who grew up in the film and television industry with the dream to become an underwater cameraman. He has a Bachelor of Marine Science from James Cook University, holds a PADI Divemaster certificate, and has spent the last six years making short conservation documentaries about the land and the sea, such as 'The Last Sea Treasure', 'My Saltwater Sanctuary', 'A Journey through the Eyes of the Reef' and 'Saltwater Secrets', which have played at grassroots screenings with the support of NGOs Australia-wide. James first started at the Sydney-based production house ZSPACE as a junior. Almost twenty years later, he has evolved with the industry performing the roles of a runner, tape operator, assistant editor, editor and cameraman. He has worked on a variety of works involving documentaries, music videos, show reels, commercials, promotional packages and other content for all the major Australian broadcast networks. From the moment James learned about the scientific movement to protect the ocean at university, he became hooked on this topic. He believes that it has the potential to restore underwater ecosystems and to create a better existence for humankind.



# THE CREW

## COMPOSER, DANIEL CLIVE MCCALLUM



Daniel Clive McCallum is an Emmy Award-winning composer based in Los Angeles. He holds many accolades for projects in film, advertisement, and concert music. Born in Australia, Daniel grew up surfing and developed a profound love for the sea. He also studied music from an early age. By the time he was 13, Daniel left normal high school to further his musical education at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. He graduated in 2007 and was awarded a full scholarship to study composition at the Royal Academy of Music in London. In 2012, Daniel was hired straight out of university by Howard Shore to work on the feature film *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*. At the end of 2012, Daniel moved to Los Angeles to work as a freelance composer & orchestrator. Most recently, Daniel orchestrated the worldwide theme to the 2016 Rio Summer Olympic Games, which earned him his Emmy Award. Two separate film scores orchestrated by Daniel won best original score and best original song at the 2016 Goya Awards in Spain (known informally as “the Spanish Oscars”).

## ANIMATOR, ANNA OUTRIDGE

Anna Outridge is an illustrator and animator. In 2015 she graduated from Parsons the New School of Design in New York City with a BFA in Illustration. Her thesis film, a stop-motion short called *Elliot Trix*, was accepted in various film festivals around the world. Since graduating, she has been a full time Creative at a New York based production company called Visual Country, where she has worked on various short-form animation projects for clients, such as Google, Netflix, Zola and Polo Ralph Lauren. After spending 6 years in New York, Anna currently resides in her hometown of Newcastle, Australia. Growing up close to the ocean, which has always been a big part of her life, she is passionate about protecting it and is excited to be involved in *The Map to Paradise* project.



## ILLUSTRATOR, MIA GRIMALDI

Mia is an Australian artist. She started out drawing fashion figures and interior spaces thanks to her fashion studies in New York, but now has developed a new love of drawing sea life thanks to being part of the *Map to Paradise* team. Mia is very excited to be part of such a special project. She works in the fashion industry, having worked for Australian retailers Pink Zebra, David Jones, and presently at Scentre Group. Most recently, one of her fashion drawings was displayed on a big mural at Westfield Shopping centre in Sydney City, Australia. She holds a Bachelor of Arts (Theatre and Film) from the University of New South Wales, and has an ASS degree in Interior Design at Parsons School of Design in New York City - her favourite city on earth! After finishing at Parsons, Mia completed design internships at Playboy Enterprises Inc in New York City in their hospitality concepts department, along with design internships at Jed Johnson Associates and Michael Korins Studio.

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