

METIS

ARTS & DEVELOPMENT



ECHOING NATURE

For whatever development project,
arts can bring something more

AVEC LE SOUTIEN DE



ARTS & NATURE: THE MISSING PIECE IN ENVIRONMENTAL FUNDING

Arts and Nature have always been intertwined. For centuries, nature has inspired humanity's most powerful creations, while artists helped communities reconnect with the lands, waters, and ecosystems that sustain them.

Today, as environmental and social challenges intensify, **the arts offer a vital space to reimagine our bond with the natural world.** Yet many development initiatives still overlook this powerful connection, focusing on technical fixes while neglecting the emotional and cultural dimensions of change.

Art amplifies community voices, sparks dialogue, and inspires lasting transformation.

We believe in the power of blending socio-artistic initiatives with technical development projects — making creativity a driver of environmental stewardship, social justice, and collective resilience.

PROJECTS WE ENVISION...

“JAGUAR”

*The arts to protect
the jaguars in
the Guiana Shield*

CONTEXT

- ◆ **Near Threatened:**
protection status for the
Jaguars by the IUCN.
- ◆ **Threatened by:**
hunting, deforestation,
poaching activities.

A MOMENT FOR PHILANTHROPIC LEADERSHIP

Philanthropists have long invested in both environmental conservation and the arts.

Now is the time to bring these two powerful forces together in a focused, high-impact program: one that recognizes **the essential role of creativity in environmental stewardship and community building for climate and social justice.**

***“Culture and creativity
are our ultimate
renewable resource.”***

IRINA BOKOVA,
FORMER UNESCO DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Echoing Nature in a glimpse

DELIVERING:

- ◆ **15 socio-artistic initiatives**
around the world
- ◆ **1 major artistic production**
with global reach
- ◆ **Cross-residencies**
amplifying creative exchange

TO ACHIEVE:

- ◆ **5,000+ people**
engaged
- ◆ **15 impactful artworks**
addressing environmental challenges
- ◆ **1 united global advocacy movement:**
Arts for Nature

ESTIMATED BUDGET:

- ◆ **500,000\$**

INITIATIVE

In partnership with Panthera, 4 bold participatory artistic initiatives to support jaguar conservation in the Guiana Shield by creating new narratives about jaguars and the bond between people and nature through different artistic disciplines.

Art becomes a powerful tool to amplify the work of NGOs, local communities, indigenous peoples in protected areas.

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ECHOING NATURE:

FOR WHATEVER
DEVELOPMENT PROJECT,
ARTS CAN BRING
SOMETHING MORE

*“Do not look away,
do not hesitate.
The world is thirsty
for action, not words.
Act with courage and vision.”*

—NELSON MANDELA

PROJECTS WE ENVISION...

“ROOTS”

*Films to preserve
ancestral knowledge
and protect biodiversity
in Tanzania*

CONTEXT

+ 400,000

hectares of forest
are lost each year
to human activities

+ 315,000

tonnes of plastic waste
per year

OUR GOAL

To support the preservation of a living Nature – crucial to ensure a sustainable futures for all and especially vulnerable communities.

OUR SPECIFICITY:

We do it by connecting meaningful artistic initiatives ongoing technical development projects in fields like urban development, education, health, agriculture, and conservation.

What we're moving forward :

Resilience

Social cohesion

Environmental

awareness

Equity

Climate justice

Freedom of

expression

Eco-Citizenship

Democracy

Local

Empowerment

Place-based solutions

Community

Engagement

Lasting Legacy

Diverse cultural narratives

Cultural rights

and access

INITIATIVE

In partnership with AFRISOS, an initiative with Indigenous communities in Tanzania to create films that share their ancestral myths, ecological knowledge, and relationship with nature.

Through collaborative, participatory workshops, the communities co-write, film, and produce stories that advocate for biodiversity conservation and cultural preservation.

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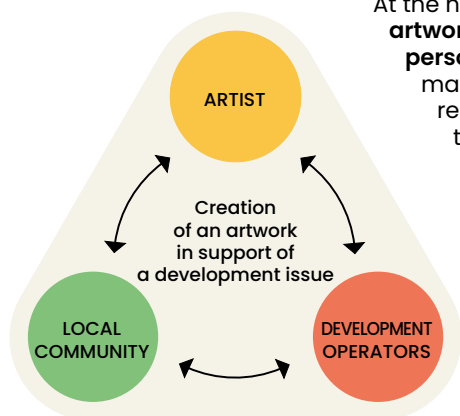
FROM LOCAL STORIES... THROUGH 15 LOCAL SOCIO-ARTISTIC INITIATIVES

Metis will launch 15 “Arts and Environment” initiatives in regions facing acute environmental challenges, co-created with local artists, technical experts, and community members.

Each initiative will respond to a locally identified issue —such as forest preservation, plastic pollution, or environmental migration— through a collaborative process that weaves together lived experience, technical knowledge, and creative expression.

All are carefully connected to local technical development projects.

The arts and emotion come and strengthen their impacts.



At the heart of each, **an ambitious co-produced artwork will capture the collective intelligence and personal stories that surface**, standing as a lasting marker of community-driven solutions and resilience. It will then be **publically shared** to enter into dialogue with the public, nurturing and expanding collective consciousness.

At the program's end, cross-residencies will unite participating artists to exchange experiences and creations from their local initiatives, artistically echoing the positive impacts between communities.

PROJECTS WE ENVISION...

“SOLE STORIES”

*Sculpture to work collectively
against plastic pollution*

CONTEXT

1.3 million

tonnes of plastic waste
per year

8%

only of plastic waste
in Kenya is recycled

TO GLOBAL RESONANCE THROUGH OUR PRESENCE IN INTERNATIONAL SPACES AND ONE POWERFUL, UNIFYING ARTWORK

Thanks to its ties with the **French Development Agency** and the network of financial public development actors, Metis extends the local impact of its initiatives by **advocating within key international development and environmental decision-making arenas.**

By using artistic creation as a strategic tool, we help amplify the voices of local communities and strengthen the work of environmental actors on the ground.

To deepen this impact and ensure these stories resonate beyond their communities, we will produce **a major collaborative artistic work—be it an immersive exhibition, a documentary film, or a graphic novel—that traces the program’s journey across all 15 sites.** This compelling medium will authentically capture testimonies and tangible outcomes, forging a powerful narrative that bridges local realities with global conversations.



INITIATIVE

In partnership with Ocean Sole, an initiative with coastal women’s communities in Kenya to transform beach-collected plastic waste into a individual art pieces and a monumental sculpture.

Through collaborative, creative workshops with Ocean Sole artists and Nigerian artist Konboye Eugene, participants co-create pieces that celebrate resilience and marine conservation. The project culminates in a public exhibition and a monumental artwork inspired by their shared stories.





**SUPPORT CREATIVITY.
BACK THE SDGS.
MAKE A DIFFERENCE
WITH THE FRIENDS OF METIS.**

Whether you are an organization, a collective, or an individual passionate about the arts as a force for sustainable change, Friends of Metis offers you the opportunity to back one or several initiatives close to your heart.

By supporting Metis, you become a vital part of a movement turning creativity into meaningful action for people, nature, and culture — a true catalyst for change.

If you would like to fully support one or more initiatives, please contact our team to explore giving opportunities and learn about the benefits available in return.

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Unrestricted donations to Friends of Metis are fully tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.

***“Art
is not a mirror
held up to reality
but a hammer with
which to shape it.”***

BERTOLT BRECHT



VISIT OUR YOUTUBE