

# 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY SHOW # 52

**SHOW OPEN AND MUSIC (16.00'')**

**TEASES**

**Coming up on 21st Century...(2.00'')**

**[BANGLADESH: SEEKING JUSTICE]**

**Discrimination in Bangladesh. Women fight for justice....could it pave the way for a new era of equality?** (SOT Nowrin: "Girls and women must come forward, if they don't do this, it will continue") **(17.07'')**

**[MADAGASCAR: VANILLA FARMERS]**

**In Madagascar, spice farmers face a bitter truth...** (SOT Kaiser: "The vanilla that was exported has not yet been sold. So we suffer the consequences)... **Struggling to survive a changing market (15.89'')**

**[BRAZIL: DESERTIFICATION]**

**Devastation in the drylands of Brazil** (Sound up Farmer - "The drought punishes everything..." , "Farmers rioted... they did it because they were starving...") **One community's innovative solution (16.12'')**

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**ANCHOR INTRO #1 (22.15'')**

Hello, I'm Daljit Dhaliwal and welcome to 21st Century

**[BANGLADESH INTRO]**

In Bangladesh, many young women are striving to break down traditional barriers. But for some, this comes at a high price. We take you to this South East Asian nation where one woman's struggle for equality and justice could mean success for all women.

## SCRIPT – SEGMENT # 1 (9.26”)

### Bangladesh: Seeking Justice

#### VIDEO

#### AUDIO

MONTAGE OF CITY SHOTS

#### NARRATION:

In a society in which women are largely expected to follow tradition, this woman appears to be living her dream...she’s successful ...with a career as a distinguished lecturer in international relations at one of Bangladesh’s most prestigious institutions – Jahangirnagar University. (23.49”)

NOWRIN IN CLASS

NOWRIN WALKING IN SCHOOL  
CORRIDOR

But for 30-year-old Nowrin Tabassum, and many women like her, all is not as it seems...(7.95”)

NOWRIN ON CAMERA

#### NOWRIN: (In Bangla)

“It began happening in 2008” (2.40”)

NOWRIN IN OFFICE

#### NARRATION:

It is sexual harassment and it began she says with her boss at the University, Dr. Abdullahel Kafi...Chairman of her Department. (9.82”)

NOWRIN ON CAMERA

#### NOWRIN: (In Bangla)

“Dr. Kafi would say if you fail to satisfy my

needs you will not be able to get a permanent contract. As of now, it is still not permanent. He even inferred that I would have to engage in sexual favors. "(15.89")

BEAUTY SHOTS OF  
BANGLADESH/WOMEN  
IN RICKSHAWS

NARRATION:

Sexual harassment is common throughout Bangladesh, experts say, especially in the workplace. But many of the nation's women are starting to fight back, demanding justice and pushing for new legislation to punish perpetrators. (19.87")

MORE WOMEN IN  
MARKETPLACE

NOWRIN ON BALCONY AT  
HOME  
NOWRIN AND HUSBAND IN  
KITCHEN

Joining the fight - Nowrin, who says the harassment was so difficult at the beginning, that even her husband, Tahmid Ahmed, could offer her little solace. (10.33")

HUSBAND ON CAMERA

SPOUSE: (In Bangla)

"I told her that she had just started a new job. These things happen. Everything will be okay."(9.71")

PROFILE OF NOWRIN

NARRATION:

But it wasn't. The harassment only became worse she says. (3.45")

NOWRIN: (In Bangla)

In 2009, new lecturers joined the department. Dr. Kafi used the help of these junior teachers to harass me further." (11.27")

NOWRIN IN CLASS

NARRATION:

Nowrin says she complained to the Vice Chancellor against Dr. Kafi five times - both verbally and in writing. When that didn't work, she – together with 30 female colleagues who supported her cause – stormed the Vice Chancellor's office. Even her husband lodged complaints. (21.92")

NOWRIN WALKING WITH CELL PHONE RINGING

But Dr. Kafi's actions only became bolder she says– calling her at home. (4.87")

NOWRIN ON CAMERA

NOWRIN: (In Bangla)

"He wanted to come to my house and asked me if anyone else was at home. When I replied that my mother-in-law was inside, he suggested that I send her away. I asked why should I do that and he said, if you don't send her away how will we be alone?" (15.76")

CU CELL PHONE DISPLAY

NARRATION:

The calls continued...(1.32")

NOWRIN ON CAMERA

NOWRIN: (In Bangla)

"Another time he called to say that his wife wasn't at home. He said that he really wanted to have sex with his wife. He called me just to say that." (11.18")

NOWRIN AND HUSBAND AT HOME

NARRATION:

She says he even questioned why she had no children. Life, Nowrin says, was

unbearable. (2.52”)

Her husband became increasingly concerned for her well being. (10.32”)

NOWRIN ON CAMERA

NOWRIN: (In Bangla)

“It was difficult for me. I became very upset with my husband and easily irritated by my students.” (10.03”)

HUSBAND ON-CAMERA

HUSBAND: (In Bangla)

“...It’s sad, very sad that my wife a teacher of the highest public university faced such an injustice.” (9.29”)

PEOPLE IN CART ON STREET  
SARA HOSSAIN ON CAMERA

HOSSAIN: (In English)

“I think there’s a real problem...in terms of repression of sexuality I think for both men and women.” (6.47”)

SARA HOSSEIN AT WORK

NARRATION:

Sara Hossain is a prominent human rights lawyer in Bangladesh. (3.48”)

SARA HOSSAIN ON CAMERA

SARA HOSSAIN: (In English)

“Women’s sexuality is very, very strictly policed and controlled. And women are seen as sort of preys for sexual attacks.” (7.81”)

HIGH COURT/FLAG

NARRATION:

And she says, there are no existing laws in Bangladesh’s constitution safeguarding

SARA IN CORRIDOR	them. Something she and local women’s groups find unacceptable as they push for a legal framework to protect victims. (14.97”)
SARA HOSSAIN IN OFFICE	<p><u>SARA HOSSAIN:</u> (In English)</p> <p>“We see a legal system which is overburdened and under resourced...in some cases virtually on the verge of collapsing.” (5.88”)</p>
TWO WOMEN WALKING INTO AN OFFICE	<p><u>NARRATION:</u></p> <p>But progress was made when, in May 2009, Bangladesh’s High Court approved a set of “<i>Guidelines Against Sexual Harassment</i>” in response to a case launched by four female students at Nowrin’s University against a different teacher. (17.43”)</p>
GUIDELINES/VARIOUS SHOTS	
CUBICLES OF OFFICES	<p><u>NARRATION:</u></p> <p>These guidelines – which require all workplaces to guarantee victim’s anonymity and to establish mixed gender committees to hear complaints – are now mandatory throughout the country. (12.84”)</p>
SARA HOSSEIN ON CAMERA	<p><u>SARA HOSSAIN:</u> (In English)</p> <p>“It’s very hard to really make sure you can get justice for people. So when you do get cases which make a difference... that’s very, very exciting.” (8.97”)</p>

NARRATION:

NOWRIN LOOKING INTO FILES And it was very exciting for Nowrin who, empowered by the new guidelines, enlisted Sara Hossain in her struggle. She too would present a case to Bangladesh's High Court. (12.99")

NEWSPAPERS But just as the case was taking hold, unexpectedly, the University made public the names of the victim and Dr. Kafi. (8.07")

SARA HOSSAIN: (In English)  
SARA ON CAMERA "...which was pretty extraordinary - given that the guidelines lay down expressly that you cannot name either party in a sexual harassment suit while the investigation is pending." (11.23")

NARRATION:  
NOWRIN LOOKING THROUGH PAPERS AT HOME Nowrin says attempts to coax her into withdrawing her complaint soon followed. (5.33")

NOWRIN: (In Bangla)  
NOWRIN ON CAMERA "They asked my father to encourage me to withdraw it but he didn't listen to them." (5.47")

SARA HOSSAIN: (In English)  
NOWRIN AT HOME "The fact that both her husband and her father backed her up made it possible for her to proceed with her complaint and to have it taken seriously." (7.03")

SHOTS OF HIGH COURT	<p><u>NARRATION:</u>          Serious enough that she finally got her day in court in May 2010. Then came a frightening call. (9.14”)</p>
NOWRIN ON CAMERA	<p><u>NOWRIN:</u> (In Bangla)          “I was threatened that if I didn’t withdraw it, I would be abducted or even killed.” (5.86”)</p>
	<p><u>NARRATION</u>          Norwin says she still doesn’t know the identity of the anonymous caller. Angry, she fought back reaching out to the media to share her story. (9.43”)</p>
NOWRIN ON CAMERA	<p><u>NOWRIN:</u> (In Bangla)          “If you conceal this, it will increase everyday. Everyone has to speak out. This is why I’m speaking out.” (6.50”)</p>
DEMONSTRATIONS ON STREETS	<p><u>NARRATION:</u>          And her voice was being heard. Cases like these, and numerous incidents of stalking young school girls, prompted a push for a new Parliamentary law that would define sexual harassment as a criminal offense. (19.37”)</p>
SCHOOL GIRLS	
CHAUDHURY ON CAMERA	<p><u>CHAUDHURY:</u> (In English)          “The government has a total stand of zero tolerance towards any kind of violence against women.” (9.03”)</p>

CHAUDHURY IN OFFICE	<p><u>NARRATION:</u> Bangladesh’s Minister of Women and Children Affairs, Dr. Shirin Chaudhury. (3.89”)</p>
CHAUDHURY ON CAMERA	<p><u>CHAUDHURY:</u> (In English) “...There is no scope to engage in violence against women or this kind of offence and get away with it.” (7.20”)</p>
CHAUDHURY IN OFFICE	<p><u>NARRATION:</u> Dr. Chaudhury hopes her government, which is party to CEDAW, the United Nations’ Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, will pass the law, which is currently under review. (13.43”)</p>
CHAUDHURY ON CAMERA BUS CROSSING	<p><u>CHAUDHURY:</u> (In English) “...And we are trying to insert another clause there which will sort of give more explanation of sexual harassment and the specific punishment for that.” (11.73”)</p>
NOWRIN AT HOME	<p><u>NARRATION:</u> As for Nowrin’s case, months later, a verdict was reached. She won. The High Court stated that she should be protected from any further incidents of sexual harassment. (14.21”)</p>
RED BUILDING AND CIRCLE SPECIAL EFFECT ON KAFI	<p>And the accused, who declined a request to be interviewed for this report, continues to</p>

deny the allegations...(7.36”)

NOWRIN:

NOWRIN ON-CAMERA

“Dr. Kafi has been demoted. If I was not able to remove him, at least he was demoted from his position.” (6.84”)

NARRATION:

ZOOM IN ON NOWRIN’S CLASS  
THROUGH THE WINDOW

Nowrin says while it’s a victory, she still feels tension at work but she believes the fight was well worth it. (8.17”)

NOWRIN: (In Bangla)

NOWRIN ON CAMERA

“Girls and women must come forward. If they don’t do this, it will continue. Society will always try to break the spirit of the girl but it has to be dealt with courage.” (13.89”)

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## **ANCHOR INTRO #2 (13.35”)**

### **[MADAGASCAR INTRO]**

Vanilla – it’s one of our favourite flavors. It’s in everything from ice cream to coffee. But for many of the farmers who grow it, life is proving to be anything but sweet. Here’s our story.

## SCRIPT – SEGMENT #2 (6’02”)

### Madagascar: The Bitter Harvest

#### VIDEO

#### AUDIO

VANILLA FARMERS

#### NARRATION:

In a remote corner at the edge of the Indian ocean lies Madagascar – its creamy vanilla beans considered the market’s gold standard. But vanilla – once a steady cash crop has now become a bitter harvest.

(20.27”)

SOAZARA ON CAMERA

#### SOAZARA: (In Malagasy)

“We can’t sell the vanilla.” (1.49”)

SOAZARA PLOUGHING

#### NARRATION:

Soazara grows vanilla beans on the island’s lush Northeast Coast. She used to be able to support her family of six children and grandchildren – but no longer. (11.30”)

SOAZARA ON CAMERA

#### SOAZARRA: (In Malagasy)

“It’s too cheap and causes us problems because of lack of profit. It is not like before. Now there is no money.” (13.86”)

VANILLA PRODUCTION  
WORKERS

#### NARRATION:

Like Soazara, seventy percent of the people in this region of the country rely on vanilla production for their livelihood. Some eighty thousand farmers tend to the

## VANILLA PLANTS

demanding vanilla orchid. (15.20”)

In its native Mexico, the orchid is pollinated mostly by bees. But here in Madagascar, it has to be pollinated by hand – with window just a few hours for fertilization. The vines need constant care. (17.20”)

It takes a farmer 260 days a year to tend to one hectare of vines...and the pods have to be dried for a minimum of six months before they're exported. All this makes vanilla one of the most labour-intensive crops in the world. (19.20”)

## ARCHIVAL CYCLONE 2000

It also made vanilla very expensive on the global market. Even more so since 2004 when a series of catastrophes, including a political coup and devastating cyclones damaged Madagascar's vanilla crop. With supplies down, prices soared to record levels. (21.57”)

Vanilla's high cost made it so valuable it even became a target for local thieves. (6.17”)

## SOAZARA ON CAMERA

SOAZARA: (In Malagasy)

“Once my vanilla ripened last year, people stole it. I lost about a third of my crop.” (5.22”)

NARRATION:

Afraid, some farmers began harvesting their beans too early, compromising their quality says Kaiser Djivijee, manager of a vanilla business in Madagascar. (16.29”)

KAISER ON CAMERA

KAISER: (In French)

“There are two reasons for farmers doing this. First of all, they need money.

Secondly, they fear theft of their crops.”

(5.91”)

NARRATION:

But the main threat to the vanilla farmers lies not here at home... but abroad. (5.20”)

CLAUDE ANDREAS

CLAUDE ANDREAS: (In French)

“When the prices rose very high the industries that use vanilla changed the composition of their products ...”(4.29”)

NARRATION:

Claude Andreas is the President of the Madagascar Vanilla Growers Association.

He says that bakeries and ice cream makers worldwide began substituting vanilla for cheaper imitation flavours, derived from products like beet-root and rice bran. (16.97”)

ANDREAS ON CAMERA

ANDREAS: (In French)

“The consumer is fooled by it, as the label continues to show a picture of vanilla or vanilla pods, but in reality, there is no

longer any real vanilla inside.” (10.33”)

NARRATION:

Kaiser Djivijee agrees (1.45”)

KAISER ON CAMERA

KAISER:

“The big problem is the industries. If they really used 100% natural vanilla we wouldn’t have this problem. The fact is that the term “natural vanilla” is used by industries when they mix it with a lot of synthetic vanilla.” (14.67”)

NARRATION:

Compounding the problem he says....is price speculation. (3.73”)

KAISER ON CAMERA

KAISER: (In French)

“Two years ago there were traders who wanted to speculate, to accumulate huge stocks in Europe – and so clearly a lot of vanilla was exported then. But the vanilla that was exported has not yet been sold. So we suffer the consequences.” (13.78”)

SHOTS OF WAREHOUSE

NARRATION:

It’s estimated that vanilla that sold for \$500 U.S. six years ago, now brings only a mere fraction of that. And perhaps nowhere is the effect of all this more apparent than in Madagascar’s warehouses, where boxes of vanilla beans sit untouched ... some for years as global demand for natural vanilla

plummets. (23.39”)

KAISER: (In French)

KAISER ON CAMERA

“We have around one hundred and fifty tons of vanilla and its value is between two and a half million and three million dollars.” (5.70”)

NARRATION:

ICE CREAM

It’s money that farmers like Soazara desperately need...but will likely never see unless consumers worldwide notice the substitutes and demand that manufacturers restore the use of real vanilla. (13.71”)

SOAZARA: (In Malagasy)

SOAZARA ON CAMERA

“When we sell the vanilla, only then do we have money to take care of our daily lives, and to take care of our little ones.” (9.05”)

NARRATION:

For now, all she and so many other farmers can do, is keep working ...and dreaming of better days. (8.47”)

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## **ANCHOR INTRO #3 (21.86”)**

### **[BRAZIL INTRO]**

It’s a phenomenon unknown to many, yet it threatens almost half of the world’s land. It’s called desertification and if left unchecked, its effects are disastrous. But in the drylands of Brazil, new hope is emerging...and capturing the world’s attention

## SCRIPT – SEGMENT #3 (7'12")

### Brazil: The Promise of Water

#### VIDEO

#### AUDIO

STATUE OF SAINT FRANCIS

#### NARRATION:

Standing tall in Canindé, in the heart of the Brazilian Drylands, is one of the world's largest religious monuments. Saint Francis, the saint of the poor. At his feet, ribbons bear witness to millions of destitute pilgrims who prayed to this revered saint... seeking the miracle of water. (26.5")

RIBBONS

NAPOLEÃO ON CAMERA

#### NAPOLEÃO: (In Portuguese)

"The first drought I saw was in 58'... I was 12 years old." (1.85")

CLOSE UP OF NAPOLEÃO

#### NARRATION:

Napoleão Furtado - owner of a small farm in the region - has seen firsthand droughts' disastrous consequences. (11.1)

CACTUS

#### NAPOLEÃO: (In Portuguese)

"The water slowly vanishes... The pastures also vanish... and people saw their cattle starve. The drought punishes everything... people, cattle, animals " (13.11")

#### NARRATION:

DRYLANDS

Drought is not unusual in drylands around the world. In this arid ecosystem, water is a scarce and precious resource. (9.84”)

PAN OVER DRYLAND

But since forty per cent of the earth is drylands - in which nearly half of the world’s food is produced, the farming solutions developed here could help save the planet’s food supply. (14. 40”)

DEGRADED SOIL

\* SHOW ARID AREAS THAT USED TO BE ARABLE

In Northeastern Brazil, a drought can continue for up to five years. But subsistence farming used to be possible even in these harsh conditions. (11.88”)

FRANCISCO ON CAMERA

FRANCISCO: (In Portuguese)  
“Thirty years ago, this whole area was productive. There was more vegetation; there wasn’t the erosion we see today” (08.32”)

FRANCISCO WALKING IN THE FIELD

DEGRADED SOIL

NARRATION:  
But in the last three decades things slowly changed, says farmer Francisco Neto. “Slash and burn” agriculture and unrestrained deforestation impoverished the soil - almost to a point of no return. (16.07”)

FRANCISCO ON CAMERA

FRANCISCO: (In Portuguese)  
“There’s an area where we used to produce 420 bags of beans. In recent years, we hit a low of only 30 bags.”

(11.39”)

NARRATION:

MAP

This region - the size of France and Germany combined, and home to 25 million people - is at risk of becoming a desert. This phenomenon - when fertile farmland slowly changes into barren wasteland - is called desertification... and it's affecting drylands worldwide. (23.36”)

Desperate farmers have even turned to violence, says villager Maria Eleni: (4.82”)

MARIA ELENi: (In Portuguese)

MARIA ELENi ON CAMERA

“Farmers invaded towns, they rioted...they did it because they were starving” (05.24”)

NARRATION:

BLACK/WHITE OF PEOPLE

Hundreds of thousands of others were forced to leave in search of jobs. (05.07”)

FRANCISCO: (In Portuguese)

FRANCISCO ON CAMERA

“This region was almost entirely deserted. I would look around me, and I'd think I also had to leave, that my children had to leave” (10.17”)

NARRATION:

FRANCISCO ON GROUND

While Francisco managed to stay, Napoleao on the other hand was forced to leave for a time. (07.09”)

CLOSING IN ON NAPOLEÃO	<p><u>NAPOLEÃO:</u> (In Portuguese)          “I was in debt and needed money. I went to Fortaleza for two years looking for work, and left my family behind.” (09.36”)</p>
AERIAL SHOTS – FORTALEZA	<p><u>NARRATION:</u>          Fortaleza is where the Brazilian drylands meet the Atlantic Ocean - a city of beautiful tropical beaches and stark social contrast. Waves of migrants from the drylands, like Napoleao, have swelled the city’s slums. (19.54”)</p> <p>In an attempt to ease this situation, the Brazilian government built massive reservoirs, like this one - the largest in Latin America. (09.86”)</p> <p>But desertification in the drylands created serious problems: soil drifted into the reservoirs during the rainy season, the muddy water sickening many villagers (13.23”)</p>
CASTANHAO DAM	
NAPOLEÃO ON CAMERA	<p><u>NAPOLEÃO:</u> (In Portuguese)          “We’d have stomach pains and dysentery, because we’d drink dirty water.” (04.99”)</p>
RESEVOIRS	<p><u>NARRATION:</u>          Eventually, there was so much soil in reservoirs like these, they slowly began to disappear...(07.09”)</p>

FRANCISCO ON CAMERA	<p><u>FRANCISCO:</u> (In Portuguese)          “There were reservoirs that were 4 meters deep, and then they would shrink to 1 to 2 meters deep. (06.87”)</p>
PRODHAM PROJECT SITE	<p><u>NARRATION:</u>          An initiative - partially funded by the World Bank – was launched to help keep the reservoirs clean, and soon expanded to also help combat desertification. (11.58”)</p>
B-ROLL – PRODHAM CONSTRUCTIONS	<p>The project’s basic concept is simple: educate farmers on a number of low-cost, time-proven methods of land cultivation. (10.14”)</p>
MONICA FREITAS ON CAMERA	<p>Like this ancient technique designed to hold onto water. (04.02”)</p> <p><u>MONICA FREITAS:</u> (In Portuguese)          “This group is building terraces for cultivation...” (02.61”)</p>
MONICA FREITAS ON CAMERA	<p><u>NARRATION:</u>          Monica Freitas, Project Coordinator, says the graded slopes prevent rainwater from drifting...(08.07”)</p>
MONICA FREITAS ON CAMERA	<p><u>MONICA FREITAS:</u> (In Portuguese)          “This construction retains water in the soil and encourages the emergence of waterholes.” (06.21”)</p>

MONICA FREITAS IN FIELD  
CONSTRUCTION SITE WITH  
WORKERS

NARRATION:

Other techniques includes creating underground water pockets by inserting plastic barriers into trenches; and replanting trees on essential riverbeds, to keep the soil in place. (15.21”)

What’s more, numerous cisterns like these were built to harvest rainwater for drinking. Each provides a family of five with drinking water for up to 8 months. (12.89)

NAPOLEAO PRODHAM B-ROLL

The efforts seem to be working, and has caught worldwide attention. Streams and watering holes have begun to spring up, native fauna has returned, and farmers can harvest for many extra months. The communities have slowly taken over the project’s coordination and planning. (23.31”)

NAPOLEAO – COMMUNITY B-  
ROLL

Leading the charge in the region is Napoleão, who proudly travels to other communities to share these techniques... ..techniques that in some cases have shown so much promise that many former migrants have been able to return home. (17.66”)

NAPOLEÃO ON CAMERA

NAPOLEÃO: (In Portuguese)

“If it’s only one person, it’s hard, but when more people get involved, things really

work.” (05.80”)

SAINT FRANCIS STATUE

NARRATION:

What’s happening here, many believe, is a lesson for the world. So that - unlike their forefathers - future generations don’t depend only on hope and prayer. (13.06”)

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**[CLOSE ] (8.57’)**

And that’s all for this edition of 21st century. Sharing the world stories, I’m Daljit Dhaliwal. Until next time, goodbye.

**CREDITS #51: (22.81”)**

## **21<sup>st</sup> Century**

**A production of**  
United Nations Television  
Department of Public Information

### **Bangladesh: Seeking Justice**

**Producer**

Mary Ferreira

**Videographer**

Joaquim C. Vieira

**Editor**

Mitch Udoff

**Narrator**

Daljit Dhaliwal

**Production Assistants**

Asmita Barua  
Yuki Kaneshige

**Archival Footage**  
ATN TV, Bangladesh

**Special Thanks to**  
CEDAW  
The government of the Netherlands

## **Madagascar: The Bitter Harvest**

**Original Production**  
back2back Productions

**Producer**  
Mei-Ling McNamara

**Videographer**  
Charlie Kinross

**Editor**  
Ange Hayler

**21st Century Adaptation**  
**Writer**  
Carol Cassidy

**21<sup>st</sup> Century Editor**  
Peter Mitchell

**Narrator**  
Francis Mead

## **Brazil Drylands: The Promise of Water**

**Producer / Videographer**  
Camilo Freire

**Assistant Producer**  
Lucas Coelho

**Editor**  
Dan Dunbar

**Narrator**  
Daljit Dhaliwal

**Additional Camera**

Eugenio Pacelli  
Leonardo Rossas

**Research**

Malena Negrão

**Archive**

TV Educativa do Ceará  
FUNCEME / PRODHAM

**Music**

Juca Santabaia

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United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification  
Governo do Estado do Ceará - Secretaria dos Recursos Hídricos  
Fundação Cearense de Meteorologia e Recursos Hídricos

**Director**

Ken McCaleb

**Lighting Director**

Aubrey Smith

**Technical Director**

Jim DeStefan

**Camera**

Jonathan Askew

**Video**

David Ganz

**Audio**

Damien Corrigan

**Teleprompter**

Tom Giovanelli

**Videotape**

William Bracero  
Brian Osborn

**Stylist**

Anne Paul

**Floor Manager**

Maggie Yates

**Line Producer**

Dina Barazi

**Production Assistants**

Elizabeth Waruru  
Priscilla Anany-Williams

**Post Editor**

Peter Mitchell

**Post-production Coordinator**

Lebe Besa

**Executive Producers**

Chaim Litewski  
Andi Gitow

**Executive-in-Charge**

Susan Farkas