

LEO PLUNKETT

Documentary Filmmaker & Video Producer

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Award-winning independent British filmmaker, photojournalist and campaigner with 15+ years of experience across documentary, broadcast, and commercial production. Proven ability to operate as a complete one-person unit, from concept through field production to post and delivery as well as leading larger teams. Extensive experience shooting in challenging international environments alongside NGOs, indigenous communities and investigative journalists.

📍 Bristol/London UK

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Strategic video producer and filmmaker** with 15+ years' experience launching new visual units, directing investigative series, and scaling audience reach.
- **Capable of running full productions independently** - from concept and field production through editing, post and delivery
- **Extensive international field experience** in remote and high-pressure environments, including long-form investigations
- **Campaign and communications strategy** for UK and global NGOs and charities
- Winner of over 30 international documentary film awards
- **Experience establishing and running new visual storytelling units** for global NGOs and companies
- **DP, Director/Producer and drone operator for broadcast television** - credits include Abandoned Engineering (UKTV/Discovery) and The Weather Channel
- **Built video strategies generating millions of views**, including a YouTube channel with 37k+ subscribers
- Director and co-founder of Relevant Films
- **First Class Honours degree**, University of York

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Cameras:** Sony FX9, FX6 · Canon C200, C500 · Blackmagic Cinema · Mirrorless systems
- **Drone:** CAA-approved commercial drone pilot - aerial DP for broadcast
- **Editing:** Adobe Premiere Pro (expert) · DaVinci Resolve · Avid Media Composer
- **Post-production:** Colour grading · Sound design and location audio · After Effects · Motion graphics and design
- **Photography:** Experienced photojournalist - published in The Guardian, Mongabay, Open Democracy and more

EDUCATION

BA Music – First Class Honours | University of York, 2008–2011

EXPERIENCE

Senior Video Producer | 2017 – Ongoing

The Gecko Project

The Gecko Project is a nonprofit newsroom investigating the role of land-use in global challenges including climate change, deforestation, biodiversity loss, food security, and the rights of marginalised communities.

- Developed several new visual investigative projects from inception to launch over 8 years, working with global journalists to research and expose stories that sparked public awareness and media attention - in many cases leading to policy, corporate, and cultural change
- Responsible for media and comms strategy for an acclaimed multi-platform investigation into palm oil, corruption, and land rights in Indonesia
- Extensive field work shooting film and photography, including long-form investigations in remote locations
- Conceptualised and edited content for multiple audiences and formats: social media, film festivals, broadcast, and print/online media stories
- Built distribution strategy reaching both Indonesian and international audiences - YouTube channel grown to 37k+ subscribers with millions of views, alongside partnerships with high-profile media outlets
- Designed graphics for social media, editorial content, and video

“Leo is an exceptionally talented filmmaker. He gave The Gecko Project a slick visual identity from its inception, and he’s made videos for us that look like they were produced with ten times the budget.”

Tom Johnson

Founder, The Gecko Project

Documentary DP + Editor | 2024 - 26

Mongabay

- Documentary Production (Nigeria): Produced and shot a 12-minute documentary on location, handling logistics, interviews and cinematography in a demanding field environment.
- Investigative Projects (Indonesia): Collaborated on several long-form investigations into deforestation and land rights, contributing field shooting and story development.

“Leo is my go-to filmmaker for beautifully shot, well told stories. His attention to detail, creativity and technical skill put him among the best filmmakers I’ve worked with.”

Sandy Watt

Video Producer, Mongabay

Head of Photography & Video | 2022 – 2024

Wildlife Works

- Headhunted and tasked with establishing a visual storytelling unit from scratch
- Developed and implemented a comprehensive film strategy encompassing creative storytelling and scalable film and photography infrastructure across multiple global sites
- Directed, shot, and edited a series of award-winning short documentaries, significantly raising the company's marketing profile across multiple platforms
- Travelled globally to build stories and develop staff communications capacity
- Mentored team members on integrating video into existing marketing strategies
- Crafted dynamic templates and bespoke grading styles for short-form social media content, establishing a distinctive and lasting visual identity
- Designed versatile, high-quality shooting kits suitable for both professional videographers and inexperienced operators

EXPERIENCE CONT.

Video Consultant | 2017–18 & 2024–25

Global Witness

- Multimedia Production: Produced, shot, and edited a high-profile series of short documentaries for the Defenders campaign, released in coordination with investigative reporting from The Guardian.
- Campaign Strategy: Conceptualised and delivered diverse video assets across multiple global campaigns to drive engagement and policy awareness.

DP – Abandoned Engineering | 2017 – 2021

Like A Shot Entertainment / UKTV & Discovery Channel

- Multiple shooting credits on Abandoned Engineering, one of the most-watched shows on the UKTV and Discovery Channel
- Drone operation for aerial sequences

DP – Heroes & Survivors | 2019

The Weather Channel

Video Consultant | 2016 – 2017

Changing Markets Foundation

Multimedia Editor / Consultant | 2015 – 2017

Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA)

- Led production and management of all film content, from feature documentaries to short online films, alongside photojournalism, graphic work, and communications strategy
- Responsible for multi-channel communications strategy for all new film and photography output
- Managed briefs from major international funders including DFID, NORAD, The Ford Foundation, and USAID
- Led collaborative work with the BBC, Al Jazeera, ITN, The Guardian, Channel 4, and National Geographic
- Managed collaborative storytelling projects and investigations with in-country partners, predominantly indigenous communities and local NGOs
- Content has been viewed millions of times and won multiple film awards
- Designed and implemented a multilingual interactive training tool for law enforcement on wildlife trade prevention, distributed in 9+ languages
- Represented the organisation at high-profile conferences including COP, CITES, and the IWC

Co-Founder & Director | 2011 – Ongoing

Sylvan.media + Relevant Films

- Established and co-led a film company specialising in documentary, music, and commercial productions
- Producing, shooting, and directing feature documentary projects
- Conceptualising, shooting, and directing music videos
- Creating commercial content for clients including Adyan, Bristol City Council, NEXO, Pie Minister, The NHS and more
- Managing the company, freelancers, and contractors across large film projects

REFERENCES

Available on request