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GLOBAL YOUTH LEADERS TO CONVENE IN PANAMA AT OUR OCEAN YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

The Summit, cohosted by Sustainable Ocean Alliance and Our Ocean organizers, will tackle the biggest threats facing our ocean

PANAMA CITY, Panama - (January 30, 2023) More than 70 young ocean leaders from 45 countries will come together to tackle the biggest threats facing our ocean at the 6th [Our Ocean Youth Leadership Summit](#) in Panama next month. [Sustainable Ocean Alliance](#) (SOA) will cohost this event once again, in cooperation with Our Ocean organizers.

The youth summit was created by U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry and SOA in 2016. This year's event will take place February 27th-March 1st at the vibrant [Bio Museo](#) in Panama City. The youth participants (ages 18-35) will devise solutions around 6 impact areas:

1. Climate change
2. Marine pollution
3. Maritime security
4. Marine protected areas (MPAs)
5. Sustainable blue economy
6. Sustainable fisheries

The summit is an integral part of the Our Ocean Conference, during which governments, businesses, and advocates will convene to discuss solutions to restore and save the ocean through measurable impacts and cooperation. Following the Our Ocean Youth Leadership Summit, the main Our Ocean Conference will be held March 2nd-3rd. For more information, visit the [event website](#), or follow #OurOceanYLS on social media. The event is supported by Our Ocean conference organizers and the Sasakawa Peace Foundation.

Visual/storytelling opportunities:

- Join participants during field visits on Feb. 28th and the “biomimicry-inspired hackathon” on March 1st
- Interview diverse participants about their project areas, inspiration, and more
- Interview Daniela Fernandez, founder and CEO of SOA, about the importance of youth engagement and 222 oceans solutions recently released in their [Impact Report](#)



- Explore the water ecosystems and ocean innovations of Panama, which is one of only 3 carbon-negative countries in the world

This is the 6th year that SOA has cohosted the youth summit, alongside the U.S. Department of State, European Union, Indonesian Ministry of Marine Affairs, and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Since then, they have ensured more than 600 youth from 60+ countries have been able to participate and have a voice in the fight against climate change. You can learn more about past participants and their impact projects [here](#).

“I know the youth attending Our Ocean feel the same sense of urgency – and terror – as I do when it comes to the state of our ocean and planet. It is a complete moral failing of the generations before us that we have inherited the devastating climate crisis we are facing today,” says Daniela Fernandez, founder and CEO of Sustainable Ocean Alliance. “But because of the incredible group of youth who will soon be gathering in Panama, I also feel hope. I know they are coming prepared with ideas and innovations to save our world. They know it is truly life or death when it comes to finding practical and impactful solutions. This is why I continue to fight to ensure youth have a voice at events like Our Ocean. I am so proud of these youth delegates for stepping up and taking action to protect the planet for all those who follow.”

All programming will be delivered in English, with simultaneous translation in Spanish. The goals of the Summit are to:

- Engage young leaders as a key driver for change
- Develop technological solutions that can address the greatest threats facing our planet
- Foster intergenerational cooperation

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About Sustainable Ocean Alliance (SOA)

Sustainable Ocean Alliance is a global organization created for youth – by youth – dedicated to restoring the health of the ocean in our lifetime. We were founded in 2014 by Daniela Fernandez during her first year of college, after she attended a United Nations meeting on climate change – and was stunned to realize none of the experts had a plan to stop it. Since then, SOA has grown into the world’s largest network of young ocean leaders, innovators, and policymakers, and has accelerated [222 solutions](#) to the greatest threats facing our ocean. These solutions include for-profit startups and community-led nonprofit projects around the world.