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## Our Ocean Youth Leadership Summit Agenda 2023

**Our Ocean, Our Connection** will be the theme of this year's Our Ocean Conference. As an integral part of the Our Ocean Conference, the organizers and the Sustainable Ocean Alliance are co-hosting the sixth [Our Ocean Youth Leadership Summit](#), which will take place on February 27-March 1, 2023 in Panama. Initiated by U.S Secretary John Kerry and Sustainable Ocean Alliance in 2016, the youth summit will align with the main conference theme and feature ocean solutions in one of the following areas: marine protected areas, climate change, sustainable fisheries, marine pollution, sustainable blue economy, and maritime security

This year we'll convene **the world's top 70+ ocean ideas created by youth ages 18-35 from across 45 countries**. It is an opportunity for leaders in policy, industry, research, government, ocean conservation, and NGOs to engage with the next generation of leaders, invest in youth-led ocean solutions, and inspire future generations to take action.

This refined hackathon-style approach offers youth participants to convene in small teams under the guidance of mentors to solve for key ocean challenges across impact areas. Over the course of the event, youth participants will be provided with opportunities for experiential learning, skill building, and networking.

This is a confidential draft program for the conference mentioned in this document. All topics and speakers are indicative and subject to change.

#OUROCEANYLS



# DAY 1 - ORIENTATION & EVENING GATHERING

(Venue: Marriott Panama Hotel, Albrook Mall, Roosevelt Avenue, Panama City, Panama)

Monday February 27th, 2023

<b>12:00-17:00</b>	<b>ARRIVALS AND CHECK-IN</b> Participants will arrive in Panama.
<b>18:00- 21:00</b>	<b>WELCOME DRINKS AND HORS D'OEUVRE AT THE MARRIOTT PANAMA HOTEL</b>
18:15-18:25	Welcome remarks by H.E. Yill Otero, Vice Minister of multilateral affairs and cooperation from the Government of Panama.
18:25-18:35	<b>OPENING KEYNOTE</b> by Christina Ochoa, actress, activist and science communicator.
18:35-19:15	<b>OPENING PANEL: "BUILDING ON WHAT'S AROUND US: SOLUTIONS FOR OUR FUTURE"</b> This panel will review the solutions within the 6 Our Ocean Conference's areas of action that serve as models to build on. Panelists will discuss frameworks to refine current solutions for greater impact and accessibility, as demonstrated through examples in their own work in ocean innovation, research, advocacy and ocean ecosystem development. The conversation will guide participants to a broad approach of understanding the areas of intervention and futuristic solutions for a future where our ocean's health is restored.  Moderated by: TBC Speakers include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Leonardo Valenzuela Perez, program director global ecosystem for ocean solutions (GEOS), Ocean Visions</li><li>• Marissa Cuevas, founder &amp; CEO, microTERRA</li><li>• Atsushi Watanabe, principal research fellow, Sasakawa Peace Foundation</li><li>• Mirei Endara, CEO &amp; founder, Marea Verde</li><li>• Joshua Gabriel Oluwaseyi, Nigerian environmentalist, climate activist, storyteller, and founder, LEARNBLUE</li></ul>
19:15-19:30	<b>Logistics for the week</b> presented by Martha Cavazos, associate director of program, Sustainable Ocean Alliance (SOA)
19:30-19:45	<b>Closing Remarks</b> by Daniela Fernandez, CEO, Sustainable Ocean Alliance (SOA)

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19:45-21:30

**Community building and networking between delegates and mentors**

Informal time for participants and mentors to meet-and-greet. Drinks and *hors d'oeuvre* will be provided.

## DAY 2 - FIELD VISITS: BUILDING LOCAL CONTEXT FOR IDEAS FEST CHALLENGES

(Venue: as indicated below)

Tuesday February 28th , 2023

**6:15- 7:00**

**BREAKFAST / NETWORKING AT THE MARRIOTT PANAMA HOTEL**

*Groups split in 2 according to their area of intervention*

**7.00-9.00**

**TRAVEL TO FIELD VISIT SITES**

<i>GROUP A - (Areas of intervention: Climate change and MPAs)</i>	<i>GROUP B - (Areas of intervention: MPAs, sustainable blue economy and sustainable fisheries)</i>
<p><b>9.30-10.10</b> <b>IN CONVERSATION WITH REEF2REEF FOUNDATION</b> A conversation with Jean Carlos Blanco, director at Reef2Reef to introduce coral restoration activities in the area, highlight the importance of green awareness, recycling and educational programs,  Reef2Reef will also present environmental initiatives and collective action youth could participate in.</p> <p><b>10.10-10.30</b> <b>CORAL REEF EXPLORATION: PREPARATION</b> After the security briefing, youth participants will embark to discover the coral nurseries, and restoration efforts in the open sea. Nurseries are monitored and maintained on a daily basis by a team of</p>	<p><b>10.00-10.40</b> <b>VISIT OF THE SEA CUCUMBER HATCHERY &amp; LABORATORY TOUR</b> Guided tour of the hatchery accompanied by PanaSea biologists where you will learn how sea cucumbers are raised from an egg to juvenile. On the tour you will be able to see baby sea cucumbers and hear about PanaSea's strategy for accessing the blue economy. We'll discuss the life stages of <i>Holothuria mexicana</i> sea cucumber, and different strategies concerning algae, surface area and density to maximize survival and growth, their impact on the ecosystem, as well as the culinary and health benefits of consuming sustainably grown sea Cucumbers.</p> <p><b>10.40-10.50</b> <b>IN CONVERSATION WITH DAVID GROSSMAN</b></p>

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biologists, administrators and volunteers.

**10.30-11.50**

**CORAL NURSERIES EXPLORATION & SNORKELING**

Upon arrival at the coral nurseries, the Reef2Reef guides will showcase the restoration infrastructure, reef balls, coral trees, and biorock systems.

*This activity is weather dependent.*

**11.50-12.30**

**RETURN TO REEF2REEF HOUSE FOLLOWED BY A Q&A**

**12.30-13.00**

**Sam Treicher, chief coral officer, Coral Vita**

PanaSea founder and CEO, David Grossman is sharing his views on various strategies to build a sustainable blue economy. This short presentation will be an opportunity to hear about the market opportunities created by depletion due to overfishing, the regenerative economy and the economic opportunities it presents for the Caribbean.

**10.50-11.50**

**VISIT OF THE SEA CUCUMBER FARM IN THEIR NATURAL HABITAT**

Youth participants will jump on boats to Puerto Lindo and Sacaiman sites where the hapa, diatom and sea ranching operations are located. They will learn about juvenile sea cucumber ecosystems and life cycle in the ocean until they grow to their full size. Critical to healthy marine ecosystems, sea cucumbers reduce ocean acidification, reduce the buildup of organic matter preventing harmful algal blooms, and they promote healthy coral reefs by releasing essential nutrients. We'll observe them in shallow waters and mangroves.

**11.50-12.15**

**RETURN TO PANASEA HQ FOLLOWED BY A Q&A**

**12.30-13.00**

**TRAVEL TO REEF2REEF FOR LUNCH**

**13.00-14.00**

**LUNCH AT THE CRIOLLOS RESTAURANT (REEF2REEF, BOTH GROUPS)**

*A buffet lunch will be available. Menu includes:*

- *Rice with coconut, or with beans or green rice (V)*
- *Green salad or white potato salad (V)*
- *Creole Octopus*
- *Breaded fish filet and chicken filet*
- *Grilled plantains (V)*
- *Banana in temptation or fried patacones or chips (V)*
- *Rapadura juice with lemon/soda/water*
- *Dessert - sweet cocada or lemon pie*

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<b>14:00-15:00</b>	<b>TRAVEL TO THE PANAMA CANAL LOCKS</b>
<b>15:00-15:30</b>	<b>ARRIVAL AT THE PANAMA CANAL LOCKS (AGUAS CLARAS)</b>
<b>15:30-17:00</b>	<b>PANAMA CANAL LOCKS TOUR</b> Tour of the visitor center, panoramic view and educational video.
<b>17.00-17.10</b>	<b>RETURN TO CENTER OF AGUAS CLARAS</b>
<b>17.10-19.00</b>	<b>DEPARTURE &amp; TRAVEL BACK TO THE MARRIOTT PANAMA HOTEL</b>
<b>19.30-21.00</b>	<b>BUFFET DINNER PROVIDED AT THE MARRIOTT PANAMA HOTEL</b>

## **DAY 3 - FORUM, TRAINING & IDEAS FEST**

**(Venue: BioMuseo, Amador Causeway 136, Panama City, Panama)**

Wednesday March 1st, 2023

<b>6:30- 7:15</b>	<b>BREAKFAST / NETWORKING AT THE MARRIOTT PANAMA HOTEL</b>
<b>7:15-7:30</b>	<b>SHUTTLE BUSES TO BIOMUSEO</b>
<b>7:30-7:55</b>	<b>REGISTRATION &amp; NETWORKING</b>
<b>8:00-8:05</b>	<b>OPENING REMARKS</b> María Inés Castillo de Sanmartín, Minister of social development, Panama
<b>8.05-9:00</b>	<b>OPENING NETWORKING</b> SOA will facilitate 1:1 "speed networking" between all youth participants and mentors with guided questions to build relationships and connections before the start of the conference. Introduced by Martha Cavazos, associate director of program, Sustainable Ocean Alliance (SOA)
<b>9:00-9:40</b>	<b>YOUTH INTERVENTION SEASIDE CHAT</b> This conversation will feature prominent youth leaders through SOA's network and our partners' networks to drive an informal conversation around youth leadership's significance as we adapt to climate change, and self-and-community care as they begin their careers at a critical time for our blue planet.  Moderated by Brandon Levy, chief program officer at Sustainable Ocean Alliance (SOA)

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Speakers include:

- Sofia Barboza, global community manager, Sustainable Ocean Alliance (SOA)
- Khadija Stewart, regional representative for the Caribbean, Sustainable Ocean Alliance (SOA)
- Swietenia Puspa Lestari, executive director, Divers Clean Action & Our Ocean Palau Youth Task Force representative
- Alexandra Guzman, president, SOA Panama Hub Leader

**9.45-10:00**

## **NETWORKING BREAK**

**10:00-10:40**

### **FRAMING PANEL: “Imagining Our Sustainable Future”**

This panel focuses on Panama and the surrounding region as an example for imagining a sustainable future and emphasizes key calls to action for youth to be engaged in this movement. Highlighting current policy initiatives and localized models for ocean action, the conversation will amplify regional solutions in motion and the most strategic access points for youth to creatively engage and mobilize their own communities.

Moderated by Daniel Caceres Bartia, Latin America regional representative, Sustainable Ocean Alliance (SOA)

Speakers include:

- Patricia Furtado, founder, Aqqua Mater
- Shirley Binder, Ministerial senior office advisor, Ministerio de Ambiente, Colombia, & MPA environmental science and policy Columbia-SIPA
- Diwigdi Valiente, director of tourism planning and development, Panama Tourism Authority, TBC
- Max Bello, policy advisor, Mission Blue

**10:40-12.00**

### **BIOMIMICRY TRAINING**

We'll introduce the 4 hour ideas festival with a foundational training on the principles and practices of biomimicry to complete a new, nature-based solution to key ocean impact areas' challenge questions.

Facilitated and led by Rebeca Mora Castro, author & biomimicry specialist at Biomimesis Costa Rica.

**12:00-13:00**

### **LUNCH BREAK**

*Group photo TBC.*

**13:00- 13:30**

### **BIOMIMICRY TRAINING CONTINUES**

**13:30-14:00**

### **Q&A**

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**14:00- 18:00**

**SOLUTIONS SPRINT**

Youth participants will be divided into small groups of 5-7 and guided by expert mentors. Participants will create a new, nature-based solution to the challenge question for their assigned area of intervention.

**18:00-19:40**

**EVENING PITCHFEST & CELEBRATION**

Each challenge team will have 3 minutes to pitch their idea and receive 2 minutes of questions from the jury. Jury members include:

- Rolando Checa, specialist in environmental protection, sustainable development and climate change, Panama Canal Authority
- Marco Quesada, vice president of Oceans, Conservation International
- Atsushi Watanabe, principal research fellow, Sasakawa Peace Foundation
- Beatriz Medina, marine biologist, specialist in management and protection of marine resources. International Maritime University of Panama

**19:45-20:00**

**CLOSING REMARKS AND KEYNOTE**

- Closing Remarks with Monica Medina, Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs of the United States
- Closing Keynote with Mario Gomez, award-winning ocean conservationist, executive director, Beta Diversidad

The final remarks will celebrate the ideas and relationships generated as a source of transformation for how we restore our ocean and continue to build our connection to the ocean through the conference and back in our communities.

*Winning team photo with trophy. & awards. The winning team will be invited to present their ocean solution on stage at the main Our Ocean Conference.*

**20.00-21.00**

**OUR OCEAN WELCOME COCKTAIL RECEPTION**

**21:00-21:15**

**SHUTTLE BUSES TO MARRIOTT PANAMA HOTEL**

## DAY 4 & 5 - OUR OCEAN CONFERENCE

(Venue: Panama Convention Center, Calle Gral. Juan D. Peron, Panamá, Panama)

### **Thursday March 2nd, 2023**

*50 non-nominative and interchangeable passes will be available. Please refer to the [Our Ocean Conference agenda](#) and the list of side events to organize your schedule accordingly.*

*Shuttle buses will be provided from the Marriott Panama Hotel to the Panama Convention Center. Please refer to the participant guidebook and shuttle bus schedule.*

*Networking lunch will be provided.*

*A buffet dinner will be provided at the Marriott Panama Hotel from 19.30-21.00*

### **Friday March 3rd, 2023**

*50 non-nominative and interchangeable passes will be available. Please refer to the [Our Ocean Conference agenda](#) and the list of side events to organize your schedule accordingly.*

*Shuttle buses will be provided from the Marriott Panama Hotel to the Panama Convention Center. Please refer to the participant guidebook and shuttle bus schedule.*

*Networking lunch will be provided.*

*Youth participants are invited to join the Pew Charitable Trust closing cocktail in the lobby of the Panama Convention Center from 18.00-20.00.*