



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION CONTINUES ITS COMMITMENT TO A SUSTAINABLE PLANET AT COP28

The Smithsonian Institution is sending a delegation to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change’s Conference of the Parties for the second time. Smithsonian Under Secretary for Science and Research, Ellen Stofan, will lead a group of scientists and educators to COP28 in Dubai, reflecting the Institution’s ongoing commitment to “Our Shared Future.”

Dedicated to fostering harmony between humanity and nature, the Smithsonian partners with local communities worldwide to deepen the collective understanding of and advocate for nature-based solutions to enhance Earth’s sustainability. Having established its “**Our Shared Future: Life on a Sustainable Planet**” goal at last year’s COP, in the coming year, the Institution will focus on broadening and deepening its scientific partnerships and continuing to develop excellent data to inform climate action.

The Smithsonian will feature several pivotal advances it is taking in the Life on a Sustainable Planet Initiative:

- Celebrating a year of progress, the Smithsonian will steward \$20 million in resources for “Ecosystems on the Edge” with Life on a Sustainable Planet: In the Ocean.
- Previewing Ocean! — the Smithsonian will publish a forthcoming new community research guide from the Smithsonian Science for Global Goals project for students aged 11 to 18, to be released February 2024.
- Advancing Climate Research and Education, the Smithsonian will launch the Adrienne Arsht Community-Based Resilience Solutions Initiative with \$10 million support from business leader and philanthropist Adrienne Arsht;
- Launching GEO-TREES, the Smithsonian will launch the first international consortium to ensure the accuracy of satellite monitoring of forest biomass, seeded by a \$12 million grant from the Bezos Earth Fund.

These efforts are firmly rooted in a dedication to fostering the well-being of the planet and its inhabitants, preserving biodiversity, and promoting environmental equity.

- Meet the [COP28 Smithsonian Delegation](#)
- Get up-to-the-minute COP 28 event updates on science.si.edu/at-cop28
- Learn more about Our Shared Future: Life on a Sustainable Planet at: science.si.edu
- Follow us [@EarthOptimism](#) | [#OurSustainablePlanet](#)
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EMBRACE OUR SHARED FUTURE

The Smithsonian Institution is committed to advancing and inspiring global engagement and environmental stewardship. In 2022, we introduced “Life on a Sustainable Planet,” a pivotal initiative that fosters dialogue between scientists, students, policymakers, and the public on today’s most pressing challenges. Renowned for our historical museums, the Smithsonian is equally vibrant in scientific discovery and education. With over 800 esteemed scientists conducting research on Earth and beyond, we tackle questions as broad as the cosmos’ mysteries and as complex as ecosystem resilience. Our collaborative efforts are shaping the future as we work to preserve biodiversity, champion sustainable practices, and offer solutions to climate change. **Join us in this crucial conversation for a sustainable tomorrow.**



KEY SMITHSONIAN EVENTS

At COP28, the Smithsonian's dynamic delegation will champion several sustainability events, including two at the Nature Positive Pavilion and one in the Storytelling for Action Pavilion.

All times local. Check science.si.edu to view [our full COP28 event schedule](#).

December 5

Empowering People and Nature: Supporting Resilient Solutions for Our Ocean

Nature Positive Pavilion, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

This event will bring together a diverse group of experts, practitioners, policymakers, and community representatives from the global tropics to develop actionable strategies to center equity in ocean governance, reconnect people and the ocean, redefine ocean literacy, and decolonize ocean research. The event will illuminate the pivotal importance of community leadership, interdisciplinary collaborations, and a comprehensive, all-of-society approach to tackling the urgent global climate crisis.

December 8

Educating for Sustainable Development: Co-Designing the Future of Climate Education

Storytelling for Action Pavilion, Blue Zone, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

The forum aims to demonstrate the critical importance of investing in youth to achieve sustainability and industry goals through youth engagement; illustrate how industry and education partnerships can work together to provide new skills sets required to reach a net-zero future; and invite stakeholders from the public, private, and social sectors to work in collaboration with the Smithsonian to advance the SDGs through the Smithsonian Science for Global Goals project.

December 8

Launch of GEO-TREES: From Ground to Space – The Future of Forest Carbon

Nature Positive Pavilion, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

During this event, the Smithsonian and its partners will launch the world's first ground-based, equitably developed forest biomass reference system, designed to make global satellite-based forest carbon assessments actionable. This unprecedented multi-network collaboration will use innovative technology, partnerships and training, broad sampling and long-term commitment, and open-access data to provide the groundwork for devising strategies to mitigate climate change.