



SMITHSONIAN TO TRAVEL TO 9TH OUR OCEAN CONFERENCE IN GREECE AS PART OF OFFICIAL U.S. DELEGATION

Smithsonian staff are among other members of the U.S. Delegation attending the Our Ocean Conference (OOC) in Greece from April 15 to 17, reflecting the Institution’s ongoing commitment to “Our Shared Future” and science-driven global decision-making.

Committed to fostering harmony between humanity and the natural world, Smithsonian scientists collaborate globally to enrich our shared understanding of people and nature and support nature-based solutions to improve Earth’s sustainability. At the 9th annual OOC, the Smithsonian will focus on expanding the scientific collaboration needed to effectively support marine biodiversity conservation and ocean ecosystems across the U.S. and abroad. The Institution does this work under the framework of our Life on a Sustainable Planet | Ecosystems on the Edge program.

The Smithsonian’s commitment at OOC includes more than \$20M in USG and private funding to expand science and partnerships in support of conservation of marine biodiversity and human well-being. The Institution will also unveil a plan to develop a new Marine and Island Resilience program, as part of the Adrienne Arsht Community-Based Resilience Solutions Initiative, to focus on human and ecosystem health across key coastal, island, and ocean regions; and it will highlight the new free “Ocean!” community research guide and curriculum, part of the Smithsonian Science for Global Goals Project.

Life on a Sustainable Planet’s Ocean-focused “Ecosystems on the Edge” areas of research:

- **Blue Carbon and Ecosystem Services:** By deepening our understanding of marshes, mangroves, and seagrasses, we aim to develop standards for ecosystem service valuation, aiding in the conservation of these vital habitats.
- **Renewing Reef Resilience:** Exploring resilient coral and oyster species, we seek to inform reef management and support ecosystems reliant on them.
- **Developing Next Generation Genomics:** By mapping the vast, uncharted biodiversity of the ocean, we aim to reverse the decline of ocean biodiversity through cutting-edge genomics and analytics.
- **Marine Resilience in a Changing World:** Collaborating with coastal communities, we are developing science-based solutions for conservation and sustainable use, ensuring both ecological and community resilience.
- **Preserving Life and Livelihoods in Urbanized Estuaries:** We are setting standards for managing the delicate balance between urban development and estuarine conservation, crucial for the wellbeing of city-dwelling communities and biodiversity alike.
- **Building and Communicating Marine Biodiversity Knowledge:** Through our extensive collections and research, we’re uniquely positioned to share crucial ocean biodiversity insights and reliable open access data with the public and academic communities.
- **Supporting STEAM Education for Sustainable Development:** With programs like the Smithsonian Science for Global Goals Project, including the Ocean! free community research guide and curriculum, we support young people to form a habit of taking local action on global issues.



Smithsonian staff will participate in two key OOC events:

- [Achieving 30x30 through Marine Conservation and Protection](#)

April 17, 12 – 12:50 p.m. local time | Location: Lighthouse Room

Hosted by the U.S. Department of State with the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Smithsonian

- [Ten Years of the Our Ocean Conference: Commitments Lead to Real Ocean Protection](#)

April 17, 3:30 – 4:20 p.m. local time | Location: Book Tower

Hosted by Oregon State University with the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre, Marine Conservation Institute, IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas and the Smithsonian

More information online:

- [Meet the Smithsonian Delegation](#)
- [View the U.S. Department of State Media Note](#)
- [Get up-to-the-minute updates on our the SI OOC page](#)
- Learn more about Our Shared Future: Life on a Sustainable Planet at: science.si.edu
- Follow us [@EarthOptimism](#) | [#OurSustainablePlanet](#)

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 communities 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 the effects of our changing climate.