



OCEANO AZUL  
foundation

**Embargoed until Saturday, March 2, at 00h01**

## ORGANISATIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY UNITE FOR A CLEAN OCEAN

- **The new edition of the COOL – Convention of Organisations for a Clean Ocean brings together over 60 civil society organisations in Lisbon.**
- **The event, themed “On the Road to UNOC3”, will address key ocean-related issues and highlight the need to mobilise national organisations for active participation in the 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3), scheduled to take place in France in 2025.**

Organised by **Oceano Azul Foundation**, **COOL 24** gathers dozens of organisations from across Portugal, including its archipelagos, in Lisbon.

This year's theme, “**On the Road to UNOC3**”, seeks to foster discussion and information sharing on the major challenges facing the ocean, outline planned activities for the year, and mobilise national organisations and entities for a strong presence at the **3rd United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3)**, scheduled for June 2025 in Nice, France.

The meeting agenda includes interactive sessions and opportunities for experience sharing among participating organisations, with a strong emphasis on UNOC3 and its importance. Key topics such as high seas governance and Marine Protected Areas will be addressed, alongside capacity-building sessions on the international ocean agenda.

As UNOC3 approaches, **COOL 24** marks an important step in preparing Portuguese organisations for impactful civic participation, enabling them to voice concerns and propose solutions to strengthen ocean advocacy.

The event also serves as a platform to showcase the work and activities of national organisations throughout the year, fostering greater interaction among them. These organisations, as representatives of civil society, play a pivotal role in inclusive and representative governance and sustainable development. They are instrumental in shaping policies that have positive impacts on the ocean.



Key speakers at COOL 24 include **Peggy Kalas**, International Ocean Policy Consultant for Oceano Azul Foundation; **Flora McMorrin**, Campaigns Director for RISE UP – A Blue Call to Action; **Emanuel Gonçalves**, Board Member and Scientific Coordinator of Oceano Azul Foundation; and **Tiago Pitta e Cunha**, CEO of Oceano Azul Foundation. Joining digitally are **Peter Thomson**, the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean, and **Heather Koldewey**, Leader of the Marine Science Programme at the Bertarelli Foundation and the Zoological Society of London. **José Soares dos Santos**, President of Oceano Azul Foundation, will also be in attendance.

Launched in 2019, **COOL** is an initiative promoted by Oceano Azul Foundation, centred on a vision for a sustainable ocean. It aims to encourage knowledge-sharing and foster stronger synergies among Portuguese organisations and entities.

### [About the Oceano Azul Foundation](#)

Established in 2017, Oceano Azul Foundation's mission is to promote a healthier and more productive ocean through three main areas of action: literacy, conservation, and capacity building, under the motto "*From the ocean's point of view.*" Based in Portugal, the Foundation works to develop a blue generation, advance a new blue economy, and position the country as an international leader on ocean-related issues. Its work has an international reach through projects developed in collaboration with other countries, foundations, and civil society organisations, as well as intergovernmental organisations like the United Nations and the European Union.

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