

## WORLD OCEAN SUMMIT RETURNS TO LISBON

- One of the **world's leading summits on the ocean** returns to Portugal, aiming to drive concrete actions towards the **transition to a sustainable blue economy**.
- **Oceano Azul Foundation** is a **key partner of this summit**, striving to position **Portugal** as a **leader in biotechnology, the implementation of Marine Protected Areas, and the international ocean agenda**.

The [World Ocean Summit \(WOS\)](#), one of the foremost global events focusing on the ocean, organised by *The Economist*, will return to Portugal from March 11 to 13, hosted at the Lisbon Congress Centre in Junqueira.

**Oceano Azul Foundation**, as a **leading supporter of the WOS**, will actively participate in discussions on actionable strategies for transitioning to a sustainable blue economy. Aligned with its strategic goals, the Foundation aims to strengthen **Portugal's role as a pioneer in the development of blue biotechnology, a leader in advancing Marine Protected Areas, and a prominent voice in international ocean conservation**.

With over 180 national and international speakers, the summit brings together a diverse panel of experts from the **business** and **financial** sectors, **policymakers, civil society, and academia**.

On March 11, **Oceano Azul Foundation** will host the strategic session "**How is industry embracing blue biotechnology solutions?**", featuring **Miguel Marques**, Blue Economy International Advisor at [INOVAMAR](#), the leading company of the consortium formed for the **Blue Bioeconomy Pact**.

On March 12, **Emanuel Gonçalves**, Chief Scientist and Administrator of Oceano Azul Foundation, will participate in the strategic session "**What makes Marine Protected Areas more effective?**". On March 13, he will join the plenary session "**One year on from the agreements – what are the implications and what's next?**", addressing the two most significant United Nations Ocean agreements signed in the last 18 months: the High Seas Treaty and the agreement reached at the Convention on Biological Diversity in Montreal, which commits to protecting 30% of the planet by 2030.



Confirmed speakers include **Sylvia Earle**, oceanographer and explorer; **Peter Thomson**, the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean; **Fabien Cousteau**, aquanaut, oceanographer, and explorer; **Yohei Sasakawa**, Chairman of the Nippon Foundation; and political leaders from the European Commission, Commonwealth, Bermuda, France, Costa Rica, Sweden, Palau, Cape Verde, and Tanzania.

The 11th edition of the WOS focuses on the ocean's potential to drive economic growth and the strategies industries must adopt to promote a **sustainable blue economy** in alignment with marine ecosystem conservation.

Protecting marine habitats, particularly through Marine Protected Areas, ensures the health of marine bioresources, which are fundamental to the blue economy. These resources support the development of economic activities, goods, and services that generate wealth derived from the ocean.

The conference will also highlight the connection between the ocean and the climate, with a particular focus on **ocean-based climate solutions**, which are essential for addressing the ongoing climate crisis.

### **About Oceano Azul Foundation**

Oceano Azul Foundation was established in 2017 with the mission of contributing to a healthier and more productive ocean. Under the motto "*From the ocean's point of view*", the Foundation focuses on key areas such as **ocean advocacy, ocean conservation, and ocean policies, frameworks, and economics**, while also prioritising education and ocean literacy. Guided by a science-based approach, the Foundation incorporates these principles into its initiatives across areas such as literacy, conservation, sustainable fishing, awareness campaigns, blue economy, and capacity building. The Foundation collaborates with governments, other foundations, civil society organisations, the UN, and the EU to advance the international agenda dedicated to the ocean.

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