

# POP OCEAN VIRTUAL SUMMIT

on World Ocean Day 2020

#POPOceanAction #POPMovement #ClimateActionNow #WeBelieveInAction

World Oceans Day

## POP OCEAN VIRTUAL SUMMIT

A conference to amplify advocacy for sustainable protection of marine environments



Session 1 Why the Ocean?

Session 2 Health and the Ocean

Session 3 The Ocean and the Economy



# POP Ocean Initiative

The [POP Ocean Initiative](#) launched during the “Perils of Sea Level Rise and Ocean Pollution” at the [Second World Sustainable Development Forum](#), serves to be an innovative new model for ocean action, stimulating youth-led marine conservation efforts through education and mentorship. POP Ocean aligns with the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals, specifically SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), SDG 15 (Life on Land), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

## POP Ocean Virtual Summit

On June 8th, to celebrate World Oceans Day, POP Ocean organized the [POP Ocean Virtual Summit](#) to raise awareness and amplify advocacy for the sustainable protection of marine environments. [The summit was divided into three sessions: Why the Ocean?, Health and the Ocean, and The Ocean and the Economy.](#) Each had global leaders and expert speakers from different countries as well as a youth speaker to share the perspective of younger generations.

The POP Ocean Virtual Summit provides the much needed fundamental thrust to the newly founded [POP Ocean Initiative](#), as the POP Ocean family gears to build a movement of youth for the sustainable protection of our ocean and marine biodiversity, through advocacy and mentorship of a new generation of Ocean Advocates.

The event was inaugurated with the insightful [opening remarks provided by His Serene Highness Prince Albert II, Monaco](#) (pre-recorded video) and Dr. Ash Pachauri, Senior Mentor, POP Movement. Bringing in the context of the coronavirus pandemic and the consequent resurgence of ocean health, HSH highlighted the importance of taking advantage of this situation by moving away from the destructive development paradigm and reinventing the economy and society in a manner where “the oceans are at the heart of the world we have to rebuild”. He expressed the indispensable need to convince the younger generation of the importance of ocean, whose health will determine their future and the future of our planet.



*“We know what our oceans need. To combat pollution, especially plastics. To develop sustainable fishing and aquaculture. To protect biodiversity. To expand marine protected areas which ought to safeguard 30% of the ocean surface. To preserve the climate. To adopt a real status of the High Seas. To promote truly sustainable tourism. All these objectives are within our reach.”*

- His Serene Highness Prince Albert II, Monaco

A promotional poster for the POP Ocean Virtual Summit. The top left features a collage of five speakers: a man in a suit, a woman with dark hair, a man with a beard, and two women. The text 'SESSION 1' is in a yellow circle, and 'WHY THE OCEAN?' is in a blue circle. The right side has a yellow background with 'POP Ocean Virtual Summit' in green and 'June 8, 2020' in a clock-like graphic. A green banner at the bottom reads 'Moderator: Marisa Lopez, POP Ocean and Founder, Bluer Future' in yellow text.

**SESSION 1**

**WHY THE OCEAN?**

**POP Ocean Virtual Summit**

June 8, 2020

**Moderator: Marisa Lopez, POP Ocean and Founder, Bluer Future**

*Speakers: H.E. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, Former President of Mauritius; H.E. Jose Manuel Barroso, Former President, European Commission and Former Prime Minister of Portugal; Caroline Sandberg and Lauren Sandberg, POP Ocean and Eco Eaters, USA*

*On the first session, [Why the Ocean](#), [H.E. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim](#), former President of [Mauritius](#), emphasized how the vastness of*

*the ocean can diminish the size of the challenge we are facing, for which we need knowledge of the issues and collective action.*



*“The water we drink, the air we breathe underscore our connections to the oceans. They have defined our past, present and for a very long time to come, they will decide on our survival on this planet”*

- H.E. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, 6th President, Republic of Mauritius



[H.E. Jose Manuel Barroso, former President of the European Commission and former Prime Minister of Portugal](#), emphasized the many threats our oceans face today, such as climate change, ocean acidification, and illegal fishing, and brought our attention to how 60% of the ocean is outside of national jurisdiction, adding to the importance of collective action. To end the session, [youth](#)

[voices of Lauren and Caroline Sandberg](#) were amplified as they showcased their action through their initiative called Eco Eaters, which works to reduce plastic waste in their local restaurants. They brought attention to how the youth have created changes to protect the ocean through local community mobilization and action.

*Blue is green. Blue growth and the economic activities linked to the sea, should conserve and sustainably use the oceans. Blue growth has to respect the principles of Green growth and must be in line with the Sustainable Development Goals Agenda.”*

- H.E. Jose Manuel Barroso, Former President of the European Commission and Former Prime Minister of Portugal



**POP Ocean Virtual Summit**

**SESSION 2**

**HEALTH AND THE OCEAN**

**June 8, 2020**

**Moderator: Veta Wade, Ocean Advocate & Founder of Fish 'N Fins Inc.**

*Speakers: H.E. Lawrence Gonzi, Former Prime Minister of Malta; H.E. José Ramos-Horta, Former President of East Timor and Nobel Peace Prize (1996) Winner; Ana Hanhausen, POP Ocean and Plastic Oceans México*

During the second session, *Health and the Ocean*, H.E. Lawrence Gonzi, former Prime Minister of Malta, mentioned that the health of the ocean has always been important to human health, but the current context makes it an even more relevant topic. During the current pandemic, species have been seen returning to places where human activity has decreased. H.E. Dr. Gonzi also talked about the importance of improving international ocean governance. H.E. Jose Ramos-Horta, former President of East Timor and Nobel Peace Prize Winner (1996), in his pre-recorded video, mentioned how the close relationship between human health and the health of the ocean is evident in different scenarios: the radiation levels as a result of the tsunami in Japan; plastic being dumped

by the millions into the ocean; and the effect on marine species and later in humans. He also underscored the immediate consequences of failing ocean health which are visible in the poisoning of coral because of marine pollution. He closed his message by sharing the importance of using this time to reflect and display wisdom and solidarity. He highlighted that only together can we find and implement inclusive solutions. Finally, Ana Hanhausen, the youth speaker from the session, emphasized on how COVID-19 poses a threat to our ocean because of deficient waste management plans. She also pointed to the opportunity that lies ahead for us to realize that when events are treated as emergencies, change is possible to protect the health of the ocean.

*Europeans who invaded, colonized and looted far flung nations for centuries, ruled the seas with armadas and merchant ships, bear the greatest responsibility for the extreme harm done to our oceans. So my sanctimonious Europeans and North American brothers and sisters what are you going to do? Spare me your lectures and expert advice.”*

-H.E. José Ramos-Horta, Former President of East Timor and Nobel Peace Prize Winner (1996)



A promotional graphic for the POP Ocean Virtual Summit. The top left features a collage of five people: a man in a suit, a woman with brown hair, a woman with dark hair, and two younger women. Below this is a yellow circle with the text 'SESSION 3' and a blue arrow pointing right with the text 'THE OCEAN AND THE ECONOMY'. To the right, the text 'POP Ocean Virtual Summit' is written in large green letters, with 'June 8, 2020' below it. At the bottom, a green banner contains the text 'Moderator: Dr. Norma Patricia Muñoz Sevilla POP Ocean and Chairperson, Climate Change Council for the Presidency of the Mexican Republic' in yellow.

*Speakers: H.E. Mike Rann, Former Premier of South Australia; H.E. Martha Delgado Peralta, Under Secretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, México; Dr. Shonali Pachauri, Acting Program Director, Transitions to New Technologies & Senior Research Scholar, Energy Program, IIASA; Sir David King, Founder and Chair of the Centre for Climate Repair (Cambridge), former Chief Scientific Advisor and Climate Envoy to the British Government; Maria Jacques, University Iberoamericana, Mexico*

Finally, the speakers [in the third session, \*The Ocean and the Economy\*](#), talked about how damage done to the ocean can have economic repercussions. [H.E. Mike Rann, former Premier of South Australia](#), discussed the role of the ocean in providing food to millions as well as its role in the

transportation of goods. He also mentioned that the ocean's worsening condition because of climate change threatens our way of life and our livelihoods. As one of the many solutions he proposed, he talked about the importance of treating this problem as our own, and not as one that is external to us.

*“Economic consequences and human costs of climate change is going to be disastrous not just because of sea level rise, but also extreme coastal events which will become more frequent.”*

- H.E. Mike Rann, Former Premier of South Australia



[Sir David King](#), the second speaker in the session, mentioned how we can learn from the ocean, where everything has a purpose and is, and, should be, “recycled”. He talked

about how civilization has changed as have the young generations, making them key players in the solutions to be implemented.

*“Eco-civilization or well-being of human and civilization is essential for oceans as well. Oceans are absorbing more heat and sea level rise are posing a threat to humanity!”*

- Sir David King, Partner, SYSTEMIQ; former UK Govt CSA; and former UK Special Representative for Climate Change



H.E. Martha Delgado Peralta, Under Secretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, México, was represented by [Andrew Rhodes, Special Envoy for Oceans, Attaché at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Mexico](#), talked about the necessity of implementing an oceanic circular economy, as Mexico, being one of the most megadiverse countries in the world, is at high risk when it comes to the deterioration of marine environments. He also emphasized the importance of caring for our oceans as they

contribute 2 trillion dollars to the global economy, yearly. [Dr. Shonali Pachauri, Acting Program Director, Transitions to New Technologies & Senior Research Scholar, Energy Program, IIASA](#) mentioned how concrete individual action, led collectively can truly impact the state of our ocean: shifting our diets from land-based meats to fisheries can reduce our carbon emissions by 20% by the end of the century. She emphasized the importance of sustainable actions.

*“Many risk hotspots are coastal areas which are also areas of high population. Limiting temperature rise to 1.5°C is crucial.”*

**-Dr. Shonali Pachauri, Acting Program Director, Transitions to New Technologies & Senior Research Scholar, Energy Program, IIASA**



Finally, [Maria Jacques, youth speaker from Universidad Iberoamericana](#), mentioned the importance of being aware of where our food comes from and where our waste goes in order to stay informed and aware of the role the ocean plays in our day-to-day life.

Overall, the hugely successful event brought attention to the importance of taking urgent collective action to improve our relationship with the ocean, because of its intrinsic value, its link to our health and its importance in the world economy. The message from the 14 distinguished speakers reached over 1,500 people from 56 countries.



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A conference to amplify advocacy for sustainable protection of marine environments

**JUNE 8**

Session 1 Why the Ocean?  
 Session 2 Health and the Ocean  
 Session 3 The Ocean and the Economy

**Session-1** <https://bit.ly/3cZc4v2>

**Session-2** <https://bit.ly/3e3i4UG>

**Session-3** <https://bit.ly/2Y1GOav>

Countries	Outreach	Speakers
56	1500 plus	14

## Vision Forward

The POP Ocean Virtual Summit served as a starting point of the [POP Ocean Initiative](#), which seeks to raise awareness and action through education and mentorship, for the sustainable protection of our oceans. The POP Ocean Initiative looks to include residents of small, vulnerable island states, so their knowledge and concerns are prioritized when engineering solutions.

In order to create and strengthen the next generation of Ocean Advocates, **POP Ocean** will host a series of workshops and seminars that will help the youth across the world learn more about the issues our oceans face today, as well as how to get involved in implementing effective and inclusive solutions.

In the month of July, the **Youth-Led Ocean Action and Advocacy Workshop**, consisting of eight sessions for the youth to learn how to create and implement projects and solutions

to ensure the protection of our ocean, will take place virtually. Each session will focus on a different step of the process, including how to make your project a reality, how to communicate ideas effectively, how to overcome challenges, and how to become better leaders.

An **Ocean Literacy Course**, consisting of several seminars will take place afterwards. POP Ocean seeks to better prepare ocean advocates by guiding them on learning about pressing issues regarding our oceans, including the effect of climate change on the ocean, ocean acidification, marine litter, coral barrier reefs, marine transport, and many more.

With more events to come, we hope you join our **POP Ocean Family**, to connect with different youth-led projects around the world and ensure a bluer future for the generations to come.

