Ocean-Hack

INTRODUCTION

The [(POP) Protect Our Planet Movement](#) is a movement synonymous with [capacity building and youth mobilization](#). With a reach to over 1.2 million youth and the famous "youth inspired by knowledge" way of transforming great ideas into [successful projects](#). The POP Movement has collaborated with over 350 partners, who have successfully implemented great innovative ideas in the field.

The UN-accredited [POP Ocean initiative](#), which was launched in 2020, aims to promote and mentor solutions focused on the ocean. During its first year, the initiative held twenty-eight sessions with participants from over 66 countries and had an outreach of over five thousand. Through 2021, the POP Ocean Initiative will continue raising awareness regarding the importance of the ocean and promoting solutions through collective action.

The hackathon, "Ocean-Hack", led by the POP Movement is designed to embrace various mobilization, advocacy, and networking activities, which are intended to promote innovative and technology-based projects focused on the conservation of the ocean and other water bodies.

Structure of the Hackathon

The hackathon will be a week-long event to promote technology-based solutions focused on solving issues related to the ocean and other water bodies. Participants will have three days to work on an innovative solution to address the current challenges of marine ecosystems and wildlife, which will be presented to a panel of judges on the fourth day. The winning project will be chosen based on a series of criteria that include the use of technology, the feasibility, as well as the impact and scale of the project.

Winning team

The winning team will be awarded with the following:

1. Special invitation to the POP Global Festival 2021, presenting their solution as the "Winner of the Ocean-Hack 2021"

2. A 6-month mentorship program which will focus on developing the solution and finding funding.
3. Monthly dialogue sessions (one-on-one calls) with experts on the field.

Themes

The hackathon will be focused on innovative projects which rely on technology to address water related issues, including but not limited to climate change, marine pollution, sargassum, the blue economy, sustainable fisheries, and mapping ocean health.

Outcomes

Outcomes expected from the "Ocean-Hack" include, but are not limited to, the following.

1. Creating a space where participants across the world can develop solutions and projects focused on conservation and action.
2. Mentoring innovative technology-based ideas for environmental action to preserve water ecosystems.
3. Establishing a platform for emerging changemakers to implement their ideas on a pilot basis.

Benefits

The qualifying candidates will receive the following.

1. An opportunity to present their projects at the POP Festival 2021, scheduled in June 2021.
2. Mentoring and technical capacity building through the Innovation Lab.
3. Support to publish research in peer-reviewed journals.

Application

The POP Movement is inviting applications for the annual mega marathon of technology-based, innovative water conservation projects called the "Ocean-Hack".

1. Eligibility

The hackathon will be youth-focused but is not limited to an age group. Only youth participants will be eligible to qualify; if a group has a majority of youth participants it will be eligible as well.

The participants can be individuals/teams/existing organizations with not more than 5 participants representing one team.

2. Selection Criteria

The participants should have an already existing idea focused on environmental issues.

Participants with innovative and technology-based projects are invited to apply.

3. Application process

In the application, all participants and teams will be required to upload a one minute video explaining the scope of their project, and sharing how the participant and teams would benefit from an expert as a mentor.

Participants will also be asked to upload the contact details and pictures of all individuals and participants of the team.

Finally, participants must submit a presentation or a one-pager on their proposed project. It must include a brief description of the project, its goals, and expected impact.

4. Important Dates

The date of the final submission **February 26, 2021**

The participants will be notified if they were accepted to participate in the Hackathon on **March 5, 2021.**

The hackathon will take place from **March 11 to 14, 2021.** Presentations will take place on **March 15,2021** and the winner will be announced on **March 19, 2021.**