



International Conference & POP Festival for Youth-Led Climate Action 2024

Oaxaca, Mexico, September 5 – 6, 2024

Human Fraternity and Compassion for Universal Peace, People and the Planet

The International Conference and POP Festival in Oaxaca 2024 brought together a diverse group of global leaders, scientists, indigenous communities, and youth activists. The two-day event focused on climate action, sustainability, and the intersection of indigenous knowledge and modern science. Participants shared insights on environmental conservation, biodiversity, renewable energy, and the challenges of climate change, while youth voices were at the heart of the discussions, highlighting their role in shaping the future.

The two-day event had as activities on the 5th, the presentation of the Symposium of Oaxacan Indigenous Women in the Biological Sciences with the participation of 5 speakers and a conversation with indigenous women, simultaneously the International Conference and Festival POP 2024 had the participation of speakers in topics of Biodiversity, Sustainability, Climate Variability, Climate Action, Renewable Technologies and Energies, Ancestral Wisdom and Health and Climate. The Workshop on Green Education at a Higher Level was given by IESALC-UNESCO and there was a presentation of climate action projects led by young people from different parts of the world.

The opening message was given through two conferences given by Social Anthropologist Anna Lila Downs Sánchez and Erik Solheim, Former President of UNEP.

The second day (Sept.6) continued with the presentation of climate action projects led by youth in Latin America and the Caribbean, the motivational message from Dr. Rosalía Arteaga, former president of Ecuador, a second workshop on South-South University Cooperation coordinated by IESALC -UNESCO, Another Workshop on Sustainable Architecture led by Habitat Emprise of India, as well as the participation of the Energy Research Institute of Catalonia (IREC) and the MX Global Network, Chapter Barcelona. A Sustainable Fashion show was presented prior to the closing of the event, by POP and the IPN.

It is worth highlighting the presence at the event of important POP collaborators who gave their message in person or through videos, in support of the work of the POP Movement.

Day 1: September 5, 2024

Opening Ceremony & Keynotes:

The festival began with a registry at 08:30, followed by the opening ceremony, setting a tone of unity and commitment to global climate solutions. Dr. Erik Solheim, former United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) chairman, delivered a motivational keynote via video, emphasizing the importance of collective action in addressing climate change. Anna Lila Downs Sánchez, a social anthropologist, gave an inspiring speech, particularly highlighting the role of women in sustainability.



Scientific Symposia:

Following the keynotes, the event focused on research and scientific advancements in biodiversity and ecosystem conservation. Topics included fungi research, biodiversity in Venezuela, and studies of edible wild plants in indigenous Zapotec communities. Dr. Olivia Ayala Vásquez and Dr. Virginia Ramírez Cruz presented their findings on the ecological significance of Boletales and Psilocybe fungi, respectively. At the same time, Dr. Reyna Domínguez Yescas highlighted the value of transdisciplinary exploration of indigenous plants.



Youth Engagement & Environmental Advocacy:

Youth leaders actively participated in the event, with a special session featuring a video message from Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Kailash Satyarthi advocating for youth involvement in the fight against climate change. Environmental advocacy sessions were spearheaded by students and professors from local and international institutions, including **9-year-old Samuel Said Espinoza, who has his own climate education show called “Samuel Dice” (which means Samuel Says)** and focused on topics such as sustainability, water uses, pollution, environmental education and animal protection.



Workshops & Tours:

In the afternoon, attendees participated in hands-on workshops like “Greening Higher Education,” led by Bosen Lily Liu and Eliane El Haber of UNESCO. Additional activities included guided tours of the Botanical Garden and CIIDIR laboratories, allowing participants to explore the biological diversity of Oaxaca firsthand.



Closing for Day 1:

The first day concluded with presentations on renewable energy technologies, the impact of climate change on respiratory diseases, and social action projects aimed at democratizing access to renewable energy in rural Oaxaca. Youth Goodwill Ambassador Athenna Crosby delivered remarks. The day ended with a traditional Guelaguetza celebration, followed by a mezcal tasting, performances, dances, and music from Oaxaca's eight unique regions.

A Gala dinner was offered to our special guests in the small village of Portozuelo. Oaxaca.



Day 2: September 6, 2024

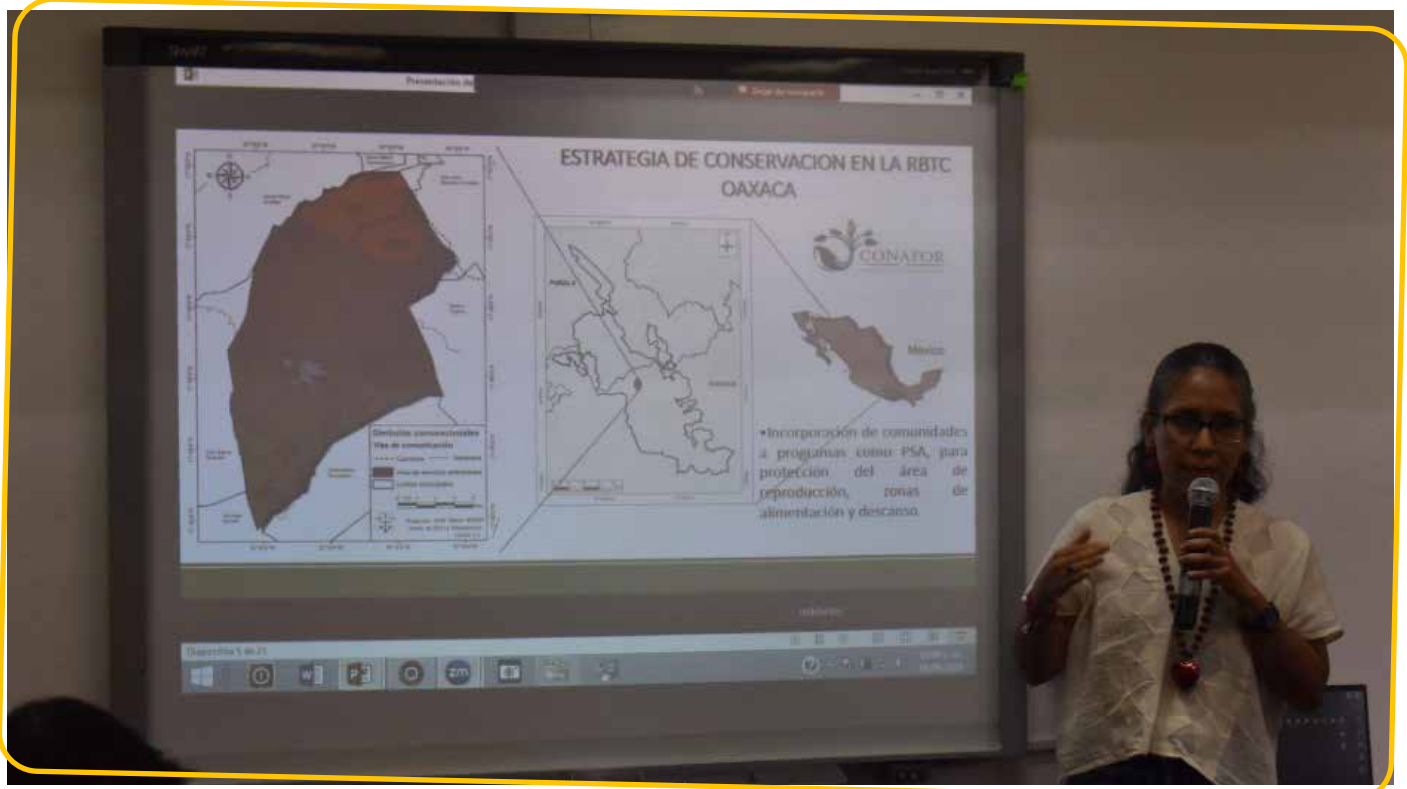
Workshops & International Cooperation:

The second day opened with workshops focused on international cooperation and youth leadership. The UNESCO International Institute for Higher Education conducted a notable session addressing a South-South University Cooperation Network. Virtual presentations from global youth leaders like Mahbooba Fayaz (Afghanistan) and Samuel Okorie Chijioko (Nigeria) highlighted the environmental challenges faced by the Global South.



Research & Conservation Projects:

Participants shared several innovative projects related to sustainable development, focusing on Oaxaca's natural ecosystems. Presentations covered forest restoration efforts in Tanzania, community-based conservation projects in Mexico, and traditional climate adaptation strategies in indigenous communities.



Keynote Speeches, Book Launch, and Public Health Focus:

The highlights of Day 2 were a keynote address by Her Excellency Dra. Rosalia Arteaga, Former President of Ecuador, Dr. Tarek Ahmed, CEO of Civilization Rights Institute, and the official launch of two significant publications: "Weathering the Change: Climate Crisis and its Toll on Human Health" and "Public Health Uncoded." Dr. Ash Pachauri and Dr. Saroj Pachauri led this session, emphasizing the intersection between climate and health challenges.



Cultural Integration & Closing Ceremony:

The festival concluded with cultural activities, including a fashion show led by Anahuac University, Oaxaca. The closing ceremony emphasized integrating indigenous wisdom with modern science to address global climate issues.



Conclusion:

The POP Festival in Oaxaca 2024 successfully united global leaders, scientists, and youth activists in meaningful discussions on sustainability, climate change, and the preservation of biodiversity. Through a series of workshops, scientific presentations, and cultural exchanges, the festival underscored the power of collective action and indigenous knowledge in addressing the environmental challenges of our time. The event's collaborative and multidisciplinary approach will inspire ongoing efforts to foster sustainable development worldwide.