

Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021 - 2030



Introduction

Peace Boat US is an organization, based at the United Nations plaza in New York City, that works to build a culture of peace and sustainability around the world by connecting people across borders and creating opportunities for learning, advocacy and cooperation. Our main partner is the international NGO Peace Boat which holds Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and organizes global voyages onboard a large passenger ship with the logo of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on the hull. Peace Boat's global voyages have been the platform for Peace Boat US' Youth for the SDGs programs since the launch of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. At sea, participants engage in capacity building through seminars and workshops with guest educators including academics, activists, civil society representatives, and artists. In ports of call, participants take part in field programs organized in collaboration with local organizations, to learn about issues affecting local communities as well as innovative solutions.



Peace Boat's global voyages encourage nature-based solutions for our ocean



With our educational programs for sustainability taking place onboard a passenger ship, we are especially aware of the importance of our ocean and organize several programs focused on SDG14, Life Below Water. At the 2017 UN Ocean Conference, Peace Boat launched the Ocean and Climate Youth Ambassador Programme for youth from Small Island Developing States (SIDS) on the front line of the ocean and climate crises to engage in capacity building and advocacy onboard Peace Boat's ship. Since 2020, Peace Boat US has collaborated with the United Nations Division of Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea (DOALOS) to support the Friends of UN World Oceans Day Working Group coordination and continues to lead various youth programs throughout the year to highlight the annual themes of World Oceans Day.

In 2023, Peace Boat US launched the "Youth for the SDGs for the UN Ocean Decade" Program, which focuses on citizen science and education about the ocean, in line with the UN Ocean Decade Objectives to "build capacity and generate knowledge," offering scholarships to youth leaders proactively working on SDG14 in their home communities. On UN World Oceans Day in June of 2023, the "Youth for the SDGs" program was officially endorsed by the International Oceanographic Commission (IOC) UNESCO as a "Contribution" to the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. The program builds on the extensive experience of Peace Boat on capacity building with a specific focus on SDG14 and the aims of the UN Decade for Ocean Science. The program will continue to develop throughout the coming years in line with the aims of the UN Ocean Decade, creating the framework for future programs on ocean literacy and marine education. During the inaugural Global Voyage on the MV Pacific World in 2023, two programs were held for the UN Ocean Decade: the first in the Arctic region, and the second in Latin America.



Youth for the SDGs Arctic Voyage Program:



The Youth for the SDGs scholarship program for the UN Ocean Decade began in the Arctic region, and took place over 22 days onboard Peace Boat's ship with an international group of young climate and ocean-focused activists travelling from the UK to Norway and Iceland through the fjords of the Arctic, reaching as far North as Svalbard.

The program provided young leaders who are actively engaged in the implementation of the SDGs in their home communities with an opportunity to learn about the environmental impacts on this pristine region that is on the front lines of the climate crisis. The Arctic region is a fragile ecosystem that presents educational opportunities for scientists and young ocean leaders alike to learn about the impacts of climate change and nature-based solutions first-hand.



Plastic pollution clean-up in London.



In London, where the Arctic Voyage began, Peace Boat US organized the Blue Innovation Networking Reception, which brought together organizations and networks working on ocean protection including Beach Token, Blue Marine Foundation, The Commonwealth Blue Charter, Google Sustainability + Arts, Oceanic Global and UOCEAN. During their stay in the UK capital, youth visited the Natural History Museum, and heard from experts at the World Maritime Museum about the early years of ocean-faring vessels and blue innovation today. As part of the program's commitment to experiential learning, participants took part in hands-on programs related to plastic waste pollution, including an electric boat watway clean-up in the Paddington River organized by UOCEAN. Here participants carried out the first of several water-quality tests, using kits provided by EarthEcho International. The data was then shared with the IOC UNESCO



Sailing through the Fjords of Norway

Ocean Data Information System (ODIS), which provides an online space for open source data related to ocean science from around the world. This platform is useful to allow existing and emerging ocean data and information systems, from any stakeholder, to interoperate with one another.

In Norway, participants began with a forum on the Blue Economy at the Arctic Economic Council and met with its Director Mads Qvist Frederiksen and Daniel Vermeer from Duke University Oceans Program to discuss Arctic resources, communities, and challenges around sustainable development. In Svalbard, they visited the Svalbard Museum, and met with Marine Biology professors and Ph.D. students to learn more about the direct impacts of climate change on the arctic ecosystems at the University Center in Svalbard, the northernmost university in the world.

While at sea, youth had the opportunity to observe the natural Arctic environment including Puffins, whales, and dolphins. They took part in capacity building workshops and seminars led by guest educators invited onboard. Peace Boat US is working with partner organizations, and stakeholders to build a shared international curriculum related to the challenges of the UN Ocean Decade.

The Arctic Voyage concluded in Iceland, where youth took part in whale observation programs in the fjords of Akureyri and near the capital city of Reykjavik, and visited Orka Natturnar (ON), a geothermal power plant to learn about the production and use of renewable energy from sustainable resources. Through a visit to the Blue Lagoon, participants learned about concrete examples of sustainable tourism and geothermal power under the BLUE flag of Iceland.



Professor Daniel Vermeer from Duke University Oceans program speaks at the Arctic Economic Council.

Youth for the SDGs Program in Latin America:



The Youth for the SDGs program for the UN Ocean Decade in Latin America took place over 16 days as Peace Boat's ship sailed from Panama, through the Panama Canal, to Guatemala and Mexico.

In Panama City, where the Latin America program began, participants were invited to the United Nations Headquarters in Central America, which is working towards the implementation of the SDGs at the regional level to discuss the solutions and challenges around the SDGs with local young professionals.

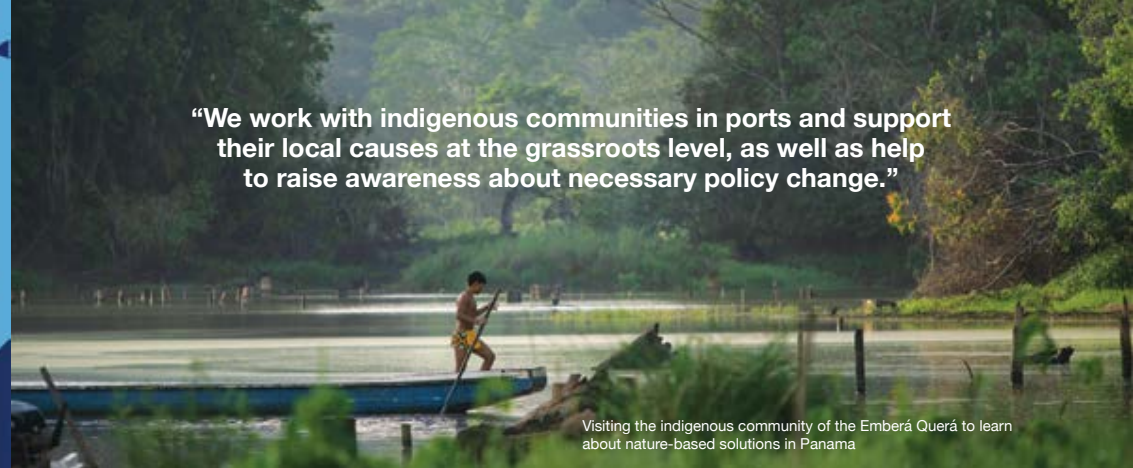


As part of the global voyages, Peace Boat regularly engages with local and indigenous knowledge holders including the Embera Quera and Kuna communities with whom PeaceBoathasalongrelationship. In Panama, Youth for the SDGs participants visited the Embera Quera indigenous community and met with members of the Kuna Community to learn about the impacts of climate change on local communities, as well as initiatives they are taking for positive climate action. Participants contributed to Peace Boat's ongoing Ocean Literacy program for the Kuna and Embera indigenous groups by donating books on ocean conservation to their community libraries.

Additional programs in Panama focused on ocean conservation and experiencing the country's rich biodiversity with visits to partners in the BioMuseo, the Reef2Reef coral restoration program; and the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute to learn about the monitoring of wildlife and environmental impacts in the region. A seminar was held in collaboration with governmental partners including the National Secretariat of Energy in Panama to learn about SDG 7, Affordable and Clean Energy.

In Guatemala, the Youth for the SDGs program partnered with local organizations to coordinate various study opportunities to learn about marine life, mangroves, and conservation efforts taking place in the region. The Sustainable Ocean Alliance

"We work with indigenous communities in ports and support their local causes at the grassroots level, as well as help to raise awareness about necessary policy change."



Visiting the indigenous community of the Emberá Querá to learn about nature-based solutions in Panama

organized a program focused on mangrove exploration and turtle monitoring to evaluate migration habits and the general health of turtles coming to this region to nest.

While sailing onboard the ship, in addition to studying with climate and ocean experts, the youth host workshops to present the work they are doing in their home countries. Each scholar gives a presentation to all the passengers onboard to introduce themselves as young leaders working on ocean conservation and sustainability issues, and to share their local initiatives towards implementing the SDGs.

In Mexico, youth scholars participated in the Annual Blue Economy Forum, co-hosted by Peace Boat US and Restore Coral, in collaboration with local government partners and NGOs who worked together to convene experts from various fields. The Blue Economy Forums have encouraged regional collaboration towards various topics from Marine Protected Areas to coral reef restoration programs, and

decarbonization of the ports in Manzanillo. These forums provide an opportunity for stakeholder engagement and continue to support Latin American leadership for the UN Ocean Decade.

Concluding the Arctic and Latin Youth for the SDGs programs, Peace Boat US continues to build from its existing youth network to further develop the Youth for the SDGs program encouraging more youth from Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to join. Furthermore, alumni from the Ocean and Climate Youth Ambassador Program are also collaborating in the development of this initiative. One example is Khadija Stewart from Trinidad and Tobago, who was introduced to Sustainable Ocean Alliance through her time onboard Peace Boat, and currently works as their Caribbean hub leader. She coordinates a campaign to raise awareness about conservation of marine life of the deep sea and is working with young leaders from the Caribbean to participate in Peace Boat's voyages for the UN Ocean Decade.



Youth scholar, Rigoberto Amaya, presenting at the Blue Economy Forum.



Youth scholars learning about mangrove restoration.

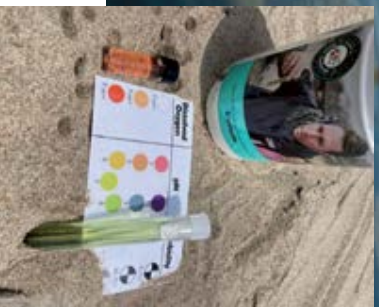


Supporting conservation of biodiversity with Sustainable Ocean Alliance.

Peace Boat US Youth for the SDGs Program for the UN Ocean Decade Citizen Science Initiative: Water Quality testing



As part of the commitment to UN Ocean Decade Objective 1: identify critical ocean knowledge, in collaboration with EarthEcho International, participants in the Youth for SDGs Program are given the opportunity to participate in citizen science programs including using water testing kits onboard the ship and in the ports of call to test the PH levels, temperature, turbidity, and oxygen levels in the water samples. By engaging in citizen science, those onboard build public awareness and involvement in protecting water resources around the world by conducting basic monitoring of bodies of water in each port, helping to create a database that will continue for the duration of the UN Ocean Decade, and beyond.



The EarthEcho International collaboration with Peace Boat US supports the Oceanographic Data Exchange (ODE), which developed an inclusive Ocean Data and Information System (ODIS) to allow digital stakeholders to reliably share and discover key ocean data from around the world. Thanks to this partnership, the Youth for the SDGs program has the means to actively contribute to the protection and sustainable management of our precious water resources. The data collected helps to raise awareness as well as support informed decision-making at both community and global levels, fostering a generation committed to preserving our planet's most vital resource - our ocean.



Stakeholder Engagement Blue Innovation Onboard



Peace Boat cooperates with users of ocean science, including local governments, industry partners, and United Nations agencies to carry out advocacy and action for sustainability and respect for the environment and our ocean. To contribute to the UN Ocean Decade stakeholder engagement and international cooperation, Peace Boat hosts several Blue Innovation Reception in the ports visited during its Global Voyages to bring stakeholders across various sectors together. In 2023, onboard events were held in Honolulu, Hawaii - Manzanillo, Mexico - Miami, Florida and culminated in New York City, following the United Nations SDG Summit and Climate Week NYC.

Peace Boat US is an advisor to the World Maritime University High-Level Board for the Empowerment of Women for the UN Ocean Decade and an affiliate member of the International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification (OA Alliance). The topics of ocean acidification and other climate related impacts on the ocean form part of Peace Boat's marine education programs. Participants in the Youth for SDGs programs and other onboard programs learn how ocean warming, acidification, and deoxygenation have gained increasing recognition across international policy platforms including the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Peace Boat's Blue Innovation Reception and Partnership Expo for the SDGs Honolulu, Hawaii



On September of 2023 in Honolulu, Peace Boat held a "Blue Innovation Reception & Partnership Expo for the SDGs," with Blue Planet Alliance to raise awareness for ocean action and forge partnerships for the 2030 Agenda. The community was invited to join the "Pledge to Our Keiki" signing ceremony for more than 1,800 participants onboard, symbolizing a commitment to preserve Hawaii's sacred land and environment and setting an example for sustainable tourism worldwide, as well as a beach-clean up with Mauiola Ke'ehi and plastic pollution workshop with Parley for the Oceans.



Peace Boat's Blue Innovation Event in Manzanillo, Mexico



Peace Boat's arrival to Manzanillo, Mexico, marked the second Blue Innovation Reception, organized by Peace Boat US in collaboration with Restore Coral. Partners from civil society and NGO leaders immersed themselves in exhibits to showcase the significance of the Blue Economy, with a focus on coral reef restoration and decarbonization of the maritime sector. A highlight of the event included the Governmental High-Level Reception, where dignitaries and officials discussed critical topics including the UN Ocean Decade of Science for Sustainable Development, Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning.



Peace Boat's Blue Innovation Reception in Miami, Florida

During Peace Boat's inaugural visit to Miami, Florida, we co-hosted an onboard event with the Seaworthy Collective, aiming to unite ocean experts, young entrepreneurs in the Blue Economy, artists, and sustainability partners. The occasion featured a "Blue Innovation Reception & Partnership Expo for the SDGs," coinciding with Climate Week 2023. The event fostered awareness, partnerships, and dialogue related to the UN Ocean Decade, with a focus on youth empowerment with the Ocean and Policy Research Institute ocean leaders onboard, the SDG Data Alliance, and innovative climate solutions, showcasing the environmentally sustainable Ecoship and promoting renewable energy initiatives for the maritime sector.

The Ocean Policy Research Institute (OPRI) partnered with Peace Boat to host a group of seven young leaders from diverse countries on board. The youth joined the ship for a two-week program, for an educational initiative aimed at deepening their understanding of ocean-related issues, with a focus on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) ecosystem restoration, community-based solutions, and the Blue Economy. They embarked on an enlightening journey through ports in Guatemala, Jamaica, Panama, Miami, and New York City where they participated in experiential activities such as kayaking through mangrove forests, exploring coral restoration sites, and joining beach-clean-up efforts.

Youth from the Ocean Policy Research Institute present at the Blue Innovation Reception



Mangrove Eco Study Tour and beach clean up activities in Miami





Peace Boat Side-event at the SDG Summit 2023: Collaboration and Cross Sector Partnerships for Capacity Development and Youth Engagement on SDG14

Peace Boat participated in the United Nations SDG Summit with an official side-event in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of Kiribati and UN OHRLLS, which focused on SDG14 and SDG17 and showcased the important role of youth in scaling-up ocean action, in particular youth from Small Island Developing States on the front lines of the ocean crisis. Stocktaking successes and challenges, the forum discussed further developments and collaborations for empowerment and engagement of youth with the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.



SAILING FOR CHANGE Partnerships for SDGs Celebration

ONBOARD PEACE BOAT New York, September 30, 2023

Peace Boat “Sailing for Change: Partnerships for the SDGs Celebration” New York City

In September of 2023, as an immediate follow up to the General Assembly High-level Week, the SDG Summit and the Climate Ambition Summit, Peace Boat's current ship, the MV Pacific World, made its inaugural visit to New York City as part of Peace Boat's 115th Global Voyage. This momentous occasion also marked the 40th anniversary of Peace Boat since its first voyage in September 1983. Over 500 guests from New York and around the globe came together for the “Sailing for Change-Partnerships for the SDGs Celebration” onboard Peace Boat's ship. Ocean experts such as Aquanaut Fabien Cousteau and members of The Explorers Club and representatives of Investable Oceans joined the event together with United Nations delegates to share their expectations for the blue economy and strategies for working together for a sustainable ocean for all.



The event commenced with remarks from United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications Ms. Melissa Fleming, who reminded participants that “the pursuit of peace goes hand in hand with the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals: 17 goals that would allow us to live in a world of peace, dignity, and equality on a healthy planet.”



Peace Boat advocates for the inclusion of youth in global decision making international concerning the future of our planet. To this end, we actively engage young leaders from the Youth for the SDGs and the Ocean and Climate Ambassadors Programs in international fora including UN Climate Change Conferences (COPs), the UN Ocean Conference, UN Water Conference and High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). In particular, we aim to amplify the voices of those from countries on the front line of the ocean and climate crises, especially from Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

PEACE BOAT Ecoship

Peace Boat will continue its educational programs throughout the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development in particular onboard Peace Boat's ship sailing to more than 100 ports of call each year. In the latter part of the decade programs will take place onboard Peace Boat's Ecoship, a sustainable vessel that will be a new platform for our Global Voyages. A 60,000 ton, 2,000 passenger capacity nature-inspired vessel featuring 6,000 m2 of solar panels and 8 retractable sails, Ecoship will sail as a flagship for the UN SDGs, peace and sustainability. Utilizing boundary defying sustainable technology, Ecoship will reduce CO2 emissions by 30%, achieve zero SOx and NOx emissions, and recycle 100% of its water and waste. We are grateful to have the guidance, support and expertise from distinguished experts and we look forward to working with all of our partners towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the implementation of the UN Ocean Decade programs on a global scale.

How can a passenger ship contribute to global sustainability?

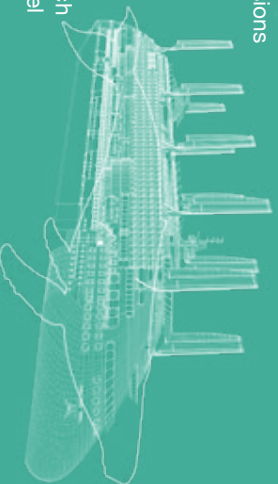
Our Solution

Nature inspired technology and design:

- Radical energy efficiency
- Boundary defying use of renewable technology
- Real ecosystems onboard
- Resulting in a 30% cut in CO2 emissions

Our Actions

- Transition model for maritime decarbonization
- Educational voyages for peace and sustainability
- Floating laboratory for ocean research
- Leadership for a green cruising model



Our Supporters

The design of the ship was finalised after a whole-system design process that brought together experts from a wide range of disciplines. Our advisers and supporters include:

Amory B Lovins / Rocky Mountain Institute
Wanjira Mathai / Chair of Board, The Green Belt Movement
Fabien Cousteau / Oceanographic Explorer
Sylvia Earle / Founder of Mission Blue
Christiana Figueres / Mission 2020 Convenor



Sailing as a flagship for climate action and the UN Sustainable Development Goals



PEACE BOATUS

In collaboration with:



Partners for the UN Ocean Decade:



Join us for the UN Ocean Decade to achieve

**“the science we need
for the ocean we want”**

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