



# Y4O Summit Speakers, Mentors, & Facilitators

## Facilitators

### **Kwastlmut Sadie Olsen, Facilitator of the Summit's opening**

Sadie Olsen is a member and resident of the Lummi Nation. She is also a descendant of the people of Duwamish, Saanich, and S'Klallam, and has done a lot of traveling and visiting with her elders to learn more about herself, where she comes from, and uncover the truth about the ecology, history, and stories of her people pre-colonization. Sadie is a student at Northwest Indian College, getting her Bachelor's degree in Native Environmental Science. She dreams of going to the University of Victoria to get her Master's Degree in Environmental Law, be closer to her family, and learn her SENCOTEN traditional language. She is the program manager for her family's non-profit organization, [Whiteswan Environmental](#). Lately, we host virtual cohorts to build the Spirit of the Sxw'o'le coalition. Our group is called Visions for the Future: A Conversation Led By Indigenous Youth (register [here!](#)). Sadie's dreams also include becoming more confident in her singing and musical skills because music makes her and other people feel well and happy.

### **Joe Wilkins, Facilitator of Listening Circle #2 and #3, and co-host of the Mingle Bar**

Joe Wilkins is an environmentalist and ocean-lover, with a background in ecosystem ecology and a passion to achieve greater youth involvement and empowerment in conservation and environmental policy. Joe is the Conventions & Policy Officer at Reserva: The Youth Land Trust, an organization working to empower youth to make a tangible difference to conservation. In addition, he is Head of Campaigns at UK Youth for Nature, as well as being a member of the World Ocean Day Youth Council and a leading member of the newly-formed Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Youth Network advocating for a strong and inclusive High Seas Treaty. Following on from a BSc in Ecology and Environmental Biology at Imperial College London, he has recently completed an MSc in Environmental Change, Impact and Adaptation at Aberystwyth University with a research focus on mechanisms and structures for effective youth participation in environmental governance.

### **Hana Begovic, General Summit Facilitator, and Facilitator of Listening Circle #1**

Hana Begovic (She/Her) is a multilingual storyteller from Sweden with the intention to amplify youth leadership in Earth-based practices and actions. She is a dedicated and down-to-Earth person with a deep interest in [Earth Jurisprudence](#), narrative, storytelling, and [embodied culture](#). Aside from this project, she is the Director of [Earth Advocacy Youth](#) where she strives to question and challenge the status quo by exploring creative ways of advancing the rights of Nature movement. Hana holds a degree in Global Studies, a





program uniting peace and development, human rights, gender studies, globalization, and social anthropology. Hana is also a member of the United Nations Harmony with Nature Knowledge Network.

### **Niccolò Delporto, General Summit Facilitator and co-host of the Mingle Bar**

Niccolò is an LL.M. student in Law and Sustainable Development at the University of Milan. He graduated in International and Diplomatic Sciences at the University of Trieste, and is actively involved in youth advocacy for the promotion of international cooperation via MSOI (the youth branch of SIOI – United Nations Association of Italy). Aside from this, he is part of Earth Advocacy Youth where he works on projects focused on Earth Jurisprudence. He spent a semester in Finnish Lapland where he researched and experienced firsthand the effect of climate breakdown on especially the Arctic ecosystems and on the lifestyle of northern Indigenous Peoples. Since then, he has been delving into the implications of the impact of destructive anthropogenic activities on the Earth system and the solutions of its consequences under a legal, ecocentric perspective.

### **Carolina Butrich, Facilitator of Campaign-building Workshops #1 and #2**

Environmental engineer, traveler, and ocean lover. Carolina is the Project Coordinator of Conservamos por Naturaleza, an initiative of the Peruvian Society for Environmental Law (SPDA) that seeks to involve more people in nature conservation. She is an environmental engineer from Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina, specialized in tourism having attended the mobile seminar on tourism planning and management in Protected Areas at the University of Colorado. After representing Peru in windsurfing at an international level, Carolina is also the coordinator of Hazla por tu Ola, a citizen-led campaign that has allowed the legal protection of 33 surf breaks in Peru and has received national and international recognition: in 2020, the campaign won the Premios Lationamerica Verde awards and the Antonio Brack Egg National Environmental Award from the Ministry of Environment. Carolina herself also received the Carlos Ponce del Prado Award for Conservation in the Young Professional category in 2019!

### **Sruthi Gurudev, Facilitator of Campaign-building Workshop #3**

Sruthi is a 23-year-old ocean conservationist, a National Geographic Young Explorer, a Sustainable Ocean Alliance Grantee, and the editor in chief of An Hour in the Deep E-Magazine, a publication that engages youth in eco-journalism. Sruthi is keen on shaping her e-magazine into an optimistic, forward-looking, and innovation-focused publication. The magazine is split up into subcategories and features writing, art, and photography. She believes that by undoing the dichotomy between science and storytelling, young people can effectively communicate the nuances of the changing planet to the rest of the world. Sruthi is also an ambassador for Global Goal 14, Life Below Water for the United Nations Association of Chicago. She is a member of the Youth Council at Reserva: The Youth Land





Trust, where she is a Conventions and Community Wellbeing Committee Member. Through her involvement in Reserva's initiatives, Sruthi recognized the power of youth voices in conservation, which she hopes to amplify in her work.

## Pre-Summit Webinar Speakers

### **Nkeiru Scotcher, Mentor for the High Seas Track and Pre-Summit webinar speaker, Nov 20: See under "Mentors"**

Nkeiru, who is a lawyer (England and Wales jurisdiction) by training, is a post-doctoral fellow of ocean governance at the School of Business, Economics, and Law at the University of Gothenburg. Nkeiru is also affiliated with the Centre for International Law at Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium. Nkeiru's research broadly focuses on legal frameworks that govern spaces and resources in marine areas. She has been a legal team member of the Joint Task Force to investigate the use of submarine telecommunications cables for ocean and climate monitoring and disaster warning since its establishment in 2012 by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO/IOC), and the World Meteorological Organisation. Nkeiru is particularly interested in the governance and protection of living systems in marine areas particularly in the global south, the management of areas beyond the jurisdiction of states, and the use of submarine cables for ocean and climate monitoring.

### **Katharina Heinrich, Pre-Summit webinar speaker, Nov 21**

Katharina Heinrich is a researcher in marine and maritime policy with a focus on the Polar Regions. She has received a Master's Degree in Polar Law from the University of Akureyri, Iceland. In addition, she is pursuing a Master of Resource Management degree in Coastal and Marine Management at the University Centre of the Westfjords, Iceland. Katharina just recently moved to Finland to start her new position as a project researcher at the University of Lapland/Arctic Centre, studying the management structures applicable to the Central Arctic Ocean. Her main research interests lie in Arctic and Antarctic Law and Policy, Environmental Law, Marine Biodiversity Management, Indigenous Peoples Rights, and how these are impacted by climate breakdown. Additionally, Katharina is actively engaged in the Association for Early Career Scientists (APECS) as part of different project groups and is part of the Arctic Youth Network Ocean Group (AYO). In her free time, she enjoys hiking and skiing.

### **Karina Barquet, Pre-summit webinar speaker, Nov 23**

Karina Barquet is a Senior Research Fellow, Team Leader of the Water, Coasts, and Ocean group at SEI HQ, and Lead for SEI Global Strategic Policy Engagement for Ocean and Biodiversity. Karina holds a Ph.D. in Human Geography and over ten years' research and project management experience in water and coastal governance, where she has explored





policy and innovation mechanisms for adapting places, people, and infrastructures to water challenges and more. For the past six years, Karina has coordinated international and multi-disciplinary projects around issues like water utilities in island contexts, Nature-based solutions for mitigation and adaptation, and local approaches for increasing resilience to multiple extreme events. Islands are an important part of her ongoing work in the Gridless Initiative and sWASH & grow project both of which explore decentralized energy, water, and sanitation solutions.

## Listening Circle Speakers

### LC #1

#### **Caitlin Turner, Speaker in Listening Circle #1**

Caitlin Turner is a 21-year old avid marine conservationist and final-year BSc (Hons) Marine Biology student at the University of Stirling in Bonnie Scotland! Her devotion to the ocean started when she was little (thank you, Finding Nemo) and has continued to grow with her throughout the years (she's got 4 sea life tattoos and counting – the passion is real!). In 2018, fresh out of high school, she volunteered at a sea turtle rescue and rehabilitation sanctuary in Sri Lanka for a month, before joining the Marine Conservation Society as a Sea Champion volunteer. In 2019, she then joined the charity's Beachwatch volunteer programme as well, started her university's first student society dedicated to marine conservation (shout out to UoS MCS!) and in 2020, began also volunteering for Sea Shepherd UK as onshore crew. She lives and breathes marine conservation, and her every day is spent fighting for the ocean and all life within it and around it. She's a firm believer that the ocean can and will recover if allowed to do so, and that there is hope so long as we act now.

#### **Louisa Casson, Speaker in Listening Circle #1**

Louisa Casson is a campaigner at Greenpeace UK, where she leads Greenpeace's political work to protect the oceans by campaigning for governments to agree on a Global Ocean Treaty at the United Nations and the 30x30 goal. Louisa has led expeditions on Greenpeace ships, several investigations into deep-sea mining, and secured a voluntary industry commitment to stop fishing in vulnerable Antarctic areas. Louisa previously worked on climate politics in Parliament and for thinktank E3G, and remains involved in climate activism following her early involvement in the UK Youth Climate Coalition.

#### **Jihyun Lee, Speaker in Listening Circle #1**

Jihyun Lee is an undergraduate student, currently working as an intern in the Citizens' Institute for Environmental Studies and being active as a High Seas Youth Ambassador. She believes that speaking out for the protection of the living planet and humanity is an





obligation but also a right that our generation holds. Together, we can make this world a better place. Let's undertake this mission while eating some ice cream!

### **Ghaamid Abdulbasat, Speaker in Listening Circle #1**

Ghaamid is an ecohydrologist who researches Nature-Based Solutions to water-living systems. Ghaamid seats on the IUCN Freshwater Specialist Group. He is a National Geographic Explorer using citizen science research tools in combating pollution and climate breakdown. He Co-directs EARTHDAY Africa and Tanzania programs in advocating earth restoration and climate literacy. His Tanzanian Youth Biodiversity Network amplifies young voices on behalf of biodiversity issues in the policy arena, and his GM Climate Series promotes awareness of the climate crisis. Ghaamid is a global ambassador for the High Seas Alliance and Youth4Nature. He is a Certified Occupational Safety and Health personnel and started his journey in eco-sustainability consulting.

## LC #2

### **Julia Gilvad Rasmussen, Speaker in Listening Circle #2 and General Summit Facilitator**

Julia is the Governance and Programme Coordinator at Earth Advocacy Youth, and is one of the co-founders of the organization. She holds broad knowledge of the Rights of Nature and Earth-based approaches to governance and has been deeply involved in the coordination and planning of the Y4O Summit. Julia is currently finishing up her LLM at the University of Copenhagen - she is of the belief that understanding current legal systems is a good starting point for advocating for alternative, ecologically sensible ones.

### **Anna Marino, Speaker in Listening Circle #2**

Anna is a young environmentalist with an academic background in international relations and has conducted academic research on international maritime law, Ocean and fisheries governance. She is currently contributing to Youth and Environment Europe's advocacy work as Liaison Officer leading the Ocean and Arctic portfolios and participating in UNFCCC COP26 advocacy and capacity-building activities. She is also coordinating an initiative on youth participation in the UN High Seas Treaty and is raising awareness on marine litter and pollution in the Mediterranean sea.

### **Crista Valentino, Speaker in Listening Circle #2**

Crista Valentino is amplifying the voices and impact of youth in decision-making for the planet. She is the Founder and Director of the youth-led CoalitionWILD, an initiative creating lasting youth leadership for the planet through capacity-building trainings, intergenerational mentorship, and supportive networks that invest in the evolution of the individual to influence change. Today, over 2,500 youth from 108 countries are equipped through





CoalitionWILD and are producing a multiplier effect of change – impacting over 20,000 beneficiaries through their efforts. She believes that our power comes from uncovering our purpose in a world that, all too often, asks us to settle down and blend in. For Crista, if the idea doesn't scare you, it isn't big enough. She's currently living in Saudi Arabia contributing to the sustainable development of communities and wildkind refuges in AIULA while concurrently working towards her Masters in Global Leadership from Royal Roads University.

### **Simon Walmsley, Speaker in Listening Circle #2**

Simon is a Chartered Scientist, Chartered Marine Scientist, Fellow of IMarEST, and Associate Member, IEMA. He pursued his Ph.D. at Hull University in Marine Biomonitoring and Ecotoxicology, looking at biomonitoring tools such as indicator species and the genetics of pollutant-tolerant marine populations. Simon has been with WWF for over 20 years and has occupied a plethora of different positions. More lately he has worked as Chief Marine Advisor WWF-UK, Senior Advisor on Sustainable Development for the WWF International Arctic Programme, and at WWF-International as Marine Manager, advising the WWF network on Ocean Governance, extractive industries, and shipping. He has also worked at the British Antarctic Survey, the Institute of Coastal and Estuarine Studies and has worked in consultancy, industry, academia, and at DEFRA.

### LC #3

### **Laura Meller, Speaker in Listening Circle #3**

Laura Meller co-leads the global Greenpeace campaign Protect the Oceans, to secure a strong Global Ocean Treaty that can help protect at least 30% of the global ocean by 2030. During her seven years with Greenpeace, she has worked on Arctic and Antarctic politics and protection, as well as climate and energy issues in Finland. Before joining Greenpeace, she completed doctoral studies at the University of Helsinki, studying biodiversity conservation and protected area networks in times of climate breakdown.

### **Melvin Flores, Speaker in Listening Circle #3**

Melvin Flores is a youth activist and biologist from Guatemala. For the last 3 years, he has been the Global Youth Ambassador for WWF Mesoamerica and a member of the Global Youth Action Team (GYAT) supported by WWF. In his advocacy, he has participated in diverse national and international workshops and congresses on topics such as environmental education, climate breakdown, biodiversity, and the ocean. In these spaces, he's explored diverse roles and learned a lot on the way. As a biologist, Melvin has participated in scientific research and field studies, and been part of conservation projects and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) with the support of dear colleagues. Melvin believes firmly that being involved in the protection of Earth's web of life is something that all





should explore, especially youth since we are the generations that can still generate a transformative change to restore the delicate balance of the Earth.

### **Paul Ayomide, Speaker in Listening Circle #3**

Paul Ayomide is an Ocean enthusiast and advocate for clean ocean and a healthy environment. His drive to promote a resilient and sustainable ocean has led him to found Aquaworld - an organization devoted to pronouncing the aesthetic values of the oceans. His advocacy for the wellbeing of the natural world has propelled him to volunteer with other initiatives and hold leadership roles in some; he is currently a Regional Supervisor for the South-Western Region at Future Savers Sustainable Development Initiative in Nigeria, supervising events, projects and trains future climate actors. He is the current Director of Operations at U-Recycle Initiative, leading campaigns and coordinating other volunteers during events and projects. On the international front, Paul is currently one of the Youth ambassadors at Earth-Day Network, a member of the World Ocean Day Youth Advisory Council, a member of Commonwealth Youth for Climate Change network from Nigeria, and a Young Ocean Leader at the Sustainable Ocean Alliance.

## Keynote Speakers

### **Imogen Napper, Keynote speaker Day #1**

Imogen is a Post Doctoral Researcher at The University of Plymouth. Her research investigates the sources of plastic pollution into the environment. In 2018, Imogen became a National Geographic Explorer and Sky Ocean Rescue Scholar. This funded her ongoing research to investigate different inventions which aim to capture fibers in the washing machine cycle, to stop them potentially entering the environment. Currently, Imogen is working as an expedition scientist with National Geographic on the 'Sea to Source' expedition investigating plastic pollution in the River Ganges.

### **Shawn Heinrichs, Keynote speaker Day #1**

Shawn Heinrichs is an artist and Emmy Award-winning cinematographer, scuba diver, photographer, and marine conservationist. His stunning and often stark artwork is fueled by his passion to protect the ocean and the profound recognition that people only protect what they love. His images have transformed communities, and he hopes his work will inspire people to act before it is too late. A renowned expert on the ocean and tireless activist, Shawn is the founder of the Blue Sphere Foundation and a major force in the global fight to protect endangered marine species and habitats. His work takes him undercover to some of the most remote corners of the globe, providing a rare view of the people and circumstances surrounding the endangered species trade. He was one of the lead activists and co-creators of the Emmy-nominated film, "Racing Extinction", one of the most-watched environmental documentaries of our time.





### **Melissa Cristina Márquez, Keynote speaker Day #1**

Melissa Cristina Márquez is a multi-hyphenate Latina in STEM. Currently a Ph.D. candidate at Curtin University, Márquez is interested in what environmental factors influence the composition and distribution of elasmobranchs using a variety of marine technology. She has become a household name via her Scholastic books (the "Wild Survival" series), freelance environmental issue articles, and TV presenter roles (BBC, Discovery Channel, National Geographic, and OceanX). Host of the "ConCiencia Azul" Spanish podcast, Melissa is passionate about making the scientific industry more diverse and inclusive, including making all of her educational content bilingual. With over 40,000 followers on social media, her platforms are filled with fun games (e.g. "Name That Shark," "ID That Ocean Critter," "Marine Tech Mondays," etc) that make learning about wildlife exciting! Featured in numerous media articles (GQ, People Chica, USA Today, etc), a Forbes "30 Under 30" honoree, and listed as one of InStyle's "BadAss Women for 2021," Melissa is currently aboard the OceanXplorer in the Atlantic Ocean as a scientific advisor/natural history show presenter.

### **Elizabeth Macpherson, Keynote speaker Day #3**

Dr. Elizabeth Macpherson is an Associate Professor in Environmental and Natural Resources Law at the University of Canterbury. Her research interests are in comparative environmental and natural resources law, human rights, and Indigenous rights in Australasia and Latin America. She has published widely on these topics, including the award-winning book *Indigenous Water Rights in Law and Regulation: Lessons from Comparative Experience* (2019, Cambridge University Press). She currently co-leads two major externally-funded research projects: Sustainable Seas National Science Challenge project funded by the New Zealand Government on Law and Policy for Ecosystem-Based Marine Management; and Norwegian Research Council, funded project Riverine Rights: Exploring the Currents and Consequences of Legal Rights for Rivers.

### **Randall Mabwa, Keynote speaker on Day #3**

Randall is a science communicator with marine conservation and coastal conservation research background. He works with Blue Ventures as its Regional Communications officer for East Africa and as the Beyond conservation blog editor. He is passionate about storytelling, conservation film, documentary photography, editorial content management, science communications concepts for products to drive inclusivity. Randall is an advanced open water diver and loves telling stories of change by combining science and art. He aims to put communities and marginalized peoples' voices first to contribute to their empowerment in all my work. He will connect his intervention to Blue Ventures' work on locally-led marine conservation initiatives around the globe, helping youth to understand the usefulness of having their voice heard, taking action, and how they can be part of the narrative for change.





## Mentors

### **Anya Granados, Mentor for National Waters & Island States**

Anya is a country mobilizer from the global movement Youth for Our Planet, and the Partnerships Head of Project Blue Ilocos, a non-profit focused on coastal cleanup operations. Aside from being a full-time changemaker and public speaker, she is ARGO Manila's resident historian and environmental journalist. She is currently working on creating grassroots projects with the core team of Mission Isla, a new organization founded by Anya and her peers, centered on making environmental education accessible to everyone, decolonizing climate change solutions, and safeguarding island nations in the Asia Pacific. Anya believes that the world needs individual and systematic innovation in climate action, but these advancements need to be accessible to everyone, not just people in developed countries. To her, policy change is the key to concrete action.

### **Nkeiru Scotcher, Mentor for High Seas Track and Pre-Summit webinar speaker**

Nkeiru, who is a lawyer (England and Wales jurisdiction) by training is a post-doctoral fellow of ocean governance at the School of Business, Economics, and Law at the University of Gothenburg. Nkeiru is also affiliated with the Centre for International Law at Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium. Nkeiru's research broadly focuses on legal frameworks that govern spaces and resources in marine areas. She has been a legal team member of the Joint Task Force to investigate the use of submarine telecommunications cables for ocean and climate monitoring and disaster warning since its establishment in 2012 by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO/IOC, and the World Meteorological Organisation. Nkeiru is particularly interested in the governance and protection of living systems in marine areas particularly in the global south, the management of areas beyond the jurisdiction of states, and the use of submarine cables for ocean and climate monitoring.

### **Sudha Kottillil, Mentor for Ocean & Biodiversity Track**

Sudha is an ecologist and researcher from India and holds a Master's Degree in Environmental Studies and Resource Management following a Bachelor's Degree in Advanced Zoology and Biotechnology. She spent most of her childhood in a city along the eastern coast so oceans hold a special place in her heart. During her dissertation, she got to carry out research in the marine environment and work with one of the most fascinating vertebrates – sharks and rays! Since then, she has been working on elasmobranch conservation, involving traveling to fish landing centers and interacting with the fishing community. Apart from her work, Sudha is a member of GYBN, Youth 4 Oceans, and a chapter coordinator at GYBN India. She has had the opportunity to organize capacity-building workshops and webinars, aiming to spark discussions and ensure that youth voices are heard. The India chapter has created a youth position paper in the context





of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Sudha is passionate about cooking and enjoys trying out different cuisines, traveling, and playing the piano.

### **Shruthi Kottillil, Mentor for Ocean & Biodiversity Track**

Shruthi is an ecologist and researcher from India working on elasmobranch conservation. She is a member of the Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN), Youth 4 Oceans, and is also one of the chapter coordinators of GYBN India. Shruthi holds a Master's Degree in Environmental Studies and Resource Management and a Bachelor's Degree in Advanced Zoology and Biotechnology. Even though she has lived along the coast most of her life, she didn't initially start off in marine conservation! Rather, her final Master's study on elasmobranchs and fisheries operation first introduced her to this fascinating world. As a GYBN India and Youth 4 Oceans member, Shruthi has helped organize capacity-building workshops and webinars that aim to provide a platform for youth voices in biodiversity conservation. The outcome of one such campaign was the development of an Indian Youth Position paper tying into the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Apart from this, Shruthi enjoys painting, sketching, cooking, and traveling and tries to make time for it whenever possible.

### **Simone Dale, Mentor for Ocean & Climate Track**

Simone has 16 years of experience working in the non-profit sector in a range of roles, including project management, communications, training, learning and development, and operations. After spending the last three years supporting the strategic development of the Trust's WILDOCEANS program, she is now working as the Director for Organisational Resilience at the WILDTRUST, responsible for the rollout of the organization's strategy, including systems development, team capacity building (with a focus on mentoring, coaching, and youth leadership development), and developing environmental and social risk management systems in the Trust's community development interventions. Simone is also a part-time personal, leadership, and team coach, facilitator, and NPO strategic consultant. She holds a Bachelor of Social Science (Psychology) from the University of KZN, and a Master's in Philosophy - Management Coaching (cum laude) from the University of Stellenbosch Business School.

### **Kendyl Wright, Mentor for Ocean & Climate Track**

Kendyl has always been a passionate conservationist. She was born in a small holiday town south of Durban, South Africa, and grew up in the ocean surfing, sailing, and diving where she saw the changes to her local seas and was inspired to get involved. Kendyl has a Ph.D. in Marine Biology, specializing in tropical benthic ecology. She has a diverse working background including engaging government, non-government, academic, and the private sectors. She currently works for the WildOceans, a division of the Wildlands Conservation Trust, advocating for the expansion of South Africa's Marine Protected Areas to improve their





contribution to meet global conservation targets of protecting a minimum of 30% of the ocean by 2030.

**Anna Gelderd, Mentor for National Waters & Island States (bio coming up)**

