



EARTHECHO
INTERNATIONAL

2025

ANNUAL REPORT

Turning Youth Leadership
into Ocean Action



About EarthEcho

EarthEcho International's mission is to build a global youth movement to protect and restore our ocean planet. We envision a healthy future for people and planet, powered by a network of participants around the world using advocacy, hands-on science, community organizing, and education to create local impact and meaningful change.

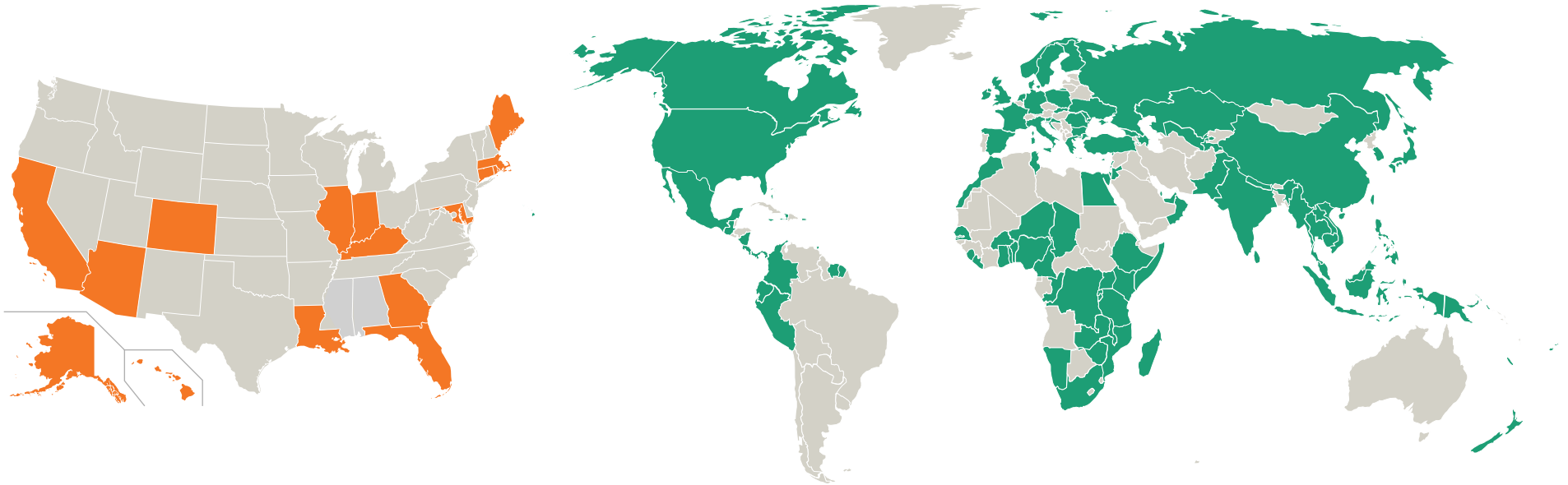


Our History

More than 20 years ago, EarthEcho International was founded in honor of Philippe Cousteau Sr. by his children Alexandra and Philippe. Through award-winning films, television programs, and books, Philippe Sr. and his father, the late Jacques-Yves Cousteau, opened the world's eyes to the wonders of life on what they called “our water planet,” helping people understand our deep connection to the natural world.

Today, Philippe Cousteau Jr. and EarthEcho continue to evolve that family legacy—inspiring and empowering youth around the world through dynamic new platforms that spark action and drive positive change.

Where Youth Are Taking Action



Value of Place-Based Work

Our initiatives engage youth, educators, and communities worldwide to translate global environmental priorities into concrete, community-level ocean and freshwater restoration and protection. Because those closest to a problem are also closest to its solution, locally led efforts leverage lived experience and deep local knowledge to design tailored approaches. Through hands-on coastal restoration, water quality monitoring, advocacy campaigns, and place-based STEM learning, young people investigate and restore the ecosystems surrounding them, fostering ownership, building lasting capacity, and driving generational change from within their own communities.

Big Picture Impact

Community Engagement

66,380

individuals engaged through EarthEcho's youth programs

3.9M

reach across all global programs



730

water quality testing events and challenges completed by EarthEcho participants

19

youth-led advocacy campaigns



24,681

total digital community members

132

Events and projects hosted by EarthEcho participants in restoration, water quality testing, professional development, and community building



Environmental Restoration

48,444

native species restored

950

invasive species removed



153,005 m²

area covered by restoration projects

5,926

youth participants testing water quality



5,300+ kg

litter collected

224%

increase in water testing kits distributed



Ambassadors

In 2025 EarthEcho International has hosted 169 ambassadors across varying initiatives, contributing to ocean literacy priorities.

Blue Carbon

This program gives young people the hands-on restoration experience, scientific grounding, and professional skills needed to lead efforts to improve the blue carbon ecosystems, like mangroves, kelp, seagrass, and salt marshes, in their local communities. Through mentorship, field-based learning, and project leadership, Ambassadors build a foundation for careers and lifelong engagement in coastal resilience.

Sponsored by: 

Marine Plastics

The Marine Plastics Ambassador program guides young leaders through the full arc of policy advocacy: from identifying systemic solutions to building campaigns, engaging decision-makers, and mobilizing community support. As a Marine Plastics Ambassador, youth develop practical skills in public communication, coalition-building, and legislative engagement that prepare them to drive meaningful, lasting change on reducing plastic waste.

Sponsored by: 



Water Challenge

Through peer collaboration and hands-on field experience, the Water Challenge Ambassador program develops the next generation of community scientists and water stewards, equipping young leaders with the skills to monitor local water quality, interpret data, and translate findings into direct action. Ambassadors build the scientific literacy and community leadership skills needed to protect freshwater and coastal ecosystems over the long term.

Sponsored by: 

Ocean Protection

Operating across both the United States and EU, these youth cohorts design and execute marine protected area advocacy campaigns suited to their regional policy landscapes. They develop the communication, organizing, and civic leadership skills needed to influence ocean governance and drive durable protections for marine ecosystems.

Sponsored by: 

High Seas Youth

The high seas cover nearly half the planet and EarthEcho is preparing young leaders to have a part in protecting them. The High Seas Youth Ambassador program equips these youth with the advocacy, communications, and policy engagement skills to build public and political support for international ocean protections. Through campaign design and real-world implementation, Ambassadors develop the confidence and competencies to operate effectively across local, national, and global stages.

In partnership with: 

Initiatives

Community Science at a Global Scale

The EarthEcho Water Challenge is one of the world's largest community science programs, equipping 1.87 million young people and community members in 150 countries to monitor, understand, and protect their local waterways. Participants test local water quality, contribute findings to a global open-source database at monitorwater.org, and use that data to design and lead projects that protect their waterways.

In 2025, the program engaged over 7,000 individuals in active water improvement actions, and distributed 340 water quality testing kits—a 224% increase over the prior year. This program is designed to empower the next generation to become the water scientists, stewards, and advocates who will protect our planet.



Youth-Led Blue Carbon Restoration

Young people from historically excluded coastal communities are nurturing the vital role of blue carbon ecosystems—mangroves, kelp, seagrass, and salt marshes—in climate resilience and ocean health through the Blue Carbon Ambassador program. Supported by 21 mentors and alumni, fourteen young people designed and led community-driven restoration projects.

The 2025 Blue Carbon Ambassadors worked across New York City, Puerto Rico, New Orleans, and Vancouver with \$8,617 in distributed project funding. Over the 2025 year, the Ambassadors and participants planted 1,735 mangroves, developed mangrove and sea lettuce nurseries, cultivated 78.6 meters of kelp and seaweed lines, and removed 603.7 kgs of litter from coastal environments.

These outcomes represent not only the direct environmental impact but also the establishment of restoration infrastructure like nurseries and cultivation lines that can continue to generate impact well beyond the program year.

With support from the La Mer Blue Heart Oceans Fund, since 2020 EarthEcho International has mobilized **over 35,000 youth and community members to take part in protecting 30% of the world's ocean by 2030.**

Impact



950

invasive species removed



153,005 m²

habitat restored



48,444

native species planted
in coastal and aquatic
environments



5,300+ kg

of litter/rubbish diverted
from waterways



The ocean is our planet's foundational system and our focus is driving global impact through community-based, locally driven, and youth-centered action. Marine ecosystems are fundamental to the large role the ocean play in regulating the climate system; the ocean contain many times more carbon than the atmosphere and terrestrial ecosystems combined, making them critical in regulating the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere. Coastal ecosystems like mangroves and salt marshes also protect shorelines from storms and erosion, contributing to ecosystem resilience and safeguarding coastal communities. These systems are under mounting stress and the time for our future generations to engage is now.

Impact



19

proposed policy activations



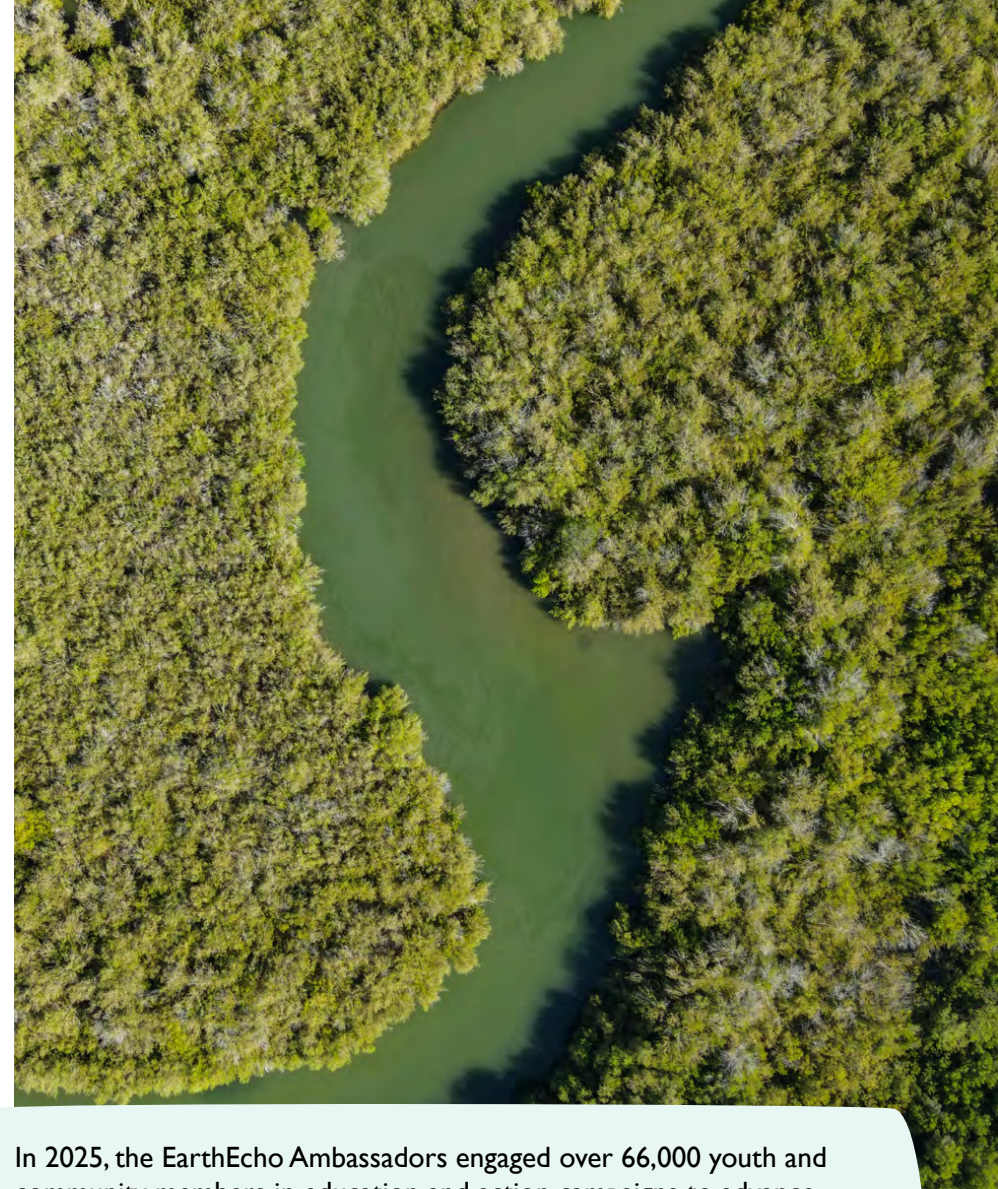
41

marine plastics-focused
events to inspire behavior
change



75

meetings with legislative
offices locally or on
Capitol Hill



In 2025, the EarthEcho Ambassadors engaged over 66,000 youth and community members in education and action campaigns to advance ocean protection policy. Youth Ambassadors engage in science-based advocacy, civic engagement, storytelling, and community-led conservation efforts. They collaborate with scientists, educators, policymakers, and environmental organizations to address urgent challenges such as climate resilience, plastic pollution, and watershed protection. Lasting change requires reshaping the policy landscape and EarthEcho is dedicated to building a generation of young people capable of advancing ocean protection.

How to Get Involved

Together, we have built a global community of young leaders, educators, scientists, advocates, and supporters working to protect and restore our ocean planet. EarthEcho International seeks to inspire, connect, and offer hope for what young people can accomplish together. We invite you to get involved to support and sustain this work in a time when both people and planet need it most.

Donate:



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