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DE ECOSISTEMAS
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SURF NA COP30 AMAZÔNIA

BELEM 2025



Surfers' Manifest for the Climate and the Future of the Ocean

Surf Global, Act Local

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Outer Banks Archipelago, North Carolina Coast, United States

OUR VOICE, OUR WAVES, OUR FUTURE

In 2012, during the Rio+20 Conference, the Brazilian surf community took a historic step by launching the **Surfers' Charter of Responsibilities — Surf 21**, an initiative of the Ecosurf Institute, articulated through the Brazilian Forum on Surf and Sustainability (FBSS).

Born from a broad national dialogue, the **Charter established 21 commitments across four key pillars: Surf Culture and Consumption, Surf and Environmental Education, Surfers' Leadership, and Surf and Coastal Management.**

More than a decade later, faced with the climate emergency that sets the stage for COP30 in Belém (Brazil), the Brazilian surf community revives the spirit of Surf 21 **to once again raise its collective voice.** If once the focus was on individual and collective action, **now the movement demands political responsibility and immediate, effective action** within the local and global climate agenda.

Between 2024 and 2025, the Ecosurf Institute conducted Ecosurf X-Ray, an unprecedented national survey exploring the perceptions and attitudes of surfers and ocean athletes in

relation to climate change, plastic pollution, and the degradation of Brazil's coastal zones. More than a data collection effort, Ecosurf X-Ray became an exercise in perceptive analysis and critical observation, turning the lived experiences of those in the sea into tangible evidence of the environmental crisis affecting surf ecosystems.

With over 500 valid responses from 19 states and 90 municipalities, the survey presents an unprecedented portrait of Brazilian surf culture and **reveals its socio-environmental mobilization potential.** The research integrates the independent campaign **#SurfNaCOP30**, in partnership with Alternativa Terrazul, the Brazilian Association of Surf on the Pororoca (ABRASPO), and the Pará Surf Federation (FEPASURF). Its results laid the foundation for this Manifesto, which expresses the collective sentiment and demands of Brazil's surf community and reaffirms the necessary role of surf as a culture, sport, and platform for engagement and awareness toward Ocean protection and global climate justice.



SURF 21
SURFERS'
CHARTER OF
RESPONSIBILITIES

Platform #SurfAtCOP30

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MANIFEST OF SURFERS FOR CLIMATE AND THE FUTURE OF THE OCEAN

Riding the Wave of Protection: An Urgent Call from the Surf Community to COP30

Inspired by the Earth Charter, the Surfers' Charter of Responsibilities — Surf 21, the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030), and the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, and aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We, the global surf community, citizens, athletes, artists, professionals, entrepreneurs, community leaders, and ocean lovers of all ages and latitudes, are united by the waves of the world. **The Sea is our Home.** The Ocean is the heart and lungs of the planet. Today, we raise our voices not only for ourselves, but for the very life force of Earth.

We are also sensors of the current environmental crisis. We feel global warming literally on our skin and witness it daily through coastal erosion, marine plastic pollution, ocean acidification, rising sea levels, intensifying storms, and the silent agony of marine ecosystems.

The Ocean, which many call the sea, but we call home, is a strategic climate ally. Yet it is entering a deep state of imbalance, and its collapse echoes in every breaking wave. This is not a distant threat; **it is a present and preventable crisis.**

World leaders discuss the crisis in rooms: we already feel it in the water.

FROM WARNING TO AGONY: THE MISTAKE OF THE PAST

For decades, we have warned and been warned. Science, coastal peoples, the surf community, and nature itself have all signaled the dangers of an exploitative, indifferent model of development. Surfing emerged as a symbol of freedom, but it was captured by an unsustainable consumer model that, ironically, destroys the very environment that sustains its culture. **The seas now struggle under the weight of systemic plastic pollution, intensifying global warming, and the collapse of marine biodiversity.**

POLITICAL COMING OF AGE: SURF AS A MOVEMENT OF RESISTANCE

In 2025, at COP30, the surf community **declares its political coming of age.** We are no longer just a sport for many, but an ancestral culture reaffirming itself as a **global community movement**, social, environmental,

and cultural. We are a relevant part of society, the voice of ocean peoples, and critical observers demanding immediate action in the face of the climate emergency.

The **#SurfNaCOP30** movement is proof of this awakening. Hundreds of surfers and ocean citizens have expressed through active dialogues a shared feeling of responsibility, resilience, and vision for the future — revealing a clear perception: **planetary regeneration depends on us and through us.**

OUR CLIMATE ULTIMATUM: DEMANDS FOR COP30

If the present is a turning point, the future will reflect the choices we make now. **The Surfers' Manifest for Climate and the Ocean** is born as an **intergenerational pact**, a call for shared responsibility and reconciliation with the blue planet that sustains us.

Guided by the principles of the Earth Charter, the Surfers' Charter of Responsibilities (Surf 21), the Ocean Science Decade, and the Ecosystem Restoration Decade, and aligned with Agenda 2030, we declare the following demands:

PILLAR 1 – PROTECTION, RESTORATION, AND FINANCING

We DEMAND from governments and the private sector:

1. 100% Protection and Restoration of Key Ecosystems: Mangroves, coral reefs, coastal dunes, and seagrass meadows must be prioritized as essential natural infrastructure for carbon sequestration, coastal defense, and ecosystem stability.

2. Full Implementation of the Global 30x30 Framework: Immediate and complete fulfillment of the commitment to protect at least 30% of oceans and coasts by 2030 — and expand to 100% by 2050 — including Surf Ecosystems and Protected Surf Spots as part of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).

3. Biodiversity Reinforcement: Strict enforcement of laws against illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, ensuring the protection of apex predators and migratory species vital to ocean health.

4. Nature-Based Coastal Management: Adoption of coastal management plans guided by the best available science, prioritizing Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) and Ocean-Based Solutions (ObS) to combat erosion, sea-level rise, and urban adaptation.

PILLAR 2 – ACCELERATED ENERGY TRANSITION

The burning of fossil fuels is the main cause of the climate crisis that warms and acidifies the ocean.

We therefore DEMAND:

- 1. Immediate and Unconditional end to Fossil Fuel Subsidies:** Redirect all such funds toward a just energy transition, ocean research, and technologies for regeneration, mitigation, and adaptation.
- 2. End of Offshore Fossil Fuel Exploration:** Immediate and global ban on oil and gas prospecting, drilling, and extraction in marine and coastal environments.
- 3. Strengthening Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs):** World leaders must significantly raise and align their NDCs with ambitious, science-based targets.

PILLAR 3 – CLIMATE JUSTICE, ANCESTRAL KNOWLEDGE, AND OCEAN PEOPLES

We **VALUE** ancestral knowledge as a compass for planetary regeneration.

- 1. Recognition of Leadership:** Guarantee territorial sovereignty and the non-negotiable respect for the human rights and traditional knowledge of Indigenous peoples, artisanal fishers, and coastal communities — essential actors in conservation and climate adaptation.
- 2. Integration of Blue Justice:** Incorporate the concept of Blue Justice into all environmental policies, acknowledging the disproportionate impacts of the climate crisis and environmental racism on ocean peoples and climate refugees, ensuring fair reparations and adaptation.
- 3. Full Participation:** Ensure active, plural, equitable, free, prior, and informed participation of ocean peoples in all decisions regarding climate, ocean, forest, and biodiversity.

OUR COMMITMENT: THE REGENERATIVE POWER OF THE SURF COMMUNITY

We, surfers and ocean lovers, are not merely witnesses to the environmental crisis, **we are agents of transformation, and we commit to:**

- Educate and Mobilize:** Inspire our global community to foster ocean literacy and mobilize millions toward ocean and climate action.
- Innovation and Circularity:** Promote circular economy principles within the surf industry, demanding supply chain transparency and investing in low-carbon materials.
- Monitoring and Citizen Science:** Support and expand citizen science networks, turning surfers into active coastal monitors (water quality, waste, erosion), generating open data to inform public policy and enhance global awareness of nature's limits.

THE TIDE IS TURNING: POLITICAL COURAGE NOW!

Surfing is the art of gliding in harmony with nature, but that glide is being disrupted by the environmental crisis. **Our silence can no longer be mistaken for complicity.** We will not allow the Ocean, our home, to remain in agony. **Commit and act!**

We demand that world leaders demonstrate the same political, ethical, and planetary courage that surfers show when facing giant waves: boldness to take risks for transformation, and responsibility to protect life. The window of opportunity is closing. At COP30, may the world hear the Ocean's voice: the tide must turn.

MAY THE WAVE OF HOPE NEVER CLOSE

May the demands we present at COP30 echo as a new wave of hope, and may surfing continue to be this bridge between culture, nature, and the future. In the rhythm of the sea, within the ebb and flow of the tides, may humanity rediscover its balance.

Signed: Brazilian Surf Community for Climate



ABOUT ECOSURF

The Ecosurf Institute is a Brazilian organization with over 25 years of work dedicated to the defense of the Ocean, the protection of Surf Ecosystems, the promotion of Ocean Literacy, and Sustainable Surfing. Since its founding,

Ecosurf has led initiatives in environmental regeneration, community engagement, ocean education, and advocacy. It is recognized nationally and internationally for transforming surfers' love for the sea into concrete action and activism, building sustainable coastal societies throughout Brazil.

Protecting the Ocean is in Our Nature.

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