



# SAVE THE WAVES

COALITION

Mara Arroyo  
Surf Protected Area Network Manager  
Save The Waves Coalition  
[www.savethewaves.org](http://www.savethewaves.org)

Save The Waves is an international nonprofit based in California, USA and we work with local communities around the world. Our vision is a world where surf ecosystems are valued and where the practice of surfing provides a proactive vehicle for long-term coastal conservation, and we must initiate both mitigation and adaptation to ensure resilience in our coastlines to meet the challenge.

Climate change is having an increasing impact on our daily lives, we're seeing a rapid escalation in fires, drought, sea level rise, and floods. The changing climate also greatly affects oceans and coastlines. The places we love are poised to be drastically altered in real time with events like permanent high tide, coral reef destruction, erosion and flooding.

Our program's strategy is in line with the global trajectory for increasing the protection and effective management of our oceans, focusing on places around the world where iconic waves overlap with biodiversity hotspots and habitats that are critically important for marine conservation. Protecting biodiversity and ecosystem services requires a holistic approach that empowers local communities to steward ecosystems while benefiting from natural resources and creating strategies to mitigate the effects of ocean acidification, deoxygenation, and ocean warming on their livelihoods. We believe that surfers are a critical constituency for conservation.

As a result of the efforts of our coalition, we are creating networks of protected areas and national policies to better conserve surf breaks and surrounding ecosystems in countries such as Indonesia, Costa Rica, Peru, Portugal, and many others and we are integrating sea level rise adaptation and coastal resiliency into our work. Ultimately, the goal is to protect 1000 surf ecosystems by 2030 in alignment with the 30x30 goals which will protect critical coastal habitats and species, promote blue economy benefits, and prepare and mitigate for the impacts of climate change.