

Ocean-Celebrations

Special points of interest:

- ★ **World Oceans Day 2011 and its history**
- ★ **Youth: The Next Wave For Change**
- ★ **The WOD-Secretariat, Eco-Ethics - Kenya & Stakeholders**

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The **World Oceans Day (WOD)** is celebrated every year on the 8th of June and brings together stakeholders with the general public to learn about the Indian Ocean and its marine ecosystem as a crucial part of our environment. It sensitizes the public on the rights and obligations in accessing and protecting the ocean's resources, teaches school children and youth about environment and the respective government policies and gives artisanal fishermen the opportunity to coalesce and reflect on their resource base. WOD creates awareness and mobilizes the public, in order to promote sustainable management of our Oceans.

The WOD-Secretariat in Kenya together with several active members of the local society was responsible for organizing and coordinating the event to make it a success.

The day started with a colorful procession by numerous youth groups, students, beneficiaries of the ocean and the public in general along Msa-Malindi highway to the actual destination Jomo Kenyatta Public Beach. Led by the Shimo la Tewa Prison Band from Shanzu the march attracted crowds to join in the celebration of the Ocean.

At arrival, the organizing committee ushered participants and guests to the seashore, where a wide spread clean-up took place. Before everyone was seated, stakeholders of the ocean were given the chance of exhibiting their efforts towards environmental conservation.

The ceremony started with an entertainment session by Eco-Club members and environmentally conscious youths performing skits, poems & songs to express their creativity and attentiveness.

This was followed by a public address by invited guest speakers including Mr. Kiogora (Fisheries Department), Dr. Benard Okeyo, and representatives of civil society & private sector. It was Betty Nzioka, the Deputy Director of Communication and Environmental Education at NEMA who highlighted the day by emphasizing the importance of public responsibility in preserving the environment and giving direction for it's sustainable management in the future.

Finally students and schools expressed their appreciation for the environment through diverse categories of competition the best of which were awarded with trophies and certificates.

The World Oceans Day 2011 was a success not only because of the over 1500 guests and partakers, but even more because of the efforts in

Pre-WOD Activities

Stakeholders' sensitization workshop

On the 6th June, 75 people gathered for a half-day workshop at P.C.E.A Wogect Tudor, Mombasa. Besides government institutions like the Fisheries Department & Kenya Wildlife Service, the civil society was also represented by NGOs, CBOs and various local youth groups. The workshop provided a forum for the stakeholders to deliberate essential issues concerning the management of marine resources. Therefore qualified personnel were sourced to lead the discussions.



Moderated by EE-K Programs Officer I Kitasi Wanga, the concept of World Oceans Day and this year's theme: "Youth: the next wave for change" was presented by Dr. Okeyo Bernards, Executive Director of Eco-Ethics Kenya. Mr. Clay Obota, Eco-Ethics Programs Officer II, draw attention to those in attendance on sustainable fisheries management, while Mr. Michael Magak, as a representative of the civil society, guided the same through "right-based approach to management of fisheries resources".

To conclude the day participants were informed about the program for World Oceans Day 2011 and a report of recent build-up activities was given by Manuel Huonker of the WOD-Secretariat.

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Eco-Club activities

The World Oceans Day in Kenya builds on networks already created by the Eco-Clubs program at Eco-Ethics. Build-up activities, such as a **Community Clean-up**, kicked off on 7th May, 2011. The exercise was officially carried out in Mombasa Island, as well as Magongo and Kilifi area. Besides collection of solid wastes within the selected areas, the clean up was followed by lectures of experienced environmentalists on the ocean, its uses & how to conserve it.

Another essential activity in that line was organized to involve pupils in understanding the ocean in broad. **Inter-school-debates** were held at Star of the Sea for Primary and Allidina Visram for Secondary students on the motions "Oceans are not important to us" & "The oceans only affect and only get affected by the people living next to it". The debates were closely fought and the debaters came up with points that really impressed the judges. In addition to the debates, the students also recited poems and performed songs and shairi to the judges. At the end of the debate judges tallied the results and identified the

winners, all of which were awarded during World Oceans Day celebrations on June 8th.

Furthermore the annual **Art and Essay Competition** with this year's theme was attracting many schools to submit their creations. Winning students, who were divided into primary and secondary category, were also awarded trophies and certificates for outstanding performances.

Star of the Sea, Sacred Heart and M.M. Shah topped the list in the Primary Schools category, while in the Secondary Schools Category, Allidina Visram, Changamwe Secondary won prizes.



The organizing team

This year, the World Oceans Day celebrations brought together approximately 15 stake holding institutions from government departments and the civil society, especially CBOs & youth groups, to form the organizing team.

To ease coordination this team was divided into smaller sub-committees, named fundraising committee, outreach committee and publicity committee, while the secretariat was supervising their work, taking care of communication and reporting to the general stakeholders committee heading the preparation process.

Fundraising committee

The foundation for each activity undertaken for this year's WOD is built by this committee. But it is not only raising funds in form of cash. Essential efforts contributing to a thriving WOD are in-kind donations. Thus, the committee was to reach out to all stakeholders having an interest in the ocean. In general this committee was

supposed to mobilize the vital support from various sources to make World Oceans Day achievable in the first place.

Outreach committee

Its main duty was to plan and manage all activities on June 8th.

Due to the variety of activities, even before the 8th of June, starting with clean-ups, followed by inter-school debates and a vital Stakeholders' Sensitization Workshop this committee was probably the most engaged.

Publicity committee

To create awareness among the people & mobilizing them for WOD celebrations and activities, these are the two main objectives of this committee. That means educating through radio-interviews or raising consciousness about marine life via press releases, in order to initiate a sustainable positive change of human behavior towards their

Youth: Next Wave For Change

World Oceans Day is a great opportunity to celebrate the ocean, but what about the other 364 days of the year? It was this question that inspired the Ocean project to conduct a market research and the results showed clearly that youths are the most promising members of the public to reach out to if you want to effect lasting change. Starting this year the Ocean Project is launching a two-year theme for WOD 2011 and WOD 2012. The aim is to challenge participants to view ocean protection as a way of life, with a special emphasis around World Oceans Day each year.



Youths are the most knowledgeable and motivated segment of the population when it comes to the environment and its protection. The youth

What is World Oceans

The idea of setting 8 June as World Oceans Day, or WOD, was first proposed in 1992 during the United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. However, the UN did not officially recognize it until late in 2008 under resolution 63/111, paragraph 171, of the UN General Assembly.

Today, over 30 countries in the world celebrate World Oceans Day. In Kenya, Eco-Ethics – Kenya has been the focal point for WOD activities since 2006 and also contributed to the successfully petitioning of the UN to accept WOD in its charter.

In 2009 the government of Kenya officially acknowledged WOD and since

other stakeholders to mark this important event. EE-K was once more happy to host WOD-Secretariat during this year's preparations.



WOD provides an opportunity for a range of stakeholders to learn about emerging issues and information concerning oceans, such as developments in and around the Indian Ocean in the

For instance, artisanal fishers are able to meet and discuss changes in the resource base, reflect on their responsibilities to conserve the marine fisheries and exchange information. Schoolchildren are given the opportunity for learning about their environment and about government policies and plans to sustain the marine ecosystem. And civil society organizations get the chance to sensitize the public on their rights and obligations in accessing and protecting the ocean's resources and to mobilize them for collaborative action.



Swedish Society for Nature Conservation

Eco-Ethics – Kenya (EE-Kenya) is a non-governmental organization founded under Eco-Ethics International Union (EEIU), a Germany-based organization with its head offices in Oldendorf/Luhe, Germany.

Eco-Ethics aims at having a world of human communities that value and are adequately informed about their actions to the natural environment.

Our mission

EEI-Kenya has a mission to investigate, demonstrate, promote and enhance harmonious relationships between human communities with their natural or

environmental resources building on the principle of sustainability.

Our vision

To have a world of human communities that value and are adequately informed about their actions to the natural environment.

Core values

- Integrity
- Honesty
- Creativity and resourcefulness
- Extraordinary delivery service
- A lasting legacy

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Our programmes

- I. Community mass education
- II. Sustainable marine artisanal fisheries management
- III. Environmental education and outreach
- IV. Alternative livelihoods
- V. Chemicals and toxic waste management

For more details, visit www.eco-ethics-kenya.org

Our supporters

World Oceans Day Kenya 2011 was sponsored by:

- Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) – Sponsor
- Ketty Tours and Safaris - transport for students to and from the venue
- Kenya Maritime Authority – sodas worth 70,000
- Supa loaf – 200 loaves of bread
- Fina Bank – 50 cartons of juice
- CUSHA – 6000 for t-shirts
- Kenya Wildlife Service – fuel worth five thousand
- Sarova White Sands – 10 cartons of water
- Amazon Community – 200 bottles of juice.
- Coast Women in Development – 4 cartons of water
- Keen Kleeners Ltd. – trash bags for clean-ups
- KMRFI – decoration of the venue
- Baraka FM – Publicity
- Ministry of Fisheries Development - planning

On behalf of Eco-Ethics - Kenya & the WOD-Secretariat, THANK YOU!

