

World Oceans Day 2014 Newsletter

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ECO ETHICS
KENYA

Pride in harmonizing the
relationship between
man and nature

Together we have the power to protect the oceans

The Purpose of World Oceans Day

Facts in Perspective

Oceans sustain life on earth. Occupying more than 71% of the earth's surface, it contains 99% of the planet's living space, and supports the life of nearly 50% of all species on Earth. Additionally, more than 60% of the world's population lives on or within 50 miles of the coast and the number one source of protein and staple food for more than 1 billion people is fish. But more importantly, the oceans provide between 50% to 70% of the earth's available oxygen; an invaluable resource for human existence.

Oceans power economies and provide countless jobs. Ocean-related industries generate revenue through fishing, seafood distribution, tourism, recreation and transportation of goods.

However, the ocean's resources and its resilience are finite. For example, as a result of pollutants entering the water, polluted water transfers water-borne diseases and toxic chemicals. As a result, these water-borne diseases kill more than 3.5 million people world wide annually. It is therefore not an act of charity, but our duty as beneficiaries of the ocean to conserve and protect it, as protecting the ocean protects our health, our economy and our welfare.

Objectives of World Oceans Day

The WOD provides a platform that acknowledges, celebrates and educates the general public about the multitude of benefits that are accrued from the ocean. As such, the annual event has four important objectives:

To Change Attitudes – To encourage individuals to think about what the oceans mean to each of us, and what oceans have offered.

To Learn – To educate individuals on ocean ecosystems and biodiversity by discovering aquatic habitats that host the diverse and beautiful creatures that inhabit the oceans. And in particular, how our actions, such as land based pollution, is affecting them.

To Change Behaviors – Encourage each individual to become an active caretaker of our oceans and to conserve them for our future.

To Celebrate – Organize and/or participate in ocean events, whether one lives inland or on the coast.

Since its inception, WOD has been remarkably successful at home in:

- ❖ Providing an opportunity to discuss the role of our ocean
- ❖ Propelling the coastal public to undertake different actions meant to better the coastal and marine environment
- ❖ Bringing together various stakeholders and custodians of the oceans including fisher-folk, opinion leaders and community leaders



History of World Oceans Day

The idea of World Oceans Day (WOD) was first proposed during the United Nations (UN) Earth Summit of 1992 held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. However, WOD was only officially recognized by the UN in late 2008 after a proposition was passed during the General Assembly. Now in its 6th year, WOD is currently celebrated annually across the world on June 8th.

Each and every year, an increasing number of countries and organizations are celebrating WOD, and to date, June 8th is celebrated in 5 continents and in over sixty countries. Embracing this day not only as a time for festivities, but also as an important opportunity to appreciate the great resources that the ocean yields. This is done through raising awareness regarding the crucial role that the ocean plays in our lives and livelihoods.

Since 2006, Eco Ethics – Kenya has been at the epicenter of the Kenyan WOD activities. This organization has contributed substantially in terms of time and labor to the successful petitioning of the UN to accept WOD in its

program and charter. Their hard work has led to the official recognition of WOD by the government of Kenya in 2009.

Subsequently, Eco Ethics has partnered with various environmentally oriented government departments, Ministries, institutions, civil society organizations, educational institutions and the private sector in order to bring to fruition this critical event. The collaborative effort engages the participants in activities such as essay writing, art competitions, parades, debates and the dissemination of information pertaining to the ocean.

World Oceans Day Run Up Activities

A lot goes in World Oceans Days' preparations, starting off with the forming of the Secretariat that is tasked with the organizing of World Oceans Day as well as fundraising for the event.

Eco ethics Kenya took charge in coordinating the planning and the executing of WOD, which was only made possible by the partners and stakeholders who support the annual event.

Eco Clubs Inter-schools competition

Eco clubs is an initiative by Eco Ethics Kenya for students in primary, secondary and tertiary level developed to promote environmental management among young people. To further influence environmental stewardship in these students, an inter-schools competition was held involving Eco Clubs of primary and secondary schools. The competitions took place on 24th may 2014 at a county level in Mombasa, Kilifi and Kwale counties. It involved the following four activities; poem and song recitations, art works, debates and essay writing.

The plan for the day saw the essay writing and artwork run concurrently, each accorded one hour and two hours respectively for the morning session. The participants wrote essays with the given title: 'People and The Ocean'. Meanwhile, their artwork counterparts had 'The Ocean' as their allocated title. The afternoon session for both categories comprised of recitation of the poems and debates under the motion 'human species is destroying rather than protecting the ocean'. The debates were assessed based on specific areas of focus and on subject matter. Therefore, several categories of awards were allocated, among them, the best speaker, the best challenger, and the best house speaker.

After successful assessment of the participant's debates, poetry, and subsequent marking of the pieces of artwork and essays the victors bagged their awards during the WOD celebrations.

The outcome showcased the abilities of young minds interpreting their knowledge of the ocean in social and economical factors that affect them in their activities at the ocean.

World Ocean's Day Activities

This year, the World Ocean's Day event was held at Mama Ngina Grounds with the overarching theme of "together we have the power to protect the oceans", under which all WOD activities and events were orchestrated. The event attracted a wide array of guests and participants from various sectors and industries that are directly or indirectly linked to the oceans.

Procession

A procession that began at Makadara grounds marked the kick off of World Oceans Day. Students, including those that travelled from neighboring counties of Kilifi and Kwale as well as those from Mombasa and other participants, including the local police department and the armed forces, marched across town towards Mama Ngina Drive, chanting and dancing to the rhythm and beat of Mvita band. Notable guests such as Madam Betty Nzioka – Deputy Director NEMA – also marched alongside the school children.

Clean-Up Activity



Following the arrival at Mama Ngina grounds, guests, students and participants armed with plastic gloves, facemasks and

garbage bags were prepared to get busy collecting the garbage that littered the grounds. The end result saw the grounds in a noticeably improved condition and yielded numerous bags of litter.



Exhibitions

One of the tents at the event was used as a space for exhibitions. The participating organizations included the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) who provided pamphlets, leaflets, reports and atlases. Eco Ethics Kenya (NGO) displayed informative booklets and leaflets as well as winning artworks from the inter-schools competition that occurred earlier in the month. The exhibitions reinforce the theme of this year's event by reflecting collaborative efforts, as well as one of the primary objectives of WOD, the objective of educating ourselves and the general public by learning about the effects of climate change, pollution and human activities on the oceans.

Performances and Speeches

Following the clean up activities winners from the inter-schools competition performed skits and recited poetry, which garnered laughter and applause from the

Followed by impressive dances and performance accompanied by the renowned KPA taarab band with accompanying lyrics of 'together we have the power to protect our ocean'. Next came speeches from the representatives of multiple organizations, including Eco Ethics director Dr. Okeyo who emphasized the collective responsibility and efforts needed in order to successfully protect and conserve the ocean. The guest of honor, Madam Nzioki, spoke of sustainable development and preserving the ocean and its plentiful resources in order for the benefits to be passed on to the next generation.



Awards

Victors of the inter schools competition were recognized publically for their excellence. They bagged various awards for outstanding artwork, essay writing, debate, songs and poetry that will fuel their motivations and further their spirit of environmentalism. Additionally, several schools and respective Eco Club Patrons were awarded awards and recognized. Certificates were also awarded to various schools and students for their participation.

APPRECIATION



Khosla Farm Kikambala
Sharriff Nassir Foundation



Fort Jesus Museums

The National Police Services

Travellers Mombasa

Nulookings Decorations

Eco Club Schools

The WOD 2014 Secretariat



Eco Ethics Kenya's Fraternity takes this opportunity to thank all our sponsors who supported us in organizing this year's World Oceans Day. The Event was successful with [x] participants despite the day falling on a Sunday. This would not have been possible without the generous support received by all stakeholders.

This year's theme was "together we have the power to protect the oceans", and we can safely say that everyone involved worked together to see through a fantastic event.

We look forward to working with you all again for future events.

Together we have the power to protect the oceans

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Organizational Brief

Eco-Ethics Kenya is an environmental and community development organization. Since our establishment in 2001, we have worked towards sustainable management of coastal and marine resources, with an intention of not only sustaining the integrity of ecosystems but also bettering livelihoods of our communities dependent on these resources. We are based in Mombasa but have projects nationally and regionally.

Since our inception, we have worked and continue to work in several diverse fields like: Ecosystems products (fisheries, forests, and wildlife), environmental education, livelihoods, empowerment (political and constitutional assertiveness, equity, equality, economic independence) among other cross-cutting issues.

We work with local communities, fish workers and beach management units, schools and school children through eco clubs, youth groups, volunteers, women groups, local administration, and other Public Benefit Organizations.

For more information about us, our projects and how to get involved, visit our website.

We take pride in harmonizing the relationship between man and nature