



Press Statement

World Ocean Day 2009 - One Climate, One Ocean, One Future

The UN has recently declared June the 8th as official World Ocean Day and Eco Ethics – Kenya, a local NGO based in Mombasa will be celebrating their third annual World Ocean Day. The festivities, which have been organized by the World Ocean Day –Kenya committee, coordinated by Eco-Ethics – Kenya, will begin on June the 8th and run through June the 13th. Eco-Ethics and the entire WOD-Kenya committee would like to cordially, invite all who wish to attend. The festivities will consist of ocean related activities; ranging from performances by community members to lectures by some of Kenya's leading marine biologists.

The ocean is the focal point of the global eco-system and responsible for many integral parts of our lives and the lives of creatures around us. Roughly one-third of the world's population lives next to the ocean, it provides a home to millions of species, food to countless humans, and work for millions of people across industries including fishing, tourism, biotechnology, hydrocarbon exploration, and transportation to name just a few. The oceans go beyond their environmental duties by absorbing excess nitrogen in the atmosphere in order to slow global warming. The oceans also hold the key to numerous potential alternative energy sources, for example hydropower or offshore wind energy. Yet, mankind is in the process of destroying the majestic oceans that cover 71% of the earth's surface.

The Indian Ocean is an invaluable member of the Kenyan businesses world. The coastal and hinterland communities depend on the ocean for tourism, fishing, and shipping; industries that creates jobs and provides a source of income for an infinite amount of Kenyans. It is imperative that the Kenyan population mobilizes to protect one of our most valuable resources, the Indian Ocean. World Ocean Day on June 8th is a great place to start.

Eco-Ethics will prepare education forums regarding some of the challenges the ocean faces today. These include but are not limited to pollution from untreated factories and municipal wastes, destructive fishing, destruction of mangrove forests and shipwrecks. Moreover, the forums will also educate on the solutions and responsibilities of all stakeholders. June 13th (at the Fort Jesus open grounds) will be the climax of events where various awareness games and clean-ups shall be organized. Once more, we cordially invite anyone with an interest in protecting our ocean and our environment to World Ocean Day on June 8th 2009 at _____. The theme will be One Climate, Once Ocean, One Future.

Please e-mail Stella Kulecho at worldoceanday2009@yahoo.com with your comments, suggestions, or questions.

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