



ECO ETHICS

KENYA

Pride in harmonizing the relationship between man and nature

WORLD OCEANS DAY 2013 NEWS

Together we have the power to protect the oceans...

The organizer's perspective...

World Oceans Day is celebrated globally after its ratification by the UN on 22nd December 2007. Before that, the day

was marked at selected sites by interested parties in various parts of the world. In Kenya the day was first celebrated in 2006 at Kwetu Beach in Likoni under the auspices of Eco Ethics - Kenya. The Kwetu Beach event was not only the first of its kind in Kenya but also provided an opportunity to collect over a thousand signatures to assist profile the country's petition to the UN in order to declare the day as a special occasion to be celebrated annually. This wish was finally granted in 2008. Since then, the day has assumed a greater attention.

The Kenyan way of making the World Oceans Day has since metamorphosed

into a highly organized and classical event. It is no longer a one day event of 8th June every year – but an array of crucial activities undertaken over a period of 6 months. These activities are decided upon, planned and undertaken by a joint committee of stakeholders bringing together several non-state actors, private businesses and government agencies. Indeed, it is one of the events in the coastal Kenya, that is jointly organized by the highest number of stakeholders – this year alone saw over 20 diverse interests groups constitute the organizing committee – not to mention the over 50 other organizations roped in through donations, various kinds of support and exhibitions.

Despite this galore of opportunities provided by the marking of the World's Ocean Day, there remains teething challenges in its organization. To-date, there is no single major sponsor of the event and the organizing committee have to make do with the minimal logistical support extended by Eco Ethics – Kenya. Again, there has never been an organized way of capturing the enthusiasm, energy and creativity of the

Participants especially the schools into a more rewarding and compelling outcome. Even more disturbing, is the fact that the event 'dies' after every 8th June and 'resurrects' around February every year to a more or less new start.

However, it is important to recognize the efforts and commitment of the organizing committee members, the sponsors, the public who throngs the celebrations year in and year out and not least, the support of the government agencies that have remained cardinal partners in the organization of this vital event.

Finally, thank you all the Eco Ethics – Kenya team members who worked tirelessly over the 6 months to put out different outputs for the 2013 event. Thank you also, the 2013 organizing committee and the Chairman, Mr. Charles Muthama (KMFRI) for good stewardship and commitment.

Okeyo Benards,

Director,

Eco Ethics – Kenya.

History of the World Oceans Day

The idea for World Oceans Day (WOD) was first proposed 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil during the United Nations Earth Summit. However, not until late 2008 did the United Nations officially recognized the day under a proposition at the General Assembly. It is now held every year across the world on June 8th.

The Ocean Project, working in partnership with the *World Ocean Network*, has been promoting WOD since 2003 with its network of over 1,600 organizations and others throughout the world. These groups have been working to build greater awareness of the crucial role of the ocean in our lives and the important ways people can help

Since 2002, The Ocean Project and the World Ocean Network have helped to pro-

mote and coordinate World Oceans Day events worldwide with aquariums, zoos, museums, conservation organizations,

World Oceans Day is about increasing knowledge of the public about the Oceans and the environment

universities, schools, and businesses.

Each year an increasing number of countries and organizations have been marking June 8th as an opportunity to celebrate our world ocean and our personal connection to the sea. To date, five continents and over sixty countries have

embraced the day.

Locally, Since 2006 Eco Ethics – Kenya has been the epicenter for Kenyan World Ocean Day activities. The organization has contributed substantially to the successful petitioning of the UN to accept World Ocean's Day in its programme and charter.

The government of Kenya officially acknowledged WOD in 2009 and since then, Eco Ethics has been teaming up with environmental resources oriented government departments, Ministries, institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector players to mark this important event. This is done by engaging the participants in such activities as competitions, parades, debates and dissemination of ocean information.

Purpose of the World Oceans Day

Facts in Perspective

Oceans occupy more than 70% of the earth's surface, contain 99% of the planet Earth's living space and support the life of nearly 50 percent of all species on Earth. This makes the oceans an indispensable resource, particularly owing to the fact that the oceans provide between 50 to 70% of the earth's available oxygen.

More than 60% of the world's population lives on or near the coast depending on the oceans—the number one source of protein for more than one billion people.

It therefore our duty as the beneficiaries of the ocean to conserve and protect our provider of livelihoods, recreation, and untapped scientific discovery, foods, advanced technologies and regulator of the

climate.

Objectives

The World Oceans Day (WOD) provides a platform and a forum to acknowledge, celebrate and educate about these benefits. As such the annual event bears four important objectives:

To change attitudes—encourage individuals to think about what the oceans mean to each of us, and what oceans have to offer.

To learn—discover the wealth of diverse and beautiful creatures and habitats found in the oceans, and how our actions affect them.

To change our ways—encourage each of us to become caretakers of our oceans, and to conserve them for our future.

To celebrate—organize or participate in ocean events, whether we live inland or on the coast.

Closer home, since its inception WOD has had myriad remarkable success in

-providing an opportunity to discuss the role of our oceans i.e. through the public forums held a month before the final celebrations

-propelling the coastal public to undertake different actions meant to better the coastal and marine environment –i.e. several beach clean-up events along the coast by different groups

-bringing together various stakeholders and custodians of the oceans including fisherfolk, opinion leaders, community leaders

World Oceans Day Run-up Activities

As part of the WOD build up activity the secretariat has traditionally organized pre world oceans day activities that tap into the talent within the Eco Clubs to relay educative messages. These activities are carried out by both primary and secondary schools that form part of the network of schools that work with Eco Ethics Kenya to inculcate the tradition of environmental stewardship at a tender age.

Thus on the 25th of May 2013, there were county level competitions which took place in three different counties including Mombasa, Kilifi, and Kwale. Several activities were held involving participants of different ages. The students and pupils took part in poem recitations, debates, essay writing and artwork with titles crafted to be in line with this year's annual theme: ***Together we have the power to protect the oceans.*** Each of the participating schools was challenged to the same title for all the items presented.

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 given the title 'Benefits of the Ocean' while their artwork counterparts had 'Ocean is Life' as the title. The afternoon session for both categories comprised of recitation of the poems and debates under the motion 'we have the power to protect the ocean'.

After successful assessment of the participant's debates, poetry, and subsequent marking of the pieces of artwork and essays the winners identified bagged their awards during the WOD celebrations. The debates were assessed based on a specific areas of focus and the subject matter. Therefore several categories of awards were allocated, among them, the best speaker, the best challenger, the best house speaker.

Pertinent issues relating to the ocean were brought to the fore by the young minds.

Remarkably technical issues of biodiversity,



Pupils recite a poem for the competitions

of these issues. The participants demonstrated a good understanding of ocean issues and this proves that children are indeed the future source of solutions to these problems. This observation gives a pointer to people to give the children more platform to get involved in the abatement of these issues.

The World Oceans Day activities

This year's event was held at the Jomo Kenyatta public beach (commonly referred to as Pirates). This year's universal annual theme is "together we have the power to protect the oceans", under which all WOD activities and event was orchestrated. The event attracted a wide array of guests and participants drawn from various sectors and industries directly or indirectly linked to the oceans.

Procession

A kick off activity to mark the start of the day's celebrations was a procession that saw the participants march waving banners led by a band from Nakumatt Nyali stage to the venue. Present in the march were included Madam Elizabeth Ngala (the District Commissioner of Kisauni District), Madam Betty Nzioka, NEMA's Deputy Director, Mr. Nicholas Nkethetha, the fisheries boss in the coast region, Mr. James Kamula, a senior marine officer with NEMA and, representatives of the USAFI initiative and several CSO representatives.



Beach Clean-Up

The guests, public and school children in attendance played a vital role in cleaning up the beach with assistance from the Kenta Wildlife Service. The visibly littered



beach got a sparkling look after the cleaning activities that yielded sacks of garbage.

Exhibitions



The meeting under the leadership of the Guest of Honour went on to view the exhibitions of partners. The many stands on display included fliers, posters, aquariums, and artworks etc. The exhibiting organizations included the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA), the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), the Coastal Development Authority (CDA), Eco Ethics Kenya (NGO), CAST (NGO) among several others. The exhibitions mirrored the day's theme emphasizing collaborative efforts. The session was led by the guest of honor among many other GUESTs in attendance.



Messages and Speeches

The chairman of the steering committee, Mr. Charles Muthama expressed his gratitude to the many individuals and institutions who made the WOD 2013 planning a success. He acknowledged the many challenges his team faced and the many lessons learnt and the efforts made to overcome the same.

The other guests spoke at length about the ongoing efforts to curb challenges in marine resource use, the progress in the implementation of the integrated coastal zone management plan among other issues. The speakers also encouraged cooperation and growth of synergies among institutions.



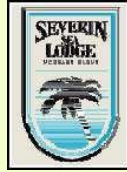
The Guest of Honour Madam Binti Omar's speech emphasized collaboration and building partnership among all stakeholders. She called for increased debate on integration of environmental matters in development planning. She emphasized the fact that development planning must envisage environment challenges emerging from industrialization and other forms of development itself.

Awards

Participants who had done well and emerged victorious during the pre World Oceans Day competitions bagged various awards as a motivation in the spirit of environmentalism.

The second batch of awards were honorary where individuals and institutions were recognized for their excellence in environmental and marine conservation. A book that profiled fish species in the Western Indian Ocean region was also awarded to beach management unit representatives in attendance.

APPRECIATION



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Community Light Programme

Kenya Coastal Development Project

KPA Peer Educators

The city of Mombasa

County Directors of Education – Mombasa, Kilifi and Kwale.

Eco Ethics Kenya's fraternity

takes this opportunity

to thank all our sponsors who supported us in organizing this year's World Oceans Day.

This year's Event was a huge success with over 1,200 participants. 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

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.