



“THE OCEAN: LIFE AND LIVELIHOODS”

The ocean covers over 70% of the planet. It is our life source, supporting humanity’s sustenance and that of every other organism on earth.

The ocean produces at least 50% of the planet’s oxygen; it is home to most of earth’s biodiversity, and is the main source of protein for more than a billion people around the world. Not to mention, the ocean is key to our economy with an estimated 40 million people being employed by ocean-based industries by 2030.

Even though all its benefits, the ocean is now in need of support.

With 90% of big fish populations depleted, and 50% of coral reefs destroyed, we are taking more from the ocean than can be replenished. To protect and preserve the ocean and all it sustains, we must create a new balance, rooted in true understanding of the ocean and how humanity relates to it. We must build a connection to the ocean that is inclusive, innovative, and informed by lessons from the past.

The United Nations has designated June 08 as World Oceans Day. The World Oceans Day is a day for humanity to celebrate the ocean. This year’s theme is “***The Ocean: Life and Livelihoods***”. The theme also signals a declaration of intentions that launches a decade of challenges to get the Sustainable Development Goal 14, “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources”, by 2030.

Life & Livelihoods

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A DECADE OF LEARNING AND RECOVERY

On December 05, 2017, the United Nations proclaimed a Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, to be held from 2021 to 2030. This Decade will provide a common framework to ensure that ocean science can fully support countries’ actions to sustainably manage the Oceans and more particularly to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Activities conducted during this decade will further boost those planned for the Decade of Ecosystem Restoration which will also occur during 2021 to 2030.

While the ocean means different things to all of us – whether cultural or religious, economic or recreational, we need to take care of our ocean as much as other ecosystems. Make a start by switching from single use plastics to reusable items, and ensuring that your waste is disposed of in the right way.

Sources:

<https://unworldoceansday.org/un-world-oceans-day-2021/> (use the link to join the virtual celebration featuring the UN Secretary General and ocean experts)

<https://www.humanrightsatsea.org/2021/03/17/un-world-ocean-day-the-ocean-%E2%80%A8life-livelihoods/>

<https://oceaninnovationchallenge.org/library/events/world-oceans-day-2021>

Photo courtesy of <https://urgewald.org/guyana-day9> and the Ministry of Public Works

You can share your ideas and questions by sending letters to: “Our Earth, Our Environment”, C/O ECEA Programme, Environmental Protection Agency, Ganges Street, Sophia, GEORGETOWN, or email us at: eit.epaguyana@gmail.com. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram and subscribe to our YouTube channel.