

Many Species. One Planet. One Future: UNEP invites WAZA members to celebrate World Environment Day (WED), 5th June ... and WAZA invites all of us!

Dear Colleagues:

Recently we received the communication in the adjacent column-> from the Secretariat of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums, WAZA.

Please have a look at the invitation and come right back here and see our programme on behalf of ZOO, WILD, SAZARC, SANIZE and all our networks, following WAZA's lead after this communication. June 5 is not that far off and this year of all years, we should celebrate WED for the sake of the declining biodiversity of our planet.

The World Association of Zoos and Aquariums has requested all their members to encourage their own members towards celebrating World Environment Day with WAZA on June 5, 2010.

As you all know, the UN General Assembly selected 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity YOB. This special celebration of WED is in keeping with the CBD (Convention on Biodiversity) appeal for a global initiative to raise the profile of this special year. This can be done by encouraging diverse organizations to get involved in WED, highlighting the many concerns within the topic "environment", and especially the importance of biological diversity. As zoo and wildlife experts and/or enthusiasts, this is our job - "our" meaning all of us in the zoo, wildlife and environmental protection community.

ZOO and WILD support a number of networks which are associated with WAZA, -- SANIZE, CBSG, SAZARC, etc. in different ways. SAZARC and ZOO are members of WAZA in different categories so we invite all *our* members, associates and particularly educators to jump on this important WAZA initiative with us.

15 April 2010

Greetings from WAZA!

As part of the "International Year of Biodiversity" activities, UNEP has set the theme of WED 2010 as **"Many Species. One Planet. One Future."** It echoes the urgent call to conserve the diversity of life on our planet.



A world without biodiversity is a very bleak prospect. Millions of people and millions of species all share the same planet, and only together can we enjoy a safer and more prosperous future.

As we celebrate WED, let us consider carefully the actions each of us must take, and then address ourselves to our common task of preserving all life on Earth.

WAZA members are invited to register their biodiversity activities for the 5th June under: <http://www.unep.org/wed/2010/english/activitymap> (Around the World/Register Your Activity). The activities will be visible on a world map on the UNEP website. UNEP will donate 10\$ per activity to a ranger project for gorillas in Rwanda! On the website you also find informational material, posters, brochures, t-shirt templates, website banners etc.

Especially WAZA members could

- * hold one of their biodiversity-themed events on WED, 5th June, such as highlighting regional biodiversity projects and using the WAZA biodiversity book

- * register these activities on the WED website as WAZA members to make their voice heard and be part of the solution.

- * encourage their local members to come up with their own WED activities and REGISTER. Kid members can promote WED at schools by organizing a tree-planting or gorilla awareness day and professionals at their offices by encouraging colleagues to print double side and not leave computers on stand-by at night. We will have more specific examples of possible WED activities on the site in an A-Z.

- * use both the kid and celebrity video messages that can be played on screens at zoos.

- * Create special attractive offers for a zoo/aquarium visit on WED, 5th June World Environment Day 2010 - see this website. Look in information/material for images.

<http://www.unep.org/wed/2010/english/images/infomaterials/wedlogoS.gif>
or <http://www.unep.org/wed/2010/english/infomaterials.asp>

With best wishes,
Gerald Dick, Executive Director,
Ulrike Fox, Marketing Manager and
Markus Gusset, Conservation Officer,
WAZA

P. S. Don't forget the New Release! The WAZA Biodiversity Book: "Building a Future for Wildlife" Zoos and Aquariums committed to Biodiversity Conservation. Order now at: www.amazon.com, www.nhbs.com, www.filander.de or in book stores ISBN 978-3-033-02234-8

We'll develop a small educational packet and some companion materials to be distributed to individuals and institutions who want to conduct a programme, as is our usual method (free but you have to pay the postage and agree to carry out some activities). We will use only material from WAZA, UNEP and the other websites promoting YOB and WED.

We don't have a sponsor for this yet but we will manage and make what we can. We'll develop guidelines oriented toward Biodiversity and Environment and include WAZA's very good suggestions which are in their invitation. You may like to try and associate with a zoo or natural history museum to conduct your programme since zoos have a ready-made audience – a large number of visitors moving through the zoo that keeps changing throughout the day, every day. In our guidelines we'll suggest some short and snappy ways to exploit this tremendous resource and leave a long-lasting impression to encourage environmental alertness in thousands of visitors.

Check the UNEP website recommended by WAZA and see the ideas and resources they are offering to make our job of organizing the BEST WED EVER easy! Go to this url <http://www.unep.org/wed/2010/english/infomaterials.asp> and it will take you directly to where you can download various graphics which will help you illustrate and give identify to your programme. We are going to use these graphics exclusively in our programme and associate them with games, drama, competitions and other activities.

Biodiversity is Life -- Educator Manual

WAZA, in collaboration of International Zoo Educators Association has provided a concise educator booklet called "Biodiversity is Life". It is a resource guide for teaching about biodiversity and CBD. We are happy that Dr. B.A. Daniel, entomologist and educator in ZOO & WILD was one of the authors of this booklet, along with an old friend Malcolm Whitehead, London Zoo, Louise Gordon, Joburg Zoo, S. Africa and Jennifer Gresham, Zoo New England, Boston, USA. Download this useful booklet at <http://www.waza.org/en/site/conservation/2010-year-of-biodiversity> and get to work.

This Manual contains a tool kit for action, explaining some aspects of biodiversity that are hard to explain. There is a section on YOB, on what IS biodiversity, how many species, how we got in trouble with biodiversity, threats, solutions, creative conservation, and many excellent web links to biodiversity resources for educators. Check out the UNESCO education kit and also visit WAZA website for more downloads.

In the next column we'll list some of the ideas we have and materials we hope to distribute in great quantities. We suggest, however, that you start now raising funds to print your own educational matter. If you aren't creative or artistic, you can

have camera-ready, downloadable copies of what we develop. As you know we can't provide zillions of copies of materials, and we don't like our material just being handed out (!). But there are certain types of materials that, when attractive enough and deliver a short message that is powerful enough, could be handed out to very large numbers of people. Such as a beautiful sticker, an attractive book mark, a bizarre mask, a paper hat, etc.

We have about six weeks to get ready. And the materials will, if left over, still be good for Wildlife Week, Environment month as other environmental events, as YOB theme is perfect for all.

- Join us!
- Plan a programme and register it with WAZA (see letter previous page) so the fund for ranger Gorilla projects will grow and grow.
- Send us your ideas for celebrating WED/YOB in next 3 weeks so we can share them with others.

Best wishes,
Sally Walker and the ZOO Crew

Z*IDEAS 4 WED/YOB for zoos and others

- A good sized sticker of the logo of WED
- A booklet summarising the major concepts explained in the WAZA biodiversity educator manual.
- A set of masks using the elements of the logo of WED as designed by UNEP ... with an idea to conduct very short dramas which could be performed for impatient zoo audiences, or for the satisfaction and bonding of a group of people, or other ways.
- A paper hat/cap with the WED or YOB logo on it.
- Various "props" for setting up displays ... such as a roll of wide yellow fabric tape (as used by police in some countries) to set up "crime scenes" depicting examples of how human beings are daily committing crimes against environment, climate, & biodiversity.
- Word Games - like using the conservation acronyms in slogans/sentences as words. Start with any silly slogan and practice until you have a wildlife or environmental meaning !

A silly first example : *The feckless couple was WED but begin YOBbing insults at one another until a COP comes along and CITES them for disturbance.*

An marginally improved example : *CEPA looking through the DAC for his new NEPAD which TOR during his participation in a GAPP.**

***In case you don't recognise these common Ramsar acronyms, here are their expansions. (Isn't this a fun game!) CEPA -communications, education, and public awareness; DAC-Development Assistance Committee of the OECD; GAPP-Global Action Plan for Peatlands; NEPAD -New Partnership for Africa's Development; TOR- terms of reference.**