

*Below is the first of many periodic updates from World Rivers Day Chair and founder, Mark Angelo, in the lead up to **World Rivers Day 2022**, slated for Sunday, **September 25**.*

Greetings River Advocates,

We wanted to let you know that plans are already starting to develop for **World Rivers Day 2022** set for Sunday, **September 25** (falling on the fourth Sunday in September). As the world's largest celebration of rivers and the many communities and lifeforms they sustain, we wanted to reach out to you well in advance. This year, COVID-19 related circumstances will have improved in many countries, but we also recognize, there may still be some uncertainty in other parts of the world. Consequently, while many of our partners are formulating plans to organize physical events as usual, some may opt for various digital activities, which have also proved to be very popular.

The types of river-related celebrations and events that can take place are limited only by our imagination and creativity. On one hand, we hope to see many of our **traditional physical events**, such as stream clean-ups, or stream-side planting and restoration efforts, along with educational outings and community riverside celebrations. There are also many river - related **events of a digital nature** being planned. Among these are school projects, art festivals, the launching of new campaigns, the celebration of milestones (such as the ongoing work of the international year of the salmon), online essays and poems, digital photo galleries, new research projects, online river trivia events, river-related song posts, live-stream panels, and virtual film initiatives such as *Global Environmental Justice* documentary series, that includes a number of films about rivers, including movies such as *RiverBlue* and *Last Paddle*.

We're hoping that river advocates from around the globe will be involved as part of this year's World Rivers Day Celebration, which commenced in 2005, and is now one of the world's largest environmental events. Also, this year marks the 42nd anniversary of BC Rivers Day, which eventually evolved into World Rivers Day.

Many exciting events are already in the planning stages — from cleanups across Europe and Asia — to the plans of countries across Africa, including the great work of the River Ethiope Trust Foundation and others in Nigeria — to an array of activities throughout the United States — to activities across the United Kingdom, Australia and Canada (including British Columbia, where the Rivers Day movement took root) — to various river-related initiatives in South America. The list goes on and on. A sampling of specific events will be regularly included in future updates.

Themes - This year's World Rivers Day will once again focus on "the incredible natural, cultural and recreational values of our rivers and streams in our communities". In addition, we'll also be recognizing several **sub-themes for this year's event**. For example, many of our friends in Nigeria, India and New Zealand are hoping to focus on the "**rights of rivers**". This is a timely topic, that's taking hold in a growing number of countries, and rivers ranging from the Whanganui in New Zealand, to the Klamath in California, to the Magpie in Quebec have been declared as having the **rights of legal personhood**. Initiatives like this will be profiled in future updates. — Elsewhere, some groups in the US among others will be emphasizing the incredibly important **link between rivers and oceans** — while other groups in Canada and Europe want to emphasize the need to **restore rivers** that have been damaged in the past. Still others will strive to **engage youth with local rivers** — while some will profile the importance of **river connectivity** to ensure adequate fish passage, which is in line with the good work of our friends at World Fish Migration Day. All of these are positive sub themes to profile.

So please, let us know of your plans! The **importance of clean fresh water** has been very essential to the fight against COVID-19, so World Rivers Day is a timely opportunity for literally millions of people around the world to come together to celebrate the importance of healthy vibrant waterways!

We are excited to again be working with the [Sitka Foundation](#), a wonderful organization that serves as a catalyst in the protection of the environment and the promotion of biodiversity — as well as the [Pacific Salmon Foundation](#), a widely respected organization that is dedicated to the conservation and restoration of wild Pacific salmon. In addition, we want to thank the [Real Estate Foundation of BC](#) for their valued support over the last several years, as well as the assistance in administering BC's "[Healthy Watershed Initiative](#)." We are also proud to be working with the [International River Foundation](#), based in Brisbane, along with our other valued sponsors/supporters such as **United Nations University, International Network on Water, Environment and Health, Outdoor Recreation Council of BC, River-cleanup.org**, and **Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Learning**.

Visit our website at www.worldriversday.com to find out more about **World Rivers Day**, and please let us know about any activities you may organize. We can help your promotions via our website, as well as with e-mails like this one. Last year, river enthusiasts from around the world came together to make World Rivers Day a great success, with **millions of people participating in thousands of events in over 100 countries**. World Rivers Day also has its roots in the incredible success of **BC Rivers Day** in British Columbia, Canada, which has been underway since 1980.

Promoting River Stewardship

World Rivers Day is a celebration of the world's waterways. It highlights the many values of rivers and strives to increase public awareness and hopefully encourage the improved stewardship of rivers around the world. Rivers in every country face an array of threats, and only our active involvement will ensure their health in the years ahead.

Join the Celebration!

World Rivers Day organizers encourage all of you to come out and participate. In particular, consider starting a Rivers Day event of your own, which might range from a stream cleanup to a community riverside celebration to an online forum. If you create an event, be sure to tell us about it! We'll keep you posted in the months ahead as new Rivers Day activities are announced.

International Partners

World Rivers Day is intended to complement the broader efforts of the **United Nations** water-related programs, including the earlier Water For Life Decade initiative as well as the United Nation's current **Water Action Decade**. We also look forward to continuing to work with groups such as the **United Nations University** and the **International Network on Water, Environment and Health** which were very supportive in launching World Rivers Day back in 2005.

Special thanks to our World Rivers Day partners and sponsors:

- [Sitka Foundation](#) — gold sponsor
- [Pacific Salmon Foundation](#) — gold sponsor
- [Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia](#)
- [International River Foundation](#) (based in Brisbane)
- [Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Learning](#)
- [River-cleanup.org](#)
- [United Nations University](#)
- [International Network on Water, Environment and Health](#)
- [Outdoor Recreation Council of BC](#) (coordinator of BC Rivers Day)

To find out more about water issues, and how to get involved with World Rivers Day, visit the websites below for more information.

[World Rivers Day](#)

[BC Rivers Day](#)

[United Nations University - International Network on Water, Environment and Health](#)

[United Nations Water Action Decade](#)

Yours truly,
Mark Angelo
Chair and founder, BC and World Rivers Day
Outdoor Recreation Council Rivers Chair
Chair Emeritus, Rivers Institute at BCIT

