

2 January 2012

Dear colleagues and friends, fellow seagrassers,

As we begin 2012, I would like to provide a brief overview of the Association's achievements during the past year.

In 2011, the WSA focused on networking the global community of seagrassers through our new blog ([wsa.seagrassonline.org/blog](http://wsa.seagrassonline.org/blog)) and facebook page, which allow all of you to share information on your work, to keep in touch with colleagues and to share stories from the field. It is our hope that the Association will continue to function as a global network to ensure that you can connect with colleagues and friends across the world.

Through the collaboration of several members, the WSA produced a 2012 seagrass calendar, featuring the photos of seagrass scientists worldwide, covering 12 seagrass genera for the 12 coming months. The calendar can be downloaded at [http://wsa.seagrassonline.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/WSA\\_calendar\\_2012.pdf](http://wsa.seagrassonline.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/WSA_calendar_2012.pdf)

We also brought attention to seagrasses through the engagement with other networks. Through a collaboration with SeaWeb ([www.seaweb.org/news/Seagrasses.php](http://www.seaweb.org/news/Seagrasses.php)), seagrasses featured in the month of November of Ocean News, highlighting key ecosystem services that seagrasses provide globally.

In the fall, we released a new manual aimed at building knowledge and raising awareness of seagrass habitats. Titled "Seagrass Syllabus", the manual is the first of a series of initiatives that the WSA is taking to increase the profile of seagrasses within the global conservation arena. The manual can be downloaded at [http://wsa.seagrassonline.org/images/stories/download/Seagrass\\_Syllabus.pdf](http://wsa.seagrassonline.org/images/stories/download/Seagrass_Syllabus.pdf).

In 2012, the WSA will finalise its new mission and vision, will support the organisation of the next ISBW10 in Brazil (25-30 November 2012 at the Pontal da Ferradura Convention Centre in Búzios, Rio de Janeiro) and will look into other opportunities communicate available science to enhance conservation.

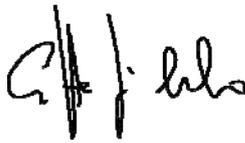
These are only first steps towards raising the profile of seagrasses among the science and conservation community, with children and local communities and with managers. However, our resources are limited and we look to you for support. Remember the WSA is available to

support new, emerging ideas that can contribute towards education, conservation, protection and management of seagrass ecosystem. We hope to hear from you and to work with each and everyone of you in the future.

On behalf of the Management and Steering Committees, I take the opportunity to wish you all a great start of 2012, may it bring to all of you success in personal and professional life, and may it bring seagrasses the conservation status they need to continue to support our oceans.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with ideas, questions, criticisms, *etc.*

Best wishes to all!



Dr. Giuseppe Di Carlo  
*President*  
*World Seagrass Association Inc.*

