

MAY 2018

Society & Environment

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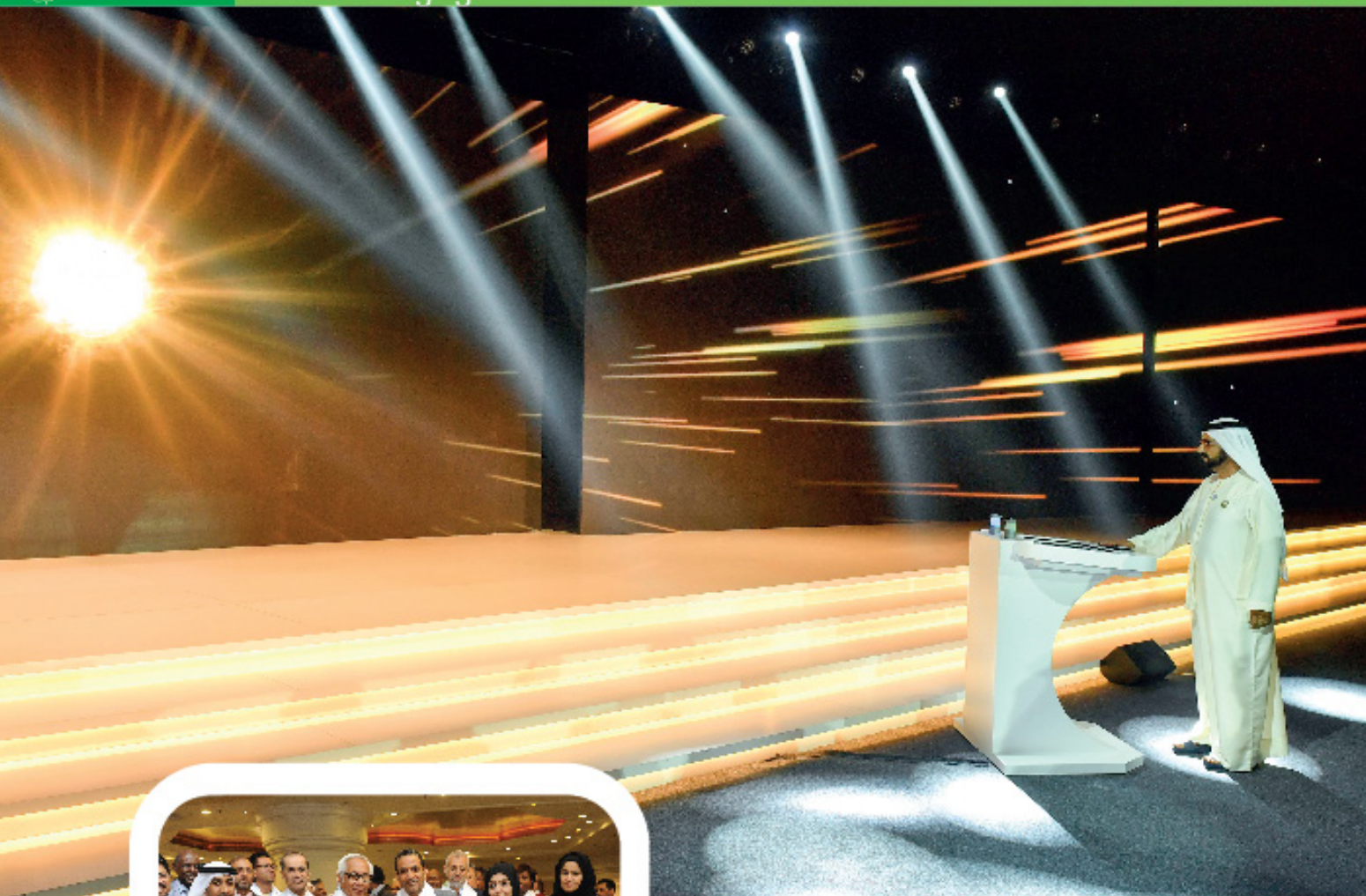


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Issue 183

creating green communities for a better tomorrow



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Mohammed bin Rashid
Al Maktoum Solar Park
Phase 3 opens

14 nations participate in Year of Zayed celebrations in Malaysia



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Prof. Mohammed bin Fahad

Executive Editor

The UAE's position as a world leader in the renewable energy sector has been further entrenched with the launch last month of the 700MW fourth phase of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park, the biggest Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) project in the world. The project underscores UAE's leadership in the solar energy revolution and could thus serve as a template for future projects across the world.

The 200 MW first stage of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park Phase 3 was also inaugurated last month by HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. This marks a key milestone in the UAE's push for a cleaner, self-sufficient future through renewable energy.

Globally, solar energy dominated global investment in new power generation in 2017 and ranked higher than any other technology, at US\$160.8 billion, up 18 percent, as per UN data. The mega surge in solar investment shows how the global energy map is changing and the potential in economic benefits of such a shift including gainful employment and lesser pollution.

In its pursuit of a greener future, the UAE has not resorted to any shortcuts, choosing instead to locally develop solar technologies and deploy them globally. In the past decade, the UAE has intensified its efforts towards deploying solar energy solutions while the UAE Energy Strategy 2050 targets increasing the contribution of clean energy in the overall national energy mix to 50 per cent, saving \$190 billion of the overall energy costs until 2050.

Such a forward-looking energy strategy – in one of the world's most oil-rich countries – only goes to show how committed the leadership of the nation is to balance its economic needs with its environment and sustainable development goals. Renewable energy is the energy of the future and all efforts should be made to scale it up further.

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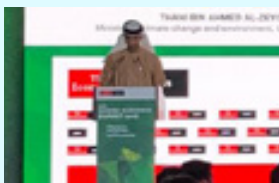
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"We cherish our environment because it is an integral part of our country, our history and our heritage. On land and in the sea, our forefathers lived and survived in this environment. They were able to do so only because they recognised the need to conserve it, to take from it only what they needed to live, and to preserve it for succeeding generations."

Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan

e s f o r a b e t t e r t o m o r r o w

From the Managing Editor



Dr. Meshgan Al Awar
Secretary General
Zayed International Prize
for the Environment

When the UAE became the first Gulf country in 2016 to ratify the Paris agreement combating climate change, it was wisely following in the footsteps of a leader whose foresight and vision had spearheaded the economic, social and environmental development of the nation, long before conservation and sustainability were to become the buzz words in the global arena.

As we celebrate the Year of Zayed in 2018, we commemorate the life of our founding father, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, whose grand vision, wisdom and decisions taken almost 50 years ago are reflected in the reality we have today. To commemorate the values and ideals our great leader upheld, HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, had invited the nation to deliver the Founding Father's message to the world in 2018. In response to this call, I am proud to say that the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment has taken the step in promoting his legacy of environmental stewardship across nations.

'Zayed Legacy', featuring a seminar and exhibition of photographs of the Founding Father of the UAE, marked the start of the Year of Zayed celebrations in both Malaysia and India. Speaking amidst an eminent gathering of ambassadors, academia, and other professionals, I pointed out how Sheikh Zayed's stellar vision and efforts in raising environmental awareness has become a beacon for the UAE and the region, and how his efforts in sustainability and eco-diversity led to many environmental milestones for the UAE.

Through its local, regional and international activities, partnerships and collaborations, the Zayed Foundation is thus effectively seeking to carry forward his ambitious sustainability standards to inspire future generations and ensure a sustainable development path.

As we honor this great leader throughout the year, I implore each one of you to work together to fulfil the vision of Sheikh Zayed in promoting the nation's sustainability and growth.

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Executive Editor

Prof. Mohammed Bin Fahad

Managing Editor

Dr. Meshgan Al Awar

Advisor

Dr. Eisa Abdellatif

Editor

Sangeetha Swaroop
editor@zayedprize.org.ae

Design Director

Nash - Intoto
nash@intotoadz.com

Marketing

marketing@zayedprize.org.ae

Published by



P.O. Box 28399, Dubai, UAE

Tel: +971 4 3326666

Fax: +971 4 3326777

Website: www.zayedprize.org.ae

email: secretary@zayedprize.org.ae



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First stage of Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park Phase 3 opens



HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum has inaugurated 200 MW first stage of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park Phase 3.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, has inaugurated the 200 megawatts (MW) first stage of the 800MW third phase of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park.

The solar park is one of the major projects that the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority, DEWA, is implementing based on the Independent Power Producer, IPP, system in partnership with a consortium led by Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company,

Masdar, and EDF Group, through its subsidiary EDF Energies Nouvelles. The second and third stages of the third phase, which have a capacity of 300MW each, will be completed in 2019 and 2020 respectively.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by H.H. Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai, and a number of Ministers and Director Generals of Dubai government departments.

Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, the Managing Director and

CEO of DEWA, welcomed His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid and said, "Today marks the commissioning of the first stage of the third phase of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park. This phase is a key milestone and shows our strong belief in the role of clean energy in shaping a sustainable future. This supports the UAE's efforts to strengthen its leading global position in clean energy through such major projects. This also contributes to realising the vision of our wise leadership led by President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the



WHEN COMPLETE, Phase 3 will generate electricity enough to power 160,000 homes that will displace 1.4 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions each year, figures from Masdar show.

directives of Your Highness, and the aspirations of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, for a post-oil era. Through this national landmark, which Emirati youth help grow every day, they are establishing a happy and prosperous society that will achieve the UAE Centennial 2071 objective of making our nation the best country in the world,” he added.

Al Tayer went on to say, “His Highness’s pioneering strategy

launched in 2012 has markedly changed the progress of sustainability in the UAE and the region; extending its impact to the entire world. This was the UAE Green Growth Strategy under the theme ‘A Green Economy for Sustainable Development.’ The pinnacle of this journey was the launch of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park in 2012 by His Highness. Dubai adapted the Independent Power Producer (IPP) model to achieve industry-defining world records. These have reduced solar electricity tariffs for large solar projects and the world’s biggest

investments, to generate positive economic returns. The UAE Vision 2021, the Dubai Plan 2021 and the Clean Energy Strategy 2050 also support our focus on living in a world powered by clean and renewable energy.”

“In Abu Dhabi, in June 2016, we witnessed the signing of the partnership agreement between DEWA and a consortium led by Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company (Masdar) to implement the 800MW third phase of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park, which is being built in stages at the lowest



Levelised Cost of Energy in the world of 2.99 US cents per kilowatt hour, using photovoltaic solar panels. Today shows the initial fruits of the combined efforts of DEWA, Masdar, and EDF, because there is more to come," the DEWA Managing Director continued.

He explained that the remaining stages of the third phase of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park are currently under construction to generate a further 600MW, for a total of 800MW by 2020. The total capacity of the photovoltaic and Concentrated Solar Power IPP-based projects is 1,500MW. After the inauguration of this leading milestone, solar power will now generate four percent of

Dubai's total installed capacity.

"This solar plant is the first of its kind in the Middle East and North Africa, with an advanced solar tracking system to increase generation efficiency. It also uses unique technologies including over 800,000 self-cleaning solar cells that maintain a high-performance level. The project has been implemented with over 2.4 million accident-free man-hours. It will provide over 60,000 residences with electricity, reducing over 270,000 tonnes of carbon emissions every year," Al Tayer noted.

"The UAE's impressive progress in the field of renewable energy would not have been

achieved without the vision of its leadership, which aims to strengthen the energy security of the country by building on the foundation of its hydrocarbon sector to create a diverse mix including conventional energy, renewables and nuclear energy," said Dr. Sultan bin Ahmad Sultan Al Jaber, Minister of State and Chairman of Masdar.

"Masdar and Dubai Electricity and Water Authority have played an active role in enhancing the cost efficiency and productivity of renewable energy by deploying the latest advances in technology," Dr. Al Jaber added.

"Solar power complements conventional energy in a relationship that makes perfect

The Phase 3 of the solar park set a world record for obtaining the lowest Levelised Cost of Energy of \$2.99 per kilowatt-hour (Dh10.98), using photovoltaic solar panels.



e s f o r a b e t t e r t o m o r r o w

economic sense in this region, given the number of clear sunny days in the year, by helping to reduce energy costs through peak shaving.”

Dr. Al Jaber further highlighted the critical role played by large-scale renewable energy projects in stimulating job creation and innovation in knowledge-based industries. He added that the major projects now underway in the UAE and Saudi Arabia showed that the region, which for years has led the way in the traditional energy sector, was now at the forefront of the development of renewable energy.

Dr. Al Jaber praised the efforts of all the teams involved in Shua’a

Energy 2 from Dubai Electricity and Water Authority, Masdar, and EDF Energies Nouvelles, wishing them every success in the realisation of a strategic project for the UAE.

“It is a great honour for the EDF Group to contribute to the Emirate of Dubai’s energy transition. I am delighted with the trusting relationship we have forged with our partners, DEWA and Masdar, to develop carbon-free energy in the region and beyond. The third phase of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park exemplifies the EDF Group’s ability to execute large-scale solar projects, whilst contributing to the ambitions of the Group’s CAP 2030 strategy: doubling its

renewable capacities and tripling its international business outside of Europe by 2030,” said Jean-Bernard Levy, Chairman and CEO of EDF Group.



Cover Story

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14 nations attend Year of Zayed celebrations in Malaysia



Malaysia awakens to the environmental legacy of Sheikh Zayed, as Dubai Police, in association with the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, and with the support of the UAE Embassy in Malaysia, organizes a seminar and exhibition programme titled, Zayed Legacy, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

To mark the 100th birth anniversary of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the Founding Father of the UAE, whose visionary leadership set the course to UAE's growth and modern development, UAE President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan had announced 2018 as the 'Year of Zayed' to commemorate the legacy of this great visionary leader who passed away in 2004.

In support of this, HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and

Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, had issued a nation-wide call "to deliver a message to the world in 2018 that the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the Founding Father of the UAE, is present and will remain forever in the heart and mind of everyone in the UAE". Heeding this call, Dubai Police, in association with the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, and with the support of the UAE Embassy in Malaysia, embarked on a world tour to reinforce the memory of the late President and commemorate the Year of Zayed celebrations.

Accordingly, the two organisations promoted the Year of Zayed celebrations in Malaysia with an event titled 'Zayed Legacy' featuring a seminar and exhibitions of rare photographs demonstrating the visionary leadership of the Founding Father of the UAE.

The event celebrated the achievements of the UAE's founder, honouring his distinguishing traits as a model of humanity, generosity, leadership, perseverance and will. It also showcased his impact and legacy on the UAE and the world; and



SHEIKH ZAYED'S vision and untiring efforts took the UAE from a sparsely populated desert settlement to a nation with dizzying records of achievements and prosperity.

promoted the values that he upheld throughout his life. The one-day seminar and exhibition held on April 30, 2018 at Ritz Carlton Hotel in Kuala Lumpur, also shed light on the legacy and leadership of the late UAE founding President in the area of environment, sustainable development and the culture of green living.

HE Khalid Ghanem Al Ghaith, the UAE Ambassador to Malaysia, and Dr. Meshgan Al-Awar, Director, Research & Studies Center, Dubai Police Academy, and Secretary General of Zayed International

Prize for the Environment, opened the seminar and exhibition in the presence of the Malaysian Prime Minister's Science Advisor Dr. Zakri Abdul Hamid, and Col. Abdullah Saeed Al Tayari, the UAE Military Attache to Malaysia. An elite gathering of intellectuals and professionals including Ambassadors from 14 countries, military attaches, university directors, senior academic staff of research centers, university professors and media personnel also attended the event.

The event was organized in cooperation and with the support

of the UAE Embassy in Kuala Lumpur. Dr. Meshgan Al Awar, Director, Research & Studies Center, Dubai Police Academy, and Captain Fahad Jassim Al-Ghuss, Director of Public Relations and Marketing, represented Dubai Police at the event.

In appreciation of Sheikh Zayed's legacy

In his inaugural address, Ambassador Khalid Al Ghaith noted that the Dubai Police, under the directives of Major-General Abdullah Khalifa Al Marri, Commander-in-chief, had, in cooperation with the Zayed



UAE Embassy Malaysia @uaeem... · 8m
 سفير الدولة لدى ماليزيا سعادة/ خالد غانم الغيث والأمين العام لمؤسسة زايد الدولية للبيئة د. مشكان العور يفتتحان ندوة ومعرض إرث زايد بحضور مستشار رئيس الوزراء الماليزي للعلوم وأعضاء السفارة والملحقية العسكرية وعدد من السفراء ومدراء الجامعات والمراكز البحثية وأساتذة الجامعات.



International Foundation for the Environment, launched this special initiative that highlights the late ruler's legacy in the field of environment and sustainable development.

He added that Sheikh Zayed's vision always extended beyond the borders of the UAE, and he was widely loved and respected as a benevolent Arab and world statesman, who believed in unity, tolerance and compassion, and upheld the values of peaceful co-existence among peoples of the world.

Ambassador Khalid Al Ghaith also spoke of the love and respect Sheikh Zayed commanded among people across the globe,

his extraordinary ability in recognizing the potential and shaping the UAE as a modern nation, and his leadership, humanitarian and environmental achievements that continue to play a distinct role in the daily life of the people of the UAE.

Sheikh Zayed's love of the environment

Speaking at the event in Kuala Lumpur, Dr. Meshgan Al-Awar said that Sheikh Zayed's efforts, personality and success have inspired many people not only in the region, but also throughout the world.

"Sheikh Zayed's vision and deep love of the environment enabled him to overcome the multiple challenges faced by the

UAE; in particular, the problem of desertification," she said. "The UAE's founding father and visionary leader had always placed high emphasis on issues related to the environment particularly agriculture, protection of endangered animals, and conserving water and energy, amongst others. Sustaining the environment for generations to come was among the top priorities in his endeavours to build the country, paving the way for the country's sustainable development."

Celebrating the country's past, and preserving it for future generations, is something that was always close to Sheikh Zayed's heart, continued Dr. Al Awar, adding that the chosen

‘Zayed Legacy’ highlighted how at the heart of the UAE’s spectacular achievements and its rise to a position of pre-eminence regionally and internationally, lies the vision of one man — Sheikh Zayed.



photographs at the exhibition showcase the historical significance of Sheikh Zayed’s rule and the impact of his legacy on the UAE.

Zayed Green Challenge Smart Platform

Dr. Meshgan Mohamed Al Awar, unveiled the Zayed Green Challenge Smart Platform at the event, outlining how it aims to fulfil the objectives of the 2018 Year of Zayed initiative. She explained that this knowledge platform gives greater insight into Sheikh Zayed’s green march, which began in Abu Dhabi’s Al Ain Eastern Province in 1946.

Highlighting its several value-added features, she also focused on its significance as a green

education platform. Available on both iOS & Android platforms, the Zayed Green Challenge smart app appealed to the audience for its dual function of instilling both knowledge and environmental education and awareness amongst all age groups.

Dr. Meshgan Al-Awar also presented a trophy to the UAE Ambassador at the event for the UAE Embassy of Kuala Lumpur’s support and cooperation in making the event a grand success.

Media coverage of the event

Several tweets were issued by the UAE Embassy Malaysia to mark the opening of the Year of Zayed celebrations in the country. Images and videos

featuring the inauguration event featured prominently on @uaeembmalaysia, the official account of the United Arab Emirates Embassy Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. One tweet mentioned: “Dr. Meshgan Al-Awar, Secretary-General of the Zayed Foundation, gave a speech on the Foundation and Sheikh Zayed’s interest in the environment and sustainability at the local and international levels.”

The event also received excellent coverage in local newspapers, both English and Arabic. The media appreciated the legacy, inspirational values and achievements of the late Sheikh Zayed that has ranked him as an international leader and a beacon for future generations.

Year of Zayed

14 c r e a t i n g g r e e n c o m m u n i t i

Founding Father of the UAE commemorated in India



'Zayed Legacy', featuring a seminar and exhibition of photographs of the Founding Father of the UAE, marked the start of the Year of Zayed celebrations in India, jointly organized by the UAE Embassy in New Delhi and Dubai Police, in association with the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment.

The Year of Zayed celebrations was launched in India on 2nd May, 2018 at the country's capital, New Delhi, with a seminar and an exhibition of rare photographs of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the Founding Father of the UAE. The event, titled 'Zayed Legacy', was organised jointly by the UAE Embassy in New Delhi and Dubai Police, in association with the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment.

The dignitaries attending the event included a specially invited gathering of prominent Indian

environmentalists, bureaucrats and Arab diplomats including the Ambassadors of Oman and Saudi Arabia. The high-profile invitees were given an insight into how the timeless legacy of the Founding Father lives on in the Year of Zayed not only in the UAE but also around the world.

Timeless legacy of UAE's Founding Father

Dr. Mohamed bin Fahad, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Dubai Police and Chairman of the Zayed Foundation, and Dr. Meshgan Mohamed Al Awar, Director, Research & Studies

Center, Dubai Police Academy, and Secretary-General of the Zayed International Prize for the Environment, spoke about how at the heart of UAE's spectacular achievements, lie the guiding values and vision of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

To mark the event, Dr. Mohamed bin Fahad opened an exhibition of photographs on the life of Sheikh Zayed at the Leela Hotel in New Delhi's Diplomatic Enclave in the presence of several prominent Indian and Arab dignitaries. The rare photographs show the UAE's Founding Father nurturing his



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THE ZAYED Green Challenge smart app has several value-added features including prize-winning competitions and the smart app selects 3 winners monthly.

nascent federation in its early years, highlighting also his efforts in protecting the environment – a passion that stemmed long before the birth of the nation. Dr. Bin Fahad also delivered the opening address of the seminar.

Zayed Green Challenge Smart Platform

Addressing the august audience, Dr. Meshgan Mohamed Al Awar, gave an overview of the Zayed Green Challenge Smart Platform, outlining how it aims to fulfil the objectives of the 2018 Year of Zayed initiative. She explained that this knowledge platform gives

greater insight into Sheikh Zayed's green march, which began in Abu Dhabi's Al Ain Eastern Province in 1946, long before the terms 'sustainability' or 'environment conservation' acquired the significance it does today.

Attendees at the seminar held in honour of Sheikh Zayed, showed keen interest in the several value-added features of the Zayed Green Challenge smart app. The significance of this smart app as a green education platform was explained to the audience at the event. Available on both iOS & Android platforms, the Zayed

Green Challenge smart app appealed to the audience for its dual function of instilling both knowledge and environmental awareness amongst all age groups.

Dr. Al Awar also gave a detailed presentation on the prestigious prize, its inception and its global motivation. She familiarised the audience about the Foundation, briefing them about its history and explained that it was founded in 1999 by HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, to recognise



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and encourage environmental achievements, promote the implementation of Agenda 21, Millennium Development Goals, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation for Sustainable Development, Outcomes of Rio+20 and Sustainable Development Goals, in line with the vision and philosophy of Sheikh Zayed.

Tributes to Sheikh Zayed by world leaders

Dr. Al Awar quoted from tributes paid to Sheikh Zayed by world leaders when they were in office – such as former United Nations Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim, ex-French President Jacques Chirac, former US Presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton and Britain's reigning

monarch Queen Elizabeth II.

“The Zayed Prize, launched almost two decades ago, is honoured to bear the name of this leader who dedicated his life to environmental protection and sustainable development,” she added. Both Dr. Fahad and Dr. Al Awar spoke of efforts by Dubai Police to promote sustainability through their roles in senior positions at Dubai Police. Captain Fahad Jassim Al-Ghuss, Director of Public Relations and Marketing at Dubai Police also attended the event.

Sheikh Zayed: One of the greatest heroes of the 20th century

The efforts of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan in the

field of environment protection was also praised during the seminar by Dr. Ashok Khosla, Indian environmentalist and Founder of the Development Alternatives group. Speaking at the seminar, Dr. Khosla remarked that Sheikh Zayed was one of the “greatest heroes” of the 20th century because of his vision and his generosity in promoting causes for humanity.

A recipient of the Zayed International Prize for the Environment in its 6th edition, Dr. Ashok Khosla was awarded the prestigious Prize in 2014 for his efforts in helping make national development strategies in India more environmentally and socially sustainable.



Humanitarian project agreements in the fields of education, water and food signed in the Year of Zayed

The Emirates Red Crescent, ERC, has signed work agreements with the governorates of Aden, Lahej, Abyan, Dhala, and Taiz to execute the first stage of water, education and food projects worth AED9 million.

The agreements were signed on 15th April, 2018 by the governors of Dhala, Lahej, and Abyan, the Under-Secretary of the Taiz governorate, the Director of the Water Corporation in Aden, and by Saeed Al Ali, Director of the ERC in Aden.

During the signing, the Governor of Lahej, Major-General Ahmed Abdullah Al Turki, expressed his thanks to the UAE and President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin

Zayed Al Nahyan for standing by the Yemeni people. This will play a great role in restoring normalcy and in carrying out a number of projects over the course of the next three years, he added.

According to the agreement, the ERC will execute projects worth AED9 million for all the governorates in the first stage. The signing ceremony was attended by the President of the University of Aden, Dr. Al Khedr, the Under-Secretary of Aden Governorate, Mohammed Nasr Al Shadhili, and a number of officials.

Free cervical cancer vaccines to commemorate Year of Zayed
Zulekha Healthcare Group has launched the fifth edition of

its cervical cancer campaign. In order to increase early detection and prevention of cervical cancer among women in the UAE and in honour of the Year of Zayed, Zulekha Healthcare Group will offer 500 free cervical cancer vaccines. The preventative vaccines are open to age group between 9 and 26 years and include residents and visitors to the UAE. This activation aims to support the UAE government's efforts to decrease cancer fatalities by 18 percent by 2021. A report by HPV Information Centre outlined that at present 1.82 million women in the UAE are at risk of developing cervical cancer, and that every year 93 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and 28 die from the disease.

Earth Day

18 c r e a t i n

MOCCAЕ launches campaign for responsible use of plastic



To mark Earth Day, the UAE has elevated the issue of plastic pollution and is inspiring and demanding effective action to reducing and controlling it.

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, MOCCAЕ, in collaboration with some public and private entities, has launched the 'Responsible Consumption for Sustainable Future' awareness campaign, with the theme, 'Preserving our Environment: Smart Use of Plastic'.

Coinciding with Earth Day, the campaign is geared towards raising awareness on green practices that promote the principles of the 3 R's; Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle, when using and disposing of plastic products

at both a corporate-wide or personal levels.

The campaign, which concluded on 26th April, took two approaches. The first approach involved coordination with federal and local government entities that are in direct interaction with consumers, particularly students, and retailers, to raise their awareness of smart plastic use and disposal methods through workshops and seminars.

The second approach directly targeted consumers by posting a visual series of global facts and

figures in addition to eco-tips on social media.

Commenting on the campaign, Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, said, "Plastic products are an integral part of many industries and sectors in the UAE that are important for our livelihoods.

"Therefore, we all have the responsibility to ensure the smart use of plastic by raising awareness on the principles of the 3 R's; Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, which in turn will contribute to a



e s f o r a b e t t e r t o m o r r o w

EARTH DAY 2018 was observed under the theme 'End Plastic Pollution' to educate, inspire and mobilise communities to better manage their use and disposal of plastics.

better future for our children and future generations.

“As the UAE’s prudent leadership realises the importance of spreading awareness of rationalising commodities and materials’ consumption, many initiatives have been rolled out over the years to educate the public on the smart practices and benefits of reducing, reusing and recycling plastic products.

“Such initiatives have positioned the UAE as a leader in the GCC in plastic waste recycling, as a survey commissioned by the Gulf

Petrochemicals and Chemicals Association revealed that the UAE scored the highest among other GCC states in terms of residents’ knowledge of which plastics could be recycled and correctly matching plastic products with the recycle code,” he noted.

Earth Day, celebrated every year on the 22nd April, was held this year with the theme ‘End Plastic Pollution’ to educate, inspire and mobilise communities to better manage their use and disposal of plastics.

According to international

experts, it is estimated that approximately a trillion plastic bags are used around the world every year.

If current pollution rates continue, there will be more plastic in the sea than fish by 2050, according to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The average plastic bag is used for 20 minutes and takes more than 400 years to break down. To give these numbers a local context, in 2015, the world produced 322 million tonnes of plastic. That equals 900 Empire State Buildings!

Conservation

20 c r e a t i n g g r e e n c o m m u n i t i e s

Mohamed bin Zayed establishes Raptor Conservation Foundation



Foundation formed to curb falcon deaths caused by power lines; electrocution on migration routes and in breeding grounds, a major factor for declining population of falcons.

A new foundation for the conservation of raptors (birds of prey) has been established by His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, it has been announced.

The Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Raptor Conservation Foundation has been launched with an endowment of US\$20 million. Its first initiative, the allocation of US\$1 million as seed money for a project to tackle the major issue of the electrocution of

raptors by power lines, was announced in April at the 'Summit for the Flyways' conference in Abu Dhabi by Mohamed Al Bowardi, Managing Director of the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi, EAD.

The conference, organised by international conservation organisation BirdLife International, has been hosted by the Abu Dhabi-based International Fund for Houbara Conservation, IFHC.

An announcement of the establishment of the new

Foundation noted that: "Electrocution is a major cause of mortality of raptors and other bird species. As the network of power distribution lines grows across the world, the problem is increasing. Technical solutions are available that can remedy the problem, such as hardware designs for new lines and simple remedial work on existing lines."

"The International Association of Falconry stated that an estimated 4,000 endangered Saker Falcons are killed each year in Central Asia alone due to poorly designed power poles," the announcement



THE 'SUMMIT for the Flyways' conservation conference has highlighted the electrocution of birds by power lines as a key threat to endangered species.

said. It added that a study, funded by the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi, conducted with the Eastern Energy System power company in Mongolia, showed that 55 Saker falcons per year were electrocuted per 10 kilometres of power-line per year on a test section.

The study also reported that electrocution rates could be significantly reduced at a cost of less than €18 per power pole.

"Electrocution of raptors is a conservation priority that requires an international

response," Al Bowardi said. "With the growth of power distribution lines, the problem will only get worse. This is more than just an issue of conservation of birds, it requires governments, regulators and private industry to have a coordinated response as birds are vital in the species chain and an indicator of the health of our planet."

"To make this a reality His Highness has launched the Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Raptor Conservation Foundation with an endowment and we have committed an initial \$1m of

seed funding to electrocution projects," Al Bowardi added. "We are extremely grateful for His Highness' support in this critical mission. Abu Dhabi has long been a leader in raptor conservation, and this initiative is a further step along the journey to which we are committed."

A conference is being planned next year to which concerned organisations, legislators, scientists, researchers and institutions operating in the field of electric power generation, donors to energy-saving projects and other parties will be invited.

Conservation

22 c r e a t i n g g r e e n c o m m u n i t i e s

Thousands of native trees to be planted in Abu Dhabi wetlands



The Al Wathba Wetland Reserve Habitat Rehabilitation Programme aims to enrich the reserve's biodiversity, enhance its habitats, improve vegetation cover and reduce noise from the surrounding areas.

The Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi, EAD, has launched the third phase of its Al Wathba Wetland Reserve Habitat Rehabilitation Programme, which includes the planting of a natural barrier of 2,500 native trees.

The programme aims to enrich the reserve's biodiversity, enhance its habitats, improve vegetation cover and reduce noise from the surrounding areas – efforts that would help maintain this internationally-recognised site as a national and regional hotspot for environmental education and responsible ecotourism.

Ethel (*Tamarix aphylla*) also known as Tarfa, is the main native tree species that will be planted as part of this programme. This fast-growing species, considered one of the most important native trees in the UAE, can tolerate extreme heat, drought and salinity. Other species include the Ghada (*Haloxylon persicum*), Arak (*Salvadora persica*), and Ghaf (*Prosopis cineraria*). All these species need very little water and minimum care for survival.

To kick off the third phase, which will last for two months, and, as part of a sponsorship agreement,

Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak, EAD's Secretary-General and Adel Ahmed Albuainain, Chief Executive Officer, Dolphin Energy Limited personally planted a number of seedlings at the Reserve.

The programme is also in line with the Year of Zayed as it honours and commemorates the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan's deep connection to Sustainability. In 1998, after he observed the successful breeding of the flamingo for the first time at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve, he established the site as a



e s f o r a b e t t e r t o m o r r o w

AT LEAST 2,500 native trees are to be planted at Al Wathba wetlands to enhance habitats, improve vegetation cover and reduce noise.

protected area, to be managed under EAD. Thanks to his belief in conservation, today the Reserve is the only site in the UAE where flamingos continue to breed regularly, and it has become an internationally-recognised wetland around the world as well as a popular sustainable tourism destination locally.

The Al Wathba Habitat Rehabilitation Programme, which began in October 2017 will last for 3 years (consisting of 4 phases). The first and second phases included the design and installation of an irrigation

system along the Reserve.

Razan Al Mubarak, said, "We are delighted to partner with Dolphin Energy to rehabilitate A Wathba Reserve. This will help contribute to the improvement of the natural habitat within the Reserve and strengthen its role as a scientific centre for bird conservation research especially migratory birds."

The Reserve, which covers an area of about 5 km², has been a wildlife attraction since its inception and has become a haven for migratory birds. The reserve

is now home to more than 4,000 Greater Flamingo, 260 species of birds that rely on the lake and wet areas for feeding and breeding. It also provides a safe haven for many other species of reptiles, small mammals and insects, and is an important area for the conservation of biodiversity in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

Since it was opened to the public in October 2014, the Reserve has attracted approximately 20,000 visitors. It is open to visitors from mid-October until the end of April, every Thursday and Saturday from 8 am to 4 pm.

Summit

24 c r e a t i n g g r e e n c o m m u n i t i e s

UAE committed
to a sustainable
future, says
Al-Zeyoudi



Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al-Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of Climate Change and Environment, reiterates UAE's firm commitment to the Paris Agreement at the Green Business Summit 2018.

Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al-Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of Climate Change and Environment, delivered a ministerial address at the Green Business Summit 2018, underlining the numerous sustainability initiatives and environmental programmes being developed and implemented in the UAE.

He emphasised that the UAE is well aware of the future impact of climate change and is firmly committed to the Paris Agreement. He said that last year the UAE launched its National

Climate Change Plan, at the heart of which is the target of generating 27 percent of the country's energy from clean sources by 2021, and 50 percent by 2050.

The minister also stressed the pivotal role played by the private sector in this transition and how the UAE government is advancing public-private partnerships across numerous sectors to incentivise sustainable practices and support green innovation. He went on to offer a few examples of sustainable initiatives taking place in the UAE, such as DP

World's launch of the Middle East's largest solar rooftop project.

The Green Business Summit 2018 opened in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday with a keynote address by Charles Goddard, The Economist Intelligence Unit's Asia-Pacific Editorial Director, who welcomed attendees and highlighted the significant opportunities and challenges faced by business leaders, policymakers, and investors as nations around the world strive to adopt sustainable development practices. Organised by The Economist Events, part



SENIOR GOVERNMENT officials, industry leaders, policymakers, scientists, academics and investors in sustainable business participated in the Green Business Summit 2018.

of the global English-language weekly newspaper, the first-of-its-kind summit took place at the Rosewood Hotel, Abu Dhabi.

Speaking at the conference, Goddard said, "Sustainability and green business are the defining issues, the defining themes of our time. It has been roughly two years since the Paris Agreement when the world agreed to cap global emissions to limit climate change and global warming, and it has been two and a half years since the Sustainable Development Goals were ratified by the United Nations. These are

rightly seen as seminal moments, a sea-change in our thinking on societies and development. Today we will be asking, how much progress has been made?"

Speaking on the subject of green business, he added, "On the important transition of business, there has been some gathering progress in terms of sustainability. Corporate commitments have been made and are beginning to be met. However, despite these positive developments, progress remains fragmented and quite piece-meal. The task ahead is quite daunting."

Speaking during the first business panel of the day, titled "From responsibility to leadership," Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak, Secretary-General of the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi, EAD, said, "I think we can do more with the private sector, which is why I am here today; it gives us at the Environment Agency a chance to better understand the needs and challenges faced by businesses."

Commenting on the evolving role of EAD, she added, "It is one thing when government agencies are the only ones responsible for



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creating a greener community

safeguarding the environment, and it is another thing when the private sector shares responsibility for monitoring its impact.

“Sharing the task of protecting the environment with the private sector increases awareness and understanding of environmental regulation and leads to better outcomes and a cleaner, safer environment for us all. This is one of the many ways we can move the needle from compliance to beyond compliance and towards innovation. At the heart of this transition are public-private partnerships, which enable continuous improvement and kick-start innovation.”

Discussing the occasional

tension between businesses and environmental protection, Khaleefa Salem Al Mansouri, Under-Secretary of Abu Dhabi's Department of Economic Development, DED, said, “Sometimes there is a clash between business objectives and maintaining and respecting the environment.

“However, over the past ten years, we have focused on achieving our economic objectives while at the same time protecting the environment. It is always a challenge, but we are working to find the right formula for businesses and industries to grow while mitigating their impact on the environment.”

Siim Kiisler, Estonia's Minister

of Environment, and Khaled Mohamed Fahmy Abdel Aal, Egypt's Minister of Environment, hosted a panel discussion on the politics of change. They discussed how policymakers can cultivate sustainable practices through regulatory frameworks and partnerships with the private sector that encourage environmental innovation.





Tree planting programme to celebrate Sheikh Zayed's vision of sustainability

Jumeirah Golf Estates (JGE) is set to honour Sheikh Zayed's vision of sustainable development through an extensive tree planting programme. As part of the UAE's Year of Zayed celebrations across the country, JGE will be planting over 200 ghaf trees, the national tree of the UAE, across its two internationally-acclaimed championship golf courses.

A ceremony to celebrate the planting of the first ghaf tree took place on 14th April 2018 on the 18th Green of the Fire Course.

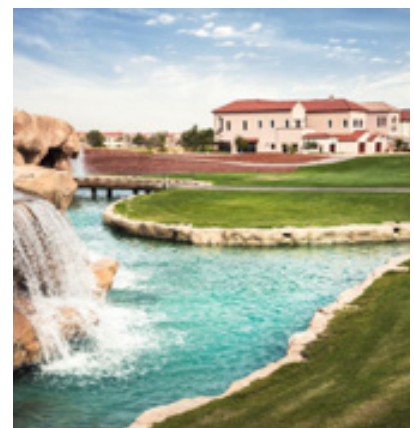
An indigenous species, specifically of the UAE, Oman and Saudi Arabia, the ghaf (*Prosopis cineraria*) is a drought-

tolerant, evergreen tree and one of the sturdiest plants to be found in the world's desert environment. In their natural habitat, many bird species nest on the Ghaf including desert eagle owl, brown-necked raven, yellow-throated sparrow and long-legged buzzard.

Jumeirah Golf Estates offers one of the largest habitats for wildlife in Dubai. With over 4,000 trees and 15 lakes it sees more than 340 species of native and migratory bird on an annual basis, making it the largest bird sanctuary in Dubai.

Yousuf Kazim, CEO of Jumeirah Golf Estates, said: "Jumeirah Golf Estates has truly embraced Sheikh Zayed's vision to

transform the desert into a green haven for a more sustainable UAE, and is honoured to be contributing to his nationwide message. The planting of the ghaf tree stands as a testament to JGE's commitment to the UAE's desire for a sustainable future."



Campaign

28 creating green community

1490 Kgs of marine debris waste collected during underwater clean-up in Abu Dhabi



The clean-up campaign took place off the capital's Corniche, and aimed to raise awareness about the country's natural environment and the importance of keeping the seas clean of waste.

To mark the 'Year of Zayed', an underwater clean-up organised by the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD), in partnership with the Emirates Diving Association (EDA) and the Abu Dhabi International Marine Sports Club took place off the Abu Dhabi Corniche on 19th April to raise awareness about our natural environment and the importance of keeping our seas clean of waste.

This activity is the second diving clean-up organised by EAD under the theme 'Together We Make the Difference' in 2018

to clean beaches, diving sites, deserts and other habitats in different locations of Abu Dhabi Emirate to ensure that our natural environment is safe, clean and healthy and to involve the community in environmental conservation.

Over 1490 kilograms of marine debris waste were collected by 50 divers from several entities in Abu Dhabi, in addition to a number of divers from other emirates.

Waste removed included plastic bottles, aluminum cans, food wrapper containers, abandoned

fishing lines and construction materials.

Commenting on the underwater campaign, Dr. Sheikha Salem Al Dhaheri, Executive Director of Terrestrial and Marine Biodiversity Sector said: "There is an imminent need for us to keep beaches and diving sites clear of debris.

"The sensitive waters, species and underwater inhabitants must be looked after for future generations to come and for the sake of conserving our natural habitats.



THE WASTE removed included plastic bottles, aluminium cans, food wrapper containers, abandoned fishing lines and construction materials.

“Toxic materials, plastics and waste can not only inhibit normal growth and reproduction, but also have fatal effects on marine species and the ecosystems they live off.”

“Organising clean-up campaigns is just one of many initiatives we are taking to allow for our seas and landscapes to be a safe-haven for different species and for the course of nature to take place”, added Dr. Al Dhaheri.

The clean-up campaign contributed to the clearing of marine debris litter which

otherwise would have detrimental effects on UAE marine life, potentially harm our fragile biodiversity and affect swimmers and fishermen’s livelihoods.

The campaign was organised with the support of other entities such as the Critical Infrastructure and Coastal Protection Authority, the Abu Dhabi Municipality, Abu Dhabi Police, Tadweer (The Center of Waste Management), New Medical Center Specialty Hospital, Emirates Diving Association, Abu Dhabi Divers Team and Seven Emirates Diving Team.



Award

30 creating green community institut du monde arabe

Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan honours winners of the Sheikh Zayed Book Award

The Sheikh Zayed Book Award commemorates the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, and his pioneering role in promoting national unity and development.

Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, the Sheikh Zayed Book Award held the award ceremony for its 12th edition on 30th April, 2018 at Manarat Al Saadiyat in Abu Dhabi, where the Arab World Institute was named the 'Cultural Personality of the Year'.

H.H. Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs, honoured the eight

winners in the presence of several ministers and a number of senior officials, ambassadors and diplomats.

Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak, Chairman of DCT Abu Dhabi, said, "The Sheikh Zayed Book Award honours a group of the most prominent thinkers and writers who have a clear impact on society. The Award comes in recognition of the wisdom and approach of the UAE's late Founding Father, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, exemplified in identifying knowledge and science as key priorities for the

development of the UAE citizen and the nation as a whole.

"Committing to this approach requires a profound appreciation of independent thought and openness that nurtures innovation and creativity without limits, which we strive to achieve as we witness their positive effects on the advancement of societies and the future of humanity especially when joined by efforts to foster cultural dialogues, tolerance and acceptance of others."

Saif Saeed Ghobash, Undersecretary of the





THE 'ARAB WORLD INSTITUTE' is the winner of the 12th edition of the 'Cultural Personality of the Year' title.

Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi (DCT Abu Dhabi) and member of the Award's Board of Trustees, said; "This year's award ceremony coincides with the celebrations for the 'Year of Zayed', the UAE's late Founding Father who led the country on a clear path to achieve progress, development and prosperity. As one of the pillars of his vision for the future of his country revolved around the preservation of culture and advancement of education, that paved the way for the UAE's growth and sustainable development for future generations."

Dr. Ali bin Tamim, Secretary General of the Sheikh Zayed Book Award, said; "We can learn a great deal of wise lessons through pondering on the life and unique insight of Sheikh Zayed, most importantly, that today is just an extension of yesterday and the future is the fruit of today.

"Additionally, we learn about the great significance of hope in lighting our path in life, which he has successfully instilled in the conscience of the nation. And today, we foresee the future of the UAE through the vision of President His Highness Sheikh

Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and the hope raised by His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces."

The Sheikh Zayed Book Award had announced the winners of its 12th edition, revealing the Arab World Institute as the winner of the 'Cultural Personality of the Year' Award.

The 'Literature' Award went to Syrian novelist Khalil Sweileh for his novel 'Ikhtibar al-Nadam'



(Remorse Test) while Emirati author Hessa Al Muhairi was named winner of the 'Children's Literature' Award for her story 'Al-Dinoraf' (The Dinoraf).

In the 'Young Author' category, Egyptian writer Ahmad Al Qarmalawi won the title for his novel 'Amtar Sayfiyyah' (Summer Rains). Neji Elounelli from Tunisia won the 'Translation' Award for his Arabic translation of the work of German author Theodor W. Adorno, 'Nathariyya 'estiteeqiyya'.

The 'Literary and Art Criticism' Award went to Moroccan academic Mohammad Mishbal, for his work, 'Fi Balaghat Al Hajjaj: Nahwa Muqaraba Balaghiyya Hajjajiyyah Litahleel

Al Khitab' (The Rhetoric of Al Hajjaj: A Rhetorical Approach Inspired by Al Hajjaj's Discourse Analysis).

The 'Arab Culture in Other Languages' Award went to German researcher Dag Nikolaus Hasse for his work 'Success and Suppression: Arabic Sciences and Philosophy in the Renaissance' while Dar Al-Tanweer (Beirut/Cairo/Tunisia) won the 'Publishing and Technology' Award, which was accepted by its director Hassan Yaghy.

The Sheikh Zayed Book Award commemorates the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, and his pioneering role in promoting national unity and development.

The Award, and its associated accolades, is presented annually, based on objectively-set scientific criteria, to outstanding writers, intellectuals and publishers, as well as emerging talents whose writing and translation in the humanities field enriches Arab intellectual, cultural, literary and social life.

The winner of the 'Cultural Personality of the Year' Award is presented with a gold medal inscribed with the Sheikh Zayed Book Award logo, a certificate of appreciation in addition to 1 million dirhams.

Winners in other categories receive a gold medal with a certificate of appreciation, and a prize of AED 750,000.



'Shukran Zayed' art installation unveiled at Cityscape Abu Dhabi 2018

Tamouh Investments has unveiled a unique art piece created in honour of the UAE's Founding Father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, at Cityscape Abu Dhabi 2018.

Conceived by Emirati artist Ashwaq Abdullah, the work is inspired by the individual "thank you" messages from Emiratis and expatriates posted on social media in 100 languages using Tamouh's "#ShukranZayed" hashtag as part of the Year of Zayed initiative.

The Shukran Zayed art installation design was officially unveiled by H.H. Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Chief of the Abu Dhabi Crown Prince's Court,

along with Ghanem Al Mansoori, CEO of Tamouh, and Abdullah on the first day of Cityscape Abu Dhabi.

Visitors at the real estate event, held at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre until 19th April, were able to see and interact with the concept design presented as a large 3D render on a wide interactive screen for the first time.

"The involvement of so many people of different nationalities represents the international reach that Sheikh Zayed continues to have. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to show my gratitude to the man who achieved so much for his homeland and the world,"

Abdullah said.

The art structure's chrome and metal surface will allow the future visitors at Reem Downtown to interact with the reflections, shapes and shadows that cover its surface. Three-dimensional Arabic text of Sheikh Zayed's name was added to the piece.

The trending #ShukranZayed hashtag allowed Emiratis and expatriates to express their gratitude to Sheikh Zayed for helping to lay the foundations of the UAE's development and promoting the important values of wisdom, respect, sustainability and human development among citizens and residents alike.



Lecture on 'Zayed and the empowerment of Emirati Women'

The Emirates Centre for Strategic Studies and Research, ECSSR, is organising a lecture, titled, "Zayed and the empowerment of Women," in early May 2018 at the Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan Hall in the centre's headquarters in Abu Dhabi.

The lecture will be delivered by Dr. Maitha bint Salem Al Shamsi, Minister of State.

This is part of the initiatives of the ECSSR for the Year of Zayed 2018 that was declared by President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan to honour the memory of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who dedicated his life to serving and advancing the nation.

The lecture, which aims to highlight the vision of Sheikh Zayed for the betterment of Emirati women, will also present the role of Sheikh Zayed in the advancement of Emirati women through four topics. These include: the stature of women and their place in the ideology of Sheikh Zayed and his personality, the role of religious values and customs in advancing the status of women, the efforts of Sheikh Zayed to promote the role of women in creating future generations, and the vision of Sheikh Zayed in the contribution of women to the country's development.

Zayed Charity Marathon in New York

The Abu Dhabi Police, ADP,

represented by its police mission at the UAE Embassy in Washington and Emirati students from the UAE, participated in the 10 kilometre race of the 14th Zayed Charity Marathon, at Central Park in New York, US.

The marathon's earnings will be donated to kidney patients at the "Specialised Kidney Research Hospital" in the US.

The ADP's participation in the event is part of its desire to promote the values and commemorate the memory of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who established the foundations of giving and humanitarian work in the UAE, as well as to implement the strategy of the Year of Zayed 2018.



Book on Sheikh Zayed quotes released

H.H. Sheikh Tahnoun bin Mohammed Al Nahyan, Abu Dhabi Ruler's Representative in Al Ain Region, attended a ceremony on 19th April, 2018 held at Qasr Al Muwaiji Museum in Al Ain city, to launch a book containing a collection of memorable quotes by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

The ceremony was also attended by Sheikh Hazza bin Tahnoun Al Nahyan, Under-Secretary of the Ruler's Representative Court in Al Ain Region; Sheikh Zayed bin Tahnoun Al Nahyan; Dr. Maitha bint Salem Al Shamsi, Minister of State, and a number of officials.

The release of the book comes as part of the 'Year of Zayed'

initiative to mark the centennial of the UAE's founding father.

It contains 100 quotes in Arabic and English by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan on various topics, including the unity, the young generations, the Arab world, women's empowerment, the establishment of the federation, and achievements.

An exhibition displaying photos of the late Sheikh Zayed was held on the ceremony's sidelines.

'Zayed in the hearts of Pakistanis'

Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al Zaabi, UAE Ambassador to Pakistan, has inaugurated an exhibition which features rare

photographs of official and unofficial visits made by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan to Pakistan.

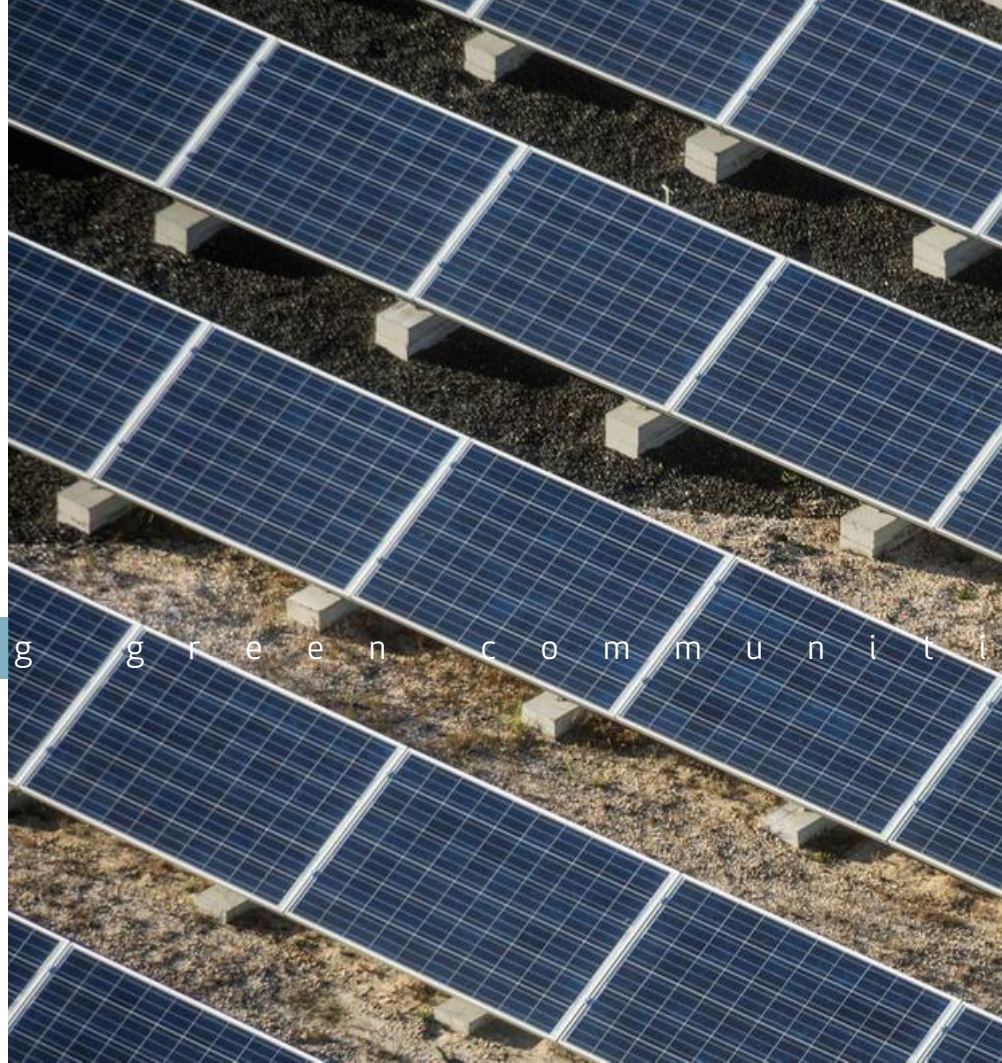
Titled, 'Zayed in the hearts of Pakistanis', the five-day exhibition held at The Centaurus Mall in Islamabad, opened with the presence of senior Pakistani government officials, diplomats, and local media. The opening coincides with 2018 being the 'Year of Zayed'.

The exhibition presents more than 25 pictures of Sheikh Zayed reflecting the special status and connection that Pakistan held in the heart of the founding father, telling stories of Zayed carrying out humanitarian, charitable and development projects.

Earth Day

36 c r e a t i n g g r e e n c o m m u n i t i e s

Over 100 schools take part in Expo 2020's 'Sustainability Champions' programme



The "Sustainability Champions" programme for all schools across the UAE is aimed at leaving a lasting renewable energy legacy for the nation.

Expo 2020 Dubai has contributed to Earth Day 2018 by announcing that more than 100 schools across the UAE had taken part in its "Sustainability Champions" programme with two of them selected to receive photovoltaic panels and sustainability support.

Launched in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment during Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week 2018, the programme celebrates the "Year of Zayed" by supporting the UAE founder's vision for a

sustainable future. An evaluation panel comprising experts from the two ministries and Expo 2020 narrowed the selection down to Umm Al Arab School in Abu Dhabi and American School of Dubai, recognising their commitment and contribution to sustainability initiatives.

As part of the programme, the schools will receive photovoltaic panels worth a combined AED1 million, plus support for their sustainability initiatives from Expo 2020. This will not only help the schools to cut operating costs but also allow them to

raise further awareness of sustainability and contribute to the lasting renewable energy legacy of Expo 2020.

Najeeb Mohammed Al-Ali, Executive Director of Dubai Expo 2020 Bureau, said, "It is great to see that so many schools participated in the programme, which reflects high levels of interest and enthusiasm in the school community for sustainability, as well as Expo 2020 as a national project.

"Sustainability is not only a core pillar of the Year of Zayed but also



THE "SUSTAINABILITY Champions" programme offers students an opportunity to become real partners and actively participate in developing sustainable solutions.

one of Expo 2020's three key sub-themes, alongside Opportunity and Mobility.

"We look forward to working closely with the school community to leave a lasting legacy for sustainability in the UAE, both physically and socially."

Asma Al Harthi, Principal, Umm Al Arab School, said, "We are proud to be recognised for upholding the values of sustainability, especially in the Year of Zayed. Our faculty and all 2,100 students have worked hard to integrate sustainability values into our

classrooms, curriculum and community engagement activities. Our student innovators, for example, created the UAE's first recycling centre for schools."

Dr. Paul Richards, Superintendent at the American School of Dubai, said, "We have always encouraged sustainable habits and innovation by spreading awareness and taking informed action to improve the present and future of our community.

"As well as improving efficiency and reducing costs, the photovoltaic panels will provide

a real-life example of sustainable practice to inspire our students."

The schools' photovoltaic panel installations will commence along with the new academic year in September 2018.

Expo 2020 aims to involve and engage the schools in the UAE in its exciting journey to 2020. Through various initiatives like school roadshows and Expo field trips, the Youth Connect team has already reached more than 48,000 students from 640 schools across all seven emirates and hopes to connect with many more this year.

Sustainability

38 c r e a t i n g g r e e n c o m m u n i t i e s

ICBA, Dubai Carbon team up for sustainability projects



Sustainability makes its way into the food, water and energy nexus; new partnership for collaboration in technical research, knowledge sharing, capacity building and project development.

To further strengthen the existing partnership and collaborate more closely in sustainable agriculture and development, the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA) and the Dubai Carbon Centre of Excellence (DCCE) have joined forces to work together on sustainability projects.

The collaboration was formalised on 10th April, 2018 through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by Dr. Ismahane Elouafi, Director General of ICBA and Mr. Ivano Iannelli, Chief Executive Officer of DCCE.

Through this partnership, both organisations agreed to cooperate in technical research, knowledge sharing, capacity building and project development.

The collaboration includes reviewing technical aspects of research projects of mutual interest and support in equipment supply, sharing content highlighting ICBA's contributions and efforts under its mandate in different areas, including but not limited to green economy, sustainability, sustainable development, food security and nutrition and capacity

development, to be featured in DCCE's knowledge products such as national reports and The Sustainabilist magazine.

Moreover, the collaboration includes promoting joint initiatives through outreach activities and developing knowledge hubs to address current regional needs in agricultural sustainability.

The agreement also covers brainstorming and collaboration on studying the needs of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region in



AS AN applied agricultural research center, ICBA has been working to address current and future risks and problems in marginal areas.

agricultural sustainability and developing project concepts for implementation in collaboration with concerned government entities.

During the signing ceremony, which was held at the DCCE office in Dubai, Dr. Ismahane Elouafi said: "Sustainability is one of the core areas addressed by ICBA research and development programs. I am sure this new partnership with the Dubai Carbon Centre of Excellence will further boost our efforts to work towards sustainable agricultural production and a more food and

nutrition secure world."

For his part, Mr. Ivano Iannelli said: "ICBA is pivotal towards regional success stories in the food, water and energy nexus. Their work has created a tangible knowledge base that can enhance our soil and water management best practices amongst an array of other scalable initiatives linked to carbon emission mitigation and adaptation."

As an applied agricultural research center, ICBA has been working to address current and future risks and problems

in marginal areas. Since 1999, the center has been identifying, testing and piloting resource-efficient, climate-smart crops and technologies in salt affected, water scarce and drought vulnerable regions around the world. As a result, ICBA has accumulated extensive applied experience and developed tailor made solutions to the problems of salinity, water scarcity and drought. The centre is uniquely positioned to introduce much needed climate-smart crops and technologies in different parts of the world to alleviate projected food and water crises.

'RAK Recycles' initiative launched



The 'RAK Recycles' scheme converts old shipping containers into Food Waste Treatment Centres, Recycling Drop-off Centres and a Recycling Outreach Centre & Food Bank.

The Ras Al Khaimah Waste Management Agency (RAKWMA) has announced plans for the next stage of its ambitious recycling initiative that aims to transform the way the Emirate's community disposes of its waste.

Al Hamamdi, General Manager of PSD (The Public Services Department) said "I am incredibly proud of all that is happening in Ras Al Kahimah to support the year of Zayed and the efforts being made to reach the National Targets set to protect our environment and contribute

to the global efforts related to climate change." Phase two of the 'RAK Recycles' scheme will see repurposed shipping containers installed at key locations and communities across the emirate to act as Food Waste Treatment Centres and Recycling Drop-off Centres.

The containers will allow RAKWMA to efficiently deal with the collection of recyclable household waste and the conversion of Food Waste into compost and other soil enhancing products for use in landscaping and farming.

This initiative follows on from the successful 'RAK Recycles' home recycling and waste sorting scheme, launched in September last year. Communities in Al Dhait, Rams, the Southern region of RAK, all RAK Properties developments and the Al Hamra area have already been provided with green bags for the collection of recyclables such as plastics, paper, cardboard, cans and glass bottles, and brown bags for food waste.

All other areas of Ras Al Khaimah will be receiving their recycling bags before the end of June 2018.



THE 'RAK Recycles' initiative aims to divert 75 per cent of municipal waste from landfill by 2021.

Households are encouraged to sort their waste into either green or brown bags before it is collected. Separating waste means more high-quality recyclable products can be easily processed and sold.

'RAK Recycles' has been met with such enthusiasm by the community that officials at RAKWMA plan to expand operations by targeting new initiatives to further support the recycling of food and household waste.

Drop-off centres for recyclable household items will be opened

at Saqr Park, in the front parking lot, and in RAK Mall's parking lot to encourage residents and small businesses to properly dispose of even more waste alongside what they already put into the 'RAK Recycles' green bags.

Three food waste treatment centres will be opened at Al Hamra Mall, the RAK Vegetable Market, the Mairid Fish Market and an outreach centre and food bank will be established on the Corniche.

Non-edible food waste such as food that is past its consume

by date, will be composted or digested at the food waste treatment centres reducing the amount of food that ends up in landfills. Food waste landing up in landfills is a major contributor to climate change due to leachate generation, greenhouse gas emissions and space consumption.

Traditionally, waste was thrown away by consumers and taken to landfill, incinerated or recycled out of the public eye. Now the recycling process is decentralised, with the waste collection, disposal and processing being made known and visible to the public.

UAE Summit tackles global sustainability challenges



The Sustainable Communities and Climate Change Summit, SCCCS, 2018 provided an opportunity to launch key regional and global partnerships on sustainable communities and climate change.

The Sustainable Communities and Climate Change Summit, SCCCS, was held under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of Dubai Executive Council, to provide a dedicated platform to discuss major regional and international issues in relation to climate change and other sustainability challenges facing the global community.

The SCCCS was organised by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, MOCCA, in partnership with Dubai Land

Department, DLD, and Majid Al Futtaim, MAF, at the Jumeirah Beach Hotel, Dubai.

Over 250 decision makers and professionals from different cities, national governments, non-governmental organisations, UN bodies, and the private sector attended the summit.

In the keynote address, Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al-Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, said, "Coinciding with Earth Day 2018, the SCCCS is held under the theme 'UAE Earth Day' to highlight the UAE's achievements

in sustainable development and share our best practices with the world. Today, we are reaffirming our commitment to sustainable development in the face of significant challenges: the growing population, expanding economy and increasing demand on energy, water, food, infrastructure, and waste management, as well as the impacts of climate change, pollution and biodiversity losses."

The Minister noted that these challenges are bound to become more acute in the light of the rapid urbanization. He added that



e s f o r a b e t t e r t o m o r r o w

THE SCCCS discussed major regional and international issues in relation to climate change and other sustainability challenges facing global communities.

it is estimated that more than 50 percent of the global population live in cities and this figure is expected to exceed 5 billion by 2030.

Dr. Al-Zeyoudi said, “This year, the UAE is celebrating the Year of Zayed, commemorating our founding father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who was a visionary on environmental sustainability. His legacy continues to this day through the commitment of our wise leaders to devising national strategies and adopting innovative measures and processes to ensure the

ecological footprint in urban areas and cities is effectively reduced, given the population growth, economic development and the changing production and consumption patterns.”

He stressed that the UAE exerts tremendous efforts locally and internationally to mitigate climate change effects and boost sustainability. On the policy front, the UAE has long-term national strategies including Vision 2021, the UAE Centennial 2071, the National Green Growth Strategy, Green Agenda 2030, National Climate Change Plan 2050 – a

first of its kind in the region, the National Energy Strategy 2050, and the policy of diversification of energy sources.

These strategies and policies guide the country’s transition into a climate resilient green economy capable of boosting climate change effects mitigation and adaptation.

“Our priority is not just about domestic affairs. We are firmly committed to meeting the global common objectives of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change as well as the UN Sustainable



Development Goals. We are the proud host of the International Renewable Energy Agency and have committed close to US\$1 billion to support renewable energy deployment in developing countries,” Dr. Al-Zeyoudi added.

During the Summit’s proceedings, the Minister announced the establishment of the UAE-UN Environment sustainability partnership, aimed at enhancing cities’ resilience to climate change.

This partnership will target educating and informing policy makers, the private sector, government officials, the civil society and the public to cultivate interest and support to sustainable communities. It will also promote research and

facilitate innovation to enable sustainable communities, as well as empower policy makers and other stakeholder through developing policy tools. He also

announced the establishment of the Green Carpet Award which will recognise industry players for their innovative contribution to sustainability.





MoCCA, Bee'ah ink MoU on waste management

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, MoCCA, and Sharjah Environment Company, Bee'ah, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding, MoU, to promote more cooperation towards achieving the indicators of the UAE Vision 2021 National Agenda, pertaining to the environmental and green growth targets.

The MoU was signed by Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al-Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, and Thabit Salim Al Turaifi, Deputy Chairman of Bee'ah and Director-General of Sharjah City Municipality, at the ministry's headquarters.

Under the MoU, MoCCA will hold regular meetings with

Bee'ah to review work progress, ensure data accuracy and follow up on upcoming initiatives and schemes in Sharjah to help achieve the national indicators. The meetings will also see the two parties create, develop and update a waste database in the UAE, as well as organise joint workshops and training programmes for knowledge transfer and sharing of experiences in waste management.

Bee'ah will collaborate with the Ministry to achieve the annual targets of the national indicator related to waste management in Sharjah. This stipulates reducing the current average of municipal solid waste per capita from 1.3 kg to 1.1 kg in 2021, and increasing

the current percentage of treated waste of the total waste generated from 60 percent to 76 percent by 2021.

Speaking on the partnership, Dr. Al-Zeyoudi said, "The MoU with Bee'ah is in line with our commitment to unify efforts and collaborate with public and private sectors to achieve the Sustainable Environment and Infrastructure indicator in the UAE Vision 2021 National Agenda."

He noted that the MoU will serve as a cornerstone for collaborative efforts between the two parties to roll out plans and initiatives that will ultimately improve national indicators related to waste.

Conference

46 c r e a t i n g g r e e n c o m m u n i t i

Tackling the threats facing migratory birds



The illegal killing and taking of wild birds remains a major threat on a global scale, data presented at international conference reveals.

Over 20 million birds are estimated to be illegally killed or trapped each year in countries surrounding the Mediterranean, Iraq, Iran and in the Arabian peninsula, according to data presented at the 'Summit for the Flyways' conference on bird migration and conservation. The conference was organised by international conservation organisation BirdLife International and hosted by the Abu Dhabi-based International Fund for Houbara Conservation, IFHC.

The 20 most important locations

in this broad region for illegal killing and trapping are found in Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Cyprus, Egypt, Azerbaijan and Iran, preliminary data suggests. However, as many as 10 million birds may be illegally killed or trapped in member states of the European Union.

In the Arabian peninsula, Iraq and Iran, preliminary estimates, presented by Rob Sheldon, Chairman of the Ornithological Society for the Middle East, the Caucasus and Central Asia, OSME, suggest that between 1.7 million and 4.6 million birds may

be killed or trapped illegally. Of the nine countries involved, the United Arab Emirates is believed to have by far the lowest figure, the estimates show, something ascribed by one participant to the effective implementation of legislation as well as the lack of a widespread tradition of shooting wild birds.

Overall, nearly eighty per cent of all bird species found in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa are believed to be affected by illegal hunting and trapping.

A review of the problem



TO GET to where they need to be, migratory birds have to run the gauntlet of illegal hunting/killing, wind turbines, pollution and a panoply of other threats.

being undertaken by BirdLife International and its global partners indicates that it can have different aspects in different regions. In parts of the Middle East, such as Lebanon, illegal shooting is rife, while in South East Asia, the trapping of songbirds for the pet trade is a serious issue. In the Mediterranean, there is trapping, both for the pet trade and for food, while in much of Europe, there are problems caused by the poisoning of birds of prey.

Speakers noted that there were a wide range of issues to be

confronted, including the nature of legislation, the degree of effective enforcement, cultural traditions and the economic value of the trade. In the Balkan states, for example, the trade in captured songbirds is believed to be worth at least ten million Euros a year, while in the western Maghreb, like Morocco, the value of a captured goldfinch, a popular cagebird, can be nearly one third of the average monthly income.

In France, up to 30,000 ortolan buntings are trapped each year and then fattened for food. These can sell for as much as 150 Euros each.

As a result of illegal killing and trapping, a number of species, including seven species of vultures and 17 species of Asian songbirds have now been upgraded to the status of being Critically Endangered on the Red Data list of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

The Summit for the Flyways was organised in association with the EAD – Abu Dhabi, Ornithological Society of the Middle East, the Swiss-based Maya Foundation, and the UNEP's Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals.

Initiative

48 c r e a t i n g g r e e n c o m m u n i t i

Dubai Tourism explores ways to enhance sustainability standards



40 leading hotel stakeholders and environmental organisations discuss implementation feasibility and timelines for sustainable tourism practices.

Dubai's Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing (Dubai Tourism) organised the first in a series of stakeholder focus groups and workshops, inviting hotels, tourism agencies and environmental organizations to review the progress of the Dubai Sustainable Tourism (DST) initiative, to explore ways how sustainability standards can be further enhanced to support effective resource management across various hotel classifications, and to contribute effectively to raising professional awareness towards

the environment, the economy, and the use of natural resources.

These focus groups are a tangible demonstration of Dubai Tourism's continuing commitment to work closely with its tourism and hospitality stakeholders to promote sustainable tourism and achieve the goals set out in the Tourism Vision 2020.

Connecting 40 leading hotel operators, owners and representatives from hotel establishments, as well as environmental organisations, the event offered an interactive

platform to discuss knowledge-sharing to discuss the feasibility and implementation of timelines for 19 new industry sustainability standards developed by DST. These include guidelines on: sustainable management approaches; performance metrics; energy, food and water management plans; training initiatives; and the presence of sustainability committees within hotel establishments. There were also discussions on how to implement structured monitoring and reporting mechanisms to gauge the success of the sustainability standards in the



THE DST initiative aims to position Dubai as one of the world's leading sustainable tourism destinations.

hospitality sector.

Yousuf Lootah, Executive Director – Tourism Development & Investments, Dubai Tourism, said: “Working in line with the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, to transform Dubai into a sustainable environmental destination, the credible and feasible sustainability standards and certification schemes are key tools in the transformation of our tourism industry, working in line with the city’s overall clean energy

and sustainable development targets. The standards and policies introduced to the industry through the DST initiative are not only aimed at supporting effective resource management, but also providing guidance on what enhanced sustainability measures look like in a concrete and practical way.

“In the coming years, we expect these standards to pave the way forward for Dubai’s tourism and hospitality sectors to continue to implement innovative standards. These events and workshop sessions are therefore key to

harnessing the collective power of our stakeholders and industry partners to encourage collective sustainability aims, commitments, outcomes and impacts, and create a clear understanding of how powerful hospitality establishments can be in bringing about change,” Yousuf Lootah added.

The DST initiative, which is managed by the Tourism Development & Investments division at Dubai Tourism, aims to position Dubai as one of the world’s leading sustainable tourism destinations.

Nuclear Energy

50 c r e a t i n g g r e e n c o m m u n i t i e s

Final dome structure completed at Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant



Construction of Reactor Containment Building Dome Structure for Unit 4 successfully completed; the final unit of the Barakah Plant.

Reaching another milestone in the development of the Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant, the Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation (ENEC) has successfully completed the Reactor Containment Building (RCB) dome for Unit 4, the final unit of the Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant, located in the Al Dhafrah region of Abu Dhabi. The Unit's Reactor Coolant Loop (RCL) pipe welding, and the setting of key equipment have also been completed.

The completion of Unit 4's dome structure signifies the

majority completion of the main construction activities at the Barakah Plant. This is a key milestone in the overall development of the UAE Peaceful Nuclear Energy Program and the delivery of safe, clean and reliable electricity to the UAE grid.

The dome is the final structural component of the RCB, which now measures around 70 meters in height. The RCB houses the nuclear Reactor Vessel (RV), Steam Generators and other major components. Built out of concrete and heavily reinforced steel, RCBs are ranked among

the strongest structures in the world. The successful and efficient completion of welding of the RCL, which plays a key role in transferring heat from the Reactor Vessel (RV) to the Steam Generators, is another key step towards the start of major testing for the systems of Unit 4.

Eng. Mohamed Al Hammadi, ENEC Chief Executive Officer, said: "These achievements highlight the significant progress being made in both the construction of Unit 4 as well as the journey towards the overall completion of the Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant.



ENEC IS working to deliver safe, clean, efficient and reliable nuclear energy to the UAE - energy that is needed to support the nation's social and economic growth.

Construction of last unit of the plant commenced in 2015, and it continues to benefit from the lessons learned and experience gained by the teams responsible for the construction of the other three units. With construction completion for Unit 4 currently standing at 67%, the next phase for the unit will be to start the transition from construction to testing and commissioning.”

“ENEC is committed to delivering clean, safe and efficient electricity through peaceful nuclear energy to the UAE, in adherence to the highest

international standards of quality and safety. These recent milestones are the result of the exceptional partnership between ENEC and its Prime Contractor and Joint Venture partner, the Korea Electric Power Corporation (KEPCO),” added Eng. Al Hammadi.

In addition to the completion of the RCB dome structure and RCL welding, a significant amount of major equipment setting has been safely and successfully completed at Barakah Unit 4.

Construction crews continue to ensure that the highest standards

of nuclear quality are implemented for Unit 4, in the same way as for Units 1 to 3.

The completion of the final dome structure and additional work on Unit 4 is indicative of the steady and continuous progress being made at the Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant, which is more than 87 % complete. Unit 4 alone is more than 67 % complete, while Units 3 and 2 are 81% and 92% respectively. The plant’s first Unit has been safely completed and the Unit is currently undergoing a comprehensive review in preparation for operations.

Food Security

52 c r e a t i n g g r e e n c o m m u n i t i e s

Need for exploring non-traditional crops and water-saving technologies stressed



New methods of horticulture that are less energy intensive and reduce the stress on water resources need to be developed, says UAE's Minister of State for Food Security.

The need for exploring non-traditional crops and technologies that can play an important role in contributing to future food security in the UAE, was stressed at the open day and round-table discussions organised by the International Centre for Biosaline Agriculture, ICBA.

Mariam Hareb Almheiri, Minister of State for Food Security, highlighted the importance of developing new methods of horticulture "that are less energy intensive and reduce the stress on our water resources. Our freshwater needs are currently

being met by energy-intensive desalination methods, which produce 60 percent of the country's supplies, but this figure is certain to increase as the country's population grows.

"The UAE is characterised by its extremely challenging conditions for agriculture. Freshwater access is a particular issue here something that is compounded by the fact that agriculture is the UAE's most water consuming industry, accounting for approximately 72 percent of the country's total freshwater consumption. This demand is further impacted by

depleting the water resources, which are reducing at a rate of 0.5 cm per year.

"Fortunately, over the years, the UAE has developed as a hub of innovation and has become renowned as a 'can do' country that utilises the latest technology to bring about societal advances. We are currently developing new energy and water-saving solutions that will optimise crop growing, thus strengthening our future food security resilience," the minister added.

Over nearly two decades, ICBA



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RESEARCH SHOWS that greenhouse cooling is the most water-intensive process as it consumed 1.6 times more water.

has been identifying, testing and introducing alternative, non-traditional crops and technologies that help to produce more food, save more resources and protect the environment. The centre has developed and piloted a wide range of solutions suited to highly saline and arid conditions.

Dr. Ismahane Elouafi, Director-General of ICBA, said, "At ICBA, we look at a broad set of solutions for soil, water and crop productivity. Our main focus is on finding solutions, which are best suited to local conditions and are low-cost and efficient. Reducing

the water footprint of crops under production in the UAE, such as date palms and vegetables, is vital for UAE food and water security." The centre has tested its low-cost technology in field trials for soil improvement and crop production. The trials have demonstrated that biochar significantly improves soil fertility, helps to save 30 to 35 percent of water and soil nutrients, and mitigates carbon dioxide emissions.

With the aim of improving water and energy use efficiency of horticultural production in local conditions, ICBA has

also completed a long-term comparative study of growing cucumber, tomato, sweet pepper and other vegetables in a widely-used high-tech greenhouse and a traditional net-house. The research showed that greenhouse cooling is the most water-intensive process as it consumed 1.6 times more water than the amount required to irrigate cucumber. In contrast, the misting system in the net-house required about 20 percent of the water used to irrigate cucumber. Data also showed that the greenhouse consumed 62 times more energy than the net-house.

Sustainability

54 creating

Happy, healthy and low carbon lifestyle continues at The Sustainable City



Latest monitoring results reveal that the community is achieving significant measurable outcomes across the environmental, economic and social pillars of sustainability.

The Sustainable City, the Middle East's first fully-operational sustainable community, has revealed some of the latest results from monitoring the city's performance over the past 12 months during the Future Cities Show 2018, which ran from 9th to 11th April at the Dubai World Trade Centre. According to the data provided by SEE NEXUS Institute, The Sustainable City is continuing to achieve significant measurable outcomes across the environmental, economic and social pillars of sustainability.

Faris Saeed, CEO of Diamond

Developers — the developer behind The Sustainable City — commented: "The concept of 'future' cities' has been realised at The Sustainable City, where people are enjoying a happy, healthy and low carbon lifestyle. We also continue to research, develop and innovate by testing new technologies in the city like vertical farming, humidity harvesting and the soon to start autonomous electric shuttle in collaboration with Dubai's Road and Transport Authority."

In the past 12 months, The Sustainable City has managed

to avoid 6,554 tons of carbon emissions from the varied sustainable measures practiced within the community, which is equivalent to 670 SUVs taken off the road for one year.

The numbers and statistics shared during the exhibition show that the annual water consumption in the city was 178 litres per person per day, which is 40% lower than the average resident water consumption in Dubai.

The average waste generation in the city is only 1.17kg per person per day, which is 60% lower than



e s f o r a b e t t e r t o m o r r o w

THE SUSTAINABLE City has recently partnered with Emirates Wildlife Society to tackle climate change and promote energy conservation and solar power.

the average residential waste generation in Dubai, and The Sustainable City has also diverted 85% of its waste from landfills.

Energy use intensity in the villas is only 97 kWh per square metre per year, which is 40% lower than stipulated in the Dubai green building standards, and 3% of households at the community have adopted an electric vehicle (EV) while the community's 124 electric buggies travel 216,735 kilometres last year.

To boost its efforts, the city is also using exclusively B100

Biodiesel to power construction at the second phase of the community, which has radically minimised harmful emissions.

Residents make total annual savings ranging from AED 26,000 to almost AED 60,000 and are also actively involved in producing the urban farming program.

The Sustainable City is now home to 63 nationalities and has also become a learning destination and tourist spot for sustainability enthusiasts, welcoming 9,000 visitors over the past year including 195 unique delegations.



Interview

56 c r e a t i n g g r e e n c o m m u n i t i e s

Gemfields: A
champion of
sustainability and
transparency



In an interview with Society & Environment, Jack Cunningham, the Head of Sustainability at Gemfields, gives an insight into how the world's leading supplier of responsibly sourced colored gemstones oversees its mining and marketing operations in a responsible and transparent manner.

Excerpts from the interview:

1. As a mining company, how does Gemfields ensure that the mining of precious coloured stones – a non-renewable resource – is transformed into a responsible and sustainable activity especially in ecologically sensitive areas? How do you ensure that sustainable practices are in place across the full supply chain of coloured gemstones from mines to markets?

The protection of the environment is central to the way we carry

out our mining practices. We are realistic and open about the impact of a mining operation on the environment. Before starting an operation, we carry out environmental studies to guide us in managing our sites in a way that not only meets, but where possible, exceeds national and international requirements. It is our aim for all our wholly owned operations to be operating to ISO14001 to help the continuous improvement process.

Beyond the legal requirements that come with our license, in the short-term, we strive to minimise

any unnecessary impact on flora and fauna by planning our day-to-day mining activities with the environment and biodiversity in mind. For example, before we mine an area, we collect seeds of the indigenous plants and trees from the top soil and create a seed bank. We then grow the seeds in a nursery on site for replanting as we complete mining activity on each area. We do this on an ongoing basis both to minimise the impact on the land, to encourage biodiversity and to avoid creating excessive waste dumps which can be a blight on the landscape. By backfilling the



e s f o r a b e t t e r t o m o r r o w

COLOURED GEMSTONES have been treasured since before the beginning of recorded history.

mining pits in areas that are not generating coloured gemstones, we are also able to landscape the environment more easily.

Beyond our mines we are actively involved in a range of initiatives to bring about greater legitimacy, transparency and integrity by working closely with our brand clients and supporting our rough gemstone customers in the middle of the supply chain. We work with the cutting & polishing downstream businesses to help them understand the implications of greater transparency around issues such as safe and ethical

labour standards, environmental management of their factories and disclosure of treatments. We also are championing new forms of innovation to help our brand clients gain confidence that a stone that is claimed to be Zambian or Mozambican has incontrovertible proof of its origin by piloting a Nano-technology with the Gueblin laboratory as part of their 'provenance proof' services so that a gemstone can be physically traced all the way back to our mine – something that is currently impossible with other forms of accounting. We have also tested the laser

inscription of gemstones and are investigating the possibility that blockchain, industry due diligence standards and auditing can play in making the whole sector more responsible.

2. What are the unique set of challenges in meeting Gemsfields' goals of 'legitimacy, transparency and integrity' in the mining industry?

Legitimacy: We go over and above accepted practices operating in a way that not only meets international and national laws, but that also



challenges the sector by setting new benchmarks around sustainability. The majority of the coloured gemstone sector is still artisanal, illicit and illegal. As a large-scale miner with an international profile we champion organised and systematic forms of mining and trading of gemstones that is at odds with how the coloured gemstone sector has existed for many hundreds of years

Transparency: To lead we must be transparent. As well as leading with our own standards and initiatives through our downstream supply chain, we are working with partners to standardise strong, transparent practices across the industry. This includes working with

organisations such as the Responsible Jewellery Council, CIBJO and a number of other industry associations. The challenge comes in that not all of the players in the sector are supportive of increased transparency.

Integrity: We are committed to embedding tangible operational actions from the mines onwards, to support sales and marketing of our product. Our proprietary grading system provides our partners with trusted evaluation and declaration of treatment. A lot of the challenge to this lies outside our control and we are actively championing for greater consistency in terms of how gemstones are graded, marketed and priced. Again, the challenge

is disruptive for the coloured gemstone sector and we often find resistance to our ideas.

3. Water pollution, deforestation, soil erosion, and heavy carbon footprint are some of the environmental impacts of mining that often lead to a breakdown of regional ecosystems. How do you address these issues and protect the natural landscape from where the gems are sourced?

As described above, we manage the landscaping of our mines by backfilling our pits and revegetating areas that we are no longer mining. Our operations are not water polluting since we do not use any chemicals in any of our processes (aside from the use of vehicle fuel for which we

Gemfields believes that coloured gemstones should be mined and marketed by championing three key values - legitimacy, transparency and integrity.



have environmental management systems for remediating soil contamination). Similarly, our operations are not material consumers of other resources such as electricity or other non-renewable materials. Where possible we will install renewable energy technologies to reduce our energy consumption.

4. Apart from environmental impact, gemstone mining also has a huge social impact – including dangerous working conditions and child labour. What measures do you take to support the local communities that work in your mines?

We do not employ anyone under the age of 18 at our operations and we have recorded no

operational fatalities since the start of our operations. Whilst mining is a dangerous sector, our gemstone mines are very safe. In terms of our collaboration with the community, aside from sourcing labour from local communities, we are committed to the long-term livelihoods of our community neighbours.

When we arrive at a mining location to start our operations, we always engage with the local community. Whilst we are reliant on the government licencing process we recognise that customary and cultural rights over land and resources is a sensitive subject, and expectations about a mining company can differ. Therefore, managing our relationship with

communities in a free, open and inclusive way is a priority.

As the operation progresses, we work collaboratively with communities in developing and investing in projects that are likely to deliver the greatest benefit, particularly in addressing issues that most commonly affect the developing world. These projects are tailored to community needs to deliver lasting positive legacies, whether to enhance economic development, create employment, provide skills training, or improve access to health and education facilities. We have dedicated employees at the operations in which we mine whose roles are specifically tailored towards co-operation



with the local communities and to assist in the selection, and successful implementation of these community projects.

At each operation, locally developed community strategies reflect the overall Gemfields approach to sustainability and are tailored to the needs of the community. Each community strategy follows a consistent approach to invest in health, education and livelihoods projects after extensive community consultation and approval of the use of available funds.

Our philosophy is that for infrastructure projects, where investment by the state is limited, we will build schools, clinics or upgrade basic utilities,

roads and bridges but hand these over after developing a clear memorandum of understanding with the government. For livelihood projects, we provide start-up funds, help to set up farming associations, provide project and financial management expertise, and facilitate training in order that projects become viable in the long-term and that communities may benefit from new sources of income in the short, medium, and long term.

5. What advice would you give ethical consumers on picking an environmentally friendly gemstone?

There is currently no standard industry definition of an 'ethical'

coloured gemstone. Some retailers determine 'ethical' as having been mined by small scale miners compared to companies like Gemfields, others determine it to a gemstone having come from certain countries. Attempts are being made across the industry by many that are keen to champion transparency to develop standards, with industry organisations such as the Responsible Jewellery Council and CIBJO so that everyone across the supply chain can work to the same goals. But for consumers the best place to start is to ask the jeweller if they know where the gemstone has come from, if there are any industry treatments and if there is any laboratory certification accompanying the gemstone.



Advanced waste collection system introduced in Mamzar area

The Waste Management Department of Dubai Municipality has put into operation an advanced system for collecting and transporting waste in Al Mamzar area.

“We have been keen to introduce the most efficient and effective systems in the field of collection, storage and transportation of waste to be in line with the strategic objectives and requirements of the Smart Government, and in application of international best practices and practical experiences in the field of smart waste management,” said Eng. Abdulmajeed Saifaie, Director of Waste Management Department.

He said that as an initial

stage, the project is being implemented in Al Mamzar area and is expected to be gradually introduced in other areas in the next phases.

“Members of the Sustainable Waste Management Awareness Team in the Department have carried out visits to 133 housing units in Al Mamzar to create awareness among the residents of the area on the importance of the project and to seek their participation in the Department’s efforts aimed at disseminating the culture of waste sorting from the source,” said Saifaie.

“Through this project, two containers have been provided, one for general waste, the other for collecting recycling materials,

in addition to introducing advanced vehicles with high technical and operational specifications,” added Saifaie.

“The containers can be emptied from both sides of the road at the same time with the possibility of unloading the containers placed above or below the ground.

“Another advantage of the application of this system is that it has sophisticated washing units to clean and sterilize the containers in the same location using very small quantities of water to reduce wastage of water, which are discharged through special channels. Container emptying is fully automated,” he said.

Award

62 c r e a t i n g g r e e n c o m m u n i t i e s

Building on a legacy: Launch of Zayed Sustainability Prize



Evolving from 10 years of success as the Zayed Future Energy Prize, the UAE's preeminent sustainability Prize undergoes a strategic refocus.

The Zayed Future Energy Prize has become the Zayed Sustainability Prize as part of a strategic move to refocus its mandate. After ten years of successfully promoting renewable energy initiatives across the globe, the Prize will now broaden its focus to affect greater humanitarian impact by supporting a wider range of solutions to the challenges of sustainable development.

Commenting on the Prize's transformation, His Excellency Dr. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, UAE Minister of State and

Director General of the Zayed Sustainability Prize, said: "Inspired by the vision and legacy of our founding father, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the Zayed Future Energy Prize has, for the last decade, been able to positively impact 307 million lives through empowering access to energy, clean water, education, training, advocacy and more.

"In a move to align more closely with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the UAE's developing national agenda, going forward the Prize will broaden its reach beyond renewable

energy, and reward projects and innovative solutions from a wider spectrum of sustainability and human development initiatives. In addition, the Prize will expand its support of young people through the Global High Schools category, which will now reward youth-driven projects from a greater number of world regions."

Based on its renewed mission, the Prize now has five distinct categories for applicants to choose from: Health, Food, Energy, Water and Global High Schools. These pillars are interconnected and



SUBMISSIONS FOR the Zayed Sustainability Prize will close on 9th August 2018.

representative of basic needs essential to human survival where innovations will yield progress in sustainable development.

Dr. Lamya Fawwaz, Director of the Zayed Sustainability Prize, said: "The new categories were carefully selected to reflect the most pressing sustainability challenges and offer the greatest socio-economic impact on the lives of people around the world."

"The Zayed Sustainability Prize will also look to inspire today's youth to be forward-thinkers and cultivate within them a

vested interest in becoming agents of change for sustainable development – after all, youth of today are leaders of tomorrow," Dr. Lamya added.

The Zayed Sustainability Prize will see a three-stage evaluation process, beginning with the due diligence that is conducted by a reputed international research and analysis consultancy. Following this, the shortlisted entries will undergo evaluations by a Selection Committee to determine the finalists. From these finalists, a Jury will select the winners in all five categories,

including the winning schools from six world regions.

The three core criteria entrants must demonstrate include:

Impact: Significant and tangible outcomes on the quality of people's lives

Innovation: Distinctive characteristics to change the "status quo" and potential to catalyse opportunities that will have a disruptive positive impact and transformative change

Inspiration: The potential to scale up project outcomes in the next decade and the ability to inspire others

Report

64 c r e a t i n g g r e e n c o m m u n i t i

Many bird species
declining in
numbers: Report



[At least 40 per cent of bird species are declining in numbers and one in eight species is globally threatened with extinction, according to a new report released by BirdLife International.](#)

Many of the world's best-known bird species are now at risk of extinction, according to the State of the World's Birds, a report issued on 23rd April, 2018 by the international conservation organisation, BirdLife International. The report shows that many of the world's 11,000 bird species are in dire straits. At least 40 per cent of these species are declining in numbers and one in eight bird species is globally threatened with extinction, it says.

"Although the report provides a sobering update on the

state of birds and biodiversity and of the challenges ahead," says the organisation's CEO, Patricia Zurita, "it also clearly demonstrates that solutions do exist and that significant, lasting success can be achieved."

The release of the report coincides with the holding in Abu Dhabi of a major conference on bird conservation, 'A summit for the Flyways', organised by BirdLife in association with the Ornithological Society of the Middle East, the Caucasus and Central Asia, OSME, the UN Environment Programme's

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, CMS, the Swiss-based Mava Foundation and the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi, EAD.

The report notes that many bird species known for being widespread and common are now at risk of extinction. Among species now classified as Globally Endangered is the Egyptian Vulture, a resident in small numbers in the UAE, where it is most commonly seen on Jebel Hafit, while the Eurasian Curlew, which migrates to the UAE in autumn from breeding grounds



e s f o r a b e t t e r t o m o r r o w

THE REPORT notes that many bird species known for being widespread and common are now at risk of extinction.

further north, is classified as Near Threatened.

The report says that the continued deterioration of the world's birds is "a major concern for the health of our planet." Birds provide a wide variety of services to the world's ecosystems, the report notes, such as controlling insect pest populations, and dispersing plant seeds.

Vultures, one of the most threatened bird groups, provide crucial sanitary services across South Asia and Africa through the disposal of animal carcasses.

Overall, BirdLife International says, human actions are responsible for most threats to birds. Foremost among these threats are: agricultural expansion and intensification, which impacts 1,091 globally threatened birds (74%); logging, affecting 734 species (50%); invasive alien species, which threaten 578 (39%) species; and hunting and trapping, which put 517 (35%) species at risk.

The report warns that climate change represents an emerging and increasingly serious threat currently affecting 33% of

globally threatened species and one that often exacerbates existing threats.

Despite the report's worrying findings, conservation efforts can have an effect, the report says, noting that in recent decades at least 25 species have been saved from extinction. The report goes on to note that BirdLife is responsible for identifying a network of Important Bird & Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) around the world. A number of such areas have been identified within the United Arab Emirates, with the support of local groups.



Is soil health important for human health?

According to the Holy Quran, Man was created from mud and our connection to nature is ever lasting since the beginning of our existence.

Soil, food, water and the air that we breathe are all vital components of life that depend on Earth health to be available in sufficient quantity and good quality. Our health and even our happiness are dependent on the integrity of the environment around us.

Many pediatricians point out that chronic illnesses are widespread among children today and in spite of the intensive treatment with medicines, they are not cured. This is very much related to the kind of training that physicians now get, where there is no

focus on nutrition and preventative measures.

We have to therefore go back to nature where we can find a healthy soil with those microscopic organisms (microbes) living within it. We usually have a negative impression about microbes and we try to avoid them, but they are actually vital for both soil health and human health.

There are trillions of microbes such as bacteria, fungi and protozoa in our body regulating a variety of processes such as digestion, immune system function and brain functions. They are called “the Human Microbiome” and they play an important role in human health. The microbes in our gut or blood are directly related to the type and source of our food, water and soil. They are also affected by any synthetic chemicals that we use.

The children who eat fresh food, get the right microbes (germs) and get exposed to the elements of nature such as soil, sunshine, clean fresh water, and fresh air, are noticeably resilient and can successfully prevent or reverse their illnesses.

If we check what we are feeding our children today, we will find shocking facts about the contents that greatly harm their health. An organic diet rich in fruits and vegetables is what they need together with playing in the dirt out in nature, in order to be healthy and to beat infectious diseases.

The main problem today is the lack of awareness due to poor education and far-fetched mass media communication. Our education system needs fine tuning to include graduate urban planners who know these facts and recognize the need to keep enough space for parks and gardens in masterplans and avoid any damage to nature. We also need mass media communicators who specialize in the field of health and environment so that they can be qualified enough to spread the message in a simple format for raising awareness.

Let us all join hands and work together to keep our children healthy and productive.

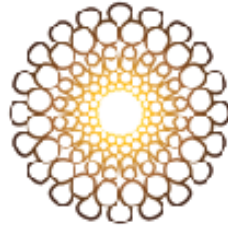
Dr. Eisa M. Abdellatif
Chief Technical Advisor
Zayed International Foundation for the Environment



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