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creating green communities for a better tomorrow



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2018
Nations unite to
Beat Plastic Pollution

UAE launches Green Business Toolkit to inspire businesses to be environmentally friendly



Emirates Appreciation Award for the Environment

Together for a green home

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creating green communities for a better tomorrow

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Prof. Mohammed bin Fahad
Executive Editor

When plastic was introduced, around 60 to 70 years ago, it revolutionized our everyday lives from clothing and product designs to engineering and packaging. Promoted as a product designed to last, it is this longevity of the non-biodegradable material that is now the scourge of the environment.

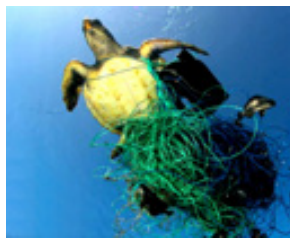
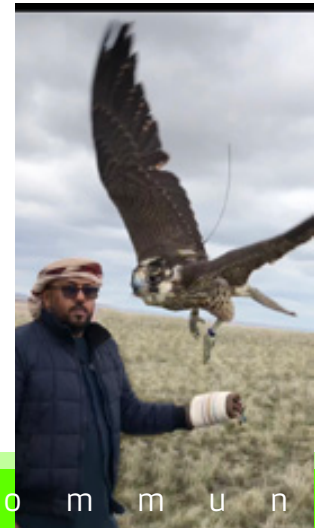
With more than eight million tons of plastic ending up in oceans each year, the growing levels of plastic waste is indeed a cause for concern. Only a few weeks ago, a pilot whale died in Thailand after eating more than 80 plastic bags and other plastic debris. Plastic has permeated our environment, be it on land, air or sea. Microplastics are found in the bellies of the smallest links on the food chain and in the water we drink. As governments and businesses are attempting to steer a course away from this inevitable crisis, we must also recognize the individual responsibility that each of us have to make changes that benefit the environment.

It is heartening that in the UAE, organisations have come forward with several initiatives to address this issue. 'Run for the Oceans', set to be held on June 22 in Dubai, aims to educate and raise awareness among the next generation to protect the waters. Other awareness initiatives include National Geographic Abu Dhabi's Planet or Plastic? campaign, and the banning of single-use plastic straws across several restaurants in the UAE. Innovative solutions are critical to tackling environmental challenges. We need to analyse the complex relationships in our plastics economy and work out an effective strategy to rethink how we produce, use and manage single-use plastics. Plastic pollution didn't happen overnight; and we certainly need time to halt it.

There is no doubt that the choices we make today, will define our collective future tomorrow. Awareness, technology, and partnerships are key to bringing about the much-needed change. We need to act today - and every day forward - to reduce the impacts our consumption makes on the environment. No action is too big or too small; and every day should be a day to beat plastic pollution.

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“With God’s will, we shall continue to work to protect our environment and our wildlife, as did our forefathers before us. It is a duty, and, if we fail, our children, rightly, will reproach us for squandering an essential part of their inheritance, and of our heritage.”

Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan

Se

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

The UAE is heeding the call of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, to deliver the message in the Year of Zayed that the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan is present and will remain in the hearts of the people of the UAE as the nation celebrates World Environment Day under the theme “Beat Plastic Pollution”.

Continuing in the path of the late Sheikh Zayed, one of the greatest global heroes of environmental conservation, the UAE is taking bold and swift steps to help galvanize greater action on plastics pollution with new legislations and guidelines on plastic waste consumption and disposal. Through awareness campaigns, the Ministry of Climate

Change and Environment has been working on creating a fundamental shift in public mindset about green practices and behaviours towards reducing, reusing and recycling plastic products.

The UAE, a leader in plastic waste recycling in the GCC, has also issued a decision obliging manufacturers and suppliers of plastic products to register biodegradable plastic products and adhere to the list of requirements and conditions for registering these in accordance with the UAE 2009:5009 specification standards.

In December 2017, HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed Al Maktoum, the Crown Prince of Dubai, took the initiative in leading a group of volunteers in cleaning the seabed thereby setting an inspiring example and delivering an impactful message on preserving our marine environment.

To strengthen and carry forward the message of Sheikh Zayed’s holistic vision for sustainability on a global level, the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment has integrated specific knowledge content around the topic of plastic pollution in our green education app, the Zayed Green Challenge. This smart app has achieved international stature by successfully disseminating environmental knowledge and awareness across 99 countries in the last five months alone. Such knowledge has the power to drive change and inculcate positive action, and by jointly nurturing such innovative strategies on the international arena, we can together #BeatPlasticPollution and chart a path to a more sustainable, plastic pollution-free future.

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Zayed Foundation



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

Zayed Foundation and University of Sharjah highlight global achievements of Sheikh Zayed

'Year of Zayed Photo Gallery' offered an insight into Sheikh Zayed's distinguishing philanthropic, environmental and humanitarian attributes and showcased the historical significance of his rule and the impact of his legacy within the UAE.

As part of the initiatives for the Year of Zayed, the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment in collaboration with the University of Sharjah, opened the Year of Zayed Photo Gallery on 6th May, 2018 at the Colleges of Medicine and Health Sciences. Prof. Hamid M.K. Al Naimiy, Chancellor of the University of Sharjah (UoS), opened the photo exhibition commemorating the late Sheikh Zayed through showcasing photos of the achievements he has accomplished regionally and globally. The exhibition was organized by the Office of Community Affairs at the University of Sharjah.

The Year of Zayed Photo Gallery was inaugurated in the presence of Prof. Qutayba Hamid, Vice Chancellor for Medical Colleges and Health Sciences and Dean of College of Medicine and Dr. Salah Taher Al Haj, Vice Chancellor for community Affairs, and Dr. Abdulaziz Nasser Al Raisi, Administrative Development Consultant of the National Archives.

Representing Zayed International Foundation for the Environment at the event were Eng. Hamdan Al Shaer, member of the Higher Committee, Dr. Meshgan Al Awar, Secretary General, and Dr. Eisa M. Abdellatif, Chief Technical Advisor of Zayed Foundation. The

deans of the faculties, members of the teaching and administrative bodies and university students also attended the event.

The Photo Gallery presented an insight into Sheikh Zayed's distinguishing philanthropic, environmental and humanitarian attributes and showcased the historical significance of his rule and the impact of his legacy within the UAE. The finely selected photographs represented the life of the great and noble leader. A short film about his life was also shown.

Speaking at the event, Prof. Hamid M.K. Al Naimiy said, "Under



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THE SELECTED photographs represented the life of the great and noble leader, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

the directives of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the UAE has officially declared 2018 as the Year of Zayed to mark the birth centennial of the Founding Father of the UAE, who passed away in 2004. The year-long celebration of the late president's life highlights his role in establishing the UAE and his achievements for tolerance, peace and progress."

In his address, Eng. Hamdan Al Shaer pointed out that the advanced and modern state of the UAE, which synchronizes and maintains its historical traditions and authentic heritage with the

modern UAE, is the true dream of the founding father, the late Sheikh Zayed. He added that it was the late Sheikh Zayed who laid the foundations for the green march of the UAE and that his concern for the environment ensured the need to preserve and develop it alongside economic and social development.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Meshgan Al Awar attested to Sheikh Zayed's leading role in protecting the environment and combating desertification through agricultural development and his interest in preserving nature and wildlife and raising

the environmental capacities of young citizens. She also spoke about the strengthening of ties between the Zayed Foundation and the governmental and private bodies concerned with environmental affairs in general, and the academies, universities and schools in the UAE, in particular, to disseminate environmental awareness to a larger audience.

Outlining the achievements of the Zayed Foundation, she pointed out that since its establishment in 1999 by HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, it has become one of



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the world's largest contributions to support sustainable development by stimulating pioneering achievements and promoting environmental sustainability and inculcating a culture of green life locally, regionally and internationally.

"This has been achieved by basing the Foundation's activities on the vision of the Founding Father of the UAE, and translating his environmental development ideas into reality," she said.

The Zayed International Environment Foundation presents two awards: the Zayed International Prize for the Environment, which honors global environmental achievements; and the Emirates Appreciation Award for the Environment which

recognizes and promotes similar pioneering contributions from across the UAE society.

In addition, Dr. Meshgan said, the Foundation endeavours to promote sustainable development through various environmental initiatives and through propagating environmental awareness, addressing sustainability issues, conducting international and regional conferences, workshops and seminars, raising consciousness among the public, professionals, trade and the fraternity; in addition to publications and community activities.

"Today Zayed Foundation participates in the Year of Zayed initiative of the University of Sharjah, the highlight of which

is an exhibition and lectures that reflect Sheikh Zayed's environmental heritage," she said.

"This will serve as a valuable tool of education for youth and enlighten them with the legacy our leaders have bequeathed to the nation. On this occasion, I would like to reiterate my sincere thanks to the Chancellor, the deans, faculty members, students and all the staff who contributed to organizing this event and making it a grand success.

"I wish the University of Sharjah all success in fulfilling its mission of fostering a culture of critical inquiry in the dissemination of scientific knowledge and providing its students with an abundant opportunity for life-long learning and development."



Dubai supply chain forum highlights practices for reducing environmental impact

The Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry recently hosted the 5th edition of the Dubai Sustainable Supply Chain Forum at its premises which gathered members of the business community in Dubai and highlighted global best practices for reducing companies' environmental impact.

Organised by the Sustainability in Supply Chain Task Force under the Dubai Chamber Sustainability Network, the forum provided an ideal platform for various supply chain stakeholders to initiate a dialogue and share their experiences in this area.

During the forum, representatives from PepsiCo

and Nestle shared specific examples of initiatives they have implemented which have improved efficiency within their supply chains, while a presentation from the UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment highlighted opportunities and challenges related to climate change in the UAE. The attendees participated in an open discussion and identified key sustainability challenges, as well as potential solutions to address them.

Speaking at the forum, Dr. Belaid Rettab, Senior Director, Economic Research and Sustainable Business Development Sector, Dubai Chamber, said that the forum supports Dubai Chamber's

efforts to facilitate cooperation on sustainability and foster a culture of Corporate Social Responsibility, CSR, within the business community.

The 5th edition of the forum provided valuable feedback which the Sustainability in Supply Chain Task Force, he said, adding that the task force would continue to work with public and private sector stakeholders to achieve their objectives.

Dr. Rettab explained that the Dubai Chamber Sustainability Network regularly organises seminars, forums and knowledge sharing sessions which aim to guide companies that are keen to integrate responsible business practices into their operations.

The world joins hands to 'Beat Plastic Pollution'



India is the global host of 2018 World Environment Day celebrated under the theme "Beat Plastic Pollution" as efforts are made globally to combat single-use plastic pollution.

“Beat Plastic Pollution”, the theme for World Environment Day 2018, urges governments, industry, communities, and individuals to come together and explore sustainable alternatives and urgently reduce the production and excessive use of single-use plastic polluting our oceans, damaging marine life and threatening human health.

“India is excited to host the World Environment Day this year on June 5. Indian philosophy and lifestyle has long been rooted in the concept of co-existence with nature. We are committed to making Planet

Earth a cleaner and greener place”, said Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, ahead of the celebrations in New Delhi, India.

He added: “If each and every one of us does at least one green good deed daily towards our Green Social Responsibility, there will be billions of green good deeds daily on the planet.” The Government of India has committed to organizing and promoting the World Environment Day celebrations through a series of engaging activities and events generating strong public interest

and participation. From pan-Indian plastic clean-up drives in public areas, national reserves and forests to simultaneous beach clean-up activities - India will lead the initiative by setting an example.

According to Erik Solheim, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Head of UN Environment, “India has demonstrated tremendous global leadership on climate change and the need to shift to a low carbon economy, and the country will now help galvanize greater action on plastics pollution. It’s a global emergency



es for a better tomorrow

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY is a day for everyone to take ownership of their environment and to actively engage in the protection of our earth.

affecting every aspect of our lives. It's in the water we drink and the food we eat. It's destroying our beaches and oceans. India will now be leading the push to save our oceans and planet."

As a country with one of the highest recycling rates in the world, India can be instrumental in combating plastic pollution. By hosting World Environment Day 2018, the Indian government is accelerating its leadership on an issue of tremendous magnitude.

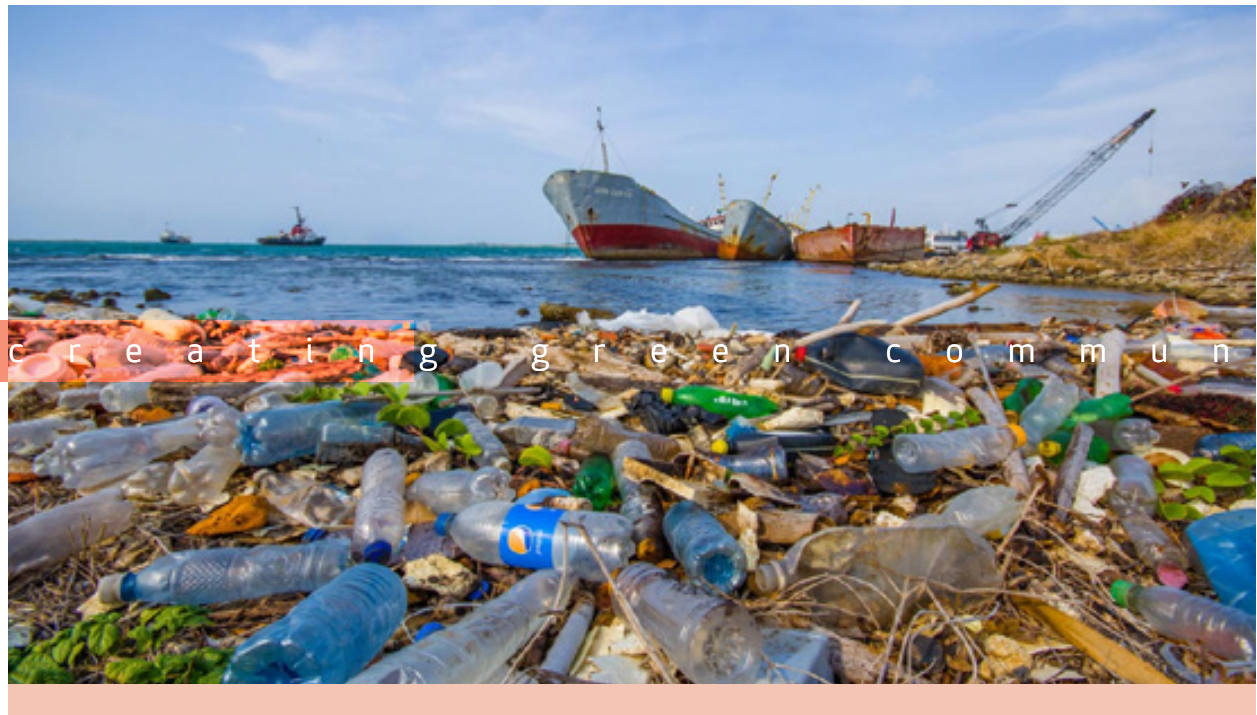
World Environment Day will seek to influence change in four key areas:

Reducing Single-Use Plastics
50% of the of consumer plastics are designed to be used only once, providing a momentary

convenience before being discarded. Eliminating single-use plastics, both from design chains to our consumer habits is a

Plastic Pollution: Did you know?

- Every year the world uses 500 billion plastic bags
- Each year, at least 8 million tonnes of plastic end up in the oceans, the equivalent of a full garbage truck every minute.
- In the last decade, we produced more plastic than in the whole last century
- 50 percent of the plastic we use is single-use or disposable
- We buy 1 million plastic bottles every minute
- Plastic makes up 10% of all of the waste we generate



critical first step to beat plastic pollution.

Improving Waste Management

Nearly one third of the plastics we use escape our collection systems. Once in the environment, plastics don't go away, they simply get smaller and smaller, last a century or more and increasingly find their way into our food chain. Waste management and recycling schemes are essential to a new plastics economy.

Phasing Out Microplastics

Recent studies show that over 90% of bottled water and even 83% of tap water contain microplastic particles. No one is sure what that means

for human health, but trace amounts are turning up in our blood, stomachs, and lungs with increasing regularity. Humans add to the problem with micro-beads from beauty products and other non-recoverable materials.

Promoting Research into

Alternatives

Alternative solutions to oil-based plastics are limited and difficult to scale. This doesn't need to be the case. Further research is needed to make sustainable plastic alternatives both economically viable and widely available.

Global Plastic Pollution by the Numbers:

- Up to 5 trillion plastic bags used each year
- 13 million tonnes of plastic leak into the ocean each year
- 17 million barrels of oil used on plastic production each year
- 1 million plastic bottles bought every minute
- 100,000 marine animals killed by plastics each year
- 100 years for plastic to degrade in the environment
- 90% of bottled water found to contain plastic particles
- 83% of tap water found to contain plastic particles
- 50% of consumer plastics are single use
- 10% of all human-generated waste is plastic



UAE researchers study climate change impact in Abu Dhabi

Climate change can have a devastating impact on the environment, land and daily life, and that is what Professor Taoufik Ksiksi, in the Department of Biology at the United Arab Emirates University's College of Science, is setting out to prove.

His project on the impact of climate change on land use in Abu Dhabi looks at how it manifests itself from environmental and socio-economic perspectives.

Three months ago, Dr. Ksiksi began collecting surveys from different groups, including farmers, experts, professionals, as well as people living in Abu Dhabi, to look at the economic impact of climate change. This includes noticeable changes

residents have had in their expenses over the past 30 years, related to land use change, electricity and the price of land, among other factors.

From the environmental perspective, he is setting out to gather satellite data to determine whether any changes can be observed in land use. The images look at historical and future changes in land use cases over Abu Dhabi.

Following a visit to Dr. Ksiksi's laboratory by Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al-Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, satellite images were provided for his research. "We are now in the process of the first initial preparation of images, since they

have to be prepared before any analysis is done. We will then perform a set of classification algorithms, then compare those land use classes to what has been done in 2005 images and see what has changed."

The research is also being conducted by Latifa Al Balooshi, an Emirati PhD student. The study will also help the government in planning for the future and suggest the use of research and development into ways to minimise the impact of climate change on daily life, including the use of energy, electricity and the impact of green buildings.

Initial results have shown a noticeable increase in green areas in Abu Dhabi.

UAE marks World Environment Day with launch of green business manual



[The new publication, launched by the UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, is intended to inspire all types of businesses to take the first step to become more environmentally friendly and socially responsible.](#)

Marking the 2018 World Environment Day, the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA) has launched the UAE Green Business Toolkit online. The role of the private sector is increasingly important to protect the country's precious natural resources and the global climate as well as to transform the country into a green, diversified economy. This new publication is intended to inspire all types of businesses around the country to take the first step to become more environmentally friendly and socially responsible.

One of the key pillars of the UAE Green Agenda 2030 adopted in 2015 is the development of knowledge-based green industries, such as clean energy, green buildings and sustainable cities, sustainable food, environmental goods and services, and eco-tourism.

The National Climate Change Plan 2050 approved in 2017 emphasizes the role of the private sector in managing greenhouse gas emissions, minimizing climate risks and increasing adaptation capabilities. At the heart of the Plan is the target to generate

27 percent of energy from clean sources by 2021, which was further enforced by the UAE Energy Plan 2050 that aims for 50 percent clean sources in the national energy mix and 40 percent improvement in energy efficiency by 2050.

While those ambitious targets require a fundamental shift to a low-carbon green economy, this could offer great opportunities for the UAE businesses. The earlier estimate made in the development of the UAE Green Agenda indicates that the efforts for green economy



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THE UAE Green Business Toolkit is produced in support of the private sector's engagement in environmental actions.

transformation would result in 4 to 5.5 percent higher GDP growth and creating 160,000 new jobs by 2030. The private sector's successful mobilization of clean, efficient technologies, knowledge and finance is key to realize such economic and employment gains.

The UAE Green Business Toolkit was therefore produced as the first publication from MOCCAE in support of the private sector's engagement in environmental actions. It is aimed to provide entry-level guidelines on what and how to do for greening the existing business or establishing

a new green business as an entrepreneur, in the three key areas: Green Office, Green Procurement, and Green Products. In each area, key actions to be taken are outlined and steps to implement actions are advised in a concise, visually attractive format.

Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zayoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, said, "Despite common perceptions, a green business can actually save costs from raising efficiency in resource use, improve its reputation and competitive advantage in the

marketplace, and become resilient to changing environment and unexpected events. This practice will keep the staff happy, healthy and productive and attract high quality employees as well as more customers.

"By making your business greener and more responsible, you can also make a great contribution to fulfilling the national and global agendas such as the UAE Vision 2021 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

"The UAE has a strong track record of partnering with



businesses, and we are driving the growth of the green industry through private-public partnerships. I hope that this new publication will help more businesses – particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) – to join the nationwide efforts for creating a sustainable, climate-resilient future.” The UAE Green Business Toolkit is available for download free of charge from the MOCCA website www.moccae.gov.ae.

DP World launches green warehousing initiative on World Environment Day

Marking World Environment Day, DP World’s Jebel Ali Free Zone, Jafza, has launched the UAE’s first green storage and warehouse facilities in Dubai,

helping businesses to reduce their carbon footprint.

The global trade enabler’s sustainable, long term growth is aligned with the United Nation’s ninth Sustainable Development Goal to build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation.

While some cool storage facilities are now running entirely on solar energy, an increasing number of other Jafza warehouses will become more energy efficient as DP World’s Solar Programme is rolled out over the coming years.

The project supports the UAE Vision 2021 for a sustainable

environment and includes construction of the largest distributed solar rooftop project in the Middle East, with the installation of 88,000 rooftop solar panels on DP World’s Dubai facilities.

It is estimated that the panels will produce enough clean power for 3,000 homes a year.

Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem, DP World Group Chairman and CEO, said, “Corporate citizenship is part of the fabric of society today and it will play a major part in our future. Building green infrastructure allows us to reduce carbon footprint in our facilities. By investing in these projects, we also encourage the development of new skills,

The UAE Energy Plan 2050 aims for 50 percent clean sources in the national energy mix and 40 percent improvement in energy efficiency by 2050.



driving economic growth and job creation.

“Our experience and studies have shown that a mindset to conserve and the development of sustainable business practices enables efficient operation. This streamlines effort and saves resources, which enhances employee productivity and reduces cost. It a win-win for all!”

DP World’s Solar Programme also contributes to energy diversification in the region as part of Dubai’s Integrated Energy Strategy 2030, which seeks to reduce energy demand by 30% by 2030.

In 2010, the company was the first international trade enabler

to join the Carbon Disclosure Project, CDP, which runs the global system that enables companies, cities, nations and regions to measure and manage their environmental impact.

Empower renews commitment to support global efforts to protect environment

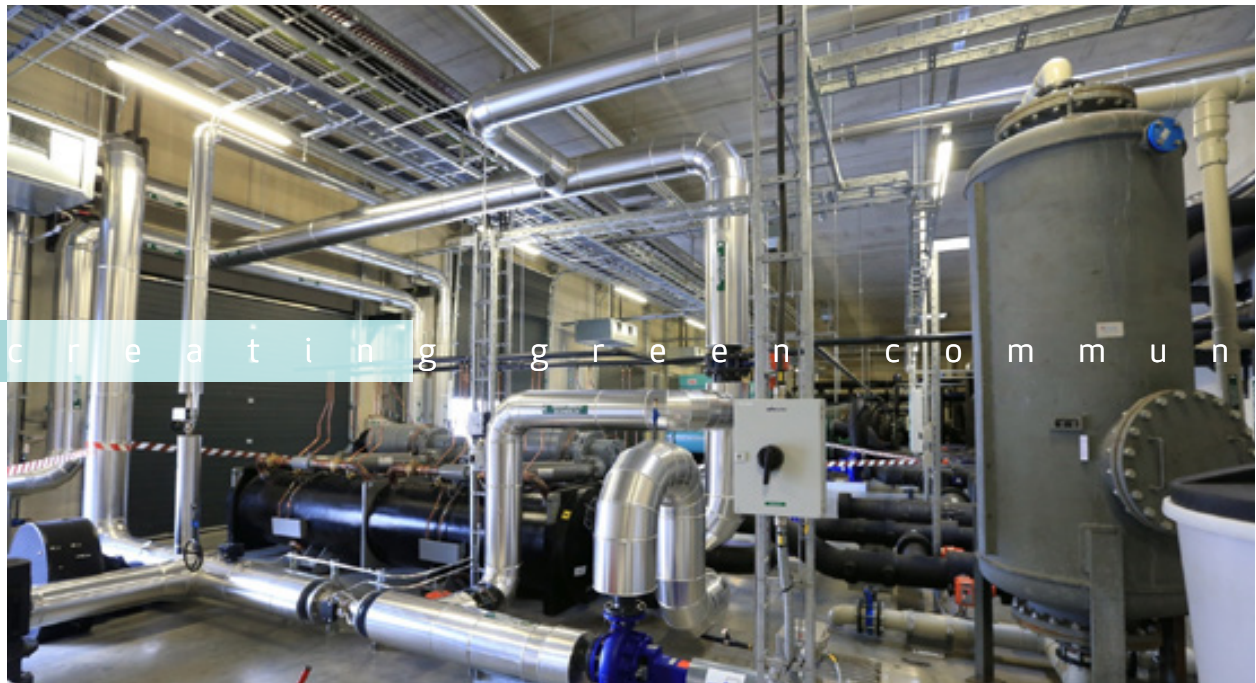
On World Environment Day, Emirates Central Cooling Systems Corporation, Empower, confirmed its commitment to protecting the environment by focusing on sustainable development goals and delivering high-efficiency, high-quality district cooling services based on the best global practices.

“In 1972, the United Nations

Environment Programme, UNEP, established World Environment Day as a global platform to educate communities about environmental challenges and climate change impacts on land and natural resources.

Empower, the world’s largest district cooling service provider, supports sustainable development goals through investment and innovation in areas related to the advancement and development of district cooling technologies based on the best global practices.

“This contributes to reducing energy consumption and providing environmentally friendly and more efficient



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district cooling services. Empower is also an active partner of the UN Environment's 'Global District Energy in Cities Initiatives,' which promote district energy in select cities around the world, as district cooling has been chosen by the UN as one of the top energy-efficient and energy-saving accelerators in the world," said Ahmad bin Shafar, CEO of Empower.

Empower saves approximately 50 percent of power traditionally used for cooling compared with conventional cooling systems, according to a study conducted by the United Nations Energy Efficiency initiatives.

By the end of 2017, Empower

had achieved total savings of 1,072MW of electricity and 295 million gallons of potable water, in addition to AED2.8 billion worth of savings in electricity.

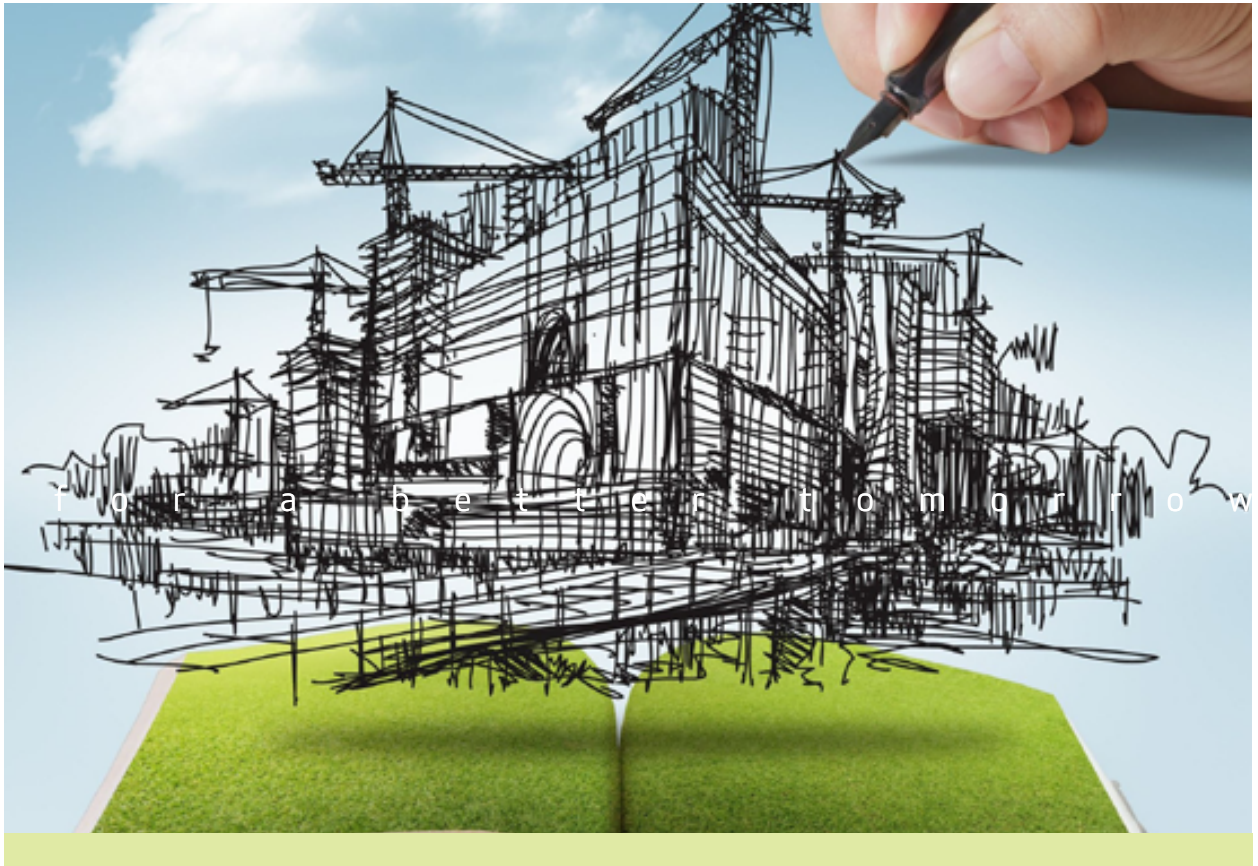
"Empower relies on sustainable and responsible operational processes that help it achieve the leadership's vision of sustainable development and a green economy.

"This supports the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050, launched by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, to transform the emirate into a global hub for clean energy and green economy and to strengthen its goal to become

the city with the lowest carbon footprint in the world. Empower also supports the UAE Vision 2021, which aims to make the UAE one of the best countries in the world by 2021," added Bin Shafar.

By the end of 2017, Empower was offering district cooling services to 1,000 buildings in Dubai.

Empower is currently launching and implementing corporate social responsibility initiatives and programmes to rationalise and conserve district cooling energy. This contributes to sustainable development and helps reduce carbon emissions in the emirate to support the UAE's efforts in becoming one of the leading countries in the world.



DEWA, GBCI sign MoU to promote green buildings

The Dubai Electricity and Water Authority, DEWA, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding, MoU, with Green Business Certification Inc., GBCI, an independent organisation that recognises excellence in green business industry performance and practices globally, working in 160 countries.

According to the MoU, the two organisations will collaborate in research and development, training, and promoting green buildings by applying the Platinum Rating for green buildings developed by the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, LEED, of the US Green Building Council, USGBC. The MoU was signed by Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer,

Managing Director and CEO of DEWA, and Mahesh Ramanujam, CEO of USGBC and GBCI.

The signing ceremony was attended by Waleed Salman, Executive Vice President of Business Development and Excellence; Abdullah Obaidullah, Executive Vice President of Water and Civil; Khawla Al Mehairi, Executive Vice President of Strategy and Government Communications at DEWA, and Ali Al Jassim, CEO of Etihad ESCO.

The MoU supports DEWA's efforts to meet the Demand Side Management Strategy to reduce electricity and water use by 30 percent by 2030, and the Carbon Abatement Strategy to

reduce carbon emissions by 16 percent by 2021. "The MoU with GBCI supports the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050 to provide 75 percent of Dubai's total power output from clean energy sources by 2050 and make Dubai the city with the lowest carbon footprint in the world," said Al Tayer.

DEWA's sustainable building in Al Quoz is the largest government building in the world to receive a Platinum Rating for green buildings from LEED. The building uses 66 percent less energy and 48 percent less water and features an on-site 660-kilowatt solar power plant. DEWA's upcoming new headquarters will be the tallest, largest, and smartest zero-energy building in the world.

Initiative

20 creating growth and community

'UAE's success shaped by Sheikh Zayed's humanitarian vision'



[Leading Emiratis have pointed out that the legacy of Sheikh Zayed lives on in the successful model of tolerance, progress and humanity that the UAE practices today, as it continues to be guided by his vision and noble principles.](#)

Even though Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan has departed, his legacy lives on in the successful model of tolerance, progress and humanity that is the UAE today, as it continues to be guided by his vision and noble principles, asserted eminent community leaders who have had a ringside view of history.

They were speaking at the fourth Sharjah Ramadan Majlis session on 27th May, titled "Looking into the Future with Zayed's Vision," hosted by the Sharjah Press Club of the Sharjah Government Media

Bureau in partnership with the Sharjah Media Corporation.

The Ramadan Majlis session, dedicated to the late UAE founding father, opened with a video message by H.H. Dr. Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, who said, "We should sit with our families and children and write what Sheikh Zayed loved and what he did not love and preserve it all in our hearts for future generations."

Ahmed Al Jarwan, President of the World Council for Tolerance

and Peace, said, "Zayed lives in our hearts. The achievements that we see today are the result of his tireless efforts and emanated from his vision. If the UAE is today known as the nation that welcomes everyone with open arms and respects, the credit goes to Zayed."

Dr. Mohammed Saeed Al-Qudsi, UAE media veteran, recalled how long before the UAE came into being on 2nd December 1971, Sheikh Zayed went about preparing the ground for such a union by reaching out to the other emirates. It was a time



THE FOURTH Sharjah Ramadan Majlis session was held on 27th May, titled "Looking into the Future with Zayed's Vision."

of uncertainty, and with few resources, it was a herculean task to achieve what Zayed did, bringing together the seven emirates.

The Sharjah Ramadan Majlis at Al Majaz Amphitheatre was attended by Sheikh Sultan bin Ahmed Al Qasimi, Chairman of the Sharjah Media Council, Tariq Saeed Allay, Director of the Sharjah Government Media Bureau, Hasan Yaqub Al Mansouri, Secretary-General of the Sharjah Media Council, and a number of dignitaries, senior officials and intellectuals.

'Celebration of homeland's centennial'

Dr. Tariq Sultan bin Khadem, Member of the Sharjah Executive Council and Chairman of Human Resources Department, has praised the generous grant of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan paying bonus worth one month's basic salary for all government employees and retirees in celebration of the centennial anniversary of the birth of the UAE's founding father, the late Shaikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. He said that the decision reflects positively on the citizens

and residents of the UAE.

He also praised the similar bounteous grant of H.H. Dr. Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah and his unceasing initiatives to support the citizens and ensure them a decent and dignified life tracing the approach of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan who had always made the prosperity and welfare of the citizens on top of his priorities and whose white hands had gone far beyond the UAE.

He went on to say that the Year



of Zayed is not a birth centennial but a homeland's centennial; it is the memory of the leader who made history and achieved the impossible; the founding father of the UAE who put the country in the lead in all fields.

"Zayed is an exceptional leader in every sense of the word. He is the leader who, along with his brothers the Rulers of the Emirates, wrote the glorious history of the UAE, making the Union a unique example of unity and cohesion," he said.

ADP photography exhibition documents achievements of Sheikh Zayed

Brigadier Mohammed Suhail Al Rashidi, Acting Director of the Criminal Security Sector

of the Abu Dhabi Police, ADP, inaugurated a photography exhibition on the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, to celebrate the centennial anniversary of his birth.

The exhibition showcased the achievements of Sheikh Zayed in advancing and developing the UAE in all areas, including its police, which is a cornerstone of the country's security and stability.

The photographs documented many events that Sheikh Zayed attended during official and inspection visits, as well as his monitoring of the police in the 1970s and 1980s.

Brigadier Al Rashidi highlighted

the ADP's desire to promote the values and legacy of the founding leader, through organising leading projects during the Year of Zayed 2018 and celebrating Sheikh Zayed's centennial anniversary, with the aim of promoting his values.

The exhibition was held in light of the efforts of the ADP's General Command to affirm the values of Sheikh Zayed and implement the strategy of the Year of Zayed, which aims to promote wisdom, respect, social integration and sustainability.

The launch of the exhibition at the ADP's headquarters was attended by directors of directorates and departments of the Criminal Security Sector.



New book commemorates Sheikh Zayed's life and legacy

The Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry has announced the release of a new book entitled “Zayed: Life of a Great Leader” to commemorate the 100th birth anniversary of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan on May 6th 2018.

The book, available in English and Arabic, is published by the Motivate Books, part of the Motivate Media Group.

“Zayed: Life of a Great Leader” recounts Sheikh Zayed's life and the many facets of his personality, and traces the story from his early life in Al Ain to his astounding vision that guides the UAE to this day.

The book explores his life and

legacy from four viewpoints— Zayed: the man; the leader; the ruler; and the visionary, while it also features rare historical and contemporary photographs that celebrate the great leader.

H.E. Majid Saif Al Ghurair, Chairman of Dubai Chamber said, “We are delighted to launch this book to celebrate the legacy of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the UAE's Founding Father, and a true visionary who placed the country on the path of economic progress and prosperity.

“We see this book as one of the best ways to mark the Year of Zayed, as it looks back on the remarkable life he lived, as well as the many great achievements

he made as a statesman, diplomat, leader and visionary.”

Dubai Chamber's Chairman added: “It is an honour to share his story with the world and spread his values of wisdom, respect, sustainability and community development which will continue to serve as a source of inspiration.”

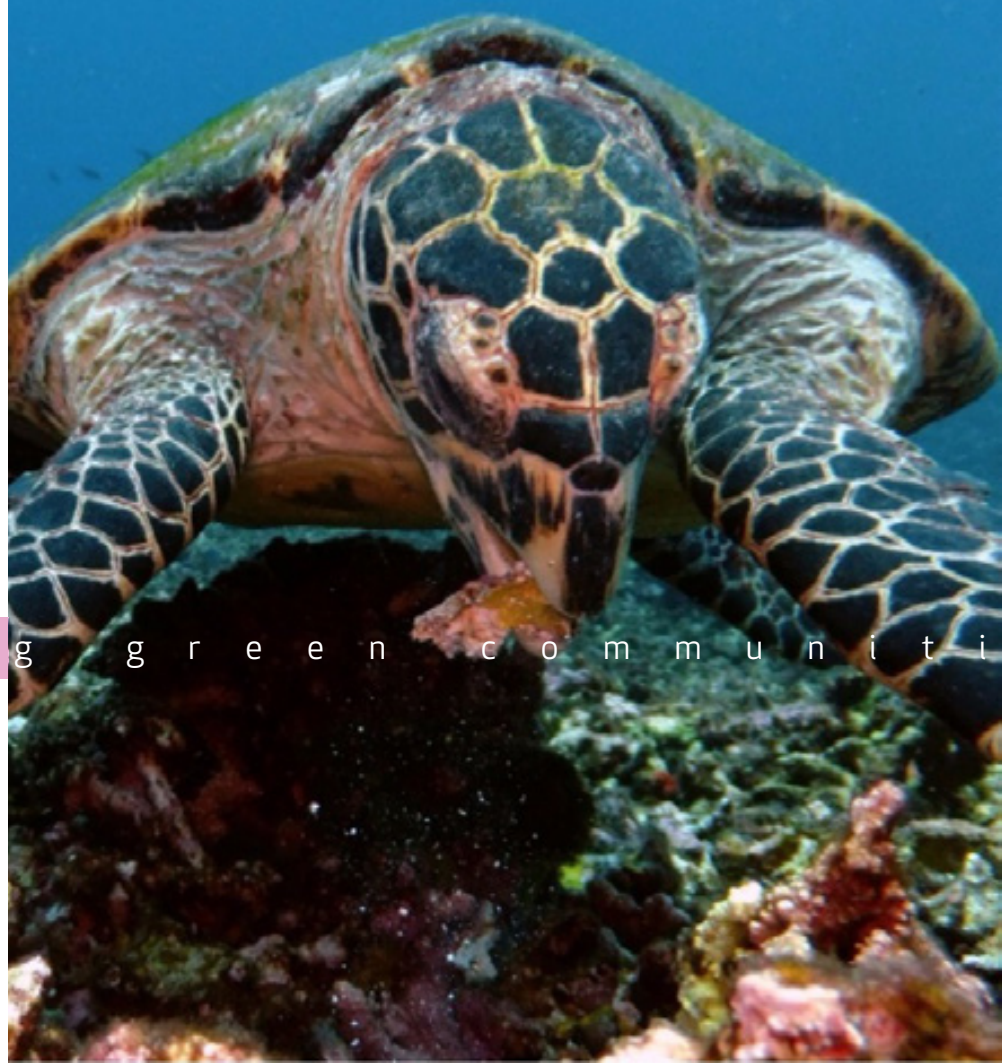
The Managing Partner of Motivate Publishing, Ian Fairservice said: “This book is an important addition to the literature on UAE history, and helps to impart Sheikh Zayed's life story for generations to come. We are proud to publish this book in the centenary of his birth and to commemorate 2018 Year of Zayed.”



Forum

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

Abu Dhabi hosts the First Regional Biodiversity Forum in the Gulf Region



In his keynote speech at the event, Thani Ahmad Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, said the UAE has ranked first in the marine protected areas in a global Environmental Performance Index (EPI) in 2018.

The Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD), in cooperation with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) - Regional Office for West Asia (ROWA), hosted the First Regional Biodiversity Forum from May 7-9 2018.

Held under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Ruler's Representative in Al Dhafra Region and Chairman of EAD, the forum was attended by experts and researchers in the field of biodiversity from the region and around the world.

The Forum discussed the progress towards the implementation of the National Strategies of NBSAPs (National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plans) related to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); presented initiatives on biodiversity conservation in the UAE and the Arab region; exchanged expertise and enforced cooperation in the biodiversity field.

It also ensured synergies and joint technical coordination among Arab countries in the region for effective participation in the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the

Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar COP13) scheduled to be held in October 2018 in the UAE and in the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CDC COP14) that will be hosted by Egypt in November 2018.

The forum kicked-off with four keynote speakers who highlighted the importance of biodiversity conservation. This included Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of Climate Change and Environment, Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak - EAD's Secretary



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

THE FORUM kicked-off with four keynote speakers who highlighted the importance of biodiversity conservation

General, Dr. Jane Smart - Global Director, Biodiversity Conservation Group/IUCN and H.R.H. Princess Basma bint Ali, Founder of the Royal Botanic Garden, Jordan.

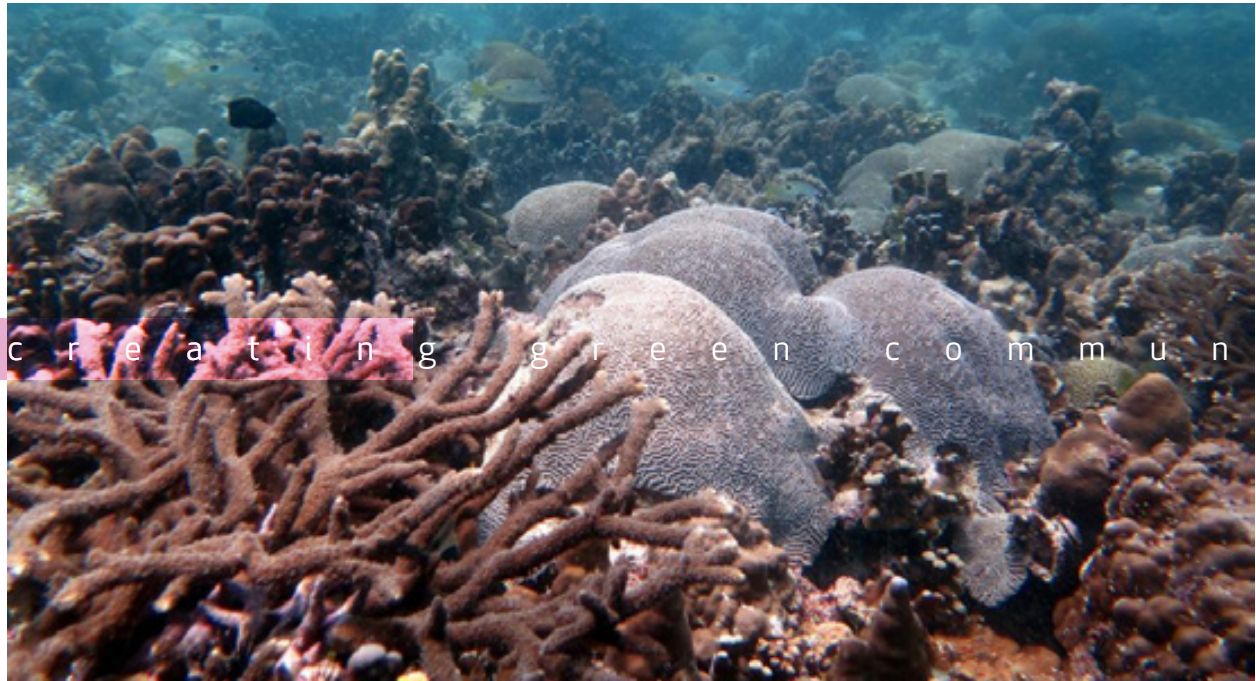
Presentations on individual National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plans (NBSAPs) from the participating countries from the region provided an update on the progress of each of their individual countries' environmental strategies. This will further feed into the discussion about regional coordination for the CBD and Aichi Target 11.

During the three-day forum, IUCN also presented the progress made to mobilise support and resources for the CBD COP 14, while Egypt gave a presentation about the CBD COP 14. A representative from the MOCCA gave a presentation on preparations and opportunities for countries in the region to showcase their initiatives during Ramsar COP 13.

The First Regional Biodiversity Forum provided a wonderful opportunity to countries in the region to showcase initiatives and actions undertaken towards conservation of biodiversity. It

also highlighted challenges faced and how collective knowledge and expertise in the forum would suggest innovative ways to overcome them, said Dr. Sheikha Salem Al Dhaheri, EAD's Executive Director of Terrestrial and Marine Biodiversity.

Biodiversity underpins life on Earth, it is critical for the resilience of ecosystems and is thus important for the provision of often-irreplaceable ecosystem services, but risks and threats to biodiversity today and species extinctions due to human activities are increasing



significantly and require comprehensive solutions and international cooperation, said Dr. Shaikha.

The forum helped further mobilise regional support for the Ramsar COP 13 and CBD COP 14 and highlighted achievements despite socio-political challenges. It also reaffirmed the leadership role of EAD and UAE in the application of the Green List standards for Protected and Conserved areas in the Arab region.

The forum was a fitting tribute to the rich environmental legacy of late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, UAEs founding father, especially as we celebrate the Year of Zayed, said Dr. Shaikha.

NMC Healthcare pledges to treat 100 refugee children during Year of Zayed

NMC Healthcare has revealed a commitment to treat 100 refugee children with heart conditions globally. The children will receive treatment in NMC's wide network of industry-leading medical facilities around the world.

NMC Healthcare made the pledge as part of the 100-year anniversary of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan; the founding father of the United Arab Emirates. Sheikh Zayed was renowned for his passion for ensuring the health and wellbeing of people worldwide.

Speaking on the occasion,

Executive Vice Chairman, NMC Health Plc, Khalifa Butti bin Omeir, said, "Our late father of the Nation, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan was driven by a belief that all people should enjoy the utmost health and wellbeing."

"NMC Healthcare is proud to help continue his vision by offering our advanced medical services to child refugees around the world. We look forward to providing each child who receives treatment with a lifetime of health, wellbeing and happiness," he added.

The children will receive the much-needed treatment for a variety of serious heart conditions across the countries.



Business leaders meet in Dubai to achieve UN SDGs

Business leaders in Dubai met recently in May 2018 to discuss harnessing their employee resources to achieve the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs.

Mobilising volunteering programmes to achieve sustainable change by 2030 was the focus of a Leadership Forum organised by DP World and Emirates NBD as part of IMPACT 2030 - the only international private-sector led coalition aligning employee resources to achieve the goals which focus on key global issues such as poverty, inequality and climate change.

Objectives of the Leadership Forum include increasing the knowledge and understanding

of IMPACT 2030 as a global private sector led collaboration to mobilise volunteers to achieve the SDGs, sharing the results from a UAE survey on volunteering in which 48 companies took part with 90,000 volunteers contributing almost one million volunteer hours through their activities in 2016 and identifying next steps on how to align employee volunteering with the SDGs.

DP World Group Chairman and CEO, Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, said, "Private sector collaboration will contribute enormously to the success of the goals of the United Nations and companies in the UAE are playing a leading role in this region. Employee volunteering

programmes that bring together companies in different sectors will go a long way to helping tackle some of the world's issues around poverty, inequality and climate change."

Sheikh Zayed photo exhibition

Nasser bin Huwaidin Al Ketbi, UAE Consul General in Karachi, opened the 'Zayed in the hearts of Pakistanis' exhibition at Karachi, to mark the 'Year of Zayed'. The opening was attended by the Mayor of Karachi, a number of Sindh Government officials and diplomats. The exhibition, organised in collaboration with the UAE Embassy in Islamabad, featured rare pictures of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, during his visits to Pakistan.

Sustainability

28 creating green communities

MoCCAЕ, Fish Farm install artificial caves



To date, the ministry has installed 1,000 out of 1,300 artificial caves at various fishing sites across the UAE, as part of the Artificial Caves Programme launched by MoCCAЕ in 2016.

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, MoCCAЕ, and Fish Farm LLC have installed 300 artificial caves made of eco-friendly materials across 30 sites, stretching from Al Baiya Island in Fujairah to Loulouiya Harbor in Sharjah, to enhance fish stocks in UAE waters.

The installation sites were carefully chosen in proximity to the country's coasts with the aim of bringing fishing areas closer to shore, reduce the operational costs of fishing trips, and eliminate the risks

associated with deep-sea fishing. Commenting on the announcement, Salah Al Rayssi, Director of the Fisheries Sustainability Department at MoCCAЕ, said that the ministry's collaboration with Fish Farm is a prime example of a productive public-private partnership that enhances the sense of corporate social responsibility among private sector companies.

He added that ministry strives to support the traditional occupation of fishing and improve the sustainability of fisheries in the country.

"I thank the Environment and Protected Areas Authority, EPAA, in Sharjah, Dibba Al Fujairah Municipality and Fish Farm for their continued support of the ministry's strategic objective of developing the UAE's natural resources," he added.

In turn, Professor Awatif Al Naqbi, Eastern Region Branch Manager at EPAA, highlighted the vital role MoCCAЕ's initiative plays in ensuring the long-term sustainability of the local fishing industry. "EPAA is committed to helping achieve sustainable development through adopting



THE ARTIFICIAL caves were installed to enhance fish stocks in UAE waters.

the latest technologies and solutions that boost the efficiency of environmental protection. In doing so, we aim to facilitate the federal and local authorities in their efforts to promote a culture of sustainability and enhance the UAE's green economy."

Fatima Al Hantoubi, Head of Environmental Protection and Natural Reserves at Dibba Al Fujairah Municipality, said that the municipality partnered with MoCCAIE in installing the artificial caves to develop living aquatic resources along the eastern coast of the UAE.

"Through such initiatives, we seek to build artificial habitats that provide a safe environment for the breeding of fish and other marine species.

"We helped the Ministry identify the most suitable locations for the caves along the eastern coast and are overseeing the positioning of the caves to ensure optimal results. We will periodically monitor these areas and promote them as ideal fishing sites," Al Hantoubi added.

To date, the ministry has installed 1,000 out of 1,300 artificial caves

at various fishing sites across the UAE, as part of the Artificial Caves Programme launched by MoCCAIE in 2016. The installation will continue as per the schedule until end-2018.

In line with these efforts, the Ras Al Khaimah Environmental Protection and Development Authority installed 600 artificial caves in a protected area in the emirate. MoCCAIE also plans to add 200 artificial caves to Zayed Marine Reserves, a project launched with 100 caves in April 2018 in Jumeirah Fishing Harbour as part of the Year of Zayed initiatives.

Biodiversity

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

Sharjah celebrates World Migratory Bird Day



The Environment and Protected Areas Authority, EPAA, held events to spread awareness about the importance of preserving biodiversity and supporting global efforts that aim to preserve migratory birds.

The Environment and Protected Areas Authority, EPAA, organised two events on 9th May in commemoration of the World Migratory Bird Day. The events' theme was 'Let's Unify Our Voices to Protect Birds'.

One event was held at Wasit Wetland Centre where the students at Al Nakheel Primary School for Girls participated in various activities centered around protection of birds. The celebrations were attended by Hana Saif Al Suwaidi, EPAA Chairman, representatives from governmental bodies and

departments and a large number of visitors at Wasit Wetland Centre.

Through these celebrations, EPAA endeavours to spread awareness about the importance of preserving biodiversity and supporting global efforts that aim to preserve migratory birds, and to introduce the most important threats facing these birds during their migration.

Al Suwaidi acknowledged the efforts of H.H. Dr. Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and

Ruler of Sharjah, and his support to safeguard the environment, stressing that his efforts have contributed to the conservation of many species of endangered birds. She said, "Sharjah is now considered as an important home for migratory birds. Over the past years, it has been able to achieve great success in protecting migratory birds, providing them with a suitable environment by introducing various means of protecting them".

She emphasised that the EPAA's celebration of World Migratory Bird Day coincided with the 'Year



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SHARJAH HAS a range of islands and protected areas which represent important locations for migratory birds.

of Zayed' which she stated is a good opportunity to introduce the efforts of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan to preserve the environment.

She pointed out that Sharjah and the UAE are considered important routes for birds to migrate and breed, with more than 443 species of birds. She stressed that the prevailing environment, the warmth of the climate and the availability of food along the path of migration and in the breeding places played a vital role in making Sharjah home to a large group of birds. Sharjah

aims to reduce the natural and human threats that are faced by migratory and endangered birds.

Aisha Al Medfaa, Head of Wasit Wetland Centre, said, "Sharjah has a range of islands and protected areas which represent important locations for migratory birds, including a Mangrove trees reserve, Al Hefaiyah Mountain Conservation Centre and Jazirat Sir Bu Nair, all listed under the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance.

The celebration of the International Day of Migratory

Birds represents a conscious effort to spread awareness about protecting migratory birds and the need to preserve the environment by shielding them from pollution so that this place remains a safe haven for them.

EPAA also launched an awareness campaign called 'Make Them Safe' while the Wasit Wetland Centre held a Migratory Bird Exhibition. The activities at Kalba Bird of Prey Centre included innovative workshops revealing the schedule of bird migration and comparing it with the migration season of the bird species of the centre.

Conference

32 creating green community

'UAE adopts best policies to bolster agriculture and food sustainability'



At the FAO Regional Conference for the Near East held in Rome, His Excellency Dr Al Zeyoudi emphasized that in the UAE, agriculture and the food sector are at the top of the list of sectors to be made sustainable.

The UAE is taking great strides to achieving sustainability across all sectors, most notably in agriculture and food, ensuring a better future for the coming generations, according to Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi.

Delivering a keynote speech as the chair of the UAE delegation to the 34th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for the Near East, NERC34, held in Rome, Italy, from 7th to 11th May, the UAE Minister of Climate Change and Environment, said, "Since it was established in 1971 by

the founding father of the UAE, late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, our nation has adopted approaches and policies that bolster agriculture and pursue the optimal use of available capabilities and continuous employment of modern technology to ultimately enhance the sector's efficiency.

"Thanks to our prudent leadership today, the UAE is taking great strides to achieving sustainability across all sectors, most notably in agriculture and food, ensuring a better future for the coming generations.

"The concept of sustainable agriculture is deep-seated in the history of the Emirati people. Our ancestors used our scarce water resources wisely by developing innovative irrigation mechanisms at the time that reduced the consumption of water and ensured the sustainability of agriculture. Such mechanisms included a water-well management system called Tawi, as well as a traditional water irrigation system known as Fala," he added.

Dr. Al Zeyoudi pointed out that the plans and strategies of the



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THE CONFERENCE agenda included discussions of the regional difficulties and challenges, as well as priority topics pertaining to food and agriculture.

UAE revolve around diversifying economic development, most notably in food and agriculture. He further detailed that the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, MoCCA, has collaborated with the FAO to devise a national food diversification plan that ensures food sustainability in the UAE.

“The plan depends on two main factors. The first is increasing local production through leveraging latest technologies, rationing local consumption and refocusing on certain traditional crops, most prominently dates.

The second factor involves diversifying imports from a geographically diverse set of countries to find alternatives that we can rely on in case of a crisis. This plan will also aim to diversify foreign investments to cope with the effects of climate change that are impacting several other countries,” he added.

Dr. Al Zeyoudi indicated that the UAE Vision 2021 that aspires to achieve sustainability across all sectors focusses on innovation as a key element of success to achieving sustainability. The nation’s vision also mandates

engaging the youth as key drivers of innovation, particularly in agriculture.

He elaborated that towards this priority, several youth-centric initiatives have been launched in the UAE. Perhaps one of the most important of these is the Climate Innovations Exchange Forum, CLIX, organised by the MOCCA earlier this year, which served as a marketplace that connected global-level entrepreneurs and investors to enable partnerships that enhance sustainable agriculture and the food industry. “CLIX managed to



attract investors who expressed their intent to invest over US\$45 million to transform the displayed innovations into projects on the ground," he said.

Dr. Al Zeyoudi announced a new collaboration between MoCCA and the FAO, as they signed a letter of intent to develop research and management of fisheries. This synergy will include building an advanced research vessel to collect and measure data using better scientific mechanisms.

In conclusion, he proposed declaring 2020 as the International Year of Dates, given the crop's special importance as a major commodity produced in the Arabian Gulf and the Middle East.

Ramada Ajman bags Green Globe certification for three years in a row

Ramada Hotel & Suites Ajman has secured its third consecutive Green Globe certification. The hotel was also granted a Climate Neutral Business Travel certification for 2016 and 2017. The recognition is issued by myclimate, a Swiss climate protection organisation.

Ramada Ajman was awarded for its sustainable contribution to voluntary climate protection by offsetting 48.02 tonnes of carbon dioxide emission. myclimate's carbon offset projects aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on site by replacing energy sources with negative impact on the

climate with clean and renewable alternatives.

Ramada Hotel & Suites Ajman is the first hotel in the Northern Emirates to receive the Green Globe certification. The hotel's initiatives include the zero landfill project, urban farm, reverse osmosis water plant, and biodiesel conversion from used cooking oil, to name a few. The hotel's green committee recently participated in mangrove planting project in Ajman.

Iftikhar Hamdani, General manager of Ramada Ajman, was also invited to speak on the topic of Taking Responsibility for Environmental Impacts at the recent Arabian Travel Market; and at other international events.



Largest open museum to be set up in Shindagha

Dubai Municipality is collaborating with the Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing and the Dubai Culture and Arts Authority to establish the largest cultural project in the heart of the historical Shindagha region, which includes the largest open museum with various exhibitions on the history and heritage of Dubai.

The Architectural Heritage Department of Dubai Municipality held a workshop for students from various universities in the country on the theoretical aspects of museums and the various stages of establishing a national museum.

The workshop was organized

as part of Dubai Municipality's participation in the International Museum Day, sponsored by the UAE chapter of International Council of Museums.

UAE Food Bank begins operation in Ajman

The UAE Food Bank team at Humaid bin Rashid Al Nuaimi Charity Foundation unveiled its operation in the emirate of Ajman which will see the non-profit charitable organisation distribute 800 hot meals weekly to needy families.

Sheikha Azza Al Nuaimi, Director-General of the Humaid bin Rashid Al Nuaimi Charity Foundation, said the food delivery marked the launch of the Bank's maiden operation in Ajman.

"The Humaid bin Rashid Al Nuaimi Charity Foundation has signed the work Charter with UAE Food Bank to serve the needy and low-income families in the emirate of Ajman," she stated.

The UAE Food Bank is a non-profit charitable organisation launched January 4th 2017 under the umbrella of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI). It is committed to distributing food to those in need while eliminating food waste by collaborating with local authorities, as well as local and international charities, to create a comprehensive ecosystem to efficiently store, package and distribute excess fresh food from hotels, restaurants and supermarkets.



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

Emirates lands six 'Year of Zayed' aircraft on six continents

Six Emirates planes with special 'Year of Zayed' livery landed on six continents in celebration of the May 6 centennial of the UAE's Founding Father, Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

H.H. Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman & Chief Executive, Emirates Airline & Group, said: "Today, we celebrate the centennial anniversary of the birth of the UAE's founding father Sheikh Zayed, who dedicated his life to building a thriving and vibrant UAE.

The principles and initiatives he set in motion have become the foundations for the UAE's progress. We hope through our special liveries we honour

his memory and legacy and help spread his inspirational messages around the world as our aircraft continue to circle the globe in 2018."

This tribute to the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan was first unveiled in November 2017 on the fuselage of

Emirates' 100th A380 aircraft, commemorating the 100th year of Sheikh Zayed's birth.

A total of 10 Emirates aircraft carry the special livery for 2018. The 'Year of Zayed' Emirates aircraft have circled the globe to more than 90 cities on over 1,800 flights.





100 trees planted at Al Ehsan Charity Park as collective contribution

The Al Ehsan Charity Park on 8th May witnessed the planting of 100 trees as a collective Waqf endowment, an initiative of the employees of the Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank, ADIB, on the occasion of “Year of Zayed.”

Dubai Municipality, in association with the Mohammed bin Rashid Global Centre for Endowment Consultancy, MBRGCEC, started implementing the Al Ehsan Charity Park project at a cost of AED10 million.

The park is being planted using an innovative methodology based on collective outsourcing.

The community members have the opportunity to participate in the new park by donating palm

trees from their homes and farms in the name of the UAE community. The returns from the proceeds of the palm trees will go to the needy.

The project supports the endowment initiative launched by HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, through the MBRGCEC. The new park adopts the concept of group outsourcing, a concept successfully used in many economic projects where the community contributes small amounts to economic projects.

Mohammed Abdul Rahman Al Awadhi, Director of the Public Parks and Horticulture

Department at the Municipality, said, “The Al Ehsan Charity Park will be the first charity park in the world to be a sustainable endowment in the name of the UAE community and a witness to the charity activities deep rooted in the UAE.

“The park has opened up new areas of collective contributions in an innovative way that will establish charity for generations. Community members participate collectively by donating the finest palm trees from their homes and farms to create this innovative endowment on behalf of the UAE community.” The project aims to open the doors of sustainable charity for all members of the community based on the endowment of palm trees.

Sustainability

38 creating green community

Sheikh Zayed: “An inspirational world leader”



A top official at UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, describes Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan as a great humanitarian, “whose vision of moderation, of tolerance, and of peace remains so important today”.

The ‘Year of Zayed’, being marked in the UAE during 2018 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of the country’s founder, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, “celebrates the life, the legacy and the values of an inspirational world leader, who was also a great humanitarian, and whose vision of moderation, of tolerance, and of peace remains so important today,” Toby Harward, head of the UAE office of UNHCR, the UN’s refugee agency, said on 1st May 2018.

Speaking at the launch of

UNHCR’s new global digital Zakat platform, developed in partnership with the Abu Dhabi-based Tabah Foundation, Harward added that Sheikh Zayed “believed that looking after people’s welfare, and investing in their knowledge and in their capabilities would produce the greatest dividends for society.”

“This legacy has been shared with his successors and with his people,” Harward said.

The UNHCR official went on to say that, for his agency, “our presence in the United Arab Emirates

is extremely important. The Government and the people of the UAE have been generous in their support for refugees worldwide, including through financial pledges, through the maintenance of a Syrian refugee camp run by the Emirates Red Crescent in Mraijib Al Fahoud in Jordan, and through recent important contributions to UNHCR in Yemen, in northern Uganda and in southern Bangladesh.”

“A few days ago,” he added, “we were delighted to sign an agreement for a donation from Her Highness Sheikhha Fatima



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UNHCR is a global organization dedicated to saving lives, protecting rights and building a better future for refugees, forcibly displaced communities and stateless people.

bint Mubarak, the wife of the late Sheikh Zayed, and Mother of the Nation, for an important women refugee livelihoods project in Uganda.”

The donation, of US \$ 1 million, will support South Sudanese refugee women.

He also expressed UNHCR's gratitude for what he described as “our strong and long-standing partnerships” with H.R.H. Princess Haya bint Al Hussein, the wife of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President and Prime Minister and

Ruler of Dubai, and H.H. Sheikha Jawaher bint Mohammed Al Qasimi, wife of Supreme Council member and Ruler of Sharjah, H.H. Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi. Sheikha Jawaher, he noted, had been the first person to be nominated as an ‘Eminent Advocate’ for UNHCR.

H.R.H. Princess Haya, he said, had been “a regular and a vocal supporter of refugees and the work of UNHCR.”

Harward noted that “a big majority of emergency relief items airlifted to Bangladesh in

response to the arrival of more than 600,000 Rohingya refugees came from our warehouses at the International Humanitarian City in Dubai.”

“The UAE has been absolutely critical to UNHCR’s response to this latest human crisis,” he said.



UAE celebrates International Day for Biological Diversity 2018



[This year's celebration was held under the theme "Celebrating 25 Years of Action for Biodiversity," to mark the 25th anniversary of the entry into the force of the Convention on Biological Diversity, ratified by the UAE in 1992 and acceded in 2000.](#)

This year's celebration was held under the theme "Celebrating 25 Years of Action for Biodiversity," to mark the 25th anniversary of the entry into the force of the Convention on Biological Diversity, ratified by the UAE in 1992 and acceded in 2000.

The UAE has joined the world in celebrating World Biodiversity Day, which is observed annually on 22nd May. Speaking on the occasion, Hiba Al Shehhi, Acting Director, Biodiversity Department at the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, said that

biodiversity is a key ingredient in environment conservation policies in the UAE.

Al Shehhi explained that the UAE Vision 2021 underscores the importance of the conservation of the rich natural environment of the homeland from the risks of human activities through preventive measures such as reducing carbon emissions and through regulatory measures that protect the fragile ecosystems from urban expansion.

She added that the UAE's leading standing in wildlife conservation

is further cemented by the National Programme for the Sustainability of Wildlife, an initiative of the Government Innovation Laboratory which aims to ensure the sustainability of the rich local biodiversity through an array of integrated legislations, policies, research, and initiatives that protect indigenous species, regulate the trade in flora and fauna and identify invasive species and mechanisms to eradicate and control them.

Al Shehhi stressed that the UAE has rich experience in protected areas and habitat



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BIODIVERSITY HAS been identified as a key ingredient in environment conservation policies in the UAE.

conservation. Its efforts to preserve habitats and provide safe havens for threatened and endangered species have enabled the country to occupy the top position in the “Marine Protected Areas” criterion in the Global Environmental Performance Index, GDI, according to the 2016 report.

She added that the UAE is committed to expanding its protected areas. The number of protected areas declared in the country is 43, occupying 14.35 percent of the UAE’s area estimated at 18,000 sq kms.

Al Shehhi said that the UAE has joined and ratified the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and has listed seven areas as wetland sites of international importance. These include Ras Al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary in Dubai, Wadi Wurayah National Park in Fujairah, Mangrove and Alhafeya Protected Area in Khor Kalba, Sir Bu Nair Island Protected Area in Sharjah, Al Wathba Wetland Reserve, Bul Syayeeef Marine Protected Area in Abu Dhabi and Al-Zora Protected Area in Ajman.

Al Shehhi explained that endangered species breeding

receives a lot of attention in the UAE. For example, the houbara bustards breeding centres in Abu Dhabi, Morocco and Kazakhstan have all exceeded its goal of breeding 50,000 houbara bustards and releasing them in their natural habitat.

There are also five falcons breeding centres, in addition to the breeding programmes of Arabian oryx and African oryx. These programmes managed to reintroduce a considerable number of animals and birds in their habitats in the UAE and abroad.

Conservation

42 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 is committed to species conservation’



A lecture titled, “Innovative philanthropy for species conservation worldwide”, highlights the tangible benefits of targeted and well-resourced species conservation initiatives.

His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces and H.H. Sheikh Saud bin Rashid Al Mu’alla, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Umm Al Qaiwain attended a lecture on 30th May 2018, titled “For the love of nature: Innovative philanthropy for species conservation worldwide”.

The event was hosted at the Majlis Mohamed bin Zayed in Abu Dhabi’s Al Bateen Palace. The lecture was delivered by Razan

Khalifa Al Mubarak, Secretary General, Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi.

Species conservation has been a priority for the UAE government all along, but in recent years, habitat destruction, over-hunting, climate change and globalisation have contributed to species going extinct at an alarming rate.

Concerted action is necessary before it becomes too late, said Al Mubarak, as she appealed to the public to help the MBZ Fund protect the world’s biodiversity and reverse the global extinction

crisis. During the course of the lecture, Al Mubarak detailed the successes of the MBZ Fund over the last 10 years.

Other dignitaries attending the lecture included Dr. Amal Abdullah Al Qubaisi, Speaker of the Federal National Council, H.H. Sheikh Nahyan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan Charitable and Humanitarian Foundation, H.H. Lt. General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, and Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al



es for a better tomorrow

THE MBZ Fund, which is a private philanthropic endowment, has till date awarded nearly \$17 million to various conservation projects.

Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance, along with a number of Sheikhs, ambassadors and dignitaries.

In less than 10 years of operation, the MBZ Fund has “repeatedly demonstrated our global impact on the conservation of species. We intend to make an even bigger difference for species, for our planet, for the security of our future generations,” she said.

The MBZ Fund provides micro-philanthropic financial support in the form of targeted small grants of up to \$25,000 to individual and coordinated species conservation

projects worldwide that are engaged in what Al Mubarak calls “boots-on-the-ground, get-your-hands-dirty initiatives to save species from extinction”.

The MBZ Fund has supported more than 1,800 projects across nearly 180 different countries. This support has covered than 1,200 different species and sub-species which are thought to be among the most threatened and endangered species globally.

Four previous recipients of MBZ Fund grants, drawn from across the globe, were on hand to share

their success stories, reminding the audience that small actions make a big difference and that each of us can make a contribution to conservation in our own way.

The people of UAE have witnessed first-hand the tangible benefits of targeted and well-resourced species conservation initiatives.

For instance, the population of the Arabian oryx, hunted to near extinction in the early 1970s, is currently on the rise and UAE is leading efforts to reintroduce the species to its traditional desert habitat.

Upcycling

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

Ministry of Climate Change and Environment hosts upcycled food Iftar



The initiative reaffirms the UAE’s commitment to meeting the global target to reduce food loss and waste by 50 percent by 2030 as per the UN’s Sustainable Development Goal 12 that underscores sustainable consumption and production.

In a departure from norms for the Holy Month of Ramadan, the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, MoCCA, hosted an upcycled food iftar utilising food that would have otherwise been wasted if it was not consumed during this event for high-level public and private sector officials.

The iftar was held in partnership with food tech company, Winnow, and leading UAE-based global property developer, Emaar.

The creative healthy and tasty iftar dishes, for example, featured underutilised cuts of meat and

overripe fruits, sending out a powerful message to local and global communities to prioritise judicious food consumption and eliminate food wastage.

Highlighting the idea behind the unique event, Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, pointed out that the Food and Agriculture Organisation, FAO, of the United Nations reported that roughly one-third of the food produced in the world for human consumption every year approximately 1.3 billion tonnes is either lost or wasted.

In the UAE, food wastage costs the national economy around AED13 billion annually.

Dr. Al Zeyoudi said, “Today, I am pleased to reaffirm the UAE’s commitment to meeting the global target to reduce food loss and waste by 50 percent by 2030 as per the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goal 12 that underscores sustainable consumption and production.

“As part of this priority, the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment is working closely with local authorities and the



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

THE INITIATIVE not only underlines the UAE's commitment towards a sustainable future but is also a tangible step in preventing food wastage.

private sector to reduce food loss through the production and consumption cycle.

"I am also pleased to announce that UAE-based hospitality companies are ready to take on the challenge to reduce food waste and are pledging tonight to save one million meals by end-2018. This target will be increased to two million meals in 2019 and three million meals in 2020.

"Companies that are already onboard this noble mission include Emaar, Majid Al Futtaim

and Rotana. I invite others ready to participate in this pledge to sign-up throughout this evening and beyond."

Olivier Harnisch, Chief Executive Officer of Emaar Hospitality Group, said, "This is a remarkable initiative that not only underlines the UAE's commitment towards a sustainable future but is also a tangible step in preventing food wastage.

"The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment's focus on helping achieve the Sustainable Development Goal 12 serves as

an inspiration for every section of the community, especially for the hospitality sector that can lead the change through measures that promote the judicious use of food resources."

Marc Zornes, Co-Founder and CEO of Winnow, said, "The hospitality sector in the UAE is spearheading the global fight against food waste. We are incredibly proud of the fantastic results the chefs partnering with Winnow have achieved. These pioneers have proved that it is possible to do the right thing for both business and the planet."

Sustainability

46 creating green community

Al Roaya School named as Ras Al Khaimah's ultimate 'Green School'



A green rating system was introduced in October 2017 to recognise students and teachers for promoting and participating in proactive environmental practices.

Schools across Ras Al Khaimah gathered at an award ceremony on 8th May 2018 that recognised and showcased the sustainability practises adopted by educational institutions in the emirate, naming Al Roaya as an exemplary school of sustainability success.

The new 'Green Rating' system for schools, that launched on 5th October 2017, is a joint scheme by the Ras Al Khaimah Waste Management Agency (RAKWMA), a subsidiary of the Public Works Department, and the Ras Al Khaimah Education Zone.

The long-term aim is to ensure that students and teachers across the Emirate are learning more about sustainable environmental practices and developing more proactive and positive responses to environmental issues, through evaluating and grading participating schools based on a set of established criteria.

The winning school, Al Roaya where 700 girls in Cycle 2 and 3 attend, was awarded five recycling symbols scoring 55 points during evaluation that was based on 17 criteria covering issues such as innovation and

amount of waste recycled per student.

The school boasts the highest score for innovation (scoring 13 out of a possible 15) for their projects which included the development of a Smart Recycling Box which alerts the students when the box needs to be emptied and developing a solar mechanism to clean solar panels of sand to allow for better absorption of solar energy.

Janet Hartzenberg, School and Business Outreach Manager of the Ras Al Khaimah Waste



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THE NEW 'Green Rating' system for schools is a joint scheme by the Ras Al Khaimah Waste Management Agency (RAKWMA) and the RAK Education Zone.

Management Agency, said: "The new Green Rating system provides schools with an accepted, standard measure in which they can record their efforts, encouraging the youth to be active participants in protecting the environment in Ras Al Khaimah and to make our schools cleaner and greener.

"We want students and teachers to be more aware about the decisions that they make in their day to day lives and the effect that they have on their surroundings, whether it's recycling, reducing the amount

of paper they are using, or volunteering in community efforts. All of these actions can and will make a difference, and schools will now be rewarded for their participation."

Participating schools were assessed on criteria including their registration with the Ras Al Khaimah Waste Management Agency's recycling program and their level of participation. A school's Green Rating can be improved through introducing 'Green Ambassadors', implementing and participating in environmental activities

such as exhibitions and clean up campaigns. Training and volunteering are also rewarded.



Awards

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

EmiratesGBC honours winners of 2018 MENA Green Building Awards



Awards were presented in key categories at carbon-neutral event attended by government officials and industry leaders.

Emirates Green Building Council (EmiratesGBC), an independent forum aimed at conserving the environment by strengthening and promoting green building practices, honoured the winners of the 2018 MENA Green Building Awards, at a gala ceremony held on 10th May 2018 at Roda Al Murooj Downtown Dubai.

The MENA Green Building Awards recognise innovation, creativity and excellence in promoting best practice in sustainable built environment. The carbon-neutral awards ceremony was attended

by government officials, industry leaders, representatives of academia and media.

Saeed Al Abbar, Chairman of EmiratesGBC, said: “We congratulate the winners of the 2018 MENA Green Building Awards for their commitment and sustained focus on setting new standards in promoting the sustainable built environment. The awards demonstrate a positive shift in the industry with a greater focus on sustainable building practices.”

“We hope to share the insights

from our winners to accelerate the adoption of innovation and to support the building industry in undertaking new and proven sustainable best practices that will help achieve better living environments, higher energy and water use efficiency and reduced carbon footprint,” he added.

The winners of the MENA Green Building Awards 2018 in 17 categories are:

Green Building of the Year:

- Green Commercial Building: EQUATE Headquarters
- Green School: Al Mamoura



EMIRATESGBC regularly hosts and participates in multinational events, conferences and forums.

- Academy
 - Green Residential Building: Masdar Neighbourhood One Residences Phase 1
 - Green Public Building: The Palestinian Museum (TPM)
 - Green Healthcare Building: Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi
- Sustainable Building Design of the Year:** Yas Bay - Arena
- Sustainable Urban/Community Development Design of the Year:** Reem Downtown
- Facility Management Organisation of the Year:** Burj Khalifa

- Contractor of the Year:** Multiplex Constructions LLC
- Developer of the Year:** Dubai Silicon Oasis Authority
- Green Building Material/Product:**
- Energy Management: Carrier Aquaforce® 30KAV & 30XV Chillers
 - Indoor Air Quality: TermoDeck
 - Conventional Construction Materials: Interpon D2525 ECO
- Green Building Research Award:** Energy Centered Maintenance/A Green Maintenance System
- Retrofit Project of the**

- Year:** Innoventures Education
- Best Operations & Maintenance (Existing Buildings):** Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi
- Training Initiative of the Year:** CCC's Sustainability Training Initiative
- Additionally, the 2018 Dr. Owainati Student Excellence Award for exceptional research in a subject related to green buildings in the Middle East, was presented to Hiba Najini, Heriot-Watt University, for her research on the 'Techno-Economic Assessment of Green Building Codes in United Arab Emirates.'

Conservation

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

Wild falcon
population boosted
by release of birds
in Kazakhstan



The 68 falcons - 40 Peregrine and 28 Saker - were provided by Abu Dhabi's Sheikh Zayed Falcon Release Programme.

Abu Dhabi's efforts to conserve the majestic falcon has been boosted by the release of 68 wild falcons in the Republic of Kazakhstan. Once a common sight in many parts of Kazakhstan, the birds are under increasing pressure from a host of human and environmental factors.

Representatives from the two countries have been working together to combat the pressure on Kazakhstan's resident falcons and to conserve the species. This cooperation culminated in the latest release of falcons arranged between the United Arab

Emirates' Sheikh Zayed Falcon Release Programme (SZFRP) and the Ministry of Environment and Water Resources of Kazakhstan.

In announcing the most recent release of falcons in Kazakhstan, H.E. Mohamed Al Bowardi, Managing Director of the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD), said, on behalf of SZFRP, "Under the direction of the UAE's leadership, Abu Dhabi has been at the forefront of conservation in many areas.

"Nowhere is this more clearly demonstrated than in our efforts

to conserve the falcon, a bird of cultural and historic significance for many and an important symbol for the peoples of both the Emirate of Abu Dhabi and the Republic of Kazakhstan. By working together in international partnership, we increase the chances for the species in the wild."

The falcons (40 Peregrine and 28 Saker) were rescued or donated and rehabilitated at EAD's Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital and, subsequently, released by SZFRP, under the guidance and coordination of the Ministry of Environment and Water



12 OF the falcons were fitted with satellite tracking devices that enable the monitoring of flight paths and the collection of scientific data.

Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan, after careful analysis of potential release sites.

Kazakhstan's geographic position within the species migration range (a wide area including parts of Russia, China, and Mongolia and neighbouring countries) and topology of both rugged mountains and wide plains make Kazakhstan an ideal habit and release site for falcons.

To help guide planned future releases in Kazakhstan and elsewhere, 12 of the falcons were fitted with satellite

tracking devices that enable the monitoring of flight paths and the collection of scientific data.

The data from this cutting-edge technology helps guide SZFRP's breeding programme and improve the long-term survivability of falcons in Kazakhstan and within other range nations.

Established by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nayhan, the Founding Father of the UAE, in 1995, SZFRP has released more than 1,800 falcons in range nations (including Pakistan, Iran, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan) since

its inception.

A leader in falcon conservation, Abu Dhabi created the world's first hospital dedicated to falcons and has actively encouraged falconry using captive-bred birds.

The Emirate has introduced a strict licensing system for the trading of all falcons in the UAE and, in a move approved by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES), introduced a falcon passport to track and monitor captive falcons resident in the UAE.

Conservation

52 creating green community

New initiative sees Hilton Abu Dhabi save 50 cubic metres of water in one month



Staff at the iconic hotel on Abu Dhabi Corniche have been trained on how to spot and reduce water waste as part of campaign that saved more than 250 gallons.

Every drop counted for staff at Hilton Abu Dhabi who saved 50 cubic metres (more than 250 gallons) of water as part of a month-long initiative in support of World Water Day.

From housekeepers to chefs and receptionists to managers, every Team Member played their part to help reduce water waste at the hotel between March 19 and April 20, 2018 as part of the hotel's 'Pledge Our Support to H2O' initiative.

Held annually on March 22, World Water Day aims to highlight the

importance of conserving water and promote the sustainable use of resources. The theme for this year's event was 'Nature for Water' with the goal of encouraging people to look to nature for solutions to important issues such as floods, droughts, and pollution.

At Hilton Abu Dhabi, Team Members made sure that only as much water as was necessary was used to cook, clean or maintain green spaces in their work areas while they carried out their duties. Each member of staff received training to make sure

that while water was being saved, the smooth operation of the property remained unaffected. Guests were also encouraged to participate in the hotel's water-saving activities.

Hans Schiller, Cluster General Manager, Hilton Abu Dhabi and Hilton Al Ain, said: "As outlined in Travel with Purpose, Hilton's corporate responsibility strategy, we are committed to water stewardship across our operation and are continuously working to reduce our environmental impact. Our Team Members took their role in this important environmental



WATER METERS monitored usage throughout the hotel during the month-long 'Pledge Our Support to H2O' initiative.

project very seriously and they were very passionate about doing their bit to save water at the hotel."

Water meters monitored usage throughout the hotel during the month-long 'Pledge Our Support to H2O' initiative. Staff also maintained and updated a chart to clearly highlight savings made across the property and received training on simple water-saving techniques each week to ensure they remained mindful of their responsibilities.

"The water-saving initiative was

a great success as our staff were able to demonstrate that with just a few simple changes to their daily routines and by keeping a close eye out for any unnecessary usage, we can cut down water waste and make a big difference to the environment," said Schiller.

"The entire team at Hilton Abu Dhabi are more conscious of water usage following the campaign and have continued their efforts to ensure that there is no water wastage. In addition to the water meter that helps regulate usage across the hotel, we have left posters in the team's

accommodation with tips on how to save water to encourage people to make water-saving habits part of their lifestyle."



Report

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

Progress on global energy goals slow: Report



[Tracking SDG7: The Energy Progress Report, notes that although the world is not on track to meet the global energy targets, strong gains in certain areas show promise.](#)

The world is not on track to meet the global energy targets for 2030 set as part of the Sustainable Development Goals, but real progress is being made in certain areas – particularly expansion of access to electricity in least developed countries, and industrial energy efficiency, according to a new report from five international agencies.

Renewable energy is making impressive gains in the electricity sector, although these are not being matched in transportation and heating – which together

account for 80% of global energy consumption. While global trends are disappointing, recent national experiences around the world offer encouraging signs. There is mounting evidence that with the right approaches and policies, countries can make substantial in clean energy and energy access, and improve the lives of millions of people.

Tracking SDG7: The Energy Progress Report, launched at the Sustainable Energy for All Forum, is the most comprehensive look available at the world's progress towards the global energy targets

on access to electricity, clean cooking, renewable energy and energy efficiency.

The following are some of the main findings of the report. Findings are based on official national-level data and measure global progress up to 2015 for renewable energy and energy efficiency, and 2016 for access to electricity and clean cooking.

Access to Electricity

One billion people – or 13% of the world's population – still live without electricity. Sub-Saharan Africa, and Central and South



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

IT IS the fourth edition of this report, formerly known as the Global Tracking Framework (GTF).

Asia continue to be the areas of the world with the largest access deficits. Almost 87% of the world's people without electricity live in rural areas.

The number of people gaining access to power has been accelerating since 2010, but needs to ramp up further to achieve universal access to electricity by 2030.

Some of the strongest gains were made in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania, which all increased their electricity access rate by 3% or more annually

between 2010 and 2016. Over the same period, India provided electricity to 30 million people annually, more than any other country. Sub-Saharan Africa's electrification deficit has begun to fall in absolute terms for the first time.

Tens of millions of people now have access to electricity through solar home systems or connected to mini-grids. However, these remain concentrated in about a dozen pioneering countries where penetration of solar electricity can reach as much as 5-15% of the population.

Clean Cooking

Three billion people – or more than 40% of the world's population – do not have access to clean cooking fuels and technologies. Household air pollution from burning biomass for cooking and heating is responsible for some 4 million deaths a year, with women and children at the greatest risk.

Parts of Asia have seen access to clean cooking outpace growth in population. These positive outcomes were driven largely by widespread dissemination of LPG or piped natural gas. In India,



Pakistan, Indonesia and Vietnam, the population with access to clean cooking technologies grew by more than 1% of their population annually.

Clean cooking continues to lag the furthest behind of all the four energy targets, due to low consumer awareness, financing gaps, slow technological progress, and lack of infrastructure for fuel production and distribution.

Energy Efficiency

There is mounting evidence of the uncoupling of growth and energy use. Global gross domestic product (GDP) grew nearly twice as fast as primary energy supply in 2010-15. Economic growth outpaced

growth in energy use in all regions, except for Western Asia, where GDP is heavily tied to energy-intensive industries, and in all income groups. However, progress continues to be slow in low income countries, where energy intensity is higher than the global average.

Globally, energy intensity - the ratio of energy used per unit of GDP - fell at an accelerating pace of 2.8% in 2015, the fastest decline since 2010. However, performance still falls short of the 2.6% yearly decline needed to meet the SDG7 target of doubling the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency by 2030. Improvement in industrial energy intensity, at 2.7% per annum since 2010,

was particularly encouraging, as this is the largest energy consuming sector overall. Progress in the transport sector was more modest, especially for freight transportation, and is a particular challenge for high-income countries.

Six of the 20 countries that represent 80 percent of the world's total primary energy supply, including Japan and the US, reduced their annual primary energy supply in 2010-15 while continuing to grow GDP - indicating a peak in energy use.

Renewable Energy

As of 2015, the world obtained 17.5% of its total final energy consumption from renewable sources, of which 9.6%

Tracking SDG7: The Energy Progress Report is a joint effort of the International Energy Agency, IRENA, the Statistics Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the World Bank, and WHO.



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

represents modern forms of renewable energy such as geothermal, hydropower, solar and wind. The remainder is traditional uses of biomass (such as fuelwood and charcoal).

Based on current policies, the renewable share is expected to reach just 21% by 2030, with modern renewables growing to 15%, falling short of the substantial increase demanded by the SDG7 target.

Rapidly falling costs have allowed solar and wind to compete with conventional power generation sources in multiple regions, driving the growth in the share of renewables in electricity to 22.8% in 2015.

The share of renewable energy in transport is rising quite rapidly, but from a very low base, amounting to only 2.8% in 2015.

Since 2010, China's progress in renewable energy alone accounted for nearly 30% of absolute growth in renewable energy consumption globally in 2015. Tracking SDG7: The Energy Progress Report is a joint effort of the International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the World Bank, and the World Health Organization (WHO).

"It is clear that the energy sector must be at the heart of any effort to lead the

world on a more sustainable pathway," said Dr Fatih Birol, the Executive Director of the International Energy Agency (IEA). "There is an urgent need for action on all technologies, especially on renewables and energy efficiency, which are key for delivering on three critical goals - energy access, climate mitigation and lower air pollution."

"Falling costs, technological improvements and enabling frameworks are fueling an unprecedented growth of renewable energy, which is expanding energy access, improving health outcomes, and helping to tackle climate change, while also creating jobs and powering sustainable economic



growth,” said IRENA Director-General Adnan Z. Amin. “At the same time, this tracking report is an important signal that we must be more ambitious in harnessing the power of renewable energy to meet sustainable development and climate goals, and take more deliberate action to achieve a sustainable energy future.”

“It is unacceptable that in 2018, 3 billion people still breathe deadly smoke every day from cooking with polluting fuels and stoves,” said Dr Maria Neira, Director, Department of Public Health, Environmental and Social Determinants of Health, at the World Health Organization (WHO).

“Every year, household air

pollution kills around 4 million people from diseases including pneumonia, heart disease, stroke, lung disease and cancer.

“By expanding access to clean affordable household energy, the global community has the power to lift a terrible health burden from millions of marginalized people - in particular women and young children who face the greatest health risks from household air pollution.”

“As we take stock of progress towards the global goal on sustainable energy, this latest data clearly shows more action and political leadership is needed if we are to live up to our promise to leave no one behind,” said Rachel Kyte, Special

Representative of the UN Secretary-General and CEO of Sustainable Energy for All. “To meet 2030 targets, we must make every unit of energy work harder.

We need to increase investment in the technologies and business models that make electricity access affordable for everyone, place even bigger bets on the remarkable capacity of renewable energy and build big markets for clean fuels and cooking access.

“World leaders put the promise of leaving no one behind at the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals, and now is the time for that promise to become reality.”



AUS joins international Tiny House movement, creating a small living space with big potential

Faculty and students at American University of Sharjah (AUS) have unveiled a “Tiny House” on campus, showcasing the latest research in sustainable and environmentally friendly construction. A team of undergraduate students, professors and alumni from the university have worked together over the past 12 months to design and build the Tiny House, which will serve as a laboratory for AUS students and researchers, and as a platform for future innovation, sustainability and entrepreneurship.

The project is a first for AUS, but it follows a much wider global Tiny House campaign. The movement began in the

United States in the 1990s in an attempt to combat the rising cost of housing and the adverse environmental impacts caused by over-sized housing.

Despite the number of people per household declining in the USA over recent decades, house sizes have increased dramatically. The cost of housing relative to average incomes has also risen significantly, isolating many Americans from the dream of home ownership. The Tiny House movement serves as a backlash to these trends, demonstrating that sustainable and comfortable home ownership can be achieved.

At just 194 square feet (18 m²), the AUS Tiny House uses

substantially less resources than typical houses in developed countries. The house has also been outfitted with a number of innovations that keep water and energy use to a minimum and reduce its overall carbon footprint, including light-weight panel walls (low cement content with high insulation and fire resistance values), sensor faucets, and grey water reuse. Future plans include solar power on a movable shade, geo-thermal cooling, and a composting toilet.

The project has also served as an excellent learning opportunity for AUS students, who have been closely involved in overcoming many of the practical challenges encountered during the construction.

Exploring alternative materials to reduce plastic pollution



[A new UN report assesses the potential of replacing certain conventional plastics applications with alternative materials.](#)

In an effort to equip the world with the tools and knowledge to reduce plastic litter from ending up in our ocean, rivers, and lakes, the UN Environment has published a report assessing the potential of replacing conventional plastics with alternative materials in certain applications.

The ocean has increasingly become a repository for discarded plastics and microplastics, with significant demonstrable social, economic and environmental impacts. It is neither possible nor desirable to remove all plastics from society. However,

the realization from consumers and policymakers that urgent action to stop the flow of disposable plastics is needed is growing, and alternatives can have a significant role in reducing our dependence.

“Making the switch from disposable plastic to sustainable alternatives is an investment in the long-term future of our environment,” Erik Solheim, Head of UN Environment said. The report outlines a range of alternative materials that can be used to replace single-use plastics where possible. There are situations – particularly in

the medical field – where plastic provide an essential use. But often, natural materials and alternative technologies can be used to break our addiction to disposable plastic. This is particularly true for consumer products.

“The report is intended to encourage society to question our current use of plastics and consider the adoption of alternative approaches,” Peter Kershaw, lead author of the report said. “Packaging and other single-use items form a large proportion of the plastic litter leaking to the ocean.” The authors highlight a range of



PACKAGING AND other single-use items form a large proportion of the plastic litter leaking to the ocean.

plastic materials that frequently cross our paths – from plastic food containers to synthetic clothing, to the loose fill that is often used to protect fragile products during transport – and identifies them as among the ‘main culprits’ of marine plastic litter.

Twenty-five case studies from around the world illustrate a wide range of applications to reduce our dependence on the unnecessary use of disposable plastics. The report contributes to the debate on how to make our use of the planet more sustainable, citing several of the

Sustainable Development Goals, including poverty reduction, increased community resilience, and waste minimization.

The advantages and disadvantages of conventional plastics made from fossil fuels are further compared with both alternative natural materials, obtained from plants and animals and newer generation bio-polymers which are plastics made from biomass sources. The report highlights some relatively conventional alternatives to plastics – such as paper, cotton, and wood – as well as less obvious solutions including algae, fungi, and

pineapple leaves – among others.

By growing global awareness of our current relationship with disposable plastics, UN Environment is setting the stage for an informed dialogue on how to break the global addiction to single-use plastics.

“Science can help business develop green and innovative solutions,” said Jian Liu, Chief Scientist at UN Environment. “There are major business and job opportunities in the development of new alternative materials that can replace single-use plastics.”

Renewable Energy

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

Renewable energy jobs reach 10.3 million worldwide in 2017



[Sector adds half a million jobs boosted by strong growth in Asia, a 5.3 per cent increase from 2016, according to IRENA.](#)

The renewable energy industry created more than 500,000 new jobs globally in 2017, a 5.3 per cent increase from 2016, according to the latest figures released by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). According to the fifth edition of Renewable Energy and Jobs – Annual Review, launched at IRENA’s 15th Council in Abu Dhabi on 8th May, the total number of people employed in the sector (including large hydropower) now stands at 10.3 million globally, surpassing the 10 million figure for the first time.

China, Brazil, the United States, India, Germany and Japan remain the world’s largest renewable energy employers, representing more than 70 per cent of all industry jobs globally. Although growing numbers of countries are reaping the socio-economic benefits of renewables, the bulk of manufacturing takes place in relatively few countries and domestic markets vary enormously in size. Sixty per cent of all renewable energy jobs are in Asia.

“Renewable energy has become a pillar of low-carbon economic

growth for governments all over the world, a fact reflected by the growing number of jobs created in the sector,” said Adnan Z. Amin, Director-General of IRENA.

“The data also underscores an increasingly regionalised picture, highlighting that in countries where attractive policies exist, the economic, social and environmental benefits of renewable energy are most evident,” continued Amin.

“Fundamentally, this data supports our analysis that decarbonisation of the global



THE SOLAR PV industry remains the largest employer of all renewable energy technologies, accounting for close to 3.4 million jobs.

energy system can grow the global economy and create up to 28 million jobs in the sector by 2050," he said.

The solar PV industry remains the largest employer of all renewable energy technologies, accounting for close to 3.4 million jobs, up almost 9 per cent from 2016 following a record 94 gigawatts (GW) of installations in 2017.

China was estimated to account for two-thirds of PV jobs - equivalent to 2.2 million - representing an expansion of 13 per cent over the previous year.

Despite a slight dip in Japan and the United States, the two countries followed China as the largest markets for solar PV employment in the world. India and Bangladesh complete a top five that accounts for around 90 per cent of global solar PV jobs.

Jobs in the wind industry contracted slightly last year to 1.15 million worldwide. While wind jobs are found in a relatively small number of countries, the degree of concentration is lower than in the solar PV sector. China accounts for 44 per cent of global wind employment, followed by

Europe and North America with 30 and 10 per cent, respectively. Half of the top ten countries with the largest installed capacity of wind power in the world are European.

According to Dr. Rabia Ferroukhi, Head of IRENA's Policy Unit and Deputy Director of Knowledge, Policy and Finance, "The energy transformation narrative is one of improving economic opportunity and a rise in social wellbeing as countries implement supportive policies and attractive regulatory frameworks to fuel industrial growth and sustainable job creation."



On the move to a safer world for migratory birds

The Earth's great travellers – birds that sometimes trek thousands of miles between their breeding places and their wintering grounds – were the centre stage this World Migratory Bird Day, as the international community recognized their significance and vulnerabilities.

“Unifying Our Voices for Bird Conservation” was the theme of World Migratory Bird Day 2018, celebrated annually on 12 May. The UN-backed global awareness-raising and environmental education campaign focused the need for international cooperation to conserve migratory birds.

Forty percent of all migratory

birds are seeing their number in decline, with one in eight being threatened with global extinction. Major threats include habitat loss and degradation, collision with badly placed wind turbines and power lines, unsustainable harvesting and the illegal killing and taking of birds.

Migratory birds are also heavily affected by poisoning, for example through ingested lead, a highly toxic heavy metal that is used for both fishing weights and hunting. When fired from a shotgun, hundreds of lead pellets fall into the wider environment putting wildlife at risk.

“Migratory birds connect people, ecosystems and nations. They are symbols of peace and of an

interconnected planet. Their epic journeys inspire people of all ages, across the globe. World Migratory Bird Day is an opportunity to celebrate the great natural wonder of bird migration – but also a reminder that those patterns, and ecosystems worldwide, are threatened by climate change,” said United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres.

Efforts to conserve migratory birds both globally and regionally are internationally coordinated by the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS, also known as the Bonn Convention) and the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds.



UN Environment Patron summits Everest; calls it “ethical climb”

HHRH Princess Haya bint Al Hussein, wife of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, has congratulated Ben Fogle, adventurer and UN Environment Patron of the Wilderness, on summiting the world’s highest peak, Mount Everest.

The great achievement was made possible by ‘Anything is Possible’, a global initiative, founded by Princess Haya.

Princess Haya said, “‘Anything is Possible’ has an innate desire to discover extraordinary people and unique projects around the world that break boundaries,

showing unrivalled determination and inspire future generations. By realising a life-long dream, Ben has lived the values of our initiative and shown that Anything really is Possible”.

Speaking from Everest Base Camp, Ben Fogle commented, “It has been an extraordinary journey to achieve a childhood dream to summit Mount Everest, and so do so safely and successfully. I am eternally grateful to HRH Princess Haya and her global initiative, Anything Is Possible, for making this entire adventure possible.”

In his new role as UN Environment Patron of the Wilderness and Mountain Hero, Ben ensured their climb

was an ethical one, with full responsibility towards their environmental and social impact.

He said, “My role as UN Environment Patron of the Wilderness allows me to celebrate and share the beauty of the wilderness with the world. I want to give the wilderness a voice to help highlight what we have before we lose it. I have shared the adventure with people around the globe to show the magic of the Himalayas whilst also drawing attention to emerging environmental issues in mountains such as mountain litter as part UN Environment’s efforts to promote clean mountains following their Waste Management Outlook Report for Mountains.”



Micro-plastic Pollution in Bottled Water

Water makes up 70% of our body and we need at least 2 liters of water every day to stay healthy. Drinking polluted water causes accumulation of poison in our body. Chemical and microbial pollution is common in underdeveloped countries where no proper water purification systems are available. However, in developed countries, it is the hidden pollution that is causing greater harm. People may be drinking bottled water believing it to be healthy; but is it really healthy?

Micro-plastics are so small that researchers use a dye and infrared light to make the particles visible under a microscope. Some particles enter the walls of our intestine, while others can be taken in by intestinal tissue, making their way through our lymphatic system. Smaller particles (20 microns) can enter the bloodstream ending up in the liver and kidneys. Big particles (110 microns) can get into the main veins such as the hepatic portal, transporting blood into the liver. They also act like sponges, absorbing and releasing chemicals that can harm people and animals.

Recent studies in the US have found micro-plastic particles in bottled water. A CBC investigation found plastic contamination in 60% of water bottles tested. A similar New York State University study of the most popular brands of bottled water found, on average, 325 pieces of micro-plastics per liter, with some pieces exceeding 100 microns in size. Overall, 93 percent of the bottles tested contained some type of micro-plastic with some containing 10,390 particles per liter.

Micro-plastics are found in oceans and landfills, while some are manufactured for medical purposes. They may get into bottled water from the water source, the air or during the manufacturing process.

The WHO is still reviewing the risks of micro-plastics in drinking water to human health to determine what levels can be considered dangerous. Even in the U.S., Canada and Europe, there are no permissible limits for micro-plastics in bottled water yet.

The world's oceans and seas already contain around 150 million tons of plastic, and by 2050, there will be more plastics than fish in the oceans. The disturbing fact is that in some marine areas, plastics have already reached 6 times the plankton biomass, which is the base of any food chain in the marine environment.

This is in addition to the harm plastic does to the environment. It takes up to 1,000 years for every single bottle to decompose, leaching harmful chemicals into our environment along the way. These toxins cause a variety of health issues, including reproductive problems and cancer. Micro-plastics can also enter our body through food, especially sea food.

We should be more concerned about our health and the environment. We do not really have to rely on bottled water but rather use a reputable water filter system at home and take drinking water around in reusable bottles.

We must reduce plastic use in general to keep our environment safe.

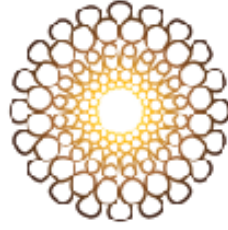
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Chief Technical Advisor
Zayed International Foundation for the Environment



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