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# Society & Environment

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creating green communities for a better tomorrow



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# Emirates Appreciation Award For The Environment

Together for a  
green home







## Chairman's Message



**Prof. Mohammed  
bin Fahad**  
Executive Editor

When the UAE joined world leaders and decision-makers at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos this year, it leveraged the global platform to solidify alliances and set the stage for a new era of global cooperation. Through its impactful participation at the 2024 edition of WEF and with the announcement of a host of initiatives and agreements across critical sectors, the UAE reinforced its commitment to strengthen international cooperation and partnerships to foster stability, development, and prosperity for all.

At the heart of the UAE's success in Davos lies its adept navigation of a complex global landscape. As the world grapples with unprecedented challenges, the UAE advocated for a future where nations come together, share knowledge, and collaborate to create a world that is stronger, more resilient, and inclusive for all. The UAE emerged as a shining example of the power of collaboration in fostering resilience and driving inclusivity on the global stage.

The wise leadership of the UAE have always maintained that meaningful partnerships are not just the key to economic prosperity but also fundamental to building a world that is robust, adaptive, and inclusive. In an era marked by geopolitical tensions and interconnected challenges, we recognize today that no single nation can navigate these complexities in isolation. Nations must come together with shared responsibility and a collective approach to address the multifaceted challenges of our time.

The partnerships in the fields of sustainability, healthcare, technology, and education serve as the building blocks for global progress as the UAE envisions a future where the benefits of economic growth, technological advancements, and sustainable practices are shared by all, leaving no one behind.

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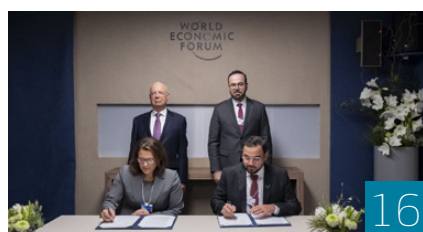
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# UAE concludes successful participation in World Economic Forum 2024 with impactful initiatives, agreements

UAE's participation at Davos comprised over 100 prominent figures, including corporate leaders, private sector and government officials

06

COVER STORY





**T**he UAE has concluded its successful five-day participation in the 54th edition of the World Economic Forum (WEF) 2024, held in Davos, Switzerland, from January 15 - 19.

More than 100 distinguished individuals, including business leaders, government officials, and representatives from the private sector, attended the event and participated in several sessions, panel discussions, conferences, and bilateral meetings. The UAE's participation in Davos marks one of the largest international

*UAE's active presence in Davos reflects the country's global leadership role across all fields of cooperation and partnership*



delegations in the forum's history and reaffirms the country's leading role on the global stage in various domains of cooperation and global partnership.

Through its impactful participation at the forum, the UAE strengthened international cooperation and partnerships to foster stability, development, and prosperity. Additionally, the initiatives and agreements announced during the WEF support the country's national priorities in building a more robust and faster-growing economy while enhancing competitiveness across all sectors.

Mohammad bin Abdullah Al Gergawi, Minister of Cabinet Affairs, emphasised that as a key international player, the country is leading in shaping future trends and devising innovative and unconventional solutions to global challenges.

This underscores its exceptional standing and active role, as guided by the vision of President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and the directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai.

He said, "Distinguished by its proactive vision, unique developmental and economic model, and unparalleled contributions to bolstering international cooperation, the UAE has multiplied its credibility and garnered international trust in its impactful positive role across various regional and global issues."

Al Gergawi added, "Given the importance it accords to the WEF, the UAE and its international partners presented new perspectives and pathways for sustainable solutions to the growing global challenges through the forum's meetings.

gathered at the Forum.

This year's edition brought together the largest number of corporate executives ever assembled. Their contributions play a pivotal role in building partnerships across various economic and developmental sectors, supporting sustainable development, and formulating solutions to key international developmental challenges.

For the second year in a row, the UAE participated with an exceptional pavilion under the theme of "Impossible is Possible". It hosted a number of



They engaged in purposeful dialogues to establish innovative economic frameworks that support continuous growth and the prosperity of societies."

He said that the UAE's proactive initiatives unveiled at WEF and the agreements it has signed promote the country's influential global standing.

### **Effective presence of private sector**

Heads of national companies, corporate leaders, leading private sector firms and senior business leaders represented 80 percent of the participation from the UAE this year. Around 3,000 participants from over 100 countries

gathered at the Forum. This year's edition brought together the largest number of corporate executives ever assembled. Their contributions play a pivotal role in building partnerships across various economic and developmental sectors, supporting sustainable development, and formulating solutions to key international developmental challenges.

### **Strategic partnerships**

Also, during the 54th edition of WEF, the UAE signed several agreements aimed at solidifying its role as a reliable partner and a hub for global positive change across various fields. These agreements encompass humanitarian assistance and commitments to support the programmes of international organisations in enhancing living conditions for various communities.



Following the directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI) pledged a contribution of around AED 37 million (USD10 million) in support of the healthcare sector in Gaza. This came as part of an agreement signed between MBRGI and the World Health Organisation (WTO) at WEF 2024.

Also, MBRGI has participated in the Food Innovation Hubs meeting, where it signed an agreement with the World Economic Forum to establish the Global Platform for Food Innovation Hubs to scale innovative solutions aimed at food transformation towards sustainable and more effective future options and enhance food production mechanisms globally.

MBRGI pledged AED 60.6 million in support of forcibly displaced persons, in the form of direct food aid and sustainable livelihood projects. Around AED 37 million of the MBRGI pledge will fund UNHCR's humanitarian relief programmes and sustainable development interventions.

Additionally, the MBRGI announced a contribution of around AED30 million (USD 8.1 million) to support programmes by the United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF), aiming at enhancing life conditions and providing a nutrition safety net for vulnerable children and women around the world.

## Economic initiatives and key announcements

During its participation in the forum, the UAE launched qualitative initiatives aimed at empowering developing communities and enhancing global prosperity. EcoMark Global Accreditation, one of the main initiatives announced by the UAE during the forum, has been designed to boost the competitiveness of MSMEs in the

global green economy by streamlining and standardising the regulatory processes surrounding sustainability benchmarking worldwide.



Also, the UAE Government and the World Economic Forum (WEF) have signed a partnership agreement to develop the "We the UAE for Strategic Intelligence 2031" platform, which represents a digital model powered by artificial intelligence, incorporating the best global knowledge resources and international experts in various sectors.

## ‘Jahiz’, a UAE government initiative for empowering federal government talents with future skills, was named among the best global projects



From the UAE pavilion in Davos, Newsweek Vantage International and the Swiss Horizon Group launched the results of the first edition of the “Future Possibilities Index” report – 2024.

The UAE government initiative “Jahiz”, which was launched by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid in November 2022, was selected among the best global projects featured in WEF’s global report, ‘Building a Resilient Tomorrow’, which represents the best pioneering and inspiring practices for boosting future resilience.

Jahiz is a national digital platform for empowering federal government talents with future skills. It

focuses on qualifying and empowering government employees with future skills to enhance the UAE government’s readiness for the future. Since its launch, Jahiz has -to date - contributed to developing the skills of 50,000 employees from more than 50 government agencies.

Jahiz was chosen among more than 1000 public and private sector projects from around the world. The WEF selected the best 9 projects in 3 main categories – climate, energy, and food; supply chains; and organizational readiness.

The UAE also actively engaged in discussions to address the opportunities and challenges presented by technological advancements and artificial intelligence in the education sector. Emphasis was placed on strategies for developing learning skills and exploring areas of collaboration between the public and private sectors to enhance innovative and productive educational models and experiences.

The UAE’s involvement at WEF included events related to economic sectors, foreign trade, investment, and environment. Discussions covered the influence of technology on the evolution of global trade and investment, the future of global trade, and the prospects of the new global trade order.

The 2024 forum, held under the theme ‘Rebuilding Trust’, brought together over 3,000 influential figures, leaders, and decision-makers from both the public and private sectors worldwide, to discuss global challenges, review solutions and developments, and build partnerships across various economic and developmental sectors. The forum’s outputs and collaborations contribute to supporting sustainable development and shaping solutions for complex challenges on the international level.

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## HE Dr. Amna Al Dahak takes charge as Minister of Climate Change and Environment

UAE NEWS

**H**er Excellency Mariam bint Mohammed Almheiri, former Minister of Climate Change and Environment, met with the newly appointed Minister, Her Excellency Dr. Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak, to discuss the Ministry's strategies and priorities moving forward. The two ministers discussed the Ministry's upcoming plans, initiatives and projects that serve the government and its national priorities. They agreed to offer mutual support to ensure a seamless continuation of vital environmental agendas without disruption.

"I am honored to assume this responsibility and deeply appreciative of Her Excellency Mariam bint Mohammed Almheiri's efforts in leading environmental efforts at the Ministry and continuing our national efforts towards sustainable practices and innovative policies," said HE Dr. Amna Al Dahak.

For her part, HE Mariam Almheiri, Head of the International Affairs Office at the Presidential

Court, said: "I am delighted to hand over this important role to Dr. Amna and wish her the very best in leading our initiatives towards a brighter, more sustainable future".

As Minister of Climate Change and Environment, HE Dr. Al Dahak, a proficient government leader and distinguished academic, will oversee and lead environmental initiatives in partnership with other government partners, the private sector, and startups in relevant sectors to achieve the UAE's ambitious Net Zero 2050 Strategy, protect the country's unique natural environment, accelerate the UAE's climate action, grow the national agriculture and fishing sectors, promote the development of agricultural technologies, safeguard land ecosystems, enhance biodiversity, and ensure national food security.

Her responsibilities will also include promoting research and development programs to enhance food, and environmental security, and contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

# UAE highlights leading role in driving energy efficiency on first International Day of Clean Energy

Commemorated on January 26, the day shines a light on the need for access to renewable energy for all, say UAE ministers and officials

UAE ministers and officials emphasised the importance of the International Day of Clean Energy, celebrated on 26th January, as it reflects the growing global interest in sustainable energy sources as the best solution to achieve a just and inclusive transformation for all.

The first International Day of Clean Energy coincides with the anniversary of the founding of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), and the ministers and officials took the opportunity to highlight the UAE's leading role in accelerating the transition to an energy-efficient future, and also congratulated IRENA on its efforts in supporting the growth of renewable energy projects worldwide and turbocharging the climate action drive globally.

Dr. Sultan bin Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology, congratulated IRENA on its leading efforts and





called on all its members to intensify their efforts to meet the world's need to triple the capacity of renewable energy sources by 2030 to keep 1.5°C within reach.

Dr. Al Jaber explained that COP28 saw all parties reach an agreement on the historic 'UAE Consensus', which includes achieving a well-organised, responsible, fair and realistic transition to a zero-carbon energy system, and also set for the first time specific time-bound goals to triple the capacity of renewable energy sources by 2030, stressing that all parties must now transform commitments and pledges into tangible action and results, further boosting IRENA's vital role in promoting policies, technology and financing to achieve the desired progress in this area.

For his part, Suhail bin Mohammed Al Mazrouei, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, said, "The UAE has invested heavily in clean energy projects, especially nuclear and solar, to ensure reaching net zero by 2050. As we celebrate the International Day of Clean Energy, we reaffirm our commitment to innovative solutions and collective efforts to accelerate the transition to a more sustainable future."

Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of State for Foreign Trade, said, "The injection of global investments in clean energy and its technologies will change the shape of the world as we know it. On the trade front, this will enable us to create fully sustainable supply chains, which is essential to overcome the challenges of climate change and provide new opportunities for economies around the developing world."

Dr. Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak Al Shamsi, Minister of Climate Change and the Environment, said, "The world's celebration of the first International Day of Clean Energy just after COP28 is a testament to the global commitment to the clean energy transition. The Ministry of

Climate Change and the Environment will continue to play a proactive role in national efforts to reduce emissions, achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement, mitigate the effects of climate change, and protect the planet."



Dr. Nawal Al-Hosany, Permanent Representative of the UAE to IRENA, said, "The adoption of the International Day of Clean Energy by the United Nations testifies to the growing global interest in renewable and clean energy as the best solution to achieve a just, inclusive and practical energy transition."

She highlighted the UAE's unwavering commitment to working with the global community to triple the global renewable energy capacity and double energy efficiency by 2030 to put the world on the right track and keep 1.5°C within reach.

Mohamed Jameel Al Ramahi, CEO of Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company (Masdar), said, "The International Day of Clean Energy is an opportunity to celebrate the significant role of renewable energy in making a positive impact on our world and paving the way towards building a sustainable future based on climate neutrality.

As one of the fastest-growing renewable energy companies in the world, Masdar is proud to play a leading role in accelerating the pace of deployment of clean energy solutions to

*Energy is the main contributor to climate change, accounting for around 60 percent of total global greenhouse gas emissions*



effectively impact lives around the world."

The UN General Assembly established the international day in August 2023 when it adopted a resolution, recognizing that ensuring clean and affordable energy for everyone — Sustainable Development Goal 7 — is considered essential both to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 and to reach the climate goals under the Paris Agreement.

### **‘UAE is committed to achieving a more sustainable future’**

H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs, reaffirmed the

UAE's commitment to achieving a more sustainable future.

In a statement marking the first International Day of Clean Energy, the UAE's top diplomat said, "As a partner in facilitating the declaration of the International Day of Clean Energy in cooperation with Panama, the UAE remains committed to bringing about a more sustainable future."

H.H. Sheikh Abdullah added that the UAE will continue to work with other countries to achieve a just energy transition and adopt innovative solutions to combat climate change.

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## World Government Summit 2024 seeks breakthrough solutions for challenges of tomorrow from Feb 12 - 14

UAE NEWS

The 11th edition of World Governments Summit (WGS 2024), convening over 4,000 attendees in Dubai from 12 - 14 February, will continue its dedicated pursuit of innovative solutions to pressing future challenges.

Themed "Shaping Future Governments", the WGS 2024 will convene heads of state, government officials, and leaders from over 80 international and regional organisations, alongside 120 governmental delegations. Thought leaders, business professionals, and global experts, including over 8 Nobel laureates will enrich discussions across 110 interactive dialogues. In addition, over 200 prominent speakers, including presidents, ministers, and visionaries, will share their insights.

Participating in this year's summit are 27 heads of organisations, including Ajay Banga, President of the World Bank Group, Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Secretary-General of

the Arab League, and Jassem Mohamed Albudaiwi, Secretary-General of GCC.

The summit will host 15 global forums focusing on developing future strategies and plans in key sectors relevant to humanity. These include the Global Health Forum, Government Services Forum, Arab Government Administration Forum, Knowledge Exchange Forum, Future of Transportation Forum, Public Finance Forum for Arab Countries, Future of Education Forum, Space Future Forum, and Advanced Industry and Technology Forum.

The WGS 2024 continues its diverse dialogues through forums such as the Artificial Intelligence Forum, the Future of Work Forum, the Emerging Economies Forum, the Governance of Geotechnology Forum, the Sustainable Development Goals Forum, in addition to the Arab Meeting for Young Leaders and the 'Time 100' event.



## UAE announces AED11 million grant programme for food technology

The Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives' (MBRGI) grant programme to contribute to global efforts to end hunger, and improve the resilience, sustainability, and health of food and water systems

The Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI) has announced a grant programme at a value of AED 11 million (above USD3 million), in collaboration with the UpLink Platform operating under the World Economic Forum (WEF), with the aim of contributing to global efforts to end hunger, improve the resilience, sustainability, and health of our food and water systems

MBRGI signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) with UpLink Platform of the World Economic Forum to strengthen the Food Innovation Hubs global initiative. Overall, the collaboration will aim toward driving joint efforts on advancing innovation for food.

The new cooperation agreement was announced on the sidelines of the 2024 World Economic Forum, held in Davos, Switzerland between 15th and 19th January. The agreement is part of a series of programmes and initiatives implemented by the Food Innovation Hub UAE, launched by MBRGI in collaboration with the World Economic Forum in December 2023 during



the 28th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP28) at Dubai Expo City. The Food Innovation Hub UAE aims to drive innovation and enhance food production mechanisms to ensure sustainable access to food.

Through Uplink and Food Innovation Hubs globally, the collaboration seeks to invest in innovative ideas and solutions for food insecurity, support and empower innovators in the field of food systems to help them turn their ideas into realities by providing the necessary resources

*The programme aims to drive innovation and ensure sustainable access to food under the Food Innovation Hubs global initiative, launched at COP28 in Dubai*



and facilitate the launch of their projects. It will also allow them to utilise the vast experience gained by MBRGI from its work in humanitarian aid and relief, as well as the other pillars of its work.

Through this programme, MBRGI hopes to promote creative initiatives on a larger scale that adds to more engagement with some pressing humanitarian challenges, including access to food, education, healthcare, jobs and social security.

Saeed Al Eter, Assistant Secretary-General of

MBRGI, said, “MBRGI continues to launch its projects and programmes based on a humanitarian vision that aims to positively change the lives of tens of millions of people, by enabling the poor to access essentials and live with dignity. Partnerships are key to achieve these noble goals, for which MBRGI was initially established.”

“The grants programme reflects the key principle of being open to new ideas, respect and acknowledge innovation, and promote creativity in everything we do in order to create the positive change we seek on the largest possible scale. It

also represents an important step in agricultural innovation, especially in the most disadvantaged communities. In addition to it being a key step for the Food Innovation Hub UAE, the new agreement with the World Economic Forum reflects MBRGI's visions and ongoing cooperation with international organisations," he added.

Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum, said, "Our society's well-being and long-term security depends on the resilience of food and water systems. Today, we



are proud to strengthen our collaboration with the UAE and the Mohammed Bin Rashid Global Initiatives through Uplink and the Food Innovation Hubs as platforms that can drive cooperation and a global innovator movement to ensure that the millions of farmers and the growing population of 8 billion+ people can positively benefit from fit-for-purpose solutions. Uplink will allow for sourcing innovators that will contribute significantly to a sustainable and equitable future."

The upcoming collaboration is set to highlight flagship initiatives currently in the Food Innovation Hubs network, while contributing to creating innovative solutions across network

countries, including the UAE, with the UpLink Platform playing a pivotal role in sourcing and accelerating food system innovations.

Unique in its methodology, the open innovation platform UpLink focuses on the creation of an entrepreneur movement at scale and building bridges within the innovation ecosystem.

MBRGI brings under its umbrella dozens of initiatives, projects and foundations over five main pillars: Humanitarian Aid and Relief, Healthcare and Disease Control, Spreading Education and Knowledge, Innovation and Entrepreneurship and Empowering Communities.

In 2022, MBRGI spent AED 1.4 billion benefiting 102 million people in 100 countries, of which AED 910 million were spent on Humanitarian Aid Relief initiatives that benefited 30.2 million people.

Among initiatives launched under the pillar of Humanitarian Aid Relief, MBRGI launched the "10 Million Meals" campaign in 2020 as the first large-scale show of food aid solidarity during COVID-19, helping those affected by the pandemic in the UAE. The "100 Million Meals" campaign in 2021 expanded the scope of the previous campaign and provided support to 20 countries in Africa and Asia. It was followed by the "1 Billion Meals" campaign in 2022 and most recently, the "1 Billion Meals Endowment" initiative in 2023 to establish the largest sustainable food fund.







## IRENA turns 15 on first International Day of Clean Energy

UAE NEWS

January 26, which marks the 15th anniversary of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), coincides with the inaugural International Day of Clean Energy, declared by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) last year. By adopting a resolution proclaiming the founding date of IRENA as the International Day of Clean Energy, UNGA recognised the Agency's leading role in accelerating the global, renewables-based energy transition.

IRENA Director-General Francesco La Camera said, "I congratulate IRENA and its Membership for bringing renewable energy to the forefront of the global energy discourse. With 169 Members, IRENA stands as the global engine driving a global energy transition grounded in renewables that delivers on climate and development priorities."

La Camera added, "The establishment of an international day, largely thanks to the advocacy of the UAE and Panama as co-facilitators of the UN resolution, is a testament to the growing

support for renewables seen worldwide. A fair, just, equitable, and urgent transition is essential to avoid the worst of climate effects and spur sustainable development."

Founded in 2009, IRENA supports nations in their adoption and deployment of renewable energy. For 15 years, IRENA has been spearheading efforts to advance renewable energy policies, technologies, and knowledge-sharing at the national, regional and global levels.

The joint honouring of IRENA's anniversary and the first International Day of Clean Energy takes place on the back of the highly consequential COP28, which established a global goal to triple renewable energy capacity by 2030, aligning with IRENA's World Energy Transitions Outlook (WETO). WETO charts a clear path toward 1.5°C by modernising and expanding infrastructure, establishing robust enabling policies, and enhancing institutional and human capacity.



## UAE's vision for longevity in focus at Arab Health's Future Health Summit

Future Health Summit focused on the theme of 'Reverse aging and longevity' with a strong emphasis on revolutionising health span

With business intelligence firm Grand View Research anticipating that the global longevity and anti-ageing market will reach USD183 billion by 2028, the scientific and medical community is now focusing on a new paradigm in human health and a new market in life sciences with almost limitless potential.

Field pioneers and world-leading longevity researchers convened on 1st February 2024, at the invite-only, high-level third Future Health Summit at the Museum of the Future in Dubai to discuss groundbreaking advancements in reverse ageing and longevity, emphasising the transformation of human health span.

With the UN World Population Prospects report predicting a 16 percent increase in the global population aged 65 and above by 2050, a 10 percent increase from 2022, recent years have witnessed a burgeoning fascination with the prospect of leveraging cutting-edge research to slow or even reverse the ageing process, ultimately aiming to enhance well-being and extend human longevity.



In alignment with this demographic shift, the UAE has integrated positive ageing into its Social Cohesion Strategy, outlined in its 2021 Vision and Centennial Plan 2071. With diverse demographics and recent initiatives like the Golden Visa Programme attracting an older population, the UAE anticipates demographic changes, requiring policymakers to establish an adaptive ecosystem.

Ross Williams, Exhibition Director for Informa Markets, said, "In the UAE and the wider Gulf

time for humankind. The world is currently witnessing a shift in interest towards the science of longevity; and PureHealth is on a mission to help people lead longer, healthier, happier and fuller lives, through innovation and collaboration. The Future Health Summit is a vital platform for exploring breakthroughs and addressing barriers in the science of longevity."

Arab Health 2024, the largest healthcare event in the Middle East, that concluded on 1st February, focused on the future of healthcare and the



region, there is a revolutionary vision to increase the average lifespan of the population, and the Future Health Summit will enable the experts to gather under one roof to understand the latest developments, technologies and key players that are invested in bringing this vision to reality."

Shaista Asif, Group CEO of PureHealth, said, "The innovation space around healthcare is transforming, and so too are perspectives. Healthcare today is not just about technological development or medical advancement, and we believe modern healthcare is about unlocking

transformative impact of emerging technologies in the medical industry. Key highlights included the Smart Hospital and Interoperability Zone, in collaboration with Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi, the Transformation Zone with expert talks on nanomedicine, AI, and robotics, and the Innov8 competition for health tech startups.

With a global audience of over 110,000 healthcare professionals, Arab Health 2024 hosted more than 3,450 exhibitors and attracted visitors from 180 countries.

# UAE launches 'We the UAE for Strategic Intelligence 2031' platform in partnership with World Economic Forum

The UAE Government and the World Economic Forum (WEF) have signed a partnership agreement to develop the "We the UAE for Strategic Intelligence 2031" platform, which represents a digital model powered by artificial intelligence, incorporating the best global knowledge resources and international experts in various sectors.

The platform aims to support policymakers, strategists, and government leaders in the UAE with a specialised strategic knowledge base in priority sectors outlined in the "We the UAE 2031" vision. The agreement was signed during the World Economic Forum 2024, in the presence of Mohammad bin Abdullah Al Gergawi, Minister of Cabinet Affairs, and Professor Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum.

Huda Al Hashimi, Deputy Minister of Cabinet Affairs for Strategic Affairs and Stephan





Mergenthaler, Head of Strategic Intelligence, WEF, have signed the agreement.

Al Hashimi affirmed that enhancing the government's flexibility, its readiness for the future, and developing proactive strategies are main pillars of the UAE's directions.

She added that launching the initiative reflects the advanced level of the strategic relationship between the UAE government and the World Economic Forum. "The UAE aspires to become a global hub of excellence in foresight and strategic thinking," she noted.

Al Hashimi further added that the platform will support policymakers and governmental strategies in achieving the vision of "We the UAE 2031". It provides a national and global strategic network comprising elite leaders and experts aimed at finding solutions, capitalising on opportunities, exchanging the best practices, and transferring knowledge, skills and expertise.

Professor Klaus Schwab said, "We face a fractured world and growing societal divides, leading to pervasive uncertainty and pessimism. We have to rebuild trust in our future by moving beyond crisis management, looking at the root causes of the present problems, and building together a more promising future. Trust and cooperation are a must in a connected, yet divided world."

The Founder and Executive Chairman of WEF added, "From empowering food innovation and unlocking trade technologies, to harnessing the full power of technology to improve government services, the World Economic Forum is proud of its many forward-looking collaborations with the UAE, which are tackling global challenges from a unique, multi-stakeholder perspective."

The platform represents a meaningful initiative to uphold the targets outlined in the vision "We the UAE 2031". It involves the development of a

new model for strategic design, powered by artificial intelligence, utilising specialised global resources, and harnessing data and information provided by over 2500 international experts and more than 450 global sources.



The platform is empowered by artificial intelligence technology tools to provide swift and accurate analyses. This includes summaries of the latest research, studies, and possible scenarios related to each topic, as well as key strategic trends and practices. The platform will provide interactive multidimensional analytical maps for decision-makers, policymakers, and government strategists.



# Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots UAE

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CONSERVATION

## Expo City Dubai to set up regional office for Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots programme

Roots & Shoots encourages children to implement practical positive change for people, animals and the environment through hands-on learning experiences

With a shared mission to advance and enhance youth learning opportunities around sustainability and the environment, Expo City Dubai has announced its collaboration with the Jane Goodall Institute's Roots & Shoots programme - a global environmental, animal welfare, and humanitarian youth outreach initiative.

This joint initiative demonstrates the commitment of Expo City Dubai, which recently hosted the COP28 climate summit, to protecting the environment and propelling human progress through collaboration and meaningful partnerships.

As part of the agreement, world-renowned ethologist Dr. Jane Goodall will establish the region's first permanent office of Roots & Shoots at Terra - The Sustainability Pavilion, which forms the heart of Expo City's green education programmes.

Roots & Shoots UAE will be a hub for cooperation, building on Terra's mission to put the climate at



the forefront of everyone's minds and leverage the Expo School Programme's network to expand among Arabic and English public and private institutions. It will offer a range of interactive student workshops spanning tree-planting, beekeeping and habitat conservation within its inspiring grounds, as well as in schools and outdoors, while also providing valuable resources for teachers and hosting engaging, educational community events.

Marjan Faraidooni, Chief of Education and

Dr. Jane Goodall, DBE, Founder of the Jane Goodall Institute and UN Messenger of Peace, said, "Working in partnership with like-minded organisations like Expo City Dubai, we can create sustainable change and greater community engagement. We aim to involve more students from all backgrounds in Roots & Shoots, so they may have a greater impact in addressing environmental and humanitarian challenges at local, national and international levels.

"Roots & Shoots is about hope. It is about



Culture, Expo City Dubai, said, "As an inclusive, action-oriented community and a hub for climate solutions, Expo City Dubai is committed to driving collaborative action to preserve our environment.

"Both Expo City Dubai and Roots & Shoots have already made an incredible impact, and our partnership reflects our shared mission to inspire and empower youth to become environmental stewards, with exciting learning opportunities beyond the classroom that enable young people to identify and take part in conservation efforts to drive positive changes."

choosing to make the world a better place, through projects that help people, the environment, and animals. It is encouraging young people of all ages to think about the environmental and humanitarian challenges in the world around them, and do something to address them."

Roots & Shoots, a key programme under the Jane Goodall Institute, is active across 60 countries and has involved more than one million young people in its youth programmes worldwide, with curriculums tailored to students of all ages.



## Masdar City opens new mosque; set for LEED certification

The 500-square metre domed structure adheres to the highest international sustainability standards

Masdar City, the Abu Dhabi-based sustainability and innovation hub dedicated to making all cities a solution to climate change, has inaugurated its first mosque, called Estidama Mosque.

The new, 500-square metre domed structure, located in Masdar Park, adheres to the highest international sustainability standards and can accommodate 335 worshippers for each of the five daily prayers.

"Estidama Mosque is a powerful symbol of our commitment to our community, our faith, and responsible stewardship of the earth," said Mohamed Al Breiki, Masdar City's Executive Director of Sustainable Development.

"We see this as so much more than a house of worship—it's a community gathering place in the heart of our city where worshippers can look forward to a journey that is both environmentally conscious and spiritually profound."

Masdar City designed Estidama Mosque in



collaboration with X-Architects with a focus on passive design, an approach they champion across the city.

It is an architectural technique that works with the local environment and a building's physical components to minimise the need for energy-intensive cooling.

Skylights on the roof are compact, and traditional Arabic screens maximise natural light while minimising heat generated by direct sun. The building also has a low surface-area-to-volume

remaining energy requirements.

The mosque also conserves about 48 percent of its water. A water treatment unit allows grey water to be used to irrigate plants in the mosque's garden.

"We're proud of the fact that this unique design is on track to be Abu Dhabi's first LEED Platinum mosque," added Al Breiki. "Our designs meet all the requirements for both LEED Platinum and Estidama 3-Pearl, and we anticipate receiving the certifications later this year."



ratio, an airtight building envelope, and high-performance insulation.

Additionally, the primary pathways to the building and the courtyard are shaded by trees, and intelligent sensors within the building enable precise management of lighting and ventilation based on building occupancy. All of these features work together to reduce the need for cooling.

In total, the mosque will use over 50 percent less energy than a traditional mosque building. Solar photovoltaic panels, installed on the nearby car parking shades, produce a portion of the building's

LEED Platinum is the highest international standard for green buildings, awarded by the US Green Buildings Council. Estidama 3-Pearl is a rating awarded by the UAE's Estidama Pearl Rating System, which is designed for the UAE's physical environment and focuses on water conservation.

Masdar City's second mosque, a much larger, net-zero energy building that will accommodate 1,300 worshippers, was announced during COP28 and is expected to break ground in 2024.



## MBRSC and Dubai Municipality announce Dubai Space Laboratory at COP28

Dubai Municipality and MBRSC will provide the Dubai Space Laboratory with the latest technologies and devices in accordance with international best practices and standards

**D**ubai Municipality and the Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at COP28 to establish the Dubai Space Laboratory. The lab is the first of its kind in the region and will focus on testing, researching and calibrating devices, materials and technologies used in space missions.

The MoU was signed by Dawoud Al Hajri, Director-General of Dubai Municipality, and Salem AlMarri, Director-General of MBRSC.

The project marks Dubai Municipality's second foray in the space sector, following on from DMSat-1, a nanometric satellite that analyses environmental data and measures air pollutants. As well as calibration, the new laboratory will conduct studies and research supporting Dubai's strategic endeavours in space.

Under the MoU, Dubai Municipality and MBRSC will provide the Dubai Space Laboratory with the latest technologies and devices in accordance with international best practices and standards.



The project will include the creation of a new database to store test results, which will be built on integrated information infrastructure, while advanced computer programmes will be employed to utilise and apply the data.

Al Hajri said, "The main goal of this project is to support the UAE's space sector, which has become one of the country's most important and promising economic sectors. Dubai Municipality's partnerships reflect the emirate's forward-looking aspirations. Future sectors such as space

*The lab is the first of its kind in the region and will focus on testing, researching and calibrating devices, materials and technologies used in space missions*



are key to Dubai's strategy for strengthening its position as a global hub for innovation and a future economy."

He added, "The Dubai Space Laboratory will include a centre for space research, where specialised research studies will be conducted using the comprehensive space database to support the objectives of the UAE National Space Programme. The laboratory represents a shift in the scope of the municipality's work, which will now encompass developing innovative solutions to challenges based on scientific research."

For his part, AlMarri said, "This project represents a significant advancement in specialised laboratory services and calibration work at the regional level and aligns with the vision of MBRSC to enhance the UAE's global position in the space sector and future economy."

The MoU aims to support the country's space sector and promote excellence in advanced laboratory testing. The Dubai Space Laboratory will serve as a comprehensive research centre for space and advanced technologies, where we will provide state-of-the-art technologies, devices,

and advanced information infrastructure."

He further added, "This cooperation will enhance the achievement of strategic progress in space research and the development of innovative solutions. These solutions will be based on solid scientific foundations and contribute to addressing future challenges while opening new horizons in space."

Under the MoU, Dubai Municipality and MBRSC will develop a new, first-of-its-kind digital model

*The MoU aims to support the country's space sector and promote excellence in advanced laboratory testing.*



and simulation based on the lab's research.

The space laboratory testing database aims to explore the future and predict the patterns and characteristics of food and consumables to be used and traded for long-duration space exploration missions.

Through the Dubai Space Laboratory, Dubai Municipality and MBRSC will also focus on upskilling and empowering national talent by providing testing, calibration and research courses in collaboration with some of the world's top research and training institutes.

The Dubai Space Laboratory will be based at the

Dubai Central Laboratory, which Dubai Municipality has developed to become one of the world's leading international institutions of its kind. The laboratory today includes more than 5,000 devices and pieces of advanced technological equipment that are operated in accordance with international best practices.

The Dubai Central Laboratory has gained numerous important international certificates and accreditations. It comprises several laboratories specialising in various fields and supports Dubai Municipality's vision to become one of the world's leading municipalities.





## Sharjah Ruler explores wheat farm innovations in Mleiha

UAE NEWS

**H**.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, visited the wheat farm in the Mleiha region in January to inspect the agricultural activities.

HH Sheikh Sultan observed the farming processes and the irrigation of wheat crops using state-of-the-art equipment designed for water conservation. These advanced technologies assist not only in monitoring performance but also in managing soil and plant needs. Ground sensors and a weather station are utilised to measure moisture, contributing to the optimal yield of wheat crops.

During the visit, the Ruler of Sharjah was briefed on the various wheat varieties, their growth stages and the outcomes of experiments and studies conducted to enhance agricultural practices and ensure the production of healthy, nutrition-rich crops.

As the wheat farm enters its second year, it

signifies a new phase in the food security project directed by the Ruler of Sharjah, aiming to provide premium, organic and highest-protein wheat crops free from pesticides and harmful substances.

In the integration of the second and third stages, the farm utilises 300 tonnes of high-purity seeds sourced from diverse locations. Before planting, 24,000 tonnes of organic fertilisers are applied, and varied organic fertilisers are used post-planting, tailored to the growth stage of the wheat crop.



C O P 2 8

# ADAFSA signs agreements with Khalifa University of Science and Technology, UAE Space Agency at COP28

The Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority (ADAFSA) signed two agreements with Khalifa University of Science and Technology (KUST) and the UAE Space Agency, during its participation at COP28.

Under the first agreement, ADAFSA and KUST will implement the Modern Agricultural Technologies Programme, which aims to develop and apply modern agricultural technologies in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, including climate-smart agriculture, artificial intelligence and biotechnology.

The programme aims to improve production efficiency and environmental sustainability. This will help to increase agricultural productivity, improve crop quality and reduce the use of natural resources and water.

Under the second agreement, ADAFSA will cooperate with the UAE Space Agency in the





field of research and scientific studies on ways to benefit from satellite technology to serve the needs of food security and the agricultural sector.

In addition, the agreement also aims to strengthen inspection and control systems through aerial surveys of ground data and launch joint projects to promote the use of space applications to improve the efficiency of services provided to the agricultural sector and the fields of food safety and food security.

Eng. Ahmed Khaled Othman, Acting Executive Director of the Strategy and Policies Sector at ADAFSA, participated in the panel discussion organised by the Abu Dhabi Energy Department on the challenges of water security and efforts to address water scarcity through seawater desalination and its use in agriculture.

He reviewed ADAFSA's efforts to rationalise water use in agriculture, noting that Abu Dhabi and the UAE are global leaders in water solutions and reuse.

He explained that the Authority is keen to promote the use of modern irrigation technologies and solutions that help rationalise water consumption, using smart irrigation systems. He also pointed out that ADAFSA is helping farmers to switch to crops that consume less water by providing them with information and technical support.

These efforts have contributed to achieving positive results in rationalising water use in agriculture, and ADAFSA is committed to continuing its efforts by implementing more initiatives and programmes in this area.

A team from the Development and Innovation Sector of ADAFSA also participated in many of the scientific events held in the Green Zone at COP28. The team, in collaboration with the Dubai Beekeepers Association, organised a dialogue

*Partnership with UAE Space Agency to focus on ways to benefit from satellite technology to serve the needs of food security and the agricultural sector*



session entitled "Bees and Beekeeping in Arid Lands and Responding to Climate Change". The session was attended by Engineer Saeed Al Yamahi, Director of the Research and Development Division at ADAFSA, Dr Saad Al

Masri, Dr Ehsan Jomaa, Engineer Wadha Al Nuaimi and Hamad Thani.

Many regional and local bodies involved in beekeeping and honey production participated in the discussion on advanced beekeeping programmes in the country, the importance of bees in achieving food security and the impact of climate change on beekeeping.

In a panel discussion on food security and the use of natural resources on land and sea, Omar Ali Al

*ADAFSA to develop and apply modern agricultural technologies in Abu Dhabi, in partnership with Khalifa University of Science and Technology*



Shammari, Director of Strategy at ADAFSA, gave an overview of ADAFSA's efforts to improve food security for future generations. He stressed the importance of applying modern agricultural technologies and sustainable food security practices to help provide a sustainable food supply for society.

The Authority pointed out that modern agricultural technologies are one of the most important means of achieving food security in the face of the challenges of climate change. For this reason, ADAFSA is committed to the development and application of these technologies in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, including climate-smart agriculture, the use of

artificial intelligence and biotechnology. These technologies aim to increase agricultural productivity, improve efficiency in the use of natural resources, and promote environmental sustainability.

ADAFSA further pointed out that cooperation with the relevant authorities is essential to achieve its objectives in the field of climate change and food security. The Authority cooperates with many local, regional and international bodies, and builds partnerships aimed at unifying efforts, exchanging experiences, and enhancing the use of modern technologies in achieving food security.



## Fujairah Environment Authority launches book series on natural history of Fujairah

Under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad bin Mohammed Al Sharqi, Crown Prince of Fujairah, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Fujairah Environment Authority, the Authority has launched a book series on the natural history of Fujairah.

The series will include seven editions, with the first book titled *The Natural History of Fujairah*. The announcement was made at a press conference held in January at the Al Bahar Hotel Resort in Fujairah.

Aseela Moalla, Director of Fujairah Environment Authority, said that *The Natural History of Fujairah*, the first in the series, is a comprehensive guide to all aspects of the environment in the emirate. The upcoming titles include *Archaeology of Fujairah*, *Whales and Dolphins in Fujairah*, *Plants in Fujairah*, *Birds in Fujairah*, *Reptiles in Fujairah*, and *Geology of Fujairah*.

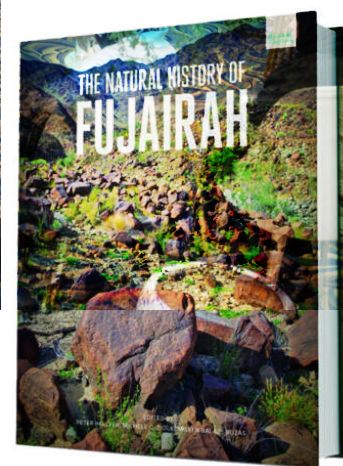
Moalla said the series is a valuable resource

containing written and video information that will be of interest to researchers, specialists, students, and anyone curious about the natural history of Fujairah and covers its transformations over the ages.

Archaeologist and co-author of the book Dr. Michele C. Ziolkowski said: "*The Natural History of Fujairah* showcases emirate's vibrant landscape and diverse natural sites including its marine and wildlife and the impact of humans on the natural world in the past and present."

He added that 16 experts in various fields have contributed to the book, making it an important source for experts, scholars and the community.

The late historian and researcher Peter Hellyer, editor Balazs Buzas, Dr. Michele C. Ziolkowski, and several experts, researchers, and photographers from individuals and government institutions in Fujairah have contributed to the book series.





## DUBAI 2023



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COP28

### **'Inclusivity was a key factor in our success; COP28 had to be a COP of action, a COP for all': Sultan Al Jaber**

Over 133 countries signed up to triple renewables and double energy efficiency; 159 countries signed the UAE Declaration on Agriculture, Food and Climate; and 147 countries signed the UAE Declaration on Climate and Health

**D**r. Sultan bin Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and COP28 President, has said that the UAE should be very proud of its role in achieving a truly historic outcome at the 28th edition of the UN Climate Change Conference.

"The vision, support and guidance of President HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan; HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai; and HH Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President, Deputy Prime Minister, and Chairman of the Presidential Court, was critical in the success of COP28.

"This support helped us achieve unprecedented historical climate action achievements, culminating in the historic 'UAE Consensus' that was agreed upon by 198 Parties."

Dr. Sultan Al Jaber added, "The COP28 Presidency implemented the approach of the founding father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, in communicating with the international



community effectively and building qualitative partnerships that are in the interest of the nation and the global community.

"We united the world around a landmark response to the Global Stocktake, through 'The UAE Consensus' that delivered a package of ambitious and balanced outcomes across the entire climate agenda. For the first time at a COP, this included an agreement on transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems in a just, orderly and equitable manner.

*COP28 mobilised over USD85 billion for climate action, including the USD 3.5 billion for the Green Climate Fund*



"The comprehensive COP28 Action Agenda, with its Four Pillars, covered all aspects of the climate agenda. For instance, over 133 countries have signed up to our global goal to triple renewables and double energy efficiency; 159 countries signed the UAE Declaration on Agriculture, Food and Climate; and 147 countries signed the UAE Declaration on Climate and Health.

"The UAE Consensus also delivered agreement on the unprecedented global goal to triple renewable energy capacity and double energy efficiency by 2030, and a clear call to rapidly

reduce methane and other non-CO2 gases this decade. In another global first, COP28 created, operationalised and began to capitalise on the fund to address loss and damage and made significant recommendations to transform the international climate finance system.

"COP28 mobilised over USD85 billion for climate action, including the USD 3.5 billion for the Green Climate Fund; more than USD 187 million for the Adaptation Fund; and USD 129 million for the Least Developed Countries Fund. In addition, the World Bank announced an increase of USD 9





billion annually for 2024 and 2025 to finance climate-related projects while multilateral development banks announced an increase of more than USD 22 billion toward climate action.

"All this adds to one real game-changer for climate finance, which is the UAE's launch of ALTERRA. This is set to be the world's largest private investment vehicle for climate action, with a USD 25 billion acceleration fund to steer investment towards clean technology and renewable energy projects.

"It also has a USD 5 billion fund to provide risk mitigating capital to incentivise investment flows into the Global South. Ultimately, ALTERRA aims to mobilise USD 250 billion globally by 2030, all focused on solutions to climate change."

Regarding his vision for emission reduction in the global oil and gas sector, Dr. Al Jaber emphasised

the importance of realism and balance. Recognising the sector's significance in the global economy, he said that substantial investments are required in R&D to enhance energy efficiency and reduce emissions in all stages of oil and gas production and usage.

He added that it is also important to enhance the development of carbon capture and storage technologies, which can help reduce the carbon footprint of hard-to-abate sectors such as cement, aluminium and steel production.

"I reiterate that our goal is emissions reduction, rather than slowing down growth and progress. Therefore, we need solutions that bring about a significant qualitative leap; and technology is a fundamental enabler for these solutions."

Dr Al Jaber stressed the need to support developing countries, ensuring they can develop



“COP28 engaged with the widest range of stakeholders ever assembled at a COP. Every voice counted. Every voice was heard.”

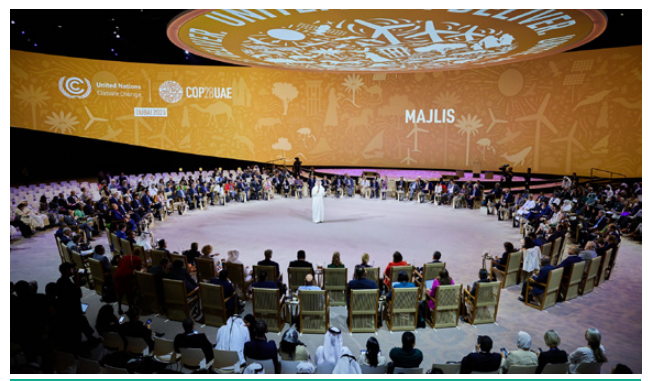


and implement climate strategies that are transparent, supervised and monitored.

"Inclusivity was a key factor in our success; the science told us that COP28 had to be a COP of action, a COP for all. This inclusive approach meant that it was the most well-attended COP of all time, with around 85,000 Blue Zone delegates and more than 545,000 visits to the Green Zone," said Dr. Al Jaber.

He added: "COP28 engaged with the widest range of stakeholders ever assembled at a COP, from world leaders to local leaders, to faith leaders, from youth to Indigenous Peoples, from NGOs to CEOs. Every voice counted. Every voice was heard. We hosted the largest youth delegate

programme in COP history, ensuring meaningful engagement, which resulted in the first Youth Global Stocktake and this momentum continues by establishing the position of Youth Climate Champion for future COPs."







## Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology wraps up successful participation at COP28

**Green Public Procurement Statement of Intent announced to reduce emissions from steel and concrete sectors that contribute to 16% of global greenhouse gas emissions**

**T**he Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology (MoIAT) concluded its participation in COP28, having demonstrated the nexus between industry, technology and climate action. The ministry hosted local, regional and global entities, engaging with thousands of experts, investors, innovators, and visitors at its pavilion.

Moreover, MoIAT hosted and participated in special sessions, interactive discussions, and workshops, as well as signing several memoranda of understanding with international partners.

The ministry's participation aligns with the National Strategy for Industry and Advanced Technology, which aims to boost the adoption of advanced technology in the industrial sector, accelerate industrial transformation, as well as attract local, regional, and international investments.

Among the strategy's main objectives is strengthening the UAE's position as an industrial and technological hub that attracts innovators,



pioneers, and investors, providing them with opportunities and financing. This is supported by advanced infrastructure, in addition to world-class logistics networks and digital infrastructure.

### **The Industrial Decarbonisation Roadmap**

During COP28, the ministry launched a decarbonisation roadmap for the industrial sector, focusing on hard-to-abate industries such as cement, iron, steel, and aluminum. This strategic direction reinforces the UAE's position

*A decarbonisation roadmap launched for the industrial sector focuses on hard-to-abate industries such as cement, iron, steel, and aluminum*



and commitment to addressing critical climate change challenges and achieving national sustainability goals.

The roadmap was developed in coordination and collaboration with strategic partners in both the public and private sectors, in line with national efforts to achieve the UAE Net Zero by 2050 strategic initiative as well as sustainable economic development. It also aligns with the third update to the UAE's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) report under the Paris Agreement and UNFCCC.

### **COP28 sessions**

The ministry convened policymakers, technology players and global industrial leaders in a series of special sessions to address ways of enhancing the industrial sector's contribution to climate action and sustainable economic development.

In collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), the ministry hosted several sessions, including the high-level 'Technology in Decarbonisation' session lead by Sarah Al Amiri, Minister of State for Public Education and Advanced Technology and Gerd

Muller, Director-General of UNIDO.

The session, which took place in COP28's Blue Zone, addressed the opportunities and challenges related to decarbonisation, with a focus on the role of government in accelerating the development and deployment of technologies. It aimed to facilitate dialogue among international policymakers, promote the exchange of best practices, and enhance collaboration.

The ministry, also in collaboration with UNIDO,

*The ministry hosted 38 local and international entities providing technological solutions that support sustainability, carbon reduction, and climate action*



hosted several sessions in the Green Zone, including: 'The Roadmap to Tripling Renewable Capacity: Advancing the Energy Transition'; 'Low-Emission Hydrogen for Net-Zero Industrial Development'; 'Research and Development for Climate Action'; and 'Decarbonisation of Hard-to-Abate Sectors: A Global Imperative'.

### **World Industrial Day**

As part of its COP28 participation, the ministry collaborated with the Global Manufacturing and Industrialisation Summit (GMIS) and UNIDO for the launch of the World Industrial Day. The international day promotes inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

### **Green Public Procurement**

The UAE endorsed the Green Public Procurement Statement of Intent. The initiative, which falls under the Clean Energy Ministerial Industrial Deep Decarbonisation Initiative (IDDI), reflects a collective effort among participating governments to boost demand for low and near-zero-emission steel, cement, and concrete through public procurement.

Developed on account of the significant role that public procurement plays in the hard-to-abate steel and concrete sectors, the initiative aims to tackle challenges associated with reducing emissions from these materials, which contribute



to approximately 16% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

### **UAE and Canada**

The UAE and Canada launched "The Cement and Concrete Breakthrough" initiative to foster international collaboration to accelerate decarbonisation in the cement industry. The initiative seeks to develop and implement policies and processes that drive the adoption of sustainable practices in the cement and concrete industry, contributing to decarbonisation in the industrial sector by 2030.

### **UAE-Vietnam MoU**

MolAT signed a memorandum of understanding with Vietnam's Ministry of Science and Technology to strengthen collaboration on quality infrastructure. Under the MoU, MolAT will provide technical expertise to the Directorate for Standards, Metrology and Quality of Vietnam's (STAMEQ) Halal Certification Agency through the UAE Halal System. The initiative aims to meet the UAE's requirements on entities issuing Halal certificates and contributes to increasing trade between the two countries.

### **The Ministry's Pavilion**

During its participation in COP28, the ministry hosted 38 local and international entities providing technological solutions that support sustainability, carbon reduction, and climate action. MolAT brought together ecosystem players, technology providers, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and startups at its pavilion and the Startup Village.

Through its pavilion, the ministry provided an integrated platform showcasing the latest technological solutions in sustainability across various sectors, focusing on industry. MolAT aimed to promote investment opportunities, facilitate knowledge exchange, and foster collaboration between local and international entities.

The advanced technological solutions showcased at the pavilion supports efforts to achieve climate neutrality. The pavilion also provided an opportunity for innovators and startups to engage directly with local and international entities involved in the industrial, technological, and environmental sectors.



Additionally, the pavilion hosted prominent national and international, fostering business growth opportunities. Under the 'Make it in the Emirates' initiative, the pavilion showcased sustainable industrial investment opportunities in the UAE and highlighted the country's business friendly environment.

## A global milestone: Leaders from diverse organizations reflect on COP28

COP28 has concluded with resounding success, leaving behind an indelible mark on the global stage. Leaders from diverse organizations delve into the accomplishments and lasting impact of COP28, offering insights into the shared commitment to climate action and a greener, more sustainable world. From policy advancements to collaborative initiatives, their messages highlight the transformative power of international cooperation in addressing climate challenges.

### **'COP28 is about empowering human capital, uniting diverse stakeholders'** *Dr. Lucy Wallace, Chief of Staff at EIT Food*



The COP28 Presidency designated a dedicated day to focus on the crucial role of food, agriculture, and water systems in addressing climate change, and this is a major step forward, said Dr. Lucy Wallace, Chief of Staff at EIT

Food and lead for the secretariat of the Food Systems Pavilion at COP28.

"This dedicated day will have a profound impact on how these interconnected issues are discussed and addressed by diverse stakeholders," she stated.

"The Food Systems Pavilion also holds a particularly crucial position within COP28, marking the first year that food has been officially recognised and integrated into the COP Presidency agenda."

"Food systems also hold the key to tackling the

significant climate issues we face globally, and by bringing people together across the entire food value chain, from diverse countries, regions, and backgrounds, we can foster collaboration and take meaningful action," Dr. Wallace added.

### **'COP28 proposes effective solutions to global food and water challenges'**

*Raed Abu Soud, Minister of Water and Irrigation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan*

Thanking the UAE for organising COP28, Raed Abu Soud, Minister of Water and Irrigation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, said that the climate conference has addressed all global issues in terms of water and food and catapulted them to the forefront of climate talks.



He underscored the importance of applying smart agriculture and using modern irrigation methods that reduce electricity and water consumption, which is offset by an increase in crop production.

The Minister of Water and Irrigation of Jordan called for educating and training current generations to enhance their capabilities to deal with the climate implications that the world is witnessing.

He highlighted Jordan's ongoing efforts to better manage available water resources and address climate challenges through expanding the participation of the private sector and providing innovative and advanced technological solutions to achieve food and water security.

### **'COP28 surpasses expectations with daily successes'**

*Dr. Nawal Al Hosany, Permanent Representative of the UAE to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)*



COP 28 has exceeded expectations in terms of financial commitments and global pledges that support global climate and environmental action, said Dr. Nawal Al Hosany, Permanent Representative of the UAE to IRENA.



Dr. Al Hosany highlighted the importance of taking decisive measures to address climate challenges through the adoption of renewable energy solutions, pointing to the commitment of over 123 countries to the pledge of tripling the adoption of renewable energy by 2030 and doubling energy efficiency, emphasising the major role played by IRENA in conceiving this pledge in order to keep 1.5 °C within reach and enhance energy security.

She underpinned IRENA's cooperation with the COP28 Presidency in the framework of enhancing access to financing, and stressed the need to uphold global commitments related to financing, in addition to shifting focus to developing infrastructure that accommodates renewable energy in the electricity grids of the committed countries.

### **‘UAE's organisation of COP28 highly commendable’**

***Ebubekir Gizligider, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of Türkiye***

Ebubekir Gizligider, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of Türkiye, commended the UAE's successful organisation of the climate conference, which reaffirms its stature as one of the most important countries that can organise such major conferences.



He added that his country has begun to review and change the laws

and regulations related to agriculture, and to operationalise agricultural planning processes and clarify methods of choosing appropriate crops and using soil and resources efficiently, in addition to improving water consumption efficiency.

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of Türkiye further expressed his country's commitment to working with the UAE and other countries to address climate change and achieve sustainable development.

### **‘COP28 solidifies efforts aimed at climate course correction’**

***James Murombedzi, Senior Climate Governance Expert at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)***



COP28 is of particular importance as it marks the first time that the Paris Agreement is being reviewed through the Global Stocktake, said James Murombedzi, Senior Climate Governance Expert at the United Nations Economic Commission

for Africa (UNECA).

“We at the African Climate Policy Centre believe that the role of COP28 not only goes beyond reviewing global climate performance, but also solidifies the efforts aimed at climate course correction,” he added.

Murombedzi hailed the operationalising of the Loss and Damage Fund as a “very strong start”, highlighting the positive and promising development regarding unifying global efforts to effectively address climate issues.

He pointed out that the UNECA expects that there will be sufficient financing to build the resilience of African economies to the impacts of climate change.

## **‘COP 28 witnessed an impressive participation of regional leaders’**

**Juan Manuel Moreno, President of Spain’s Regional Government of Andalusia**



Underscoring the crucial role regional governments play in raising public awareness and implementing climate action plans, Juan Manuel Moreno, President of Spain’s Regional Government of Andalusia, welcomed

the launch of the ‘Coalition for High Ambition Multi-Level Partnerships’ (CHAMP) initiative. This initiative encourages national governments to cooperate with local and regional authorities to strengthen their NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions).

He emphasised the significance of direct involvement by local and regional governments in achieving climate goals. He expressed his confidence that the CHAMP initiative, if successful, will mark a turning point for climate action.

"If the CHAMP is finally fulfilled, it will mean that for the first time, there is direct participation of local and regional governments," he said.

## **‘COP28 Presidency succeeded in bringing all countries together at one table’**

**January Yusuf Makamba, Tanzania’s Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation**



"I regularly represent my country in COP conferences, and this is one of the most successful conferences that I have attended over the past years," said January Yusuf Makamba, Tanzania’s Minister of Foreign

Affairs and East African Cooperation.

"We witnessed a consensus on the agenda, which has never happened before, with all members agreeing on what should be discussed," he added.

He noted that the UAE’s leadership in the activation of the long-debated Loss and Damage Fund marks a significant success.

Makamba added: "I believe that the work that took place during COP28 under the leadership of the UAE confirms to our countries the fairness with which the Fund will be managed and the ways to activate it, and we are very optimistic that the long debate about climate finance and previously unfulfilled pledges will now be resolved."

The Tanzanian Minister emphasised the need to maintain the momentum of climate action even after the conclusion of COP28 until "we achieve our ambition for a green, carbon-free future".

## **‘COP28 provides sustainable development solutions in developing countries’**

**Gerd Müller, Director-General of UNIDO**



COP28 is a conference of solutions, focusing on investing in sustainable development, especially in developing and least developed countries, said Gerd Müller, Director-General of UNIDO.

Müller further said that UNIDO has adopted a new approach to cooperation with the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC), a member of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

He said the ongoing UNIDO-ITFC cooperation will contribute to eliminating hunger and providing job opportunities in developing countries. This will benefit many key sectors, he added, shedding light on the urgency of providing everyone access to electricity and energy.

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## Innovative solutions for food security showcased at Al Dhaid Agricultural Exhibition

UAE NEWS

The Al Dhaid Agricultural Exhibition, which brought together numerous ministries and government entities and over 50 companies operating in the agriculture and livestock sector, along with experts, farm owners, and farmers, concluded at Expo Centre on January 21.

The exhibition showcased innovative solutions and technologies for sustainable food security. The participating companies presented new high-yield crop varieties, organic fertilisers, and pesticides aimed at improving agricultural production efficiency and reducing costs.

The event focused on supporting farmers and launching sustainable agricultural projects aligned with the UAE and Gulf region's climate.

The exhibition also highlighted the use of AI and innovative technologies for modern, sustainable agriculture practices, such as protected agriculture and hydroponics. It provided a platform for companies to engage with farmers and promote organic farming practices.

The exhibition also featured stimulating panel discussions and scientific workshops conducted by a team of agricultural experts and specialists. Topics in discussion ranged from sustainability within the agricultural and livestock sector to the latest developments in wheat production, such as new wheat breeds, and the application of international best practices in wheat cultivation.

Saif Mohammed Al Midfa, CEO of Expo Centre Sharjah, said: "By hosting leading corporate and institutional participants, the exhibition seeks to present breakthrough solutions encompassing the latest fertilisers and techniques, guaranteeing high-efficiency, top-notch agriculture that is both relevant and sustainable.

"It fosters the sharing of expertise, offering comprehensive knowledge on the most up-to-date pillars of agricultural development and works toward achieving food security targets, addressing climate challenges and adapting to water scarcity."





## Paving the way for green leadership: Grenoble, France

Grenoble is strongly committed to improving energy performance and was the first local authority in France to adopt a Climate Plan in 2005

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GREEN CITY

Ly ing to the south-east of Lyon, Grenoble is often called the 'Capital of the Alps', and it's a well-deserved title. It offers snow in winter and, thanks to its surrounding mountains, warm summers. It also has not just one, but two rivers: the Drac and the Isère, which meet to the north-west. Yet this city is more than a tourist idyll and skiing hotspot. It's also a hub of research, innovation, technology, and business, with a reputation as one of Europe's greenest cities.

It's a city that combines grassroots community organising with policy-level activity, and it's a city that never forgets its greatest assets are the people who live and reside there. This had led to Grenoble gaining yet another well-deserved title: European Green Capital 2022.

Established by the European Commission in



# Elected Green Capital 2022, the European Commission ranked Grenoble in 1st or 2nd position out of 11 of the 12 indicators



15,000 before 2030. Through the 'Vegetalize your city/Adopt a tree' scheme, trees are now offered to condominiums, homeowners, businesses and institutions for planting on their own land. 600 trees were made available last year, helping Grenoble become an even greener, healthier city.

The Grenoble-Alpes Métropole Canopy Plan aims to increase the city's shaded surface area to combat heat islands. 35% of the Grenoble area will be covered by urban canopy in 2030, and 40% by 2050. 10 new natural spaces will be created, including 4 new parks.

## Cycle Friendly

Grenoble is the best French city for cycling! For the third time, Grenoble was rated No.1 for cycling by the Federation of Users of the Bicycle, in the category for cities with over 100,000 inhabitants. It's also France's top city for bicycle commuting. The city's flat terrain certainly

2008 under the banner "Green cities - fit for life," the Green Capital title is awarded to cities that meet ambitious objectives in terms of the environment, sustainable development and can act as a model.

The title lasts a year, during which Europe makes the elected territory an ambassador territory at the national and European levels. Elected Green Capital 2022, the European Commission ranked Grenoble in 1st or 2nd position out of 11 of the 12 indicators.

## Tree Planting

Grenoble has planted more than 5,500 trees since 2014. 1,200 trees have already been planted in 2022, and the goal is to plant another







contributes to its cycling appeal, but Grenoble's impressive cycling culture has been cultivated through various measures, including incentives, reimbursements, pedestrianization efforts, and the establishment of a well-developed network of cycle paths and highways.

The city boasts 205 km of cycle paths and over 25 km of 'Chronovélo' highways; these four highways run north to south and east to west, with clear road markings, rest stops and service areas. The city also offers a robust bike rental system and promotes a bike-friendly culture, providing more than 12,000 bike parking spaces, 13 secure bike parks, and affordable rentals.

Grenoble has witnessed a surge in the adoption of both standard and electric bikes by businesses and delivery services. The cycling ecosystem has flourished, with the emergence of related

services and businesses, including training programs for city cycling, repair workshops, electric engine retrofitting, and a thriving market for cycling accessories.

Apart from its cycling-friendly environment, Grenoble is also a Low-Emission Zone (LEZ), which contributes to the overall sustainability and attractiveness of the city for cyclists.

## **Energy, Fuel and Heating**

Since 2023, Grenoble's local public energy company (GEG) produces the equivalent of household demand with 100% renewable energy and 0% nuclear power. The city has already been awarded the Cit'Ergie Gold label in 2020, which recognises local authorities that implement an ambitious climate-air-energy policy.

Grenoble is also producing bio natural gas for



# Thrice now, Grenoble was rated No.1 for cycling by the Federation of Users of the Bicycle, in the category for cities with over 100,000 inhabitants



vehicles (bio-NGV) from the methanisation of sludge. A methanisation unit has been in operation at Aquapole, its wastewater treatment plant, since 2016, producing fuel equivalent to the annual gas consumption of 2,500 homes and reducing the sludge that needs to be treated by 52%. Aquapole manages 230,000 m<sup>3</sup> of wastewater every day and is now carbon neutral.

By 2030, the Metropolitan Heat Network will use 100% renewable energy and energy recovery. Grenoble's Metropolitan Local Climate Air and Energy Plan 2019 aims to have reduced energy use by 40% in 2030 and by 50% in 2050.

## Eco-Districts

France's first eco-district, the award-winning



Caserne de Bonne, was founded in 2009 on Grenoble's former Bonne barracks site. It's now been joined by the eco-districts of Villeneuve, Daudet, Flaubert, Blanche-Monnier and Bouchayer-Viallet, and the European Green Capital jury was very impressed by Grenoble's ability to turn brownfield sites into flourishing, sustainable, exemplar districts.





## Three scientists win USD1.5m grants for advanced rain enhancement projects

The UAE Research Programme for Rain Enhancement Science has announced three awardees for its Fifth Cycle Grant Awards 2024

The UAE Research Programme for Rain Enhancement Science (UAEREP), managed by the National Centre of Meteorology (NCM), has announced the three award recipients for the Programme's Fifth Cycle Grant Awards.

The award recipients included a group of scientists from the Technology Innovation Institute (TII) for their project on laser-based rain-triggering demonstrators with remote sensing technology, as well as a team from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem for their project regarding the identification of clouds' microphysical seedability in an actionable manner. Lastly, a group of researchers from Michigan Technological University, US, also received the award for their work on laboratory and modelling studies of cloud susceptibility to hygroscopic seeding.

Highlighting the UAE's long-standing commitment to promoting collaboration in the face of global challenges, His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President, Deputy Prime Minister, and Chairman of the

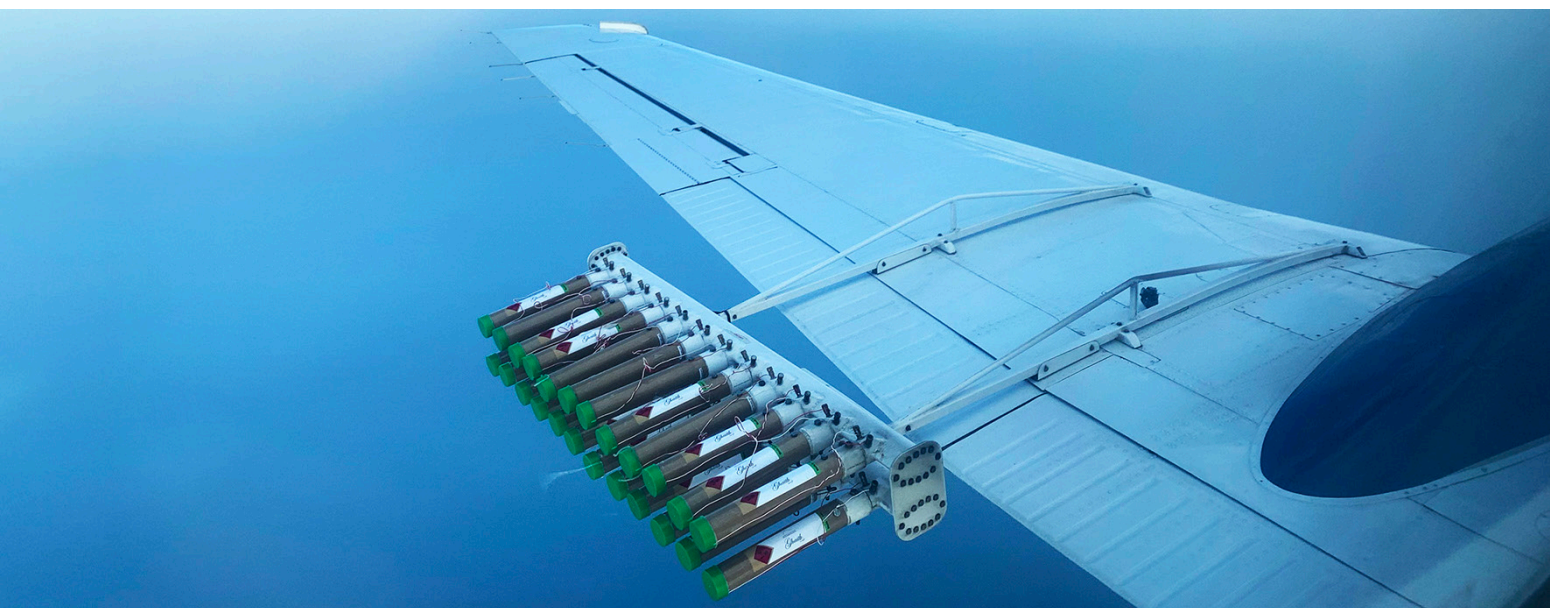


Presidential Court, referred to the establishment of the UAE Research Programme for Rain Enhancement Science as an international research initiative that aims to attract prominent scientists and researchers from diverse scientific fields to develop new innovations and technologies in rain enhancement science.

In a speech delivered on his behalf by Mariam bint Mohammed Almheiri, Head of International Affairs Office at the Presidential Court, His Highness said, "This programme serves as an

Dr. Abdulla Al Mandous, Director-General of NCM and President of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), said, "This awards cycle is a testament to the UAE's commitment to bolstering water security both regionally and globally, particularly in the broader context of addressing climate change issues, as highlighted by its recent successful hosting of COP28."

Alya Al Mazroui, Director of UAEREP, said, "The growing challenges we face regarding water scarcity require a collective effort that knows no



authentic example of the UAE's dedication to investing in scientific research and advanced technology to achieve water and food security, as well as environmental sustainability, on local, regional, and global scales. It has ushered in new beginnings for a technology that received limited attention in the latter half of the 20th century."

Each winner will receive grants of up to USD1.5 million, distributed over a period of three years barring an initial two-month implementation, to facilitate the projects' transition from theory to practice.

borders. By providing a platform and funding for a global research community in rain enhancement, UAEREP continues to serve as a hub for the international interchange of scientific growth and innovation."

Proposals for this cycle were narrowed down to eight submitted by 64 researchers, scientists and experts affiliated with 35 institutions in 10 countries, including the UAE. The projects were assessed by global experts specialized in areas including weather modification, cloud physics, hydrometeorology and artificial intelligence.



## Sharjah to roll out faster electric vehicle charging stations

**Sharjah Roads and Transport Authority (SRTA) and BEEAH to deploy latest infrastructure to achieve emissions-free mobility**

**T**he Sharjah Roads and Transport Authority (SRTA) is working with BEEAH for the deployment and operation of electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure across the Emirate of Sharjah.

Dr. Eng. Yousif Khamis Mohamed Alathmane, Chairman of SRTA, and his delegates recently met with Khaled Al Huraimel, Group CEO and Vice Chairman of BEEAH, and senior BEEAH Group executives at the BEEAH Headquarters, to discuss opportunities and collaboration strategies of developing the EV charging network to empower members of the public looking to make the switch to electric vehicles.

Hundreds of chargers will be deployed across the emirate in strategic locations along highways and in multiple districts, covering key commercial and urban areas to make charging fast, convenient, and accessible to the public. The new network of chargers will include fast chargers, adding to the existing EV charging infrastructure in the emirate.



Commenting on the impact of the partnership, the Chairman of SRTA said, "The 'Electric Chargers' project, in collaboration with BEEAH, is a flagship initiative that promotes renewable and environmentally friendly energy in Sharjah.

It underlines our commitment to aligning with the UAE's rapid advancements in sustainable development applications, supporting green energy, and adhering to national strategies aimed at enhancing mechanisms for achieving sustainability in energy and climate change."

Underscoring the importance of future-readiness in the EV transition, the Group CEO and Vice Chairman of BEEAH said, "We are honoured to partner with SRTA to shape the future of emissions-free mobility in Sharjah and inspire wider scale positive climate action.

Together with SRTA's expertise, we look forward to enhancing access to EV charging infrastructure, supporting drivers in strategic locations throughout the emirate and bridging the gap between EV charging demand and supply."



Alathmane pointed out that Sharjah's infrastructure is fully equipped for sustainable development projects and emphasised the importance of the project in addressing the increasing number of electric vehicles and the need for fast chargers.

SRTA and BEEAH are working to enhance Sharjah's network of EV chargers in line with the National Electric Vehicles Policy, which aims to turn the UAE into a global market for electric vehicles and increase the share of EVs to 50 percent of total vehicles on the roads by 2050.

Within its fleet of over 2,000 vehicles, BEEAH has already introduced several EVs and is exploring partnerships to repurpose traditional vehicles into EVs as they approach end of life. It is also testing vehicles that run on green hydrogen. ION, its flagship joint venture with Crescent Enterprises, provides comprehensive solutions for emissions-free mobility, including ride-hailing and on-demand transport services, optimised freight transport, greener and improved public transport systems, and energy networks to help drive the EV transition.



## RTA signs two MoUs to develop innovative transportation systems

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has signed two memoranda of understanding (MoUs) in the field of developing new and innovative transportation systems as part of the Dubai International Project Management Forum (DIPMF).

The first MoU is related to considering the possibility of developing the Floc Duo Rail system, a double-track system that allows transportation units to move swiftly and efficiently within urban areas. It is a driverless system and uses electrical power. This system uses short units during low peak periods and long

units during high peak periods to meet the emirate's needs effectively.

The second MoU is related to considering the possibility of developing a rail bus system, which travels on a bridge equipped with solar panels to generate the electricity needed to operate the system.

The two MoUs were signed with two companies that specialise in developing and manufacturing transportation systems, as well as designing mass transportation solutions for zero emissions. The companies involved were Urban-Mass Company, based in the UK, and RAIL BUS Inc., based in the US.

The two MoUs were signed by Abdul Mohsen Kalbat, CEO of the Rail Agency, RTA, while Ricky Sandhu, Founder, and CEO of Urban Mass, signed on behalf of the company. Additionally, Dr. Hatem Al-Taher Ibrahim, the Director of Business Development, signed for Rail Bus Inc. company.





## Dubai Municipality plants over 185,000 trees in Dubai during 2023

Dubai Municipality successfully planted more than 185,000 trees in the Emirate in 2023 as part of its afforestation initiative, with an average of 500 trees daily, increasing the total green area by 234 hectares, up from 170 hectares in 2022.

This achievement highlights the Municipality's commitment to increasing green spaces in residential areas, and urban areas, as well as main and secondary roads and bridge intersections. The initiative further places a major emphasis on enhancing air and soil quality, in addition to elevating the city's aesthetic appeal.

## EGA and Nadeera launch recycling solution in Jebel Ali

Emirates Global Aluminium has partnered with social enterprise, Nadeera, to launch an innovative recycling solution in communities near EGA's plant in Jebel Ali.

Yalla Return, developed by Nadeera, is an innovative platform to promote effective recycling by consumers. The programme encourages and incentivises recycling through a mobile application that is linked to technology-enabled waste collection bins. The programme will now be rolled out to some 4,000 households near the Jebel Ali site.

Recycling aluminium takes 95 percent less energy than making new metal, generating a fraction of greenhouse gas emissions. Last year, EGA announced the start of construction of the UAE's largest aluminium recycling plant.

EGA spearheaded the development of an Aluminium Recycling Coalition with beverage can-makers, beverage producers and waste management companies to improve the recycling rate of aluminium cans in the UAE. Some 660 million beverage cans are consumed in the UAE each year, and only around a third are currently recycled.



## DEWA's Smart Ball technology saves 243 million gallons of water, AED9.66 million in 2023

Utilising innovation and the latest disruptive technologies in detecting leaks in the water transmission underground pipelines, Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) has saved 243 million gallons of water and AED9.66 million in 2023.

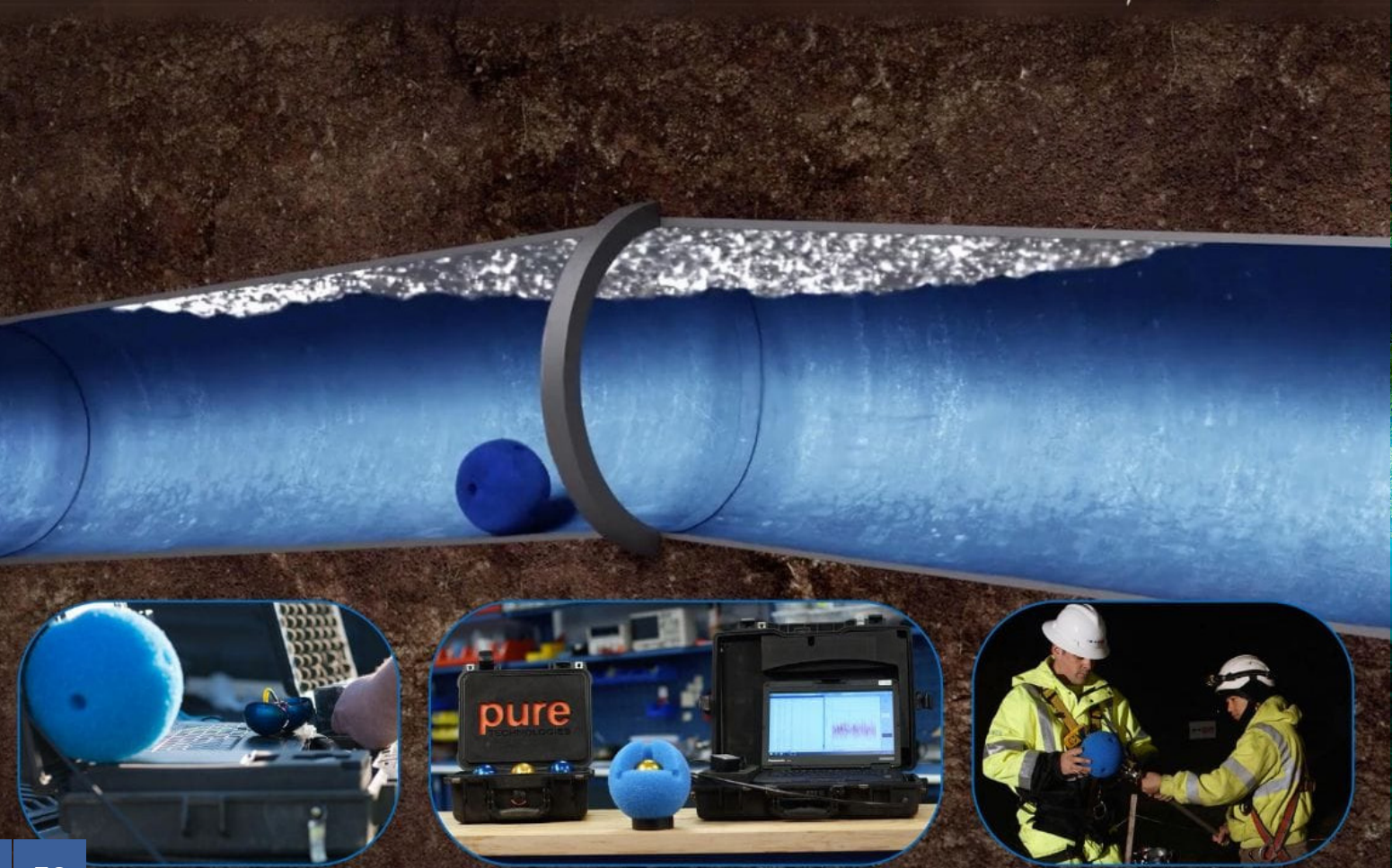
DEWA's Smart Ball technology detects leaks that are usually difficult to detect using traditional techniques. From April 2021 and until the end of 2023, the Smart Ball technology detected 81

leaks in the water transmission network in Dubai.

This technology reduces operational expenses, as small cracks in the water transmission pipelines are treated before they increase in size and cause further water wastage.

The Smart Ball system consists of a small diameter sphere with a highly sensitive acoustic sensor inserted into the water network, where the water flow drives it. It detects sounds generated by leaks and identifies gas pockets or anomalies with unique characteristics.

Once the Smart Ball is extracted, the compiled data is analysed by software using mathematical algorithms showing the precise location of leaks, gas pockets, or anomalies. The Smart Ball travels freely inside the transmission pipes at around 3 kms per hour and can inspect over 35 kms in one day without affecting the water flow.







## Beijing awarded 'National Forest City' title

AFFORESTATION

**B**eijing has been designated as the "National Forest City" by China's National Forestry and Grassland Administration due to its consistent efforts in increasing forest coverage. The city's forest coverage rate has risen from 38.6 percent in 2012 to 44.8 percent presently.

The city boasts 2,088 species of vascular plants and 608 species of terrestrial vertebrates, making it one of the most biodiverse metropolises, said Cheng Jianhua, deputy secretary general of Beijing Municipal People's Government. He added that the city will continue to expand ecological space, implement land greening programmes, and improve its ecosystem diversity.

The National Forest City campaign was launched in 2004, and 219 cities across the country have been granted the title till date.

### **Exceeds afforestation goals**

China has completed 125 million mu (8.33 million hectares) of afforestation and the improvement

on grassland and reclaimed desertified land and rocky desertification of land that amounted to 28.57 million mu (190 hectares) in 2023, exceeding the country's afforestation goals.

The Three-North Shelterbelt Forest Program successfully initiated 22 out of 68 projects, resulting in the completion of afforestation activities covering an impressive 18 million mu. In addition, China actively expedited significant land greening initiatives by executing 96 major ecological restoration projects and establishing 25 national pilot demonstrations.

The inclusion of 18 newly recognised wetlands of international significance and 29 nationally significant wetlands serves as a testament to China's commitment towards wetland conservation. Furthermore, the preservation of ancient trees has been fortified through the implementation of enhanced archives, databases, and precision conservation mapping techniques.

# Word Scramble

TSIUNAS  
**LIIEWLFD**  
 GEYENR **GREREEYN** RUOESECSR  
 RAOCBN **AEEEWBRNL** SIESSMONI

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ANSWERS: 1) Greenery, 2) Wildlife, 3) Energy, 4) Renewable, 5) Resources, 6) Carbon, 7) Emissions, 8) Sustain

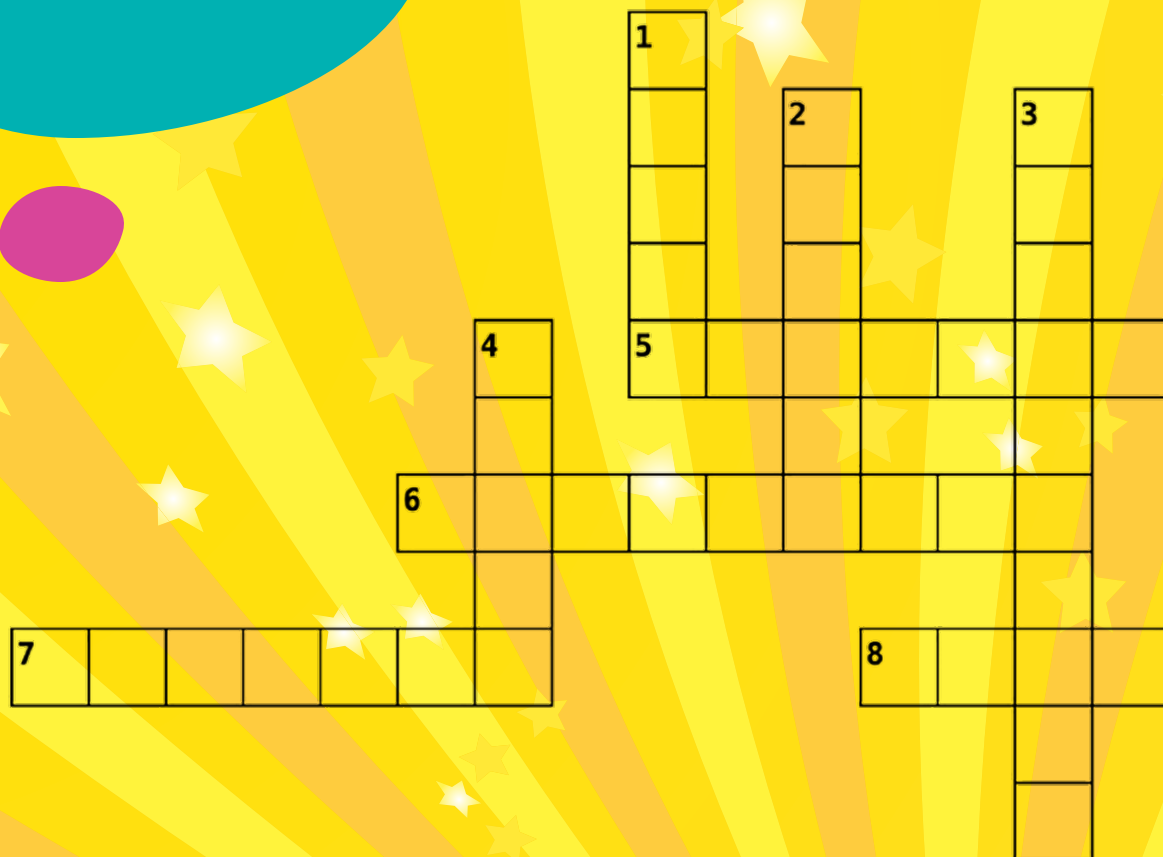
# Word Search

I	T	C	A	E	P	C	E	M	G	I	E	C	C
C	Y	T	L	C	V	C	R	C	L	E	C	M	M
G	Y	I	I	E	E	E	C	M	C	E	C	R	E
E	G	G	E	C	S	R	C	L	C	R	R	R	N
E	R	N	N	G	E	N	Y	E	I	E	U	S	T
D	E	I	Y	E	E	L	A	E	T	M	C	I	U
A	N	L	A	E	S	U	E	R	L	L	A	S	E
R	E	C	A	V	E	G	A	N	I	S	M	T	E
T	L	Y	I	S	E	N	F	I	A	R	Y	C	E
E	C	C	O	S	C	I	T	S	A	L	P	O	G
E	Y	C	C	I	M	O	N	O	C	E	I	G	L
R	C	F	S	T	Y	R	T	U	R	T	L	E	S
F	E	E	T	E	E	E	R	C	Y	R	D	Y	R
P	R	E	M	I	R	C	N	S	C	R	V	R	I

- FREETRADE
- CLIMATE
- REUSE
- CYCLING
- ENERGY
- VEGANISM
- PLASTICS
- TURTLES
- ECONOMIC
- RECYCLE



# Crossword Puzzle



## Across

5. Turning trash into new products
6. This is how much carbon dioxide you produce in your daily life
7. The average weather measurements over a long period of time
8. Mining, farming, and factories all produce this kind of pollution

## Down

1. Sewage, pesticides, foods, and factories produce this kind of pollution
2. Air pollution can cause this to the lung
3. The things that cause pollution
4. Methane gas and CFCs can destroy this layer

Answers: 1) Water, 2) Cancer, 3) Pollutants, 4) Ozone, 5) Recycle, 6) Footprint, 7) Climate, 8) Land



## WORD OF THE DAY:

### ACID RAIN

Acid rain is a form of air pollution. When coal and petroleum are burned in automobiles, electric power plants, and factories, they release certain harmful gases into the air. These gases combine with the oxygen and water in the air. When the water in the air comes down as rain, sleet, hail, or snow, it carries with it these gases. This is known as acid rain. Acid rain is very damaging to all life forms.

Acid rain can pollute lakes and streams, killing the fish and other organisms that live in them. Acid rain also damages various kinds of vegetation, including farm crops and trees. In addition, acid rain corrodes, or wears away, surfaces of buildings and other structures.

The pH level in lakes needs to be correct for fish to be able to survive, and acid rain can affect a lake's pH level. If there is too much acid in the water several things can happen:

- The enzymes that help fish larvae to hatch will not be produced.
- Aluminum travels more easily through water, causing fish to make more mucus around their gills. This makes it harder for fish to breathe.
- Phytoplankton will not grow well and the animals that feed on it would suffer.

Acid rain can damage soil by killing microbes that are needed in the soil. The hydrogen ions of acid rain also allow toxins to move in the soil and take away nutrients that the soil needs. Forests usually are the home to fungi, but acid rain changes the soil, making it more filled with bacteria. Many trees in the forest depend on the fungi for water and minerals, while the fungi take carbohydrates from the trees. This symbiotic relationship, called mycorrhiza, can be destroyed by acids.

By the early 1990s tens of thousands of lakes had been destroyed by acid rain. Damage from



acid rain is not limited to the countries that produce the pollution. This is because winds carry the pollution around the globe.

However, there is still no clear solution to the problem. The chief reason is that it is expensive to control the pollution and since the damage to the environment is permanent, the environmental costs are greater.



### WORLD HIPPO DAY - FEB 15

Experts believe that the modern-day hippo evolved in Africa around 8 million years ago. While they bear a resemblance to horses and pigs, these semi-aquatic mammals are in fact most closely related to whales, dolphins and porpoises – no wonder they're so good at holding their breath underwater!

These days there are only two types, the bog-standard hippopotamus and the smaller pygmy hippopotamus, but a few other now extinct species could be found across Europe and in Madagascar as little as 1,000 years ago. Hippos are now most common in countries such as Zambia and Tanzania.

In Africa, on the other hand, hippo numbers are sadly declining. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) listed them as a vulnerable species in 2006 after establishing that the hippo population had declined by as much as 20% within the previous two decades.



Drought has led to habitat loss, and the hunting and poaching of hippos, both for their meat and ivory teeth, is also a major threat.

World Hippo Day reminds us to celebrate and value these mud-loving mammals, in the hope that they'll be around for many more years to come.



FEB  
27

## INTERNATIONAL POLAR BEAR DAY

Polar bears are perfectly suited to their environment. From their furry, anti-slip feet to the tips of their small, heat-conserving ears, these impressive animals roam across vast areas – sometimes up to 600,000 sq km – to find food and mates.

Polar bears are the planet's biggest land-based carnivores – although they actually spend most of their lives around water and ice (their Latin name means 'sea bear'). So they're at particular risk from global warming, which is melting the Arctic sea ice they depend on.

Polar bears are not classified as endangered at present, but that doesn't mean their populations aren't vulnerable. There are around 22,000 polar bears left in the wild, but man-made climate change



and global warming are making life tough for these impressive, powerful predators.

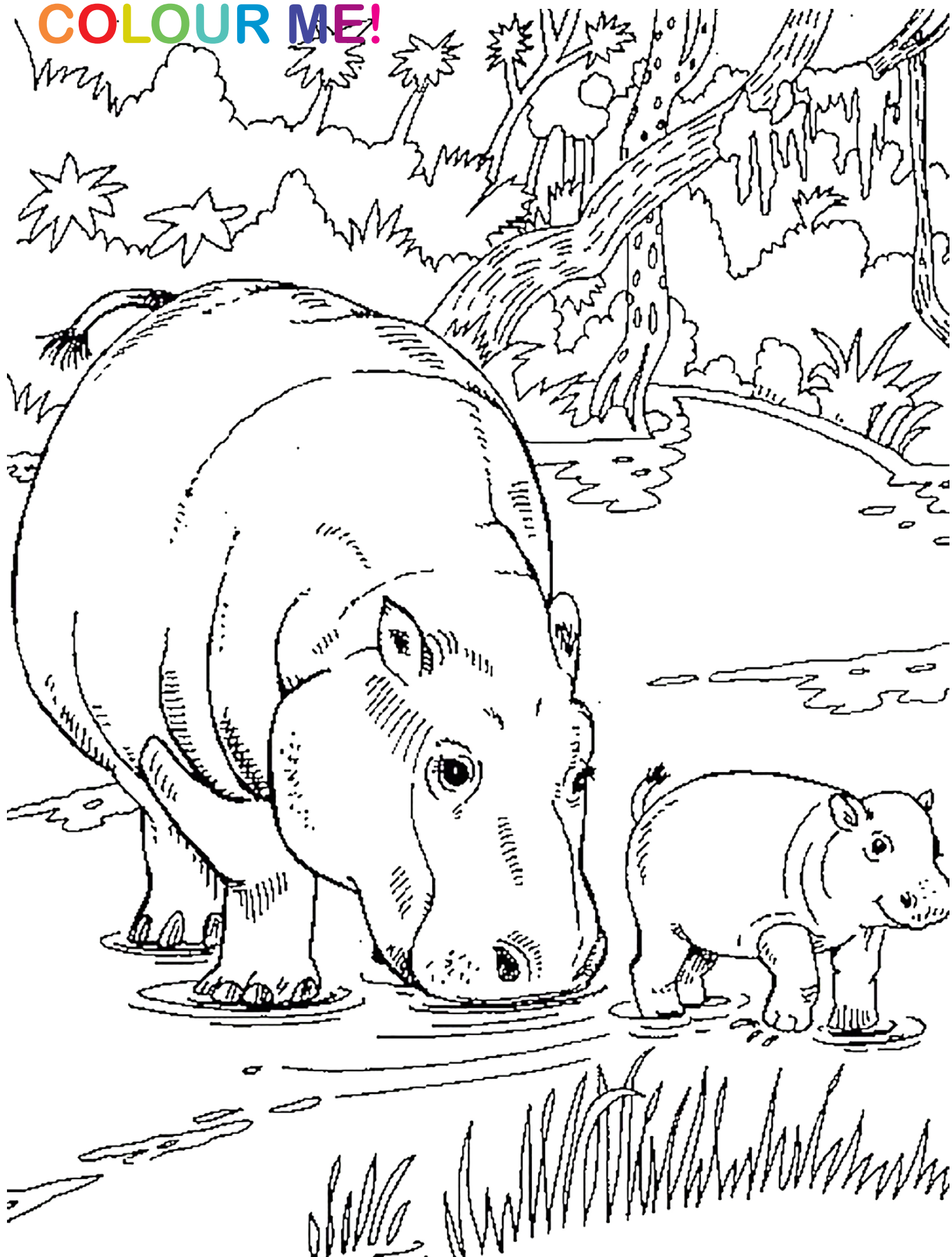
International Polar Bear Day is organized by Polar Bears International to raise awareness about the impact of global warming and reduced sea ice on polar bear populations.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

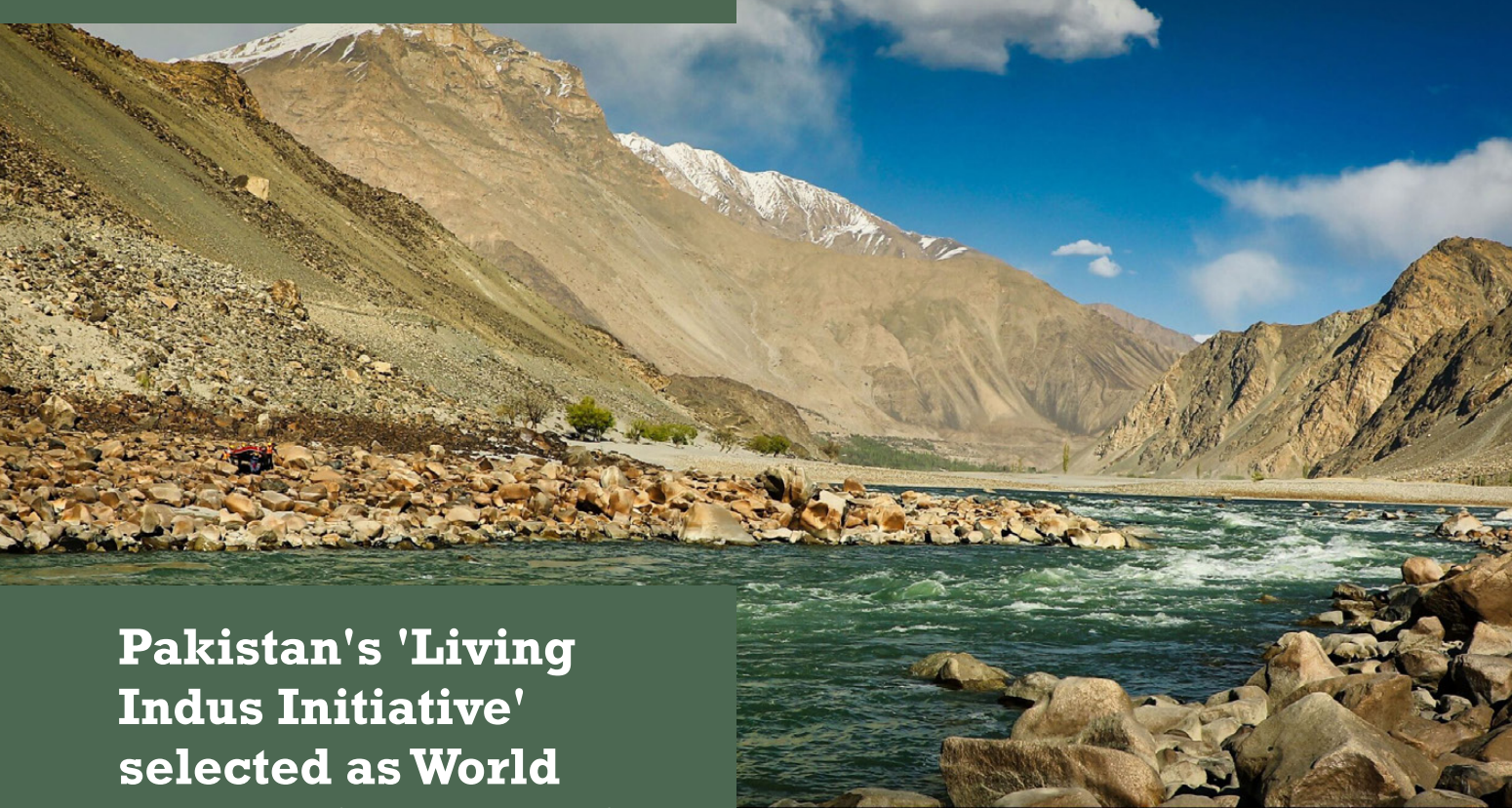
### Things to Do...

- ☒ Use both sides of paper \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- ☒ Reuse plastic bags \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- ☒ Use metal straws! \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- ☒ Volunteer for a clean-up drive \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- ☒ Use public transport! \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

COLOUR ME!







## Pakistan's 'Living Indus Initiative' selected as World Restoration Flagship by UN

HERITAGE

In a groundbreaking achievement, Pakistan's "Living Indus Initiative" has been selected as the World Restoration Flagship of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

The announcement was made by Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in a letter addressed to Pakistan's Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination.

The Living Indus initiative stood out among more than 150 applications and garnered support from over 70 governments worldwide. The initiative's dedication to restoring millions of hectares in the Indus River basin, a critical ecosystem supporting 90 percent of Pakistan's population and driving a significant portion of its economy, earned it this prestigious recognition.

Developed jointly by the Pakistan Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, provincial authorities, and the UN system, the initiative represents a collaborative effort to

uplift the environmental and health conditions of the Indus Basin.

Its holistic approach addresses the ecological challenges faced by the fragile basin due to climate change, with a set of 25 measures emphasising nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation strategies.

Expressing her delight, Inger Andersen commended the Living Indus initiative for being one of the world's most promising, ambitious, and inspiring examples of large-scale restoration. The recognition reflected the tireless efforts of everyone involved in and supportive of the initiative, highlighting its significant impact on both people and the planet, the ministry said, quoting the UNEP official.

The World Restoration Flagships, including the Living Indus Initiative, will be publicly announced in February 2024 during the sixth United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA6).



**Dr. Eisa M. Abdellatif**  
Chief Technical Advisor  
Zayed Intl. Foundation  
for the Environment  
Founding Chairperson  
of Bi'ati Organization

## The UN Plastic Treaty: A global call to action

66

GREEN FLASH

Plastic particles are everywhere - in the air we inhale, the food we eat, the water we drink, and in human blood and breast milk as well. Recent studies have confirmed the presence of microplastic and nanoplastic particles in human tissues, raising serious concerns about the potential health risks associated with plastic exposure. The urgency to tackle this issue cannot be overstated, as the long-term effects of microplastic ingestion on human health remain largely unknown.

Today, the pervasive threat of plastic pollution extends beyond all borders. The health of our oceans and natural environments too are at grave risk as single-use plastics, packaging materials, and discarded products find their way into oceans and water bodies, wreaking havoc on marine ecosystems and endangering countless species. More than 800 marine and coastal species are affected by this pollution through ingestion, entanglement, and other dangers.

The escalating demand for plastics in various industries, coupled with a lack of effective waste management, have led to an alarming rise in plastic pollution worldwide. We are producing 430 million metric tons of new plastics every year. And at this rate that will triple by 2060. Sixty percent of plastics have lifetimes of less than five years, and only nine percent have been recycled. Meanwhile, in

the G20 countries, plastic use is on course to nearly double by the middle of the century.

Existing programmes to boost recycling or cut single-use plastic consumption have only touched the surface and global coordination is critical to address the scope and scale of this issue. The proposed UN Plastic Treaty represents a beacon of hope in the fight against plastic pollution. As many as 175 nations have agreed to develop this legally binding agreement on plastic pollution by the end of this year prompting a major step towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions from plastic production, use and disposal.

Only a unified global effort of this nature can establish clear guidelines to prioritize the reduction of single-use plastics, promote sustainable alternatives, and enforce stringent measures to hold nations and industries accountable for their plastic footprint.

By committing to a UN Plastic Treaty, countries can work towards a future where the harmful impact of plastic pollution is mitigated, and ecosystems can begin to recover. A unified approach is essential to disrupt the trajectory of plastic consumption, safeguard our environment, and protect the health of present and future generations.





Zayed International Prize for the Environment

Together for a green century



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IS IN OUR HANDS.

ACT NOW!



Zayed International Foundation for the Environment