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Issue 189

creating green communities for a better tomorrow



Zayed Foundation upholds environmental legacy of Sheikh Zayed at WGES 2018

Chairman of Zayed Foundation honored with 'Personality Award for Energy Month'



## **Emirates Appreciation Award for the Environment**

**Together for a green home**

# Chairman's Message

creating green communities for a better tomorrow

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**Prof. Mohammed bin Fahad**  
Executive Editor

As the world moves from a 21st century dependent on fossil fuels to a 22nd century of renewable energy, the UAE has emerged as a true green economy pioneer.

From building the world's largest concentrated solar power plant which, at three cents per kilowatt hour for solar power is the lowest renewable energy cost in the world, to creating efficient public transportation and promoting carbon-free electric cars, Dubai and the UAE have been lauded as a model for embracing this transition to a future green economy at the recently concluded 2018 World Green Economy Summit (WGES).

Our wise leadership not only works relentlessly to develop the green economy but has also helped foster innovation and creativity to generate cutting-edge solutions in tackling the most pressing global challenge of our time — climate change. To forge a new development roadmap focused on green growth, several initiatives have been launched in recent years to support entrepreneurship and sustainability.

Innovative strategies such as Dubai Future Accelerators and Dubai 10x initiative will help identify emerging technologies and position the emirate and the UAE as the global capital of innovation. The emirate is also on track to achieve its ambitious goal of increasing the share of clean energy to 7 per cent by 2020, 25 per cent by 2030 and 75 per cent by 2050 as per the guidelines outlined in the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050.

International partnerships, investments in green projects and efficient policies and procedures are continuing to foster the growth of the green economy in the UAE. Its unwavering focus on sustainability and efforts in building a cleaner and more energy-efficient future for the region and beyond are further cementing the nation's position as pioneer of green economy, and we have every reason to be proud of this achievement.

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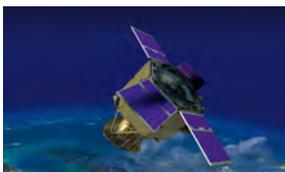
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*“We would like to see environmental awareness among our children in schools and universities, not only because they are the future leaders, but also because they have a role to play now”.*

*Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan*

Se

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

## From the **Managing Editor**



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

The Zayed International Foundation for the Environment advanced the philosophy, vision and environmental legacy of the UAE's founding father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan at the recently concluded World Green Economy Summit. At a parallel session at the event and in the midst of an influential gathering of key decision makers, UN officials and international experts, I had the honor of highlighting how the great leader laid the framework for the nation's environmental sustainability efforts and how his decisions are reflected in the reality we have today.

The Zayed Foundation which bears the name of this environmental champion, has heeded the call of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum,

Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai and Patron of the Zayed Foundation, to carry forward the inspiring vision of this eminently gifted leader to an international audience.

The global stature of the Zayed Foundation and its impressive credentials in the field of sustainable development came into view at this prestigious event as it signed a Statement of Intent with the UN South South Cooperation committing joint support to the “Youth4South: Advanced Youth Leadership Programme” and capacity development in promoting South-South and triangular cooperation in environment protection and sustainable development, through joint trainings, events and activities in UAE and globally. At this premier international platform, the Zayed Foundation also announced that the South-South in Action report ‘UAE Special Edition’ will be translated into Arabic to benefit more developing countries from the Arab region.

Today, the Zayed Foundation has risen to the top tier of global environmental organisations with its immense experience in being at the forefront of activities aimed at the protection of environment and sustainable development at the local, regional and global levels.

Follow me for more interesting adventures from the Zayed Foundation as we continue to drive dialogue and build partnerships and collaboration to facilitate an ecosystem for sustainable green growth.

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## Zayed Foundation upholds environmental legacy of Sheikh Zayed at WGES 2018



At the World Green Economy Summit 2018, the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment launches special edition of UNOSSC's South-South in Action report; announces its translation into Arabic to benefit more countries; and signs a Statement of Intent to boost capacity development activities in promoting South-South and triangular cooperation in environment protection and sustainable development.

In the midst of an august gathering of key decision makers, high-ranking UN officials and international experts and policymakers, the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment took the message of environmental protection and awareness as envisaged by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan to a global platform at the recently concluded World Green Economy Summit (WGES) in Dubai.

In association with the United Nations Office for South South Cooperation (UNOSSC), the Zayed Foundation hosted a special event on the sidelines of WGES 2018 titled "Commemorating the Environmental Legacy and Leadership of the late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan".

The event was held as part of a series of celebrations taking place globally throughout the year 2018 to commemorate the



# القمة العالمية للإقتصاد الأخضر WORLD GREEN ECONOMY SUMMIT

24-25 October 2018 ٢٤-٢٥ أكتوبر ٢٠١٨  
Dubai, United Arab Emirates دبي، الإمارات العربية المتحدة



'ZAYED GREEN CHALLENGE' is developed by the Zayed International Foundation and available for free download on both Android and iOS platforms.

'Year of Zayed' as declared by UAE President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan to mark 100 years since the birth of the late founding father.

Heeding the call of the UAE President to highlight the role of the late leader in establishing the UAE Federation, and his local, regional and international achievements, and the call of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and Patron of the Zayed Foundation, to "deliver a message to the world in 2018

that Sheikh Zayed exists, and that he will remain in the hearts and minds of every lover of the UAE", the Zayed Foundation utilised the global platform of WGES to highlight the strides in sustainability and eco-diversity of the great leader.

H.E. Prof. Dr. Mohamed Ahmed Bin Fahad, Chairman, Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, Dr. Meshgan Al Awar, Secretary-General of the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, and Jorge Chediek, Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South

Cooperation and Director of the UNOSSC participated in a panel discussion on the sidelines of the World Green Economy Summit highlighting the environmental legacy of Sheikh Zayed.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Bin Fahad remarked that Sheikh Zayed's efforts led to many environmental milestones for the UAE.

He spoke about Sheikh Zayed's abiding conviction about 'sustainable development' and how, under his leadership, efforts were made to halt the onslaught



“WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AMONG OUR CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES, NOT ONLY BECAUSE THEY ARE THE FUTURE LEADERS, BUT ALSO BECAUSE THEY HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY NOW.”

of desertification while concentrating on the expansion of its green areas.

He also elaborated on the various initiatives launched by the Zayed Foundation to mark the Year of Zayed celebrations.

“The Foundation launched the “Zayed Green Challenge App” at the UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi in December 2017 as the first initiative of the Year of Zayed,” he said.

“In collaboration with Dubai Police, the Foundation also organized a mobile exhibition and seminar in the UAE and worldwide under the theme of “Zayed in the Eyes of the World” which has toured several Arab,

African and Asian countries as well as the UN headquarters in New York City,” he added.

In her address, Dr. Meshgan Al Awar said: “Sheikh Zayed’s vision and his courage, charisma, success and achievements, inspired the region and the world.”

Caring for the environment stemmed from his own human nature and philosophy, she added. “His love for nature enabled him to overcome the challenges of desertification as he was determined to present his country as a model for “Arid Regions Development” and he succeeded.”

Sheikh Zayed realized the need

for sustainability 41 years before the concept was coined by the UN, said Dr. Al Awar. “The conservation goals he envisioned led to the protection of endangered species such as the Arabian Oryx, falcons and sea turtles, in addition to the establishment of Protected Areas.”

Sheikh Zayed placed a strong emphasis on education and capacity building, particularly of youth, and he recognised the need to engage the youth in decision-making processes, build their capacities and engage them in building a better future for our country and the world, she pointed out.

She continued: “The best

3 million global environment enthusiasts follow the activities and initiatives of the Zayed Foundation aimed at the protection of environment and sustainable development at the local, regional and global levels.



manifestation of his efforts and achievements is what we can see in the UAE today - a green oasis in the desert.”

During the panel discussion, Jorge Chediak commented on the timeless legacy of the UAE’s founding father.

“At the heart of UAE’s spectacular achievements lie the guiding values and vision of one man - Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan,” he said.

“The visionary leader’s efforts in raising environmental awareness has become a beacon for the UAE and the region. It has given the country and its leaders a strong sense of environmental stewardship.”

In response to a question by the moderator of the panel session, Dr. Meshgan Al Awar stated that the challenge before the organisation today was to extend the bold and transformative steps it has taken in the global environmental arena to an even larger audience to shift the world on to a more sustainable development path.

“Our ongoing partnerships and collaboration with several UN entities and other stakeholders in the environmental field is fueling the scale and ambition of the Zayed Foundation as it strives to uphold the legacy of active environmental commitment and action bequeathed to us by Sheikh Zayed, whose name the

Foundation bears.”

### **3 million global audience for Zayed Foundation on social media**

Through its digital marketing activities including social media content marketing and promotion on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter and the promotion of Zayed Green Challenge App through social media, the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment has reached an audience of 3 million global environment enthusiasts, said Dr. Al Awar at the event.

By keeping abreast of the constantly evolving digital communications technology, the Zayed Foundation has



successfully utilized the power of the social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter and its official online website to engage with its local, regional and international audience and to highlight its participation and hosting of several globally renowned environmental events across the region and on the international platform, she added.

The Zayed Foundation has also used these channels to draw attention to its activities aimed at the protection of environment and sustainable development at the local, regional and global levels.

**South-South in Action report: UAE Special Edition**

At the World Green Economy Summit 2018, the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment and the UNOSSC announced that the South-South in Action report UAE Special Edition which offers South-South and Triangular Cooperation solutions for sustainable development will be translated into Arabic to benefit more developing countries from the Arab States region.

H.E. Prof. Dr. Mohamed Ahmed Bin Fahad, Chairman, Zayed International Foundation for the Environment and Jorge Chediek, Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation and Director of the United Nations Office of South South Cooperation addressed the

event, and signed, on behalf of the two entities, a Statement of Intent committing joint support to the “Youth4South: Advanced Youth Leadership Programme” and capacity development in promoting South-South and triangular cooperation in environment protection and sustainable development, through joint trainings, events and activities in UAE and globally including the GSSD EXPOs, 2019 BAPA+40 Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, and World EXPO 2020.

Jorge Chediek commended the Government of the UAE and the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment for their commitment to sustainable



development, including their role as host of the 2016 Global South-South Development Expo.

He remarked that “in under 50 years the UAE has grown from a developing country to an advanced economy, and is now working to share the solutions that enabled this development.

UAE has proved to the world that the so-called “oil curse” and “middle income country trap” can be overcome, and the benefit of natural resources can contribute to achieving sustainable development. In all that it does, the UAE embodies the spirit of South-South cooperation”.

At the event, H.E. Prof. Dr. Mohamed Ahmed Bin Fahad,

Dr. Meshgan Al Awar, and Jorge Chediek jointly launched the special edition of UNOSSC’s South-South in Action report titled “UAE Support to Advocate and Showcase South-South and Triangular Cooperation Solutions”.

It was announced that the Arabic translation of this report will be made available to the public before the end of 2018 with an aim of benefiting developing countries in the Arab States region.

Dr. Meshgan Al Awar added that the success stories shared by the member states and partner institutions during GSSD Expo 2016 and which have been featured in the publication

“demonstrates that there is no ‘one size fits all’ for contributions to building a healthy and sustainable world. As the world looks for solutions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, contributions like those shared in this volume will deepen the scope of thinking and contribute to broader and more equitable exchanges of Southern knowledge at the World Expo 2020 in Dubai, UAE.”



## Chairman of Zayed Foundation honored with 'Personality Award for Energy Month'



HE Major General Prof. Dr. Mohammad Ahmed Bin Fahad, Chairman of the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment was honored with the 'Personality Award for Energy Month' by the Sharjah Electricity and Water Authority (SEWA).

The Sharjah Electricity and Water Authority (SEWA) has honored HE Major General Prof. Dr. Mohammad Ahmed Bin Fahad, Chairman of the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment and Assistant Commander General of Dubai Police for the Academy & Training, with the Personality Award for Energy Month 2018.

Dr. Bin Fahad was selected for the Personality Award for the month of October which is observed as the Energy Action Month for his efforts in championing smart energy initiatives to promote

sustainability and environmental well-being.

The honor was conferred during the launch event of SEWA's campaign, 'Express Your Loyalty'

that coincided with the celebration of Flag Day, which is marked this year under the slogan "Zayed in our Hearts". The campaign is a message of thanks and gratitude to the founder of the UAE, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, and in appreciation to the wise leaders for their continuous efforts to provide prosperity, happiness and

security in the country.

Chairman of SEWA, Eng Dr. Rashid Al Leem handed over the honoring certificate of appreciation and a shield to Dr. Bin Fahad as a tribute to his excellence in the energy field. The celebration was organized at the SEWA headquarters in Sharjah.

A delegation of Zayed Foundation members comprising of Dr. Meshgan Al Awar, Secretary General, Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, and Director, Research & Studies Center, Dubai Police



COMMITTED TO building a sustainable tomorrow, SEWA believes changes in energy consumption practices will lead to sustained reductions in the use of our natural resources.

Academy, Eng. Hamdan Al Shaer, Secretary General of the Emirates Appreciation Award for the Environment, and Dr. Eisa M. Abdellatif, Chief Technical Advisor of Zayed Foundation, attended the event. A number of high-ranking officials in SEWA were also present.

Through his role as the Chairman of the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, and in collaboration with several partners and stakeholders in the environmental arena, Dr. Bin Fahad has taken the lead in scaling up measures to address

the water and energy pressures in the transition to a sustainable energy pathway, said Dr. Al Leem.

Dr. Bin Fahad expressed his pride in this honor and commended the efforts of Sharjah Electricity and Water Authority in taking a lead in preserving energy resources in its drive towards sustainable development. By raising the efficiency of power and water consumption in the emirate of Sharjah, SEWA has enhanced the role of Sharjah as an international model for power and water conservation thereby ensuring the rights of the next generation

in the natural resources of the emirate, he added.

SEWA's 'Express Your Loyalty' campaign aims to promote the values of loyalty and belonging of employees and customers to the UAE leadership, and to activate their community participation encouraging them to do more. Dr. Al Leem pointed out that the slogan of this year's campaign is a pride in the late Sheikh Zayed's achievements to the country in terms of progress and prosperity in all fields, and renewal of the covenant of loyalty to our wise leadership.

Initiative

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

## UAE leaders receive KhalifaSAT engineering team



[KhalifaSAT project is source of pride for UAE leadership, people and the entire Arab nation, says His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.](#)

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, received the Emirati engineering team who helped design, build, and launch KhalifaSAT into orbit, at Za'abeel Palace, Dubai.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid and His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed

hailed the team's great scientific achievement as a "source of pride for their leadership, people, families and the Arab nation."

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed emphasised that the country has ushered in a new era within its ambitious journey to deliver the future. "Today, the UAE is starting a new leaf to scale fresh heights and make great strides in the space sector. Sheikh Mohamed and I have agreed to build national competencies so that we can continue this path of glory and promote our international position in the space sector in line

with our national interests and the scientific objectives humanity seeks to achieve in this area.

"The KhalifaSat team has made this achievement, laid the foundation stone, and paved the way for other Emirati engineers to continue this track record of achievements. We are positive that they will spearhead the country's developmental march in the space sector to unprecedented international levels."

"We are working with my brother Mohamed bin Zayed to make the



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

THE LAUNCH of KhalifaSAT is a key milestone in the UAE's journey towards becoming a key player in the space industry.

UAE the capital of space sciences, a global hub for scientific research, and a source for the industry expertise in the global space industry," he added.

H.H. Sheikh Mohammed pointed out that the UAE has managed to build a successful development model that will allow young people to make strategic achievements in various fields, including the space industry, which will pave the way to restoring the glory of early Arabs in astronomy.

"The UAE is a role model of success and development. We

want it to be an Arab and even an international role model in the space science, research and industry fields, as well as an example to be followed by Arab youth and talent to forge ahead towards new horizons in space science, following in the footsteps of their ancestors who were trailblazers in this domain," he stated.

H.H. Sheikh Mohamed congratulated the Emirati engineers who supervised the designing and manufacturing of KhalifaSat, on their national and Arab achievement, which, he said,

proves their unique potential to compete in various science and space domains.

He expressed his pride of the Emirati national cadres and their ability to contribute to the country's strategic objectives and achieve its scientific ambitions.

"Thanks to your competence and your ambitions, you have added a new feather to your country's cap of achievements - a significant milestone that lays a new stepping stone in the national space sector," Sheikh Mohamed said to the team.



He called on the engineers to double efforts and leave no stone unturned to scale new heights in their march towards excellence and a prosperous future.

“The successful launch of KhalifaSat is a turning-point in the history of the UAE that reflects the country’s confidence to compete globally in the space sector and to contribute effectively to enriching human civilisation.”

The engineering team extended their thanks and appreciation to H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid and H.H. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed for their continuous follow-up and encouragement which, they’ve affirmed, has been a key factor helping them

meet the aspirations of the wise leadership and the Emiratis. They pledged to double efforts to achieve more in the field of space science and research so that the UAE would always be a role model for development.

Among those present were H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of the Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre; H.H. Sheikh Hazza bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Chairman of Abu Dhabi Executive Council; H.H. Sheikh Nahyan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan Charitable and Humanitarian Foundation; H.H. Lt. General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime

Minister and Minister of the Interior; H.H. Sheikh Tahnoun bin Zayed Al Nahyan, National Security Adviser; and H.H. Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs, amongst others.





## Hilton Ras Al Khaimah Resort & Spa triumph in local Hotel & Hospitality Sustainability event

Hilton Ras Al Khaimah Resort & Spa have recently taken home two awards related to sustainable tourism and waste management from the annual Hotel and Hospitality Sustainability event.

The event, which took place in September, was attended by H.E. Eng. Ahmad Mohamed Al Hammadi, Director General of Public Services Department of Ras Al Khaimah, Eng. Sonia Nasser- Executive Director of Waste Management Agency at Ras Al Khaimah and Haitham Mattar, CEO of Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority along with Ras Al Khaimah's hotel representatives, Green Ambassadors and government entities who are directly involved

in the Emirate's sustainability agenda.

The event agenda highlighted the latest updates in the recycling waste management initiatives set for the Emirate, shared best practices and key learnings in this sector, and announced the new targets and criteria planned for next year that will serve the overall goals of the Emirate.

During the event Hilton Ras Al Khaimah Resort & Spa were proudly presented with awards by Ahmed Al Hammadi, Director General of RAKPSD and Haitham Mattar, CEO of RAKTDA for the best Large Green Hotel in Ras Al Khaimah and scoring an impressive 92% in an audit for source segregation, cleanliness

training and awareness of all staff on sustainability practices.

In 2016, the concerned government bodies of Ras Al Khaimah, comprising RAKTDA, Public Service Department in Ras Al Khaimah, represented by RAK Waste Management Agency, collaborated to launch new waste management standards for hotels and tourism establishments across the Emirate.



WGES 2018

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

WGES 2018 concludes with the announcement of the 5th Dubai Declaration



The 5th World Green Economy Summit (WGES) was held under the theme ‘Driving Innovation, Leading Change’ and saw the participation of more than 3,700 global experts, thought leaders and business leaders in green economy and sustainable development.

The 5th World Green Economy Summit (WGES), held under the patronage of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai concluded on 25th October in Dubai, UAE. The summit, held under the theme ‘Driving Innovation, Leading Change’ brought together many prominent global speakers, in addition to dignitaries from government organisations, academicians and experts.

HE Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, Vice Chairman of the Dubai

Supreme Council of Energy, MD & CEO of Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA), and Chairman of WGES, announced the Dubai Declaration 2018 at the conclusion of WGES 2018, expressing his gratitude and appreciation to HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, for his patronage of the Summit.

HE Al Tayer said: “Since its inception in 2014, the summit has made great progress and many achievements, notably due to increased cooperation between decision-makers from the public and private sectors. Over

3,700 participants consisting of global experts, thought leaders and business leaders in green economy and sustainable development, have participated in WGES 2018 to discuss key issues such as climate change and global warming. This summit is especially important, because it has set the journey towards the adoption and signature of the agreement establishing the World Green Economy Organisation (WGE0),” he added.

He further said: “We are concerned by the report recently released by the IPCC defining a



AT WGES 2018, the UAE urged every nation to join it in mobilising its efforts, exchanging ideas, and strengthening global solidarity, to address climate change.

stringent scenario for the world to achieve the 1.5 degrees target. Nonetheless we are optimistic, as we know that it can be achieved by harvesting the capabilities of the private sector to make their industries and sectors green. This is why we are here, to form and focus an engine of green transformation built on diversity and entrepreneurship.”

Speaking about the summit’s pillars, HE Al Tayer said: “WGES 2018 focused on three main pillars including ‘Green Capital’, which has been a focus of discussions at this year’s

Summit. This comes at a time when the World Green Economy Organisation (WGE) and the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), signed in October 2018 a partnership agreement in Dubai to fast-track green investments into bankable smart city projects.”

“One of Dubai’s major green projects is the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park. This is the largest single-site solar park in the world. Based on the Independent Power Producer model, it will have a capacity of 5,000MW by 2030. This includes the world’s largest single-site

Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) project with a capacity of 700MW,” HE Al Tayer highlighted.

He noted that the second pillar ‘Digital Transformation’ captured various insights, highlighting the importance of adopting rapid changes in technology and its futuristic advances, especially the Fourth Industrial Revolution, digital evolution, crypto currencies, blockchain technologies, robotics, machine learning and the Internet of Things (IoT). He added that Digital DEWA, the digital arm of Dubai Electricity & Water



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Authority (DEWA), is redefining the concept of utilities. "This is creating a new digital future for Dubai, which has become a central source of interest for participants interested in digital transformation."

He also said: "Dubai has also launched a community awareness campaign for electric vehicles titled E-Sayyara, the first of its kind in the region. E-Sayyara seeks to improve Dubai's sustainability, air quality and fuel efficiency."

HE Al Tayer added: "The third pillar is Leadership and Social Engagement. Participants are identifying paradigms and mechanisms for ideal public-private partnerships

by developing legislation and regulations that encourage investment opportunities in energy, water and infrastructure projects and improve the quality of their services.

Participants highlighted the need for effective leadership in the public and private sectors to accelerate the transition to a green economy. This could be achieved by introducing progressive policies and incentives, influencing individual behaviour and consumption patterns, or raising environmental awareness.

At this summit, HE Al Tayer said: "We launched the first World Green Economy Report 2018, 'Inspiring Innovations in

Business, Finance and Policy', in collaboration with the University of Cambridge and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This shows the need to adopt more depth and diversity in our approach to building a real green economy and moving the global sustainability agenda forwards."

"We are working on the Green Gate Initiatives, to encompass all the green programmes that will streamline the sustainable journey," he pointed out. "We are empowering the young entrepreneurs who have the potential to generate innovative, sustainable solutions that will contribute to advancing green growth and sustainable development," he said.



## Pioneering book series inspires UAE school-children to protect the environment

There was great excitement at the launch of the children's book 'Eco-heroes Recycling Trip Trouble'; at a reception held in Dubai on 14th October 2018. The book is the first in a series created by 'Save our World' to engage and educate children on sustainability and environmental issues.

'The Eco-heroes' series is created by two Dubai residents; author Colette Barr and illustrator Leona Collins. Published in the UAE, using recycled paper and the Dubai font, the books come with fun facts that are immensely useful to teachers and parents as they seek to educate children about the environment. The launch event was attended by representatives

from environmental companies, NGOs, and key figures from UAE education and literature sectors.

Funny and insightful, with stories and characters especially relevant to UAE school-children, the Eco-heroes books feature wonderfully illustrated tales of children embarking on a number of local adventures.

In the first book, the children visit a local recycling plant with hilarious and also thought-provoking incidents throughout. The books' central characters will resonate with UAE-based children; the series features five fictional children who are Emirati, Indian, European and South African 'The Eco-heroes Recycling Trip Trouble' is the first of a series

of five, with the other book focusing on energy, plastic, food and water with the other books launching over the next year.

"The Eco-heroes books are about giving children a wonderful resource to learn more about the environment. We want to raise awareness of a serious subject in a fun, relatable and memorable way," explains Barr.

Barr and Collins established the new company 'Save Our World' to publish the books and also to take forward their ambitious outreach programme to reach schools and communities. Save Our World will be working with partners to create opportunities to engage children and communities on environmental awareness.

Award

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

Fourth edition of  
Emirates Energy  
Award (EEA) 2020  
launched



The award, launched by the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy (DSCE), will be held under the new theme 'Inspiring Innovation for Sustainable Energy'.

Under the patronage of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy (DSCE) has launched the fourth edition of Emirates Energy Award (EEA) - 2020 to be held under the theme - 'Inspiring Innovation for Sustainable Energy'.

The fourth edition of the award was unveiled by HE Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, Vice Chairman of The Dubai Supreme Council of Energy (DSCE), and President of the Emirates Energy

Award (EEA) on 25th October at the second day of The World Green Economy Summit.

"Through this new theme of the Emirates Energy Award, we look forward to promoting a culture of excellence, sustainability and innovation in energy management and efficiency, sustainable alternative energy sources, activating the role of communities, raising awareness of conservation, protecting the environment and preserving our natural resources," said HE Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer. The award is also playing an important role in establishing

Dubai as a global center for green economy, energy efficiency, renewable energy, sustainability and environmental protection.

It has also taken a leading role in providing clean energy legislation and programs for climate change issues as it joined international efforts aiming to preserve the planet by adopting sustainable innovative and creative solutions for the protection of the environment and natural resources.

He further said: "The future vision of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin

# جائزة الإمارات للطاقة EMIRATES ENERGY AWARD



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

THE EMIRATES Energy Award (EEA) is a regional award that encourages the rationalised use of energy and resources.

Rashid Al Maktoum has had a profound impact on supporting sustainable development across Dubai and the country. This was reflected in the success of the UAE Vision 2021, Dubai 2021 Plan and the long-term national initiative “Green Economy for Sustainable Development” in establishing a clear approach and solid foundation through the launch of ambitious initiatives, that have contributed to promoting energy efficiency and green growth in the country”.

“The award, which is held every two years and covers the Middle

East and North Africa region, will highlight best practices and leading energy efficiency projects to create an international platform for individuals and organizations that will bring together their winners and celebrate their achievements in energy management and efficiency, sustainability and ways of rationalization,” HE Al Tayer pointed out.

The Emirates Energy Award (EEA) is a regional award that encourages the rationalised use of energy and resources. The award aims to highlight the best

practices and pioneering work in energy efficiency, alternative energy, sustainability and conservation of the environment. The award recognises the efforts of the public and private sectors across the region in energy efficiency, energy projects and education and research in the energy sector.

EEA this year will offer 10 categories including Energy Efficiency-Public & Private Sectors, Large Energy Project, Education and Capacity Building and Young Professional Energy Award amongst several others.

Conference

24 creating greener communities

## UAE hosts 'Wetlands and Environmental Conference'



Held under the theme 'Wetlands for a Sustainable Urban Future', the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, COP13, welcomed more than 1,000 participants from 158 countries.

The UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, MOCCA, welcomed more than 1,000 participants from 158 countries to the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, COP13, at the Festival Arena in Dubai.

Sponsored by the Dubai Municipality, COP13 offers the opportunity to member states to discuss progress on the Ramsar Convention goals for international co-operation on wetlands conservation and wise, sustainable use of their resources.

Contracting parties will plan a policy for the next three years, vote on 26 draft resolutions, and discuss a range of ongoing and emerging environmental issues.

Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al-Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak, Secretary-General of the Abu Dhabi Environmental Agency, Dawood Abdul Rahman Abdullah Al Hajiri, Director-General of Dubai Municipality, and Martha Rojas Urrego, Secretary-General of the Ramsar Convention, among others, addressed the delegates

at the opening ceremony. The Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands also presented awards to the winners of the Ramsar Wetland Conversation Awards.

"Wetlands have received the attention of our government, and hosting this prestigious event confirms our commitment to conserving our natural environment, and protecting our ecosystems from urbanisation and human activities," Dr. Thani Al-Zeyoudi said. "We cannot risk losing these valuable ecosystems, as it will have an impact on our



es for a better tomorrow

WETLANDS ARE among the richest of ecosystems and provide vital benefits to people, such as the provision of fresh water, food and protection from disasters.

lives, society and our future. I hope that this conference will open doors for greater collaboration, understanding and intervention to preserve and save the world's wetlands."

Razan Al Mubarak stated, "Today marks a momentous occasion for the UAE as it hosts its first-ever COP to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, reinforcing our nation's leading role in the protection of the environment and the conservation of our biodiversity. It gives us great pride to hold this important meeting in the 'Year of Zayed', in memory of UAE's

Founding Father, who himself was an ardent conservationist and champion of species. The treaty, which underscores the importance of the wise use of wetlands, has never been more relevant as it is today, given the threats to these rich ecosystems from industrialisation, urbanisation and even climate change."

"We are fully committed to protecting wetlands and their biodiversity. The declaration of Al Wathba in Abu Dhabi, the only location in the Gulf to breed flamingos regularly, as a Ramsar site in 2016, and subsequently, a

protected area in 2017, is a true testament to that commitment. While the challenge concerning the conservation of wetlands is both real and substantial, immense opportunities for meaningful collaboration and discovery of innovative solutions to protect these natural resources are available. Our collective efforts towards this cause will ensure that we are able to protect the wetlands not only for ourselves but for our future generations," Al Mubarak added.

Emphasising the importance of wetlands for society, Al Hajiri



affirmed, “It is not common knowledge that there is a beautiful bird sanctuary and designated Ramsar site just a stone’s throw away from the city of Dubai. We are proud to host this meeting and delegates from around the world, to be part of the solution for these important ecosystems.”

Urrego of Ramsar convention noted, “From mangroves to rivers, the world’s wetlands are disappearing at an alarming rate, and swift action is needed now. Wetland interventions must be scaled, and we need to raise awareness of the services they provide, and most importantly, integrate wetland conservation, its wise use and restoration into policies across all societal

sectors. This is the first time that a meeting is being held in an Arab country, and we are confident that Dubai will lead efforts in promoting the cause for wetlands.”

The Ramsar Convention Award for Wetland Wise Use was presented to Fundacion Global Nature, Spain, in acknowledgement of the organisation’s contributions to the long-term sustainable use of wetlands. The Youth Climate Action Network of Samoa won the Ramsar Convention Award for Young Wetlands Champions.

The Ramsar Secretariat will also introduce the Wetland City Accreditation for the first time, which pays tribute to 18 cities

that have taken exceptional steps to safeguard their urban wetlands.

The recently launched Global Wetlands Outlook, GWO, by the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands highlights that the world’s wetlands are declining rapidly, with 35 percent losses since 1970.





## **UAE is keen to promote food security, sustainable development: Mattar Al Shamsi**

**T**he UAE Ambassador to Jordan Mattar Saif Sulaiman Al Shamsi has reaffirmed the UAE's keenness to promote the agricultural sector in general and support date palm production in cooperation with partners to enhance food security and achieve sustainable development.

In a statement on the occasion of opening the first International Festival of Jordanian dates in Amman from 21st - 23rd October, 2018, Al Shamsi said that festival is part of the directives of H.H. Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs; and follow-up of Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister

of Tolerance and as part of 'Year of Zayed 2018'. He also highlighted the efforts of Sheikh Khalifa Award which works to develop the date palm sector in Jordan by organising the festival.

Ambassador Al Shamsi also reiterated the depth of relations between the two brotherly peoples. He pointed out to the significant development witnessed by the Jordanian date palm sector, especially Medjool Dates, as Jordan accounts for about 14 percent of world production.

He added, "We are seeking international growth by going global as the date palm sector is one of the most important aspect of food industry, food security

and sustainable development."

Al Shamsi also expressed his pleasure to work together with Jordan to develop the date palm sector, and appreciated the role of all partners in making the festival a success.

The festival was organised in cooperation with Jordan's Ministry of Agriculture; Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN; Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development; International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas; Date Palm Global Network; International Centre for Biosaline Agriculture; Jordan Dates Association; UAE's Date Palm Friends Society; and the UAE's Embassy in Jordan.

## Education

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

### Houbara Bustard added to UAE Education Curriculum



Abu Dhabi's Houbara Programme is just one of many major conservation projects that have been inspired by Sheikh Zayed's vision and principles and the new initiative will see every schoolchild in the UAE taught about conservation of the Houbara Bustard.

On 3rd October 2018 in Abu Dhabi, the International Fund for Houbara Conservation (IFHC) and the Ministry of Education (MoE) launched a new education initiative, which will see every schoolchild in the United Arab Emirates taught about conservation through the flagship species of the Houbara bustard.

Pupils from selected Abu Dhabi schools joined representatives from both organisations to launch officially the innovative education programme at Jumeirah Etihad Towers in Abu Dhabi.

In his foreword to the new teacher handbook created for the initiative, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, writes, "We have the right to be proud of the achievements we have made in recent decades.

"However, the ceiling of our ambitions must not stop at this point. We must learn from these achievements and continue our work with a positive outlook in order to make a difference. One of the living models that we

must learn from is the Houbara programme, which is a unique success story following years of experiment, scientific research and technical innovations.

"Examples like this are the means we need to safeguard our earnings and achieve our goals for the post-oil economy."

The Houbara and the conservation programme to conserve the species initiated by the late Sheikh Zayed provide examples used to convey important skills and information to pupils in schools across the UAE. A



THE MAJOR threats to the Houbara are unregulated hunting, poaching, habitat loss and degradation, climate change, natural predation and disease.

pecially designed handbook and website will provide teachers with the tools to teach multiple subjects across all age groups in the UAE school system. As part of the event, pupils and their teachers from local schools, which participated in the pilot programme of the initiative, presented their projects.

Speaking at the launch, Hussain Ibrahim Al Hammadi, UAE Minister of Education, said, "By incorporating the Houbara programme into the curriculum of the UAE, we honour a national symbol with outstanding

contributions to education, development and conservation. By announcing this initiative in the Year of Zayed, we want to build on his wisdom and follow his pioneering initiatives in education linked to heritage, history and natural environment of the country."

A pilot programme to test the validity of the initiative ran during the first half of 2018 with the assistance of MoE and the Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK) in Abu Dhabi. Seven private and government Cycle 1 - 3 schools, carried out

exercises contained within the handbook and, subsequently, provided their feedback.

Commenting on the significance of the Houbara to Abu Dhabi, Majid Al Mansouri, Managing Director, International Fund for Houbara Conservation, said: "The Houbara that once sustained our ancestors in the desert, today provides an opportunity for future sustenance for those who wish to learn and gain knowledge. The Houbara is as important as the falcon to our heritage and values. From primary to K-12 every child in the UAE will now get to learn



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creating a greener community

about our environment and the need to protect it and the other species we share the planet with. This programme will produce the conservation leaders of tomorrow who will take forward Sheikh Zayed's legacy."

Launching in the Year of Zayed, the Houbara conservation education initiative reflects the vision and values of the late Founding Father. As Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed said in his foreword; "The launch of this educational programme during the Year of Zayed is an extension of his legacy; reflecting the fruits of wisdom he planted on this good land. Perhaps the best celebration of the centennial of his birth is to remain true to the principles he lived by."

### **Launch of Sheikh Zayed Strategies Initiative in Ajman**

Under the patronage of H.H. Lt. General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of the Interior, the Emirates Strategic Planning and Foresight Future Association (ESPA), launched on 8th October 2018 at the headquarters of the Cultural Centre of the Ministry of Culture and Community Development in Ajman, the "Sheikh Zayed Strategies Initiative," as part of series of events held in October at the ministry's cultural centres.

The launch was attended by Brigadier Ali Obaid Al Shamsi, Director of Strategy and Performance Development at the General Command of the Ajman

Police, and several directors of federal and local government departments in Ajman, as well as students from public and private schools.

In his speech, Major General Dr. Abdul Quddus Al Obaidly, Chairman of the Association, talked about the achievements of the late Sheikh Zayed as the founder of the country, and explored his wisdom that were reflected by his ideas and strategies.

He added that the personality of the founding father was highlighted by his charity work that touched everyone, as well as through his establishment of a great country, which is loved by the entire world.



## 47th UAE National Day celebrations to mark Founding Father's legacy

**T**he official 47th UAE National Day celebration – named 'This is Zayed. This is the UAE' – will take place at Zayed Sports City Stadium on December 2nd, the Supreme Organising Committee of the 47th UAE National Day Anniversary Celebration announced on 10th October.

For one night only, over 22,000 spectators will get to be part of this historic celebration, which will include a show that will take spectators through an experience of live performances and digital art.

'This is Zayed. This is the UAE' will feature a variety of magnificent visual light effects, stimulating performances,

inspirational readings and futuristic visual art. The celebration, which coincides with Year of Zayed, will commemorate the progression of the UAE, enabled 47 years ago by the vision and foresight of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

This once-in-a-lifetime experience is the culmination of a year-long expression of love and appreciation to the UAE's founding father's wisdom, respect and deep devotion to human development.

In preparation for the celebration, a representative from the organising committee of the Official 47th UAE National Day Celebration, said,

"The Official UAE National Day Celebration this year will be an unmissable showcase of the UAE's rich cultural heritage, its diverse present and its exciting future. The celebration also falls in the 'Year of Zayed', a year in which we rejoice in 100 years of the legacy of Sheikh Zayed."

The year 2018 marks 100 years since the birth of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the Founding Father of the UAE, who passed away in 2004.

To commemorate this historic national occasion, His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates has declared that 2018 will officially be known in the UAE as the Year of Zayed.

## Conservation

32 creating green community

### Year of Zayed Endangered Turtles Migrate to Oman



Two green turtles, tagged in an Abu Dhabi conservation project, have swum to Oman and provided invaluable data to scientists who are trying to protect the endangered species.

The recent tagging and release of endangered green turtles in Abu Dhabi has revealed previously unknown information about their nesting habitats, marking yet another conservation success in the Year of Zayed.

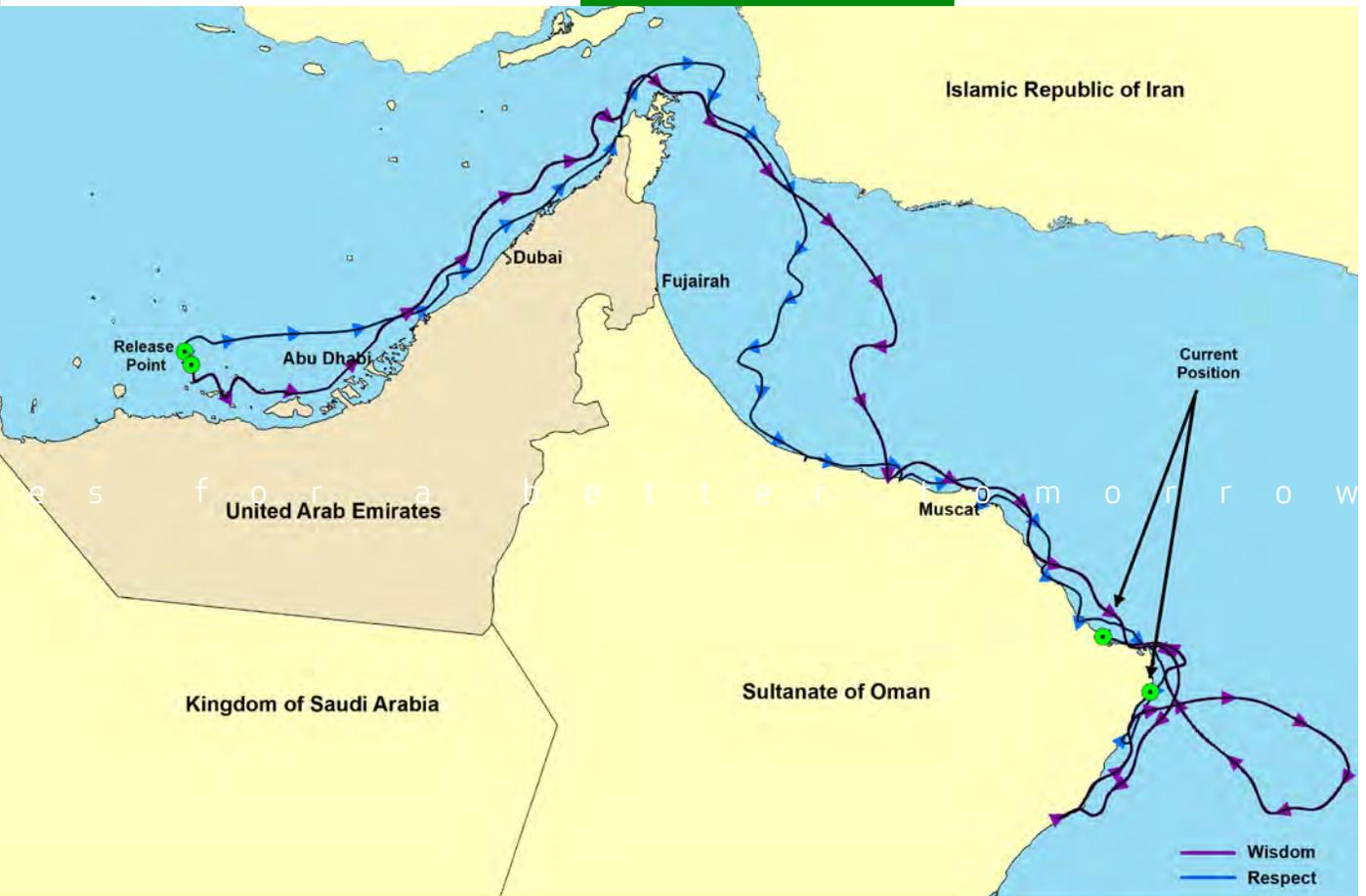
In April 2018, as part of The Year of Zayed, H.E. Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak, Secretary General of the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD), led the capturing, satellite tagging and releasing of endangered Green turtles off Bu Tinah Island, an internationally recognised sanctuary for turtles

in the Indian Ocean. Two of the turtles were aptly named Wisdom and Respect, representing the values celebrated during this Year of Zayed.

The ongoing research initiative, spearheaded by Emirates Nature-WWF in collaboration with EAD, aims to advance knowledge on turtles' behaviour at sea and identify areas for protection in the UAE and the wider region to conserve these endangered migratory species of global importance. The high quality data received to date from the tags on this particular occasion, confirms

that the turtles departed Bu Tinah Island roughly four to six weeks after their release. Wisdom and Respect followed the coastline towards the Straits of Hormuz and reached Oman a few weeks later, despite Respect starting her journey 30 days after Wisdom.

Both turtles now rest in Ras Al Hadd in Oman with a large number of other green turtles, potentially getting ready to depose between 4 to 5 clutches of eggs as part of the nesting season. Interestingly, both migrations took about 30 days, and the journey covered a distance of around 1100km at a



TURTLES WERE tagged during their travels from Abu Dhabi in bid to understand their breeding habits.

sustained speed of around 36km per day, or around 1.5km/h.

H.E Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak, Secretary General of EAD, said: “This finding is yet another conservation success that we can celebrate in the Year of Zayed. It is also a first to science, in the region, for Green turtles and tells us that in order to protect turtles, we need to work at the regional level to protect their foraging habitat, nesting sites and migratory routes.

“We will share these findings with neighboring countries and

continue to protect these key elements of sea turtle survival across their range.”

“It is also symbolic that this finding occurred during The Year of Zayed. The late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Founding Father of the UAE, was considered one of the world’s greatest conservationists. The marine environment, in particular, held an emotional value to him. He considered it a treasured part of our heritage, our present and our future. Under his leadership, some of the most impactful wildlife release programmes in the

world became a reality. Since its establishment, EAD has worked to preserve Sheikh Zayed’s environmental legacy and we will continue to do so,” she added.

Of the seven species of marine turtles in the world, two occur in Abu Dhabi’s waters: the critically endangered Hawksbill turtle and the endangered Green turtle. These two species extensively use Abu Dhabi’s waters for foraging i.e. food and one species, the hawksbill, nests on the sandy beaches of several offshore islands. Turtles and their habitats are key indicators of the health



of the environment, but at the regional level, the number of foraging habitats and nesting grounds are continually declining due to an increase in urbanization and industrialisation.

The tagging and release took place on Bu Tinah Island, which is also home to coral reefs, dugongs, natural mangroves, dolphins, ospreys and Socotra cormorants.

Located in Abu Dhabi's Al Dhafra region, the island lies within the Marawah Marine Biosphere Reserve, the region's largest and first UNESCO-designated marine biosphere reserve and one of the 19 protected areas under the Sheikh Zayed Protected Areas Network.

### **MoU to Support Artificial Caves Program**

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment and Delma Industrial Supply & Marine Services inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to build and install artificial habitats to ensure the sustainability of the marine environment and develop living aquatic resources in the UAE.

His Excellency Dr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, and Ayoub Al Khajah, Director General of Delma Marine, signed the agreement at the Abu Dhabi International Boat Show that runs until 20 October at the Abu Dhabi International Exhibition Centre.

As per the MoU, Delma Marine will install 1,000 artificial caves made of eco-friendly materials across select marine sites, starting from March 2019. The company will also regularly update the Ministry on the status of fish stocks at the installation sites.

MOCCA launched the Artificial Caves Program in 2016. To date, the initiative has involved the installation of 400 cement caves to establish an artificial marine reserve in Ras Dhadna, 150 artificial caves to set up five fishing sites in Umm Al Quwain, 150 caves in Ajman, 300 caves in Ras Al Khaimah, and 300 caves across 30 sites stretching from Al Baiya Island in Fujairah to Loulouya Harbor in Sharjah.



## Mohamed bin Zayed Majlis for Future Generations kicks off

**N**oura bint Mohammed Al Kaabi Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development addressed Emirati students at the Mohammed bin Zayed Majlis for Future Generations on 8th October 2018 to discuss the swiftly growing 'Creative Economy' in the UAE. Al Kaabi spoke on the Year of Zayed, the importance of nation building, and the role of leadership in events that engage the youth of the UAE.

"It's important we attend this event, it will help the next generation take the baton from us," she said. "These sessions are inspiring, they're going to help the youth understand our strategies and challenges. Most importantly, these youth are at

an important stage in their lives, it's time to draw their roadmap and determine how can they contribute to building the nation in the same way it started in its inception."

Surrounded by hundreds of students, media and partners during her exclusive talk in The Hub of the Majlis, she gracefully gave applause to the universities of the country, both local and international, in building an aspirational and determined youth. Similarly, she praised the Mohamed bin Zayed Majlis for gathering policy-makers with the future generation.

"During the Year of Zayed," Al Kaabi said, "It's important for students to understand that

the nation was built on a strong base. We are still building on that base because of the sound vision of the late Sheikh Zayed, the Founding Father."

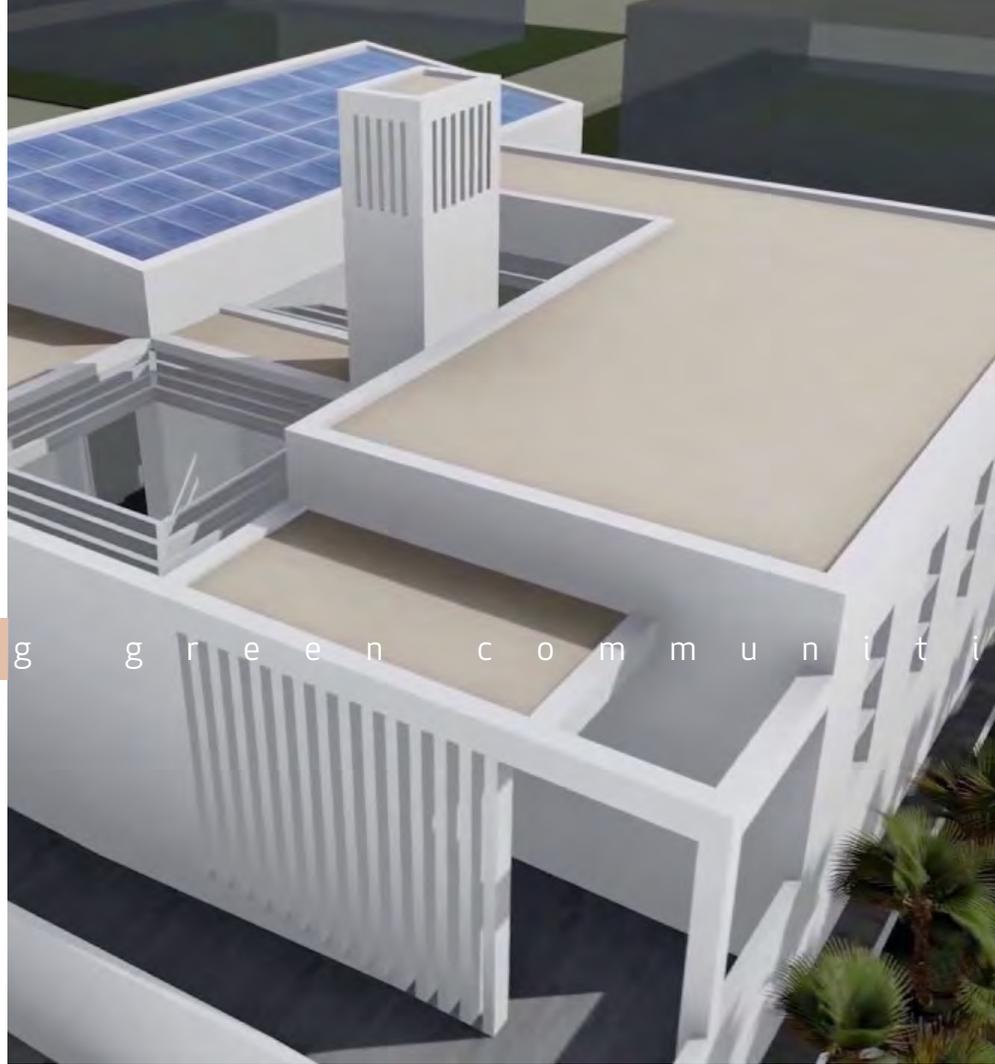
She added, "I'd like to give some advice: Be proud of where you are from. Be proud of your identity, keep on going and don't be afraid to achieve your dreams."

Held at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC) from October 8th-9th, Mohammed bin Zayed Majlis for Future Generations offered Emirati students a chance to reflect on the Year of Zayed and plan for their future as experts from the UAE and around the world offer insight on leadership, technology, sustainability and much more.

## Exhibition

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

### Solar Decathlon Middle East visitor registration opens



Solar Decathlon is an international competition in which universities from all over the world meet to design, build and operate solar powered houses.

The Dubai Electricity and Water Authority, DEWA, has opened registration for the public to visit the Solar Decathlon Middle East, SDME 2018, at the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park in Seih Al Dahl, Dubai, from 14th to 29th November, 2018.

A total of 15 teams representing 28 universities from 11 countries are taking part in the competition. Dubai will host the first and second Solar Decathlons as part of a partnership between the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy, DEWA, and the US Department of

Energy. The second SDME will be held in 2020 to coincide with Expo 2020 Dubai.

Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, Vice Chairman of the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy and Managing Director and CEO of DEWA, urged the public to visit the 60,000 square-metre SDME site at the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park, the largest single-site solar park in the world based on the Independent Power Producer model, highlighting its significant role in Dubai's transition towards renewable and clean energy.

The park supports the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050, to provide 75 percent of the Emirate's total power output from clean energy, and establish a sustainable model to provide energy and support economic growth, as well as make Dubai the city with the lowest carbon footprint in the world by 2050.

“The first SDME has a special significance as it is being organised during the Year of Zayed 2018, which marks 100 years since the birth of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who consolidated



SDME OFFERS students a unique opportunity for learning, taking theory and putting it into practice.

the principles of sustainable development in the UAE,” he said.

“The UAE has become a hub for creativity, and a destination and incubator for innovators from all over the world, thanks to the efforts of our wise leadership, who provide an innovation-friendly environment that promotes research and development.

“This supports the National Advanced Sciences Agenda 2031 launched by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum to use advanced

sciences to develop and create solutions for future challenges.

“It is also aligned with the National Innovation Strategy to make the UAE one of the most innovative countries in the world. Hosting the world’s largest and most competitive and challenging university competition in Dubai supports our efforts to provide opportunities for the youth, who are the driving force for building a brighter future. The contest will also help students develop effective solutions and support global efforts to protect the planet from the effects of global

warming,” said Al Tayer.

SDME encourages the participating teams to design, build, and operate sustainable models of solar-powered homes, with a focus on protecting the environment, taking into consideration the climate of the region. The participating teams will compete in 10 contests: architecture; engineering and building; energy management; energy efficiency; comfort conditions; house functioning; sustainable transport; sustainability; communications, and innovation.

## Commemoration

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

Duke of York honors Sheikh Zayed at centenary event in the UK



[The Duke of York paid tribute to Sheikh Zayed for inspiring his love of the Middle East during celebration in London.](#)

**H**RH Prince Andrew Albert Edward, Duke of York, has attended a celebration organised by the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, in cooperation with the Emirates Centre for Strategic Studies and Research, to mark the centennial of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

The event saw the participation of leading decision-makers and political, diplomatic, academic and intellectual figures.

The celebration, which was attended by Mohammed Haji

Al Khouri, Director-General of the Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan Foundation, and Rawda Al Otaiba, Deputy Head of Mission at the UAE Embassy in London, is part of the participation of the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies and the Emirates Centre for Strategic Studies and Research.

The celebration was held as part of the initiative of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan announcing 2018 as the Year of Zayed, to immortalise the memory of Sheikh Zayed, who dedicated his life to serving the nation.

In his welcoming speech, Dr. Farhan Nizami, Founder and Director of the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, praised the efforts of Sheikh Zayed in founding the Federation, while adding that his perseverance and early interest in education and other issues have enabled the UAE to reach its current stature.

Sheikh Dr. Mohammed Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah, Member of the Board of Trustees of the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, praised Sheikh Zayed's support for science and his futuristic vision of the importance of



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

BRITAIN'S PRINCE Andrew reflected on his royal relationship with Sheikh Zayed at a celebration of the UAE Founding Father's life in London.

education. In his speech, Prince Andrew expressed his pleasure at participating in the celebration, while mentioning his relations with Sheikh Zayed and his role in developing British-Emirati relations.

After his speech, a short film, entitled "The Inspiring Father," was shown, which tells the story of Sheikh Zayed and his role in establishing the UAE and achieving its overall advancement.

Maqsoud Kruse, Executive Director of the Hedayah Centre, said that Sheikh Zayed was an

inspiring leader due to his national efforts to establish a culture of tolerance, multiculturalism and the acceptance of others, as well as the spirit of coexistence, peace and innovation.

He added that he hopes that the current generation will follow the same path, while pointing out that these values are not foreign to a country that has made the teaching of moral education a part of its educational curriculum.

A discussion was then held, which was led by Richard Makepeace, Former British Ambassador to the

UAE, and saw the participation of Sir Harold Walker, Ambassador of the UK to the UAE from 1981 - 1986, who spoke about the deep bilateral relations between the UK and the UAE.



## Congress

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

Experts highlight urgent need to plan for net zero cities



Under the theme, 'Targeting Zero: A Vision for Future Cities', the 7th Annual EmiratesGBC Congress presented actionable insights to be adopted within the next decade to curb carbon emissions

Regional and international experts on sustainable built environments came together at the 7th Annual Emirates Green Building Council (EmiratesGBC) Congress to discuss best practices and immediate strategies to transition to net zero cities within the coming decade to curb the damaging effects of carbon emissions.

Organised by EmiratesGBC, an independent forum aimed at conserving the environment by strengthening and promoting green building practices, the

Congress was held under the theme 'Targeting Zero: A Vision for Future Cities'. The Congress hosted several regional and international experts who agreed that the world is currently at a point of no return, and that all stakeholders, including the public, have to take bold, immediate steps to avoid the disastrous effects of climate change.

The Congress commenced with welcome addresses by Saeed Al Abbar, Chairman of EmiratesGBC, H.E. Ahmed Muhairbi, Secretary General, Dubai Supreme Council of Energy; and Eng. Hussain

Hassan Khansaheb, Director of Partnerships & Special Projects, Ministry of Climate Change and Environment.

The opening session concluded with a video message by Terri Wills, CEO, World Green Building Council, urging industry stakeholders to formally endorse and sign the Net Zero Carbon Buildings Commitment, which is a significant step aimed at generating the next wave of high momentum to cut down global greenhouse gas emissions.

During his welcome note Al Abbar,



PANEL DISCUSSIONS and keynote speeches highlighted urgency to implement sustainable built environments to stem climate change.

referenced the most recent report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which states that “the planet could pass the 1.5 degree C threshold as early as 2030, which would result in severe consequences to the planet,” if there are no concrete efforts made to tackle the current state of carbon emissions worldwide.

Al Abbar said: “The Congress this year is by far the most important one to date as we face the unprecedented challenge of securing a prosperous future for upcoming generations. We have

a small window of opportunity over the next 12 years, to make a significant change and tell our future generation that we did our best and overcame this challenge. Change is achievable if we start today. We have come a long way in the past 10 years to get to the level of awareness and commitment we have today on sustainability. I believe that with the ingenuity of human spirit, the great minds we have in our industry and the leadership of the government sector that we can rise to the challenge and deliver on our global net zero emissions targets.”

The 2018 Congress’ discussions focused on three sub-themes that were closely related to honouring and promoting the values associated with the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan as the UAE marks the Year of Zayed this year to commemorate his 100th birth anniversary. These are: Inspired Cities reflecting the Wisdom of Sheikh Zayed; Collaborative Cities focusing on the value of Respect; and Holistic Cities mirroring the value of Sustainability which caters to the needs of future generations.

The speakers at the Congress



presented and discussed strategies for promoting sustainable built environments for the cities of the future within the objectives of the Paris COP21 Climate Agreement. Through compelling presentations and case studies the Congress further highlighted the urgency to influence sustainable practices in the UAE's built environment and to help identify key industry challenges and solutions as well as catalyse innovation in green building practices to create new models that support the country's sustainability efforts in accordance with Vision 2021.

According to the IPCC report, governments around the world must take "rapid, far-reaching

and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society" to stem climate change. The Congress mirrored this message and concluded with a general agreement that actionable measures must be taken that go beyond the conversation to influence fundamental change. There was also a consensus that in addition to governments and the private sector, the public must play a more significant role for this change to take effect.

Following the Congress, EmiratesGBC aims to further develop the conversation and encourage the increased participation of the industry through its recently established Net Zero Centre of Excellence. The Centre is a think tank and

accelerator, which provides an important platform for the government, academia and the private sector to learn and share knowledge on how to advance net zero carbon buildings and push toward net zero carbon cities within the next decade.

The Congress was held for the second consecutive year under the patronage of the UAE Ministry of Climate Change & Environment. The 7th Annual EmiratesGBC Congress was a carbon-neutral event. All the emissions from power consumption, heat energy and refrigeration, among others, will be offset towards DEWA's Clean Development Mechanism Project: Chiller Station L in partnership with FARNEK.



## Tadweer rolls out awareness drive across Abu Dhabi schools, universities

As part of its sustained efforts to highlight the importance of waste reduction and segregation at source, Abu Dhabi Waste Management Center (Tadweer) has launched an awareness drive targeting students, teachers and faculty members of schools and universities across the emirate of Abu Dhabi.

The two-phase campaign seeks to raise awareness about the direct impact of waste management and reduction, recycling, public hygiene, pest control and environmental protection on public health and sustainable development. The ongoing Phase I, run in collaboration with the Department of Education and

Knowledge, involves primary schools, while Phase II will focus on public and private universities.

In Phase I, the Tadweer awareness team is visiting 118 public schools and 126 private schools across Abu Dhabi, Al Ain and Al Dhafra - 30 percent of the total number of schools in the emirate - and inviting students and teachers from neighboring schools to participate in the activities.

The agenda features lectures, video screenings and information leaflet distribution, as well as quizzes, crafts using waste paper, and waste segregation games with prizes for the best students.

Phase II will involve five higher education institutions.

Tadweer will set up awareness booths at the participating universities for five days, host video screenings and informative sessions on effective waste management practices, and coordinate with students to produce awareness videos.

As part of this phase, Tadweer will support relevant postgraduate research projects through providing the students with useful information. In collaboration with the faculty, the center will also organize field visits to waste management projects and recycling plants in Abu Dhabi, and to its pest control training centres later.

## Exhibition

44 creating green community

### 6th Korea Festival commemorates centennial of Sheikh Zayed



[To commemorate the Year of Zayed, the festival opened with a special light show in memory of the late Sheikh Zayed, Remembrance of Zayed, Lights in Consonance.](#)

The 6th Korea Festival in the UAE is celebrating 'Year of Zayed', featuring performances and exhibitions in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the founding father of the UAE.

Organised by the Ministry of Culture and Knowledge Development and the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in the UAE, the event which started on 17th October will run until 14th November at the Abu Dhabi National Theatre, with art exchange exhibitions, and

Korean traditional dance and contemporary performances.

The Festival highlights Sheikh Zayed role in strengthening the bilateral relationship between both countries.

The inauguration was attended by Park Kang-ho, Ambassador of South Korea to the UAE, Ruba Al Hassan, Advisor to the Ministry of Culture and Knowledge Development, and a number of diplomats and cultural leaders from both countries.

The 'Remembrance of Zayed,

Lights in Consonance' media show marked the opening of the Festival, showcasing the story of Sheikh Zayed and the long-standing relationship between the UAE and Korea. Side events included Korean traditional music and dance performances by the Jindo National Gugak Centre.

The Festival also includes a UAE - Korea art exhibition titled 'Year of Zayed', which will be held during the period between October 24th and November 14th at the Abu Dhabi Cultural Centre.

The exhibition showcases 32

Year of Zayed  
 UAE-Korea Art Exhibition  
 17 October - 14 November 2018

عام زايد  
 المعرض الفني لكوريا والإمارات  
 17 أكتوبر - 14 نوفمبر 2018



THE EVENT, which is seen as a symbol of the great relationship between the UAE and the Republic of Korea, has been running since 2013

artworks that pay tribute to Sheikh Zayed by Emirati and Korean artists.

H.E. PARK Kang-ho, the ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the United Arab Emirates says: "There is nothing more important than cultural exchange for us, the United Arab Emirates and Korea, to understand each other.

"And this year, I believe Korea Festival will have us remembering how much Sheikh Zayed and his legacy means to us, the people from both countries."

**DHA raises funds to build 100 wells in five countries**

Employees of the Dubai Health Authority, DHA, will help build 100 wells to provide clean drinking water to families in five countries as part of the 'Year of Zayed' programmes.

Salim bin Lahej, Director of DHA's Fund Department, said, "Through this initiative, we hope to expand on our Founding Father's philanthropic vision and to celebrate his legacy."

He added, "We have collaborated with Dar Al Ber Society and the

Islamic Affairs and Charitable Activities Department to build 100 wells in areas where communities do not have access to clean and safe water. The five countries we have selected are India, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Sudan and Senegal."

The department has started building wells in Sri Lanka and later the initiative will extend to other countries.

"Our aim is to ease their suffering by providing them with this most basic need to improve the quality of their life," Bin Lahej said.

## Celebration

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

### Nahyan bin Mubarak attends premiere of opera 'Water in the Desert: A Zayed Legacy'



Water in the Desert: A Zayed Legacy is a celebration of the late Sheikh Zayed's remarkable environmental legacy and vision for the greening of the desert.

Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance, attended the premiere of 'Water in the Desert: A Zayed Legacy', an opera that includes music, drama, movement, design and film, with a cast of two professional opera singers accompanied by over 80 talented school children from the UAE, as well as other nationalities.

Commemorating the 'Year of Zayed', it is an unforgettable celebration of the late Sheikh Zayed's remarkable environmental legacy and vision for the greening of the desert.

Based on Sheikh Zayed's vision for a green desert, his belief that water was the UAE's most valuable resource as well as the environmental and conservation programmes he led and inspired, the opera explores the fact that change and progress comes only from dedication, collaboration and hard work, and emphasises the role and responsibility of the UAE's blended current and future generations to continue to work together to treasure, protect and give back to our shared home.

The work aims to celebrate the 'Year of Zayed' and UAE heritage

and culture in an innovative and memorable manner that can be shared with the wider community; to inspire and develop children across several curriculum areas through performance and visual arts and support the evolution and development of UAE education. Key values instilled by the opera include: Tolerance and collaboration; Determination and work ethic; Sustainability and collective responsibility and Deep respect for UAE heritage and culture.

The performance, which was attended by a number of senior

# الماء في الصحراء : إرث زايد

## Water in the Desert: A Zayed Legacy

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

THE OPERA symbolises the late Sheikh Zayed's vision, thought and long-insightful journey down the path of development, progress and tolerance.

officials, as well as Arab and foreign ambassadors marked the beginning of the week-long National Tolerance Festival, launching on 9th November.

"The opera symbolises the late Sheikh Zayed's vision, thought and long-insightful journey down the path of development, progress and tolerance. The artistic work produces an exceptional experiment that combines the desert environment and the Founding Father's skillful abilities to turn desert into green, lush gardens. It also paints a magnificent work depicting

Sheikh Zayed's words and deeds in a universal language," said Sheikh Nahyan.

He stated that the National Tolerance Festival will harness performing and visual arts to heighten community awareness about the values of tolerance, peaceful co-existence and the accepting of others, regardless of their faith, race or colour.

The theatrical performance - presented in partnership with the Cranleigh Abu Dhabi School and the Ministry of Tolerance - is directed by acclaimed

director Karen Gillingham. Other participants include Hannah Conway, Composer, Music Director; Natasha Khamjani, Choreographer; Rhiannon Newman-Brown, Designer; Peter Cant, Librettist; Robert Gildon, Baritone; Natalie Montakhab, Soprano; Magali Charrier, Designer Videographer and Susan Hamilton, Producer.

Director Karen Gillingham said, "The extraordinary insight, passion and dynamism of the students has been incredibly inspiring. We feel privileged to work with them."

## Initiative

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

### ERC intensifies provision of aid to Yemen



Through its its humanitarian, relief and development efforts, the Emirates Red Crescent, ERC, is striving to answer the needs of the Yemeni people in light of their difficult humanitarian conditions.

The Emirates Red Crescent, ERC, has intensified its humanitarian, relief and development efforts in the liberated governorates and cities of Yemen, to answer the needs of the Yemeni people, in light of their difficult humanitarian conditions.

The ERC is also working to make the Yemeni youth happy and achieving their dreams of family stability, through its social initiatives.

The ERC distributed 17,000 food baskets to people in the liberated districts and cities of nine Yemeni

governorates during the first week of October 2018, which benefitted 119,000 Yemenis, including 85,000 children and 18,000 women, as part of the UAE's ongoing campaign to maintain food security and ease the humanitarian repercussions caused by the Iranian-backed Houthi militias.

Under the framework of its social initiatives, the ERC organised its seventh group wedding in the liberated Yemeni governorates that was held at Khawkhah District, which is the first in Hodeidah Governorate,

as part of a series of group wedding that benefitted 2,400 young men and women in eight Yemeni governorates, as per the directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces.

The ERC also discussed, with the Yemeni Ministry of Youth and Sports, ways of promoting sports, establishing sporting competitions, and reviving the football league in the country's liberated governorates, under the title, the "Year of Zayed Cup."



THE ERC is also working to make the Yemeni youth happy and achieving their dreams of family stability, through its social initiatives.

The ERC launched the “Jil’ah-Balhaf International Line Road Project,” which connects Shabwa, Hadramaut and Aden, after completing the maintenance of the strategic UAE-funded road.

The ERC also launched the “Al Azariq Fi A’yonena” (Al Azariq is in our eyes) campaign, which it began by inaugurating the “Al Nahda Primary and Secondary School” and distributing school supplies to students for the start of the school year.

The ERC also launched a project to distribute school bags and

supplies to several schools in the districts of Rumah and Thamud in the Hadramaut Desert to support the local education system.

The ERC inaugurated the “Al Sedeek Secondary School” in Zinjibar, after it was restored with Emirati funding, to educate the governorate’s children after a period of absence, due to the war caused by the Houthi militias.

#### **School named after Emirati Martyr**

Lt. General Abu Baker Hussein Salim, Governor of Abyan, has opened Martyr Khalid Abdullah

Mohammed Al Shehhi School in the coastal city of Shakra in the Yemeni province of Abyan, as part of ‘Year of Zayed’ projects.

The governor hailed the educational projects carried out by the Emirates Red Crescent, ERC, in Abyan, saying that the ‘7th of July School’ was renamed after the Emirati Martyr Khalid Al Shehhi. This, he added, was a gesture of appreciation and gratitude to the UAE martyrs who sacrificed their lives while helping Yemenis in liberating their country from the Iranian-backed Houthi militias.

Making a difference: The collective efforts of youth and government will drive sustainability



[His Excellency Dr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of Climate Change and Environment, says that youth in the UAE have a unique opportunity and responsibility to continue the environmental conservation efforts of their forefathers in safeguarding the UAE's natural heritage.](#)

While people of all ages share the goal of maintaining a sustainable and healthy planet, it is the youngest members of the global population who can have the longest influence and make the biggest contribution to sustainable living.

Today youth in the UAE have a unique opportunity and responsibility to continue the environmental conservation efforts of their forefathers in safeguarding the UAE's natural heritage. They are in prime position to make the most

significant contribution to sustainable living and ensure the biggest impact, as they find it easy to communicate and share their ideas while also being more receptive to change and adopting new perspectives.

As critical thinkers, change-makers and communicators, youth play a pivotal role in achieving the 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) and 169 targets set by the United Nations in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Young people today actively

champion efforts to enact change that will make the world a better place.

In the UAE, the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA) seeks to promote this trend through encouraging youth to take up green entrepreneurship.

In 2017, the Ministry launched the Climate Innovations Exchange (CLIX) that connects young entrepreneurs with investors to help implement sustainable climate change solutions. Potentially, CLIX could direct



IN THE coming years, the UAE aims to reinforce its status as an environmental pioneer and become a leader in endorsing green initiatives.

funding worth millions of dollars to green projects.

Although the UAE has some of the largest oil reserves worldwide, its leadership places great importance on setting plans and strategies to diversify the country's energy sources and increasing the use of renewable and clean energy.

The UAE has launched several remarkable initiatives at a federal and local level, including the UAE Vision 2021, the UAE Centennial 2071, and the UAE Energy Strategy 2050 that has set the

ambitious target of increasing the contribution of clean energy to the country's energy mix to 50 percent by 2050.

In the coming years, the UAE aims to reinforce its status as an environmental pioneer and become a leader in endorsing green initiatives. The launch of the World Green Economy Summit (WGES) in 2014 under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, was another step towards realizing this goal.

WGES facilitates the exchange of knowledge and highlights new technologies that can drive the growth of the green economy, including improvements in energy efficiency, energy conservation and waste reduction. The fifth edition of the event was held from October 24 to 25, 2018, in Dubai under the theme 'Driving Innovation, Leading Change'.

With comprehensive strategies, targeted initiatives, and joint projects between the public and private sector, the UAE is well on track to achieving its vision for a more sustainable future.

Conservation

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

80% of Abu Dhabi's mangroves are healthy, study shows



A new assessment finds Abu Dhabi mangrove coverage has increased by 61 per cent since 2001.

The Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD) has recently completed a detailed mapping and health assessment of mangroves in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, revealing that more than 80% of existing mangroves are healthy; while 15% were identified as being in moderate health and 5% were identified as being in deteriorating health. The deteriorating health conditions could be attributed to recent developmental activities around Abu Dhabi Island.

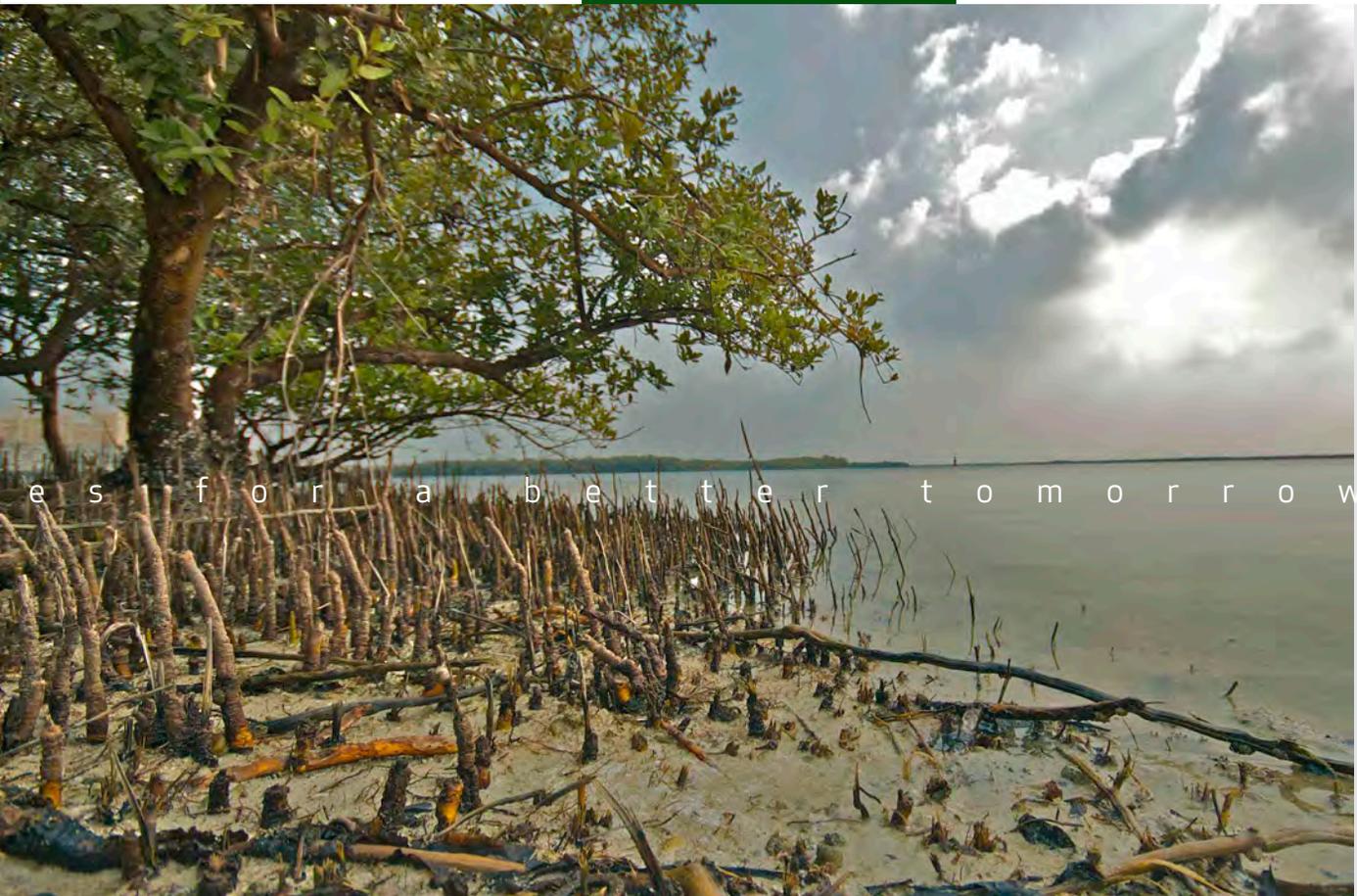
Mangroves, small trees that

grown in saline or brackish waters, are an important component of the emirate's ecosystem, with over 150 km<sup>2</sup> of natural and planted mangroves. They protect the coastlines from erosion, provide a breeding ground for various fish species, and sequester atmospheric carbon.

Mangroves are, however, susceptible to damage from offshore dredging, increase in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations, escalating global surface temperature, rising sea levels and human development in coastal areas. Changes in salinity,

pollutants, and sedimentation also have detrimental effects on the mangrove ecosystems.

As part of its assessment, EAD was able to precisely identify areas of mangroves that are being exposed to higher stress due to human intervention. This information will be used to determine and potentially mitigate the external factors that are detrimental to the health of the mangrove ecosystem. The information from the assessment will assist in EAD's remediation efforts, by selecting favourable areas to plant new mangroves



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

SINCE NOVEMBER 2009, EAD has planted 3.1 million mangrove saplings on the coasts of Al Gharbia, Saadiyat, Jubail and Habitat Island.

to compensate for those areas that have been lost due to developmental activities.

The assessment involved the extraction of information from high-resolution multispectral satellite imagery through advanced image processing techniques and extensive field verification. The spatial distribution of healthy and unhealthy areas were mapped with an accuracy of up to 90%.

EAD also mapped the changes in areas covered by mangroves from satellite images collected over

three decades. It was found that whilst there was a 26% decrease in extent from 1987 to 2001, recent successful regeneration efforts have reversed this decline, and resulted in a 61% increase from 2001 to 2017.

Dr. Shaikha Salem Al Dhaheri, Executive Director of Terrestrial and Marine Biodiversity Sector at EAD said: "The results of the assessment adds great value by providing information on the extent and health status in a rapid manner. It also helps in identifying anthropogenic and natural impacts on this sensitive habitat."

She added, "Through this assessment we were able to establish an accurate baseline of the health and extent of existing mangroves. This will allow us in better understanding the ecosystem services mangroves are providing including carbon sequestration."

Back in the late 1970s, massive mangrove plantation programmes were put in place by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. This substantially contributed to the increase of mangrove plantation over the past decades.

## Renewable Energy

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

International deployment of solar energy urged to achieve SDGs



Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, UAE, urges International Solar Alliance members to capitalize on UAE's experience in solar enterprises investment.

His Excellency Dr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, led a UAE delegation on an official visit to India to attend the First Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) in the Indian capital, New Delhi.

Co-hosted by India and France, the ISA First Assembly emphasized the importance of deploying solar energy solutions globally to achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

In his address at the event, His Excellency Dr Al Zeyoudi highlighted India's important role in forging new alliances to accelerate international deployment of solar energy. He also praised the efforts made by France in recent years to mobilize global endeavors to address the issue of climate change, and its integral role in signing the historic Paris Agreement.

His Excellency Al Zeyoudi said: "The UAE has a decade-long history in the field of renewable energy that dates back to the establishment of Masdar, our

flagship renewable energy company, in 2006. Subsequently, in 2009, the country became the host of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the first international organization dedicated to promoting renewable energy that plays a significant role in facilitating renewable energy deployment around the world."

He added: "We made the decision to invest in renewables because we believe that transitioning to renewable energy brings a wealth of benefits, including enhanced energy security, new industry

Apr 2016	of Countries and Organization Participated 39
Oct 2016	of Countries and Organization Participated 72
Sept 2017	of Countries and Organization Participated 75
Feb 2018	of Countries and Organization Participated 65



ISA AIMS to help developing countries harness 1,000 GW of solar power by 2030 through raising funds worth US\$1 trillion and providing the required technical support.

development, job creation and improved health due to reduced emissions. Today, technological advancements and public-private partnerships have greatly contributed to driving costs down, making renewables among the most viable and cost-effective energy options available. Solar energy is particularly attractive to the UAE, given the abundant land and solar resources in the country.”

On the sidelines of the ISA First Assembly, His Excellency Dr Al Zeyoudi attended multiple bilateral meetings. He explored

further opportunities for collaboration in the power sector with His Excellency Raj Kumar Singh, India’s Minister of State for Power and New and Renewable Energy. ISA was established by the Paris Declaration at the 2015 UN Climate Change Conference (COP 21) in Paris. To date, 24 countries have ratified the ISA Framework Agreement, and 44 countries have signed the document.

The UAE is one of the founding members of the alliance, with membership officially approved in February 2018. The alliance

aims to help developing countries harness 1,000 GW of solar power by 2030 through raising funds worth US\$1 trillion and providing the required technical support.



## UAE completes phase one of National Ecotourism Project



The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCAЕ) launches ecotourism microsite, app, e-book marking the completion of phase one of the National Ecotourism Project.

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCAЕ) has launched an ecotourism microsite, app and e-book, marking the completion of phase one of the National Ecotourism Project, a multi-phase initiative that seeks to position the UAE as a global ecotourism hub.

Held at Al Suwaidi Pearl Farm at Al Rams area in Ras Al Khaimah, the high-profile launch event drew the participation of Dr Saif Al Ghais, Executive Director of the Ras Al Khaimah Environmental Protection and Development Authority, Haitham Mattar, CEO

of the Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority, Saleh Mohammed Al Jaziri, Director-General of the Department of Tourism Development in Ajman, and Yousuf Lootah, Executive Director of Tourism Development and Investments, Department of Tourism and Commercial Marketing - Dubai, in addition to other dignitaries and the media.

The agenda included the screening of promotional footage of the country's protected areas as well as a presentation that explained the features of the ecotourism app in detail. Furthermore,

MOCCAЕ organized a tour of the pearl farm for government officials and travel agency representatives.

The ecotourism microsite is accessible via MOCCAЕ's portal, [www.moccae.gov.ae](http://www.moccae.gov.ae). The Ecotourism UAE app and the supporting e-book that is available for download in PDF format on the Ministry's website contain a wealth of information, images and videos related to the UAE's 43 protected areas, titled 'The UAE's Natural Wonders'. To compile the material, MOCCAЕ teams travelled across 2,700 km



THE ECOTOURISM microsite is accessible via MOCCA's portal, [www.moccae.gov.ae](http://www.moccae.gov.ae).

and shot 380 hours of footage on the ground, as well as 350 hours using drones.

In his speech, His Excellency Dr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, said: "Our country possesses all the key ingredients to become an ecotourism destination of choice. While protected areas, distributed over 130 countries as per the United Nations, constitute only five percent of the total surface of the earth, in the UAE, they make up 14 percent of the territory. Through our work at the Ministry,

the country has established a comprehensive legal framework that ensures conservation of the environment and sustainability of natural resources."

He added: "The National Ecotourism Project aspires to promote the UAE's environmental attractions to the local and international audience with the objective of establishing the UAE as one of the leading ecotourism destinations in the world within the next few years."

MOCCA launched the National Ecotourism Project in July 2018.

The Ministry will now commence phase two of the initiative that entails compiling information, images and footage related to all environmentally significant areas in the UAE to be added to the app and microsite. The phase is scheduled for completion by end-2018.



## Etihad Airways, Tadweer to turn municipal waste into jet fuel



### Entities to explore possibility of developing a long-term project with additional partners

**E**tihad Airways and Abu Dhabi Waste Management Center (Tadweer) are set to collaborate on a landmark research project to explore how municipal waste can be converted into jet fuel. Representing a major development in the adoption of sustainable fuel, one of the aims of the project would be to use the final jet fuel on Etihad Airways' flights.

Etihad and Tadweer signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at Etihad's headquarters. The MoU mandates the two entities to undertake an initial feasibility study towards

developing a flagship waste-to-fuel facility in Abu Dhabi.

Mohammad Al Bulooki, Chief Operating Officer at Etihad Aviation Group, said: "Waste-to-biofuel is a cutting-edge technology - one that Etihad Airways believes will have a profoundly positive impact on the aviation industry, while also providing waste management solutions and a cleaner environment.

"The adoption and upscaling of sustainable energy supplies is a crucial step towards reducing

Etihad Airways' dependency on fossil fuels, allowing the airline to grow sustainably and offset carbon emissions.

"This landmark agreement signed with Tadweer reflects Etihad Airways' mutual commitment to sustainability, and the airline hopes that it can bring about lasting change to the sustainable energy landscape in the UAE."

Dr Salem Al Kaabi, Acting General Manager of Tadweer, said: "The MoU aligns with our mandate to deliver highly innovative industrial and municipal waste



THE LONG-TERM production of sustainable and renewable jet fuel could allow Etihad Airways to reduce its carbon emissions by up to 90 percent.

management solutions, as well as our commitment to the National Agenda of the UAE Vision 2021 and Abu Dhabi Waste Master Plan 2040 that aims to divert 75 percent of municipal solid waste away from landfills.”

He added: “The conversion of waste into energy is one of the most promising fields of research emerging globally.”

Following the initial study, Etihad Airways and Tadweer will explore the possibility of developing a long-term project with additional partners. The project’s progress

and other carbon offset opportunities will be coordinated through a joint work committee comprising Etihad Airways and Tadweer personnel.

In addition to the environmental benefits, the project has economic advantages as well, as the cost of production could be as low as 50 percent of average international oil prices.

Therefore, the adoption of waste-to-energy is one area in which the aviation industry can reduce its carbon footprint, which currently accounts for two per cent of

global emissions.

According to recent industry estimates, the long-term production of sustainable and renewable jet fuel could allow Etihad Airways to reduce its carbon emissions by up to 90 percent.

With an estimated 700,000 tons per annum of municipal waste in Abu Dhabi that could potentially be converted into jet fuel or other energy sources, the project aims to bolster local sustainability efforts carried out by Tadweer, which is responsible



for implementing Abu Dhabi's waste management strategy and services. Other sustainable fuel projects undertaken by Tadweer include a facility that recycles cooking oil into biofuel, set to open later this year.

Etihad Airways has significant experience in this field through its work as a member of the Sustainable Bioenergy Research Consortium, which oversees a world-first initiative to produce both food and fuel in desert lands irrigated by seawater.

The project will generate biofuel from plant seeds grown using seawater and nutrients from an environmentally-friendly aquaculture system that provides a sustainable source of seafood.

### **The Sustainable City named 'Best Sustainable Development'**

The Sustainable City - the Middle East's first fully fledged sustainable development - won five top awards at the first edition of the International Property Awards - Dubai (IPAD) 2018.

The Sustainable City bettered its own track-record of winning it big at the Arabian Property Awards, having won four awards last year.

With this year's honours, it is being recognised for the third consecutive year as the 'Best Residential Development' and

'Best Residential Property', and for the second year running as 'Best Mixed-Use Development' and 'Best Public Service Development'.

Faris Saeed, CEO of Diamond Developers - the property and real estate developer behind The Sustainable City - said: "Promoting sustainable living is central to our ethos, and we have set the benchmarks in developing and managing a fully sustainable living environment that brings incredible value for our residents."



## GEMS Modern Academy joins Azraq to reduce plastic straw use in region

One hundred and seven students in Year 9 and Year 10 from GEMS Modern Academy have joined hands with local not-for-profit marine conservation organisation, Azraq (Arabic for “Blue”) to reduce the number of plastic straws used in the region.

The move comes after the announcement of the #stopsucking campaign launched by Freedom Pizza in mid-February in conjunction with Azraq, to challenge outlets to follow in their footsteps and remove the plastic straw from their orders. Since then, over 25 outlets including Jumeriah Restaurant Group and Gates Hospitality have taken action to reduce or remove plastic straws

and in most cases additional single use plastic items like cutlery from their restaurants, cafes and hotels.

The 107 students from GEMS Modern Academy have already started taking action, hitting outlets within Dubai Mall resulting in seven outlets signing on to their #reduceplasticstraw campaign, which includes Chillis Dubai Mall, Joe’s Crab Shack Dubai Mall, Barbeque Nation Karama, Daily Restaurant Karama, Peshwa Restaurant, Sthan and Jaffer Bhai’s Karama. The action took place after Azraq was invited to the school to discuss the success achieved to date and how best to get food outlets to reconsider the use of plastic straws.

Natalie Banks, Managing Director of Azraq stated that The World Economic Forum has warned if action is not taken, there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish by 2050. “Plastic straws end up in the ocean primarily through human error and an estimated 71% of seabirds and 30% of turtles have been found with plastics in their stomachs,” she said.

“It is fantastic to see young adults taking action in an attempt to reverse some of the damages already created by single use plastic on our marine and urban environment,” she added. *More information regarding the initiative can be found at: <https://azraqme.org/marine-debris/#stop-sucking>*

New report outlines air pollution measures that can save millions of lives



The report is a collaboration between the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment), the Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership (APCAP), and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), and was launched at WHO's first Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health.

Millions of lives could be saved and one billion people living in Asia could be breathing clean air by 2030 if 25 simple and cost-effective measures are implemented, according to a new UN report. Currently, about 4 billion people – 92 per cent of Asia and the Pacific's population – are exposed to levels of air pollution that pose a significant risk to their health.

The report, *Air Pollution in Asia and the Pacific: Science-based Solutions*, is the first comprehensive scientific assessment of the air pollution

outlook in Asia and the Pacific. It details 25 policy and technological measures that will deliver benefits across sectors.

According to the report, effectively implementing the 25 measures would result in a 20% reduction in carbon dioxide and a 45% reduction in methane emissions, preventing up to a third of a degree Celsius in global warming. Resulting reductions in ground-level ozone would reduce crop losses by 45% for maize, rice, soy and wheat combined.

Approximately 7 million people

worldwide die prematurely each year from air pollution related diseases, with about 4 million of these deaths occurring in Asia-Pacific. The reductions in outdoor air pollution from the 25 measures could reduce premature mortality in the region by one third, and help avoid about 2 million premature deaths from indoor air pollution.

Erik Solheim, head of UN Environment, said: "It is an unfortunate fact that breathing clean air has become a luxury in many parts of the world. Implementing these air quality



THE CLEAN air measures must be tailored, prioritized and implemented according to national conditions in the countries of Asia-Pacific.

measures is not only good for health and the environment, it can also boost innovation, job creation and economic growth.”

Implementing the 25 measures is projected to cost US\$300–600 billion per year, only about 5% of the projected annual GDP increase of US\$12 trillion. In addition to delivering substantial benefits to human health, food production, environmental protection and climate change mitigation, a basket of co-benefits will accrue, including savings on pollution control. The analysis takes the region’s

considerable diversity into account and groups the selected measures into three categories:

- Conventional emission controls focusing on emissions that lead to the formation of fine particulate matter (PM2.5). This includes activities like: increased emissions standards and controls on vehicles, power plants, and large- and small-scale industry.
- Further (next-stage) air-quality measures for reducing emissions that lead to the formation of PM2.5. This includes activities

like: Reducing the burning of agricultural and municipal solid waste, preventing forest and peatland fires, and proper management of livestock manure.

- Measures contributing to development priority goals with benefits for air quality. This includes activities like: providing clean energy for households, improving public transport and promoting the use of electric vehicles, using renewable energy for electricity generation, and working with oil and gas companies to stop flaring and reduce methane leaks.



## Re-thinking production to boost circular economies

**R**e-thinking how we manufacture industrial products and deal with them at the end of their useful life could provide breakthrough environmental, social and economic benefits, according to new research from the International Resource Panel.

If products were re-manufactured, comprehensively re-furbished, repaired and directly re-used, the amount of new material needed could be significantly reduced – by 80-98 per cent for re-manufacturing, 82-99 per cent for comprehensive refurbishing, and 94-99 per cent for repair.

The report released at the World Circular Economy Forum

in October called Re-defining Value – The Manufacturing Revolution. Remanufacturing, Refurbishment, Repair and Direct Reuse in the Circular Economy, says the adoption of these “value-retention processes” could also reduce greenhouse gas emissions in some sectors by 79 to 99 per cent.

These sectors examined in the report are automotive parts, heavy-duty offload machinery and industrial printing equipment.

Today, two-thirds of us live in cities, draining nature of materials to build homes, schools, hospitals, roads, transport systems and factories. Urbanization, together with

a growing middle-class, has increased demand for consumer goods. In the 20th century, we dug up, chopped down, drilled for or harvested 34 times more construction materials, 27 times more ore and minerals, 12 times more fossil fuels and 3.6 times more biomass than in the years before.

By adopting value-retention processes, governments would have less waste to deal with, generate green jobs, and stimulate economic growth; industry could lower production cost, avoid resource constraints on business growth, and open new market segments; and customers could benefit from lower prices for refurbished products.



## Upward trend for migratory waterbirds

**B**ucking a major general trend, the overall status of waterbird populations listed on the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) has slightly improved and numbers have increased over the last ten years, says a new report.

The findings were released ahead of World Migratory Bird Day in October 2018, an annual, UN-backed global awareness-raising and environmental education campaign focused on migratory birds and the need for international cooperation to conserve them.

The 7th Edition of the AEWA Conservation Status Review of Migratory Waterbirds in the Agreement Area (CSR7) provides

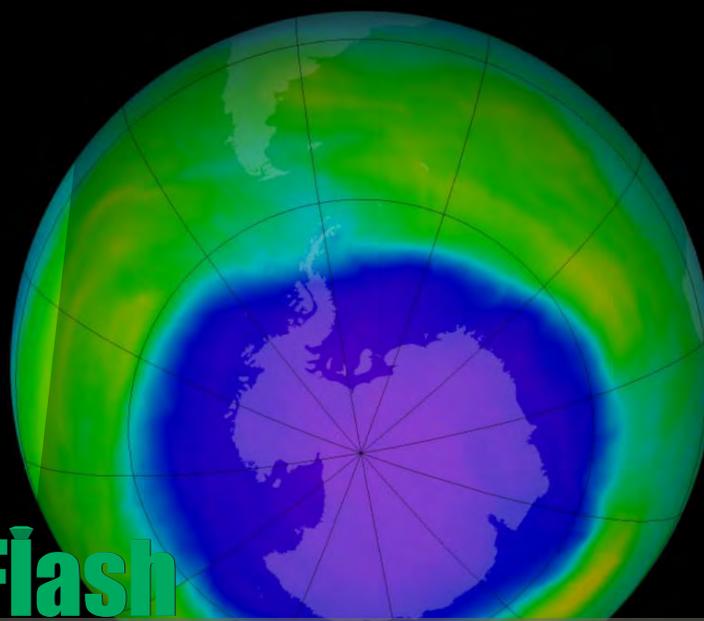
a long-term view of the changing status of migratory waterbird populations listed under AEWA.

The upward trend assessed in the report is due to targeted conservation measures along the birds' migration routes across countries and even continents. AEWA Member States have been implementing special action plans for the most threatened bird species to reduce key threats to their long-term survival.

The Agreement protects nearly half a billion waterbirds and seabirds across the African-Eurasian Flyway. Currently more than 60 per cent of populations of the species covered by AEWA are stable or increasing. Pelicans, cormorants, avocets and stilts,

flamingos and storks are the waterbird families with the highest proportion of increasing populations. However, crane and auk numbers are in strong decline. And the highest proportion of populations on the Endangered IUCN Red List are in Eastern and Southern Africa.

While AEWA could succeed in helping waterbirds recover, some birds that used to be widespread are getting increasingly threatened. Farmland birds and seabirds face major risks. Habitat loss and intensive agricultural practices are affecting farmland species. Pollution including oil spills, contaminants, incidental capture in fishing gear and habitat destruction are seriously affecting seabirds.



# Green Flash



## **Gradual Healing of the Ozone Layer and a ray of hope to combat Global Warming**

Last year, the USA alone spent more than \$300 billion to clean up the aftermath of 16 major weather and climate events which included one drought, two floods, one freeze event, eight severe storms, three tropical cyclones, and one wildfire. During the period 1950-2005, the loss of human lives was estimated at 1.7 million, while economic loss was around 1.7 trillion dollars.

This year, natural disasters have been devastating different regions of the world at an alarming rate. Almost every month we see earthquakes demolishing whole cities, wildfires burning vast areas of forest, and cyclones causing overwhelming floods, violent rains and massive property damage. Since the beginning of 2018, the USA experienced at least three major floods in California, Nevada & Washington State in addition to storms, hurricanes and forest fires. Floods struck 7 African countries plus Australia and Sri Lanka. On the other hand, cold waves swept over the coasts and inland of North America and Western Europe.

In July, heavy rain and landslides in Japan killed 81 people and many remained missing after rescuing 2000 people from flooded river banks. A further 2 million people were evacuated from several districts in expectation of landslides. A heat wave in Quebec, Canada, killed at least 57 people in one week due to lack of air conditioning facilities in homes, while mid & eastern Canada went through very difficult weather conditions. Most of the victims are the old and sick, especially those living in poor conditions.

Recently on October 9th, flash floods and mudslides struck 5 central American countries killing 11 people. Earthquakes and volcanoes struck Japan, the Philippines, Indonesia, Guatemala, Hawaii and Iceland.

Moreover, these disasters may cause damage to sensitive installations such as oil fields, chemical plants, sewage treatment plants or even nuclear power plants that can release harmful pollutants. This pollution will cause more damage and even further global warming and instability in the atmosphere that lead to more disasters. Also, a recent study found that heavy rains and floods can cause earthquakes and volcanoes as the water penetrates deep into earth cracks. Earthquakes and volcanoes, in turn, can lead to destructive tsunamis which can cause even more flooding and damage. Hence, the planet can get trapped in a vicious cycle of disasters leading to more disasters.

The impact of natural disasters is merciless and immeasurable. High death tolls and property damage leave civilians in grief and inevitably cause political, social, and economic instability, amplifying the tragedy.

The spiraling number and severity of natural disasters are directly related to global warming. This is clearly indicated by the higher temperatures of the Earth's surface and atmosphere recorded every month in the last 20 years, associated with ever increasing rates and severity of devastating hurricanes and tropical storms.

Some natural disasters way back in history almost ended life on Earth. This is why it is vitally important to keep an eye on natural disasters and to consider the important environmental factors causing them.

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**Zayed International Prize for the Environment**



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