

JUNE 2016

Society & Environment

A monthly publication issued by Zayed International Foundation for the Environment



إكسبو 2020
دبي، الإمارات العربية المتحدة
DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



Issue 160

creating green communities for a better tomorrow



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in spotlight at UNEA-2

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Prof. Mohammed bin Fahad
Executive Editor

Today, collaborative learning models to share innovative, adaptable and cost-efficient solutions to address development challenges have become the norm. The South-South Cooperation is an excellent showcase of the increasing collaboration and partnership among countries from the South, interested in sharing their development experiences and learn from each other. By investing in such partnerships, developing nations can play a key role in helping accelerate the achievement of global and national development goals, in particular the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Zayed International Foundation for the Environment's hosting of the upcoming 2016 Global South-South Development Expo in October reaffirms the leading role taken by the UAE in creating opportunities for strengthening and widening partnerships through South-South and Triangular Cooperation to facilitate and achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs.

Held under the theme, "South-South Cooperation: Towards an innovative Synergy for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", this high profile global event exemplifies the UAE Vision 2021 and will also be an excellent opportunity to highlight the success the UAE has achieved in the field of sustainable development whilst scaling up concrete southern-grown initiatives to help achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda.

The advances the UAE has made since it steered its course towards Green Economy and to achieve green objectives and economic growth simultaneously, is a perfect example of what is possible when sustainability is placed at the heart of the development agenda.

By learning what the UAE has to offer and entering into collaborative partnerships can, I believe, contribute to a global paradigm shift and a transformative agenda. It will pave the way forward for innovative responses to socio-economic- environmental challenges ranging from poverty and education to climate change, post-conflict and reconstruction.

Partnerships in areas such as capacity-building and technical assistance can be strengthened to address global and regional challenges. By hosting the GSSD Expo, the UAE seeks to present its advances in knowledge, innovation and creativity, to guide countries around the world towards a promising, sustainable future.

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From the Managing Editor



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

It was a great pleasure and even more an honor for me to be invited to address the 19th session of the High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation held at the UN headquarters in New York where, as Secretary General of the Zayed International Prize for the Environment, I had the privilege of delivering the UAE's statement at this high-profile event.

As the representative of the Zayed Foundation, I had the opportunity to draw the attention of the UN delegates and partners from around the world to the sustainable vision and foresight of our founder and patron, HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai and the environmental

legacy of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, whose name the Prize bears.

The UN platform served as the fitting opportunity to highlight the achievements of the Zayed Foundation, particularly its success in consolidating partnerships, resource and support needs to position the issue of environmental sustainability with key strategic bodies, and champion environmental best practices.

I also highlighted how the Zayed Foundation had established the groundwork for South-South Cooperation through its prestigious award - the Zayed International Prize for the Environment - which recognizes the efforts made by scientists, institutions, and environmental advocates to promote sustainable development.

Bilateral meetings were also held with UN Agency Focal Points to discuss the hosting of the annual Global South-South Development Expo by the Zayed Foundation on behalf of the Government of the UAE. The achievements of the Zayed Foundation in rising to the challenges of sustainable development were also touched upon.

This message was taken forward at UNEA-2 in Nairobi where again the broad and expansive agenda of the Zayed Foundation was communicated and shared through social media platforms like Twitter, YouTube, UN websites and a host of international television channels. On this occasion when we are reaping the dividends of our work in setting new milestones for sustainability, I would like to wish you all a happy World Environment Day!

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creating green communities

Sustainable vision of Zayed Foundation in spotlight at UNEA-2



The Zayed Foundation's clarion call for international concerted efforts to tackle global environmental challenges was disseminated globally through #UNEA2 on Twitter, UNEA2 Voices on YouTube and a host of international television channels.

In the presence of representatives from 174 countries, and over 2,500 delegates representing countries, international organizations, civil society and other major groups, the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment carried forward the sustainable vision of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, at the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-2) that was held at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, from May 23rd to 27th.

At what is truly the world's "Environment Assembly", heads of states, environmental experts and other high level dignitaries at UNEA-2 learnt how the environmental legacy of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, whose name the Foundation bears, coupled with the vision and foresight of its patron and founder have propelled the Zayed International Prize for the Environment to become a torchbearer of sustainable development and gain an international stature as the world's foremost environmental award. The Assembly, which represents

the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment, heard how by developing on a continuous plan and with international expertise the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment has spared no effort in promoting sustainable development locally, regionally and at the global level.

At this international gathering of the UN family, Zayed Foundation also garnered a strong online presence as it took its message of sustainable development and environmental awareness to a global platform on social media.



The Zayed Foundation has been taking an active part in some of the foremost global environmental forums as part of its overall efforts to promote healthy and sustainable environment.

Its emphasis on advancing the environmental cause and bringing it to the attention of both policy makers and the public and its clarion call for international concerted efforts to tackle global environmental challenges reached the next generation of development practitioners, entrepreneurs, environmentalists, thinkers and leaders through #UNEA2 on Twitter, UNEA2 Voices on YouTube and a host of international television channels.

The Zayed International Foundation for the Environment delegation to UNEA was headed

by Prof. Dr. Mohammed Ahmed bin Fahad, Chairman of the Higher Committee of the Zayed Foundation, who was prominently featured on the UNEA website as an environmental leader and participant at the event.

Supporting him in the efforts to promote the activities of the Zayed Foundation were Dr. Meshgan Al Awar, Secretary General of Zayed International Prize for the Environment; AseelaAbdullah Al-Mualla, Member of the Higher Committee of the Zayed Foundation; FahadJasim Al Ghass, Director

of Public Relations & Marketing, Zayed Foundation and Dr. Eisa M. Abdellatif, Chief Technical Advisor of Zayed Foundation.

The Zayed Foundation has been taking an active part in some of the foremost global environmental forums as part of its overall efforts to promote healthy and sustainable environment. Accordingly, it participated in the Sustainable Innovation Expo on South-South Cooperation, entitled "Achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through Innovative South-South Cooperation",



The UAE, represented by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, participated in the second session of UNEA-2. The delegation was headed by H.E. Dr. Thani Bin Ahmed Alzeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment.

organized during UNEA2 with the aim to, inter alia, reflect on the innovative opportunities to reduce the environmental challenges, and create a vital and dynamic sustained green growth, in particular, in the use and consumption of the earth's resources.

In her address on 23rd May to the UN member states at the event, Dr. Meshgan Al Awar, Secretary General of Zayed International Prize for the Environment, emphasized the significant role of the Sustainable Innovation Expo as an international platform which will pave the way towards strengthening and widening partnerships through South-South Cooperation to facilitate the achievement of the

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Dr. Meshgan said: "Zayed International Foundation for the Environment has established the groundwork for South-South cooperation, through its prestigious award which recognizes the efforts made by scientists, institutions, and environmental advocates to promote sustainable development."

"In keeping with the strategic objectives of the National Innovation Strategy of the UAE that was launched by HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai in 2014, and in

line with his vision to respond effectively to the aspirations of young people, the Zayed Foundation launched a new category of its Award - titled 'The Young Scientists Award for Environmental Sustainability'- which will be presented for the first time in its seventh cycle this year," she said.

The new category gives an impetus to both youth and innovation; she said, as it recognizes, rewards and promotes pioneering contributions of talented young scientists worldwide for their research in Environmental Sciences and Green Technology that have contributed significantly to Environmental Integrity and Sustainable Development.

UNEA-2 was held under the theme “Delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” and was attended by representatives of more than 193 UN member countries.



“The South-South Cooperation Expo will provide inputs to the preparation of the Global South-South Development Expo (GSSD Expo) 2016 that will be hosted by the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, on behalf of the Government of the United Arab Emirates, from 30 October to 3 November 2016 in Dubai, under the overarching theme “South-South Cooperation: Towards an innovative Synergy for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

South-South Cooperation which evolved to support developing countries meet their growth potential as an important dimension of international cooperation in areas such as capacity-building, technical

assistance, knowledge exchange and practices,” she added.

Dr. Meshgan also shed light on the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment’s promising activities especially, the launch of the first edition of the newsletter which will be published monthly highlighting the Foundation’s initiatives and projects which support national and international efforts to achieve sustainable development, as well as the launch of the smart apps and Environmental Game Center.

From combating poverty in 91 countries to advancing sustainable development through various environmental initiatives, the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment

continues to give a shape to its vision of an integrated environmental management and human welfare, she added.

The Foundation will also launch in 2016 the Green Economy textbook, which is the fruit of a combined effort and exceptional collaboration between Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, United Nations Environment Programme, other UN agencies, and worldwide well-known universities, and research centers.

The text book is directed towards post graduate students at the global level but also appeal to decisions-makers, and other stakeholders, as the main concept is to explain the Green Economy



At UNEA-2, Zayed Foundation took its message of sustainable development and environmental awareness to a global platform on social media through #UNEA2 on Twitter, UNEA2 Voices on YouTube and interviews to international TV channels.



UNEA2 Voices



UNEA2 - Video Day 1
UNEP
136 views



UNEP-Philips Solar Soccer Cup
UNEP
14 views



UNEA2 in the words of Dr. Meshgan Al...
UNEP
72 views



TWEETS 12K FOLLOWING 1,350 FOLLOWERS 6,726 UNEA2 174 LISTS 3



UNEP Arabic / UNEP_ARABIC / May 23

Dr. Meshkan Announces Emirates to host the exhibition for South - South cooperation for the first time to host a UN Member State
#UNEA2



From combating poverty in 91 countries to advancing sustainable development, the Zayed Foundation continues to give a shape to its vision of an integrated environmental management and human welfare.



theory that relies on sustainable use of the natural capital and on adopting clean technology innovative approaches.

Panel Discussion

On 23rd May, Dr. Meshgan Al Awar participated in a panel discussion that highlighted the opportunities for countries to mobilize resources from South-South and Triangular Cooperation partnerships to address common needs and challenges to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. The other participants on the panel discussion included H.E. Anote Tong, Former President, Republic of Kiribati; Mr. Jorge Chediek, UN Special Envoy on South-South Cooperation and Director, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation;

Ms. Zhang Jieqing, Deputy Director-General, China-ASEAN Centre, Ministry of Environment Protection, China; and Mr. George Mwenda, Deputy Manager, Consultancy R & D and Centre of Excellence, Geothermal Development Company. The discussion was moderated by Dr. Desta Mebratu, Deputy Director, Regional Office for Africa, UNEP.

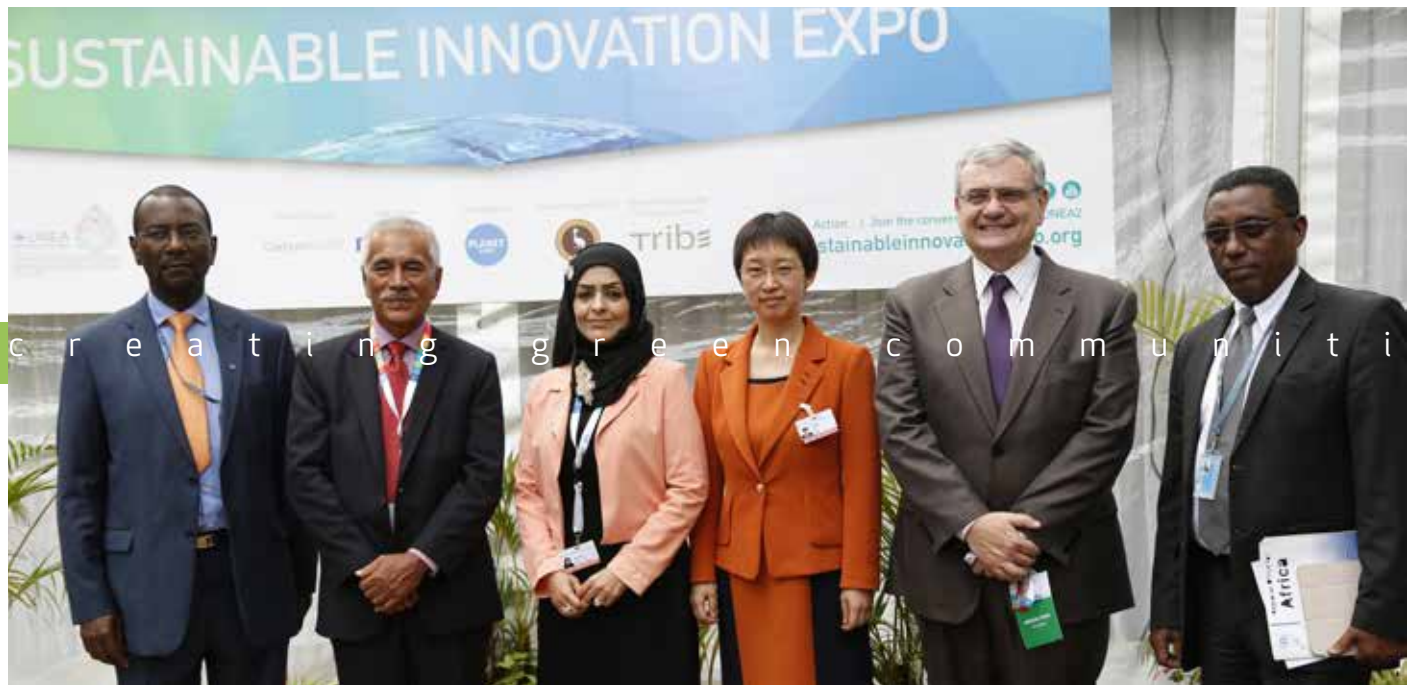
The panel discussion provided examples of and showcased how South-South and Triangular Cooperation partnerships have been used in areas such as enhancing ecosystem management in the context of climate change, promoting resource efficiency, sustainable consumption and production, accelerating and scaling-up of

the development/utilization of renewable energy and how these can be strengthened and/or up-scaled to support the 2030 Agenda and SDGs.

Multi-stakeholder Dialogue

Prof. Dr. Mohammed Ahmed bin Fahad, Chairman of the Higher Committee of the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment was invited to engage with the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue (MSD) during the High-level Segment of UNEA 2 on May 27, during the Second Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

The main theme of the MSD of UNEA-2 was 'Restoring and Sustaining Healthy Ecosystems for People and Planet:



Partnerships to jointly deliver on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda' and the role of multi-stakeholder partnerships in achieving this.

The main objective of the multi-stakeholder dialogue was to provide an opportunity to Member States, Major Groups and other stakeholders to discuss how multi-stakeholder partnerships for restoring and sustaining health ecosystems can contribute to successfully deliver on the environmental dimension of the 2030 agenda and the role of UNEA in catalyzing such partnerships.

The examples and success stories presented by participants demonstrated the potential of

partnerships for restoring and sustaining healthy ecosystems, with the view of identifying a leading role of UNEP and UNEA.

Through its participation in various events on the sidelines of the Assembly, the Zayed Foundation's delegation highlighted the international recognition given to Zayed Prize as one of the most important contributions of the United Arab Emirates towards global efforts to promote sustainable development.

They also presented the various events, activities, environmental initiatives and projects launched by the Zayed Foundation over the years. The delegation also emphasised Zayed Foundation's

role in promoting a culture of environmental awareness that is in line with the UAE's national strategy to educate, raise environmental awareness and promote positive environmental behavior among the public as it strives to meet the environmental objectives and targets of UAE Vision 2021 and the Green Development Strategy.





‘UAE will continue to support international efforts in confronting global environmental challenges’

The UAE, represented by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, participated in the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA -2) held in Nairobi, Kenya from May 23 to 27, 2016.

The UAE's delegation was headed by H.E. Dr. Thani Bin Ahmed Alzeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, who emphasized that the country's participation stems from its support of international concerted efforts that aim to tackle global environmental challenges.

Dr. Alzeyoudi said that the UAE's participation aims at continuing the accomplishments of the last quarter of 2015 after the adoption

of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Climate Change agreement. He stressed the importance of a joined global cooperation to attain the desired results for a better future and a more sustainable world.

“By taking part in these meetings, the UAE demonstrates its keenness in strengthening its relationship with the various UN entities and in exchanging experiences with other nations with regards to global environmental concerns. These include the green economy, financing, illegal trade, the blue economy and the Montreal protocol,” H.E. Dr. Alzeyoudi said.

The timing of this assembly is considered crucial since it is the

first main assembly after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Climate Change agreement. During the meetings, attendees agreed on a collective vision towards the future through the adoption of environmental policies related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Through its participation in various events on the sidelines of the assembly, the UAE's delegation presented the environmental initiatives and projects that were recently launched in the country as well as the green development legislations and policies, best practices for green buildings, trash management and development projects based on innovation and research.

Cover Story

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Zayed Foundation takes centrestage at UN event in New York



Mr. Jorge Chediek, UN Special Envoy on South-South Cooperation and Director, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation with Dr. Meshgan Mohammed Al Awar, Secretary General of the Zayed International Prize for the Environment.

The Zayed International Foundation for the Environment was in the spotlight at the recently concluded 19th session of the High-Level Committee on South South Cooperation for hosting the forthcoming Global South-South Development Expo2016 in Dubai.

As host of the eighth annual Global South-South Development Expo (GSSD Expo) to be held from October 30 to November 3, 2016 in Dubai, the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment was in the spotlight at the recently concluded 19th session of the High-Level Committee on South South Cooperation held at the UN headquarters in New York.

The invitation to attend the High-Level Committee session, held from May 16 to 19, 2016 came close on the heels of the announcement by the Zayed

Foundation to host the annual Global South-South Development Expo on behalf of the Government of the UAE.

Dr. Meshgan Mohammed Al Awar, Secretary General of the Zayed International Prize for the Environment, represented the Zayed Foundation at the event in New York where she used the UN platform to draw the attention of the heads of states, representatives of the UN agencies from around the world, environmental experts and visiting dignitaries to the achievements of the Zayed Foundation in the realms

of environmental awareness and sustainable development.

She stated that the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment continues to give shape to its vision of an integrated environmental management and human welfare, and that its work had helped combat poverty in 91 countries and advanced sustainable development through various environmental initiatives.

Dr. Meshgan announced that the 2016 Global South-South Development Expo would be the first expo to be hosted by a



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

The 2016 Global South-South Development Expo will be the first expo to be hosted by a country - until now they have been hosted only by UN entities.

country, as they have been until now hosted only by UN entities.

“The expo will run under the theme ‘South-South Cooperation: Towards innovation and roadmap for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’, and will aim to engage all development sectors, including the private sector and civil society, to scale up concrete southern-grown initiatives to help achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” pointed out Dr. Meshgan in her address to the UN. “It will address eight main themes in relation to sustainable

development: poverty eradication, food security, public private partnerships, green technology transfer, economic growth, industrial innovation, green economies, and global health.”

Dr. Meshgan said: “Zayed International Foundation for the Environment has established the groundwork for south-south cooperation, through its prestigious award which recognizes the efforts made by scientists, institutions, and environmental advocates to promote sustainable development”. Further highlighting

the importance of the event, Dr. Meshgan said, “The South South Expo is not to be seen as a mere conference; it exemplifies the UAE Vision 2021 wherein the Government wants to ensure sustainable development while preserving the environment, and to achieve a perfect balance between economic and social development.”

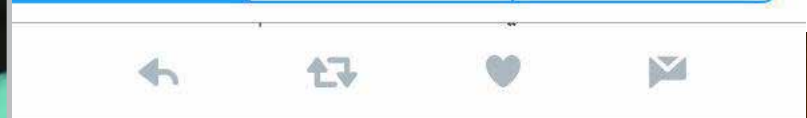
She added, “Without leadership there can be no sustainable development. Our events since our inception in 1999 work on establishing the principle of wise leadership to achieve sustainable development.”



UAE Mission to UN @UAEMissi... 44m
Dr. Meshgan Al Awar SG of #ZIFE briefs & presents a souvenir to the team @UAEMissionToUN



Tweets Media Likes



 **UAE Mission to UN @UAEMission...** 2h
Dr. Meshgan Al Awar SG of #ZIFE delivers #UAE's statement at HLC on South-South Cooperation



MoCCAE and 3 others



At the High-Level Committee on South South Cooperation held in New York, Dr. Meshgan Al Awar had the opportunity to pursue consultative meetings with the Permanent Missions to the United Nations and with the representatives of the UN agencies, funds and programmes.



The South South Expo exemplifies the UAE Vision 2021 wherein the Government wants to ensure sustainable development while preserving the environment and to achieve a balance between economic and social development.”



Dr. Meshgan Mohammed Al Awar held bilateral meetings with UN Agency Focal Points to discuss the hosting of the annual Global South-South Development Expo by the Zayed Foundation on behalf of the Government of the UAE.

Dr. Meshgan also highlighted the important leadership role that the UAE has played over the years in promoting and supporting South South Cooperation and the Sustainable Development agenda globally. “The UAE is also a model of tolerance and of how different cultures and religion could work together. These are the values enshrined in the UN and hence, there could be no better place than the UAE to host the event,” she pointed out.

Dr. Meshgan Mohammed Al Awar also had the opportunity to pursue consultative meetings with the Permanent Missions to the United Nations and with the representatives of the UN agencies, funds and programmes during the four-day event.

On 16th May, she held talks with Ms. Erika Joergensen, Director, World Food Programme to mobilise support for the forthcoming South South Expo and discussed ways that the food and agriculture sector, one of the main sectors of the SDGs, could offer key solutions for development.

On May 17, Dr. Meshgan held individual discussions with Ms. Grace Wang, Policy Adviser, South-South Cooperation Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, New York; Mr. Marcelo de Pietro Peralta, Deputy Director at World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO); and Ms. Katrin Taylor, South-South Cooperation Officer at Food and Agriculture Organization.

Dr. Meshgan Al Awar also participated in the UN Agency Focal Points Meeting where she highlighted how through its partnerships and collaboration with UN agencies and international environmental institutions, the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment has earned a prominent position in the global environment arena. “The Zayed Foundation’s role in promoting a culture of environmental awareness has been strengthened over the years due to its long standing collaboration and partnerships with The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO),” she said.

Biodiversity

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

UAE celebrates World Biodiversity Day



Biodiversity underpins peoples' livelihoods and sustainable development in all areas of activity, including economic sectors such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism, among others.

The United Arab Emirates joined countries from around the world in celebrating the World Biodiversity Day held on 22nd May under the theme: "Mainstreaming biodiversity, sustaining people and their livelihoods".

On this occasion, Dr. Thani Alzeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, said that biodiversity is the foundation for life and for the essential services provided by ecosystems. It therefore underpins peoples' livelihoods and sustainable development

in all areas of activity, including economic sectors such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism, among others. By halting biodiversity loss, we are investing in people, their lives and their wellbeing.

Dr. Alzeyoudi added that the UAE is continuing its efforts in maintaining biodiversity in its various forms as this is part of the national legacy started by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may he rest in peace, and continued by His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, president of the UAE. It is also in

line with the UAE's vision 2021 and the national and local policies and strategies such as: the national strategy for biodiversity, the national strategy to combat desertification and the national strategy for marine and coastal environment sustainability.

These strategies focus on rehabilitating damaged sea and land ecosystems and to limit the pressures that the sensitive ecosystems are exposed to especially those that are considered the habitat of endangered plant and animal species. The strategies also aim



Biodiversity is the foundation for life and for the essential services provided by ecosystems.

at spreading awareness regarding the value and importance of biodiversity and ecosystems and their important role in sustaining livelihoods and better levels of social and economical welfare.

Adopting a green economy based on the UAE's green development strategies is considered an important addition to our efforts in this area. The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment has taken several steps to protect biodiversity and ecosystems, all based on the latest technologies and the development of fisheries, led by the Sheikh Khalifa Marine

Research Centre. Alzeyoudi said that the ministry has also supported investment opportunities and partnerships between the public and private sectors in this area such as the ministry's hosting of the Aqua Middle East Conference and Exhibition in Dubai last March.

Alzeyoudi also said that the Blue Carbon project, that the ministry carried out in collaboration with the Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative, aims at boosting the country's capability at achieving the objectives of the global treaty

for biodiversity and the national objectives that are linked to the country's strategies.

Through the agricultural innovation centre, the ministry is working on scientific research studies to develop the sector and boosts its role in biodiversity and food security as well as its ability to adapt to climate changes.

Internationally, the UAE continues its efforts in combating the illegal trade of species in collaboration with relevant international organizations and in developing the mechanisms of information



exchange. In addition, the UAE joined the treaty for the conservation of migratory birds of prey, which boosts its role on both a regional and international level, especially since, from a geographical perspective, the UAE has 138 migrant animals which are included in the first and second sections of the treaty. The UAE has also joined the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems, which allows the country to benefit from international expertise.

Alzeyoudi also emphasised that the country will continue to build on this achievements in the field of biodiversity in order to maintain its global position in this sector.

\$5.8 million grant for rescuing endangered dugongs

The Mohamed Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund (MBZ Fund) has announced the launch of US\$5.8 million (AED21.30 million) grant to save the endangered dugong and its seagrass ecosystems across the Indian and the Pacific Oceans.

The programme will implement 38 projects in Indonesia, East Timor, The Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Madagascar, Mozambique, and Vanuatu.

As part of its initiative, the MBZ Fund also announced that it would be partnering with students from Zayed University and 16 other international universities to help raise

awareness on the subject.

The announcement was made at the Global Communication Conference, and coincided with International Day for Biological Diversity.

Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak, managing director of the MBZ Fund, said, "The presence of dugong and seagrass in a marine ecosystem is a good indication that the ecosystem is healthy.

"Working with Zayed University students and their counterparts from different universities across the world gives the Fund the opportunity to tap into the insights of a digitally connected and environmentally aware generation."



UAE to boost ties with Russian energy, environment, water and green-building businesses

A high-level delegation from Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA), headed by Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, MD & CEO of DEWA, visited Russia recently to promote opportunities for joint cooperation with electricity, water, environment, renewable and clean energy businesses.

During the visit, Al Tayer delivered a seminar on business opportunities for water, clean energy and environmentally-sustainable services in Dubai. "Through the UAE Vision 2021, we aim to become one of the best countries in the world by 2021," he said while speaking at the seminar. "This in turn, strengthens the UAE's global competitiveness, especially in renewable energy,

and green economy technologies and products. Dubai has a comprehensive vision for a sustainable future which is pivotal to the success of building a green economy.

"In the past decade, Dubai Government has spearheaded a host of eco-operations, all of which aim to further integrate green economy policies into the Emirate's development process."

"In line with the Dubai Plan 2021, and the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050, we aim to be a global role model by supporting Dubai's economic growth having secured energy supply, using energy efficiently and meeting our environmental and sustainability goals, to transform Dubai into

global centre for clean energy and green economy," Al Tayer said.

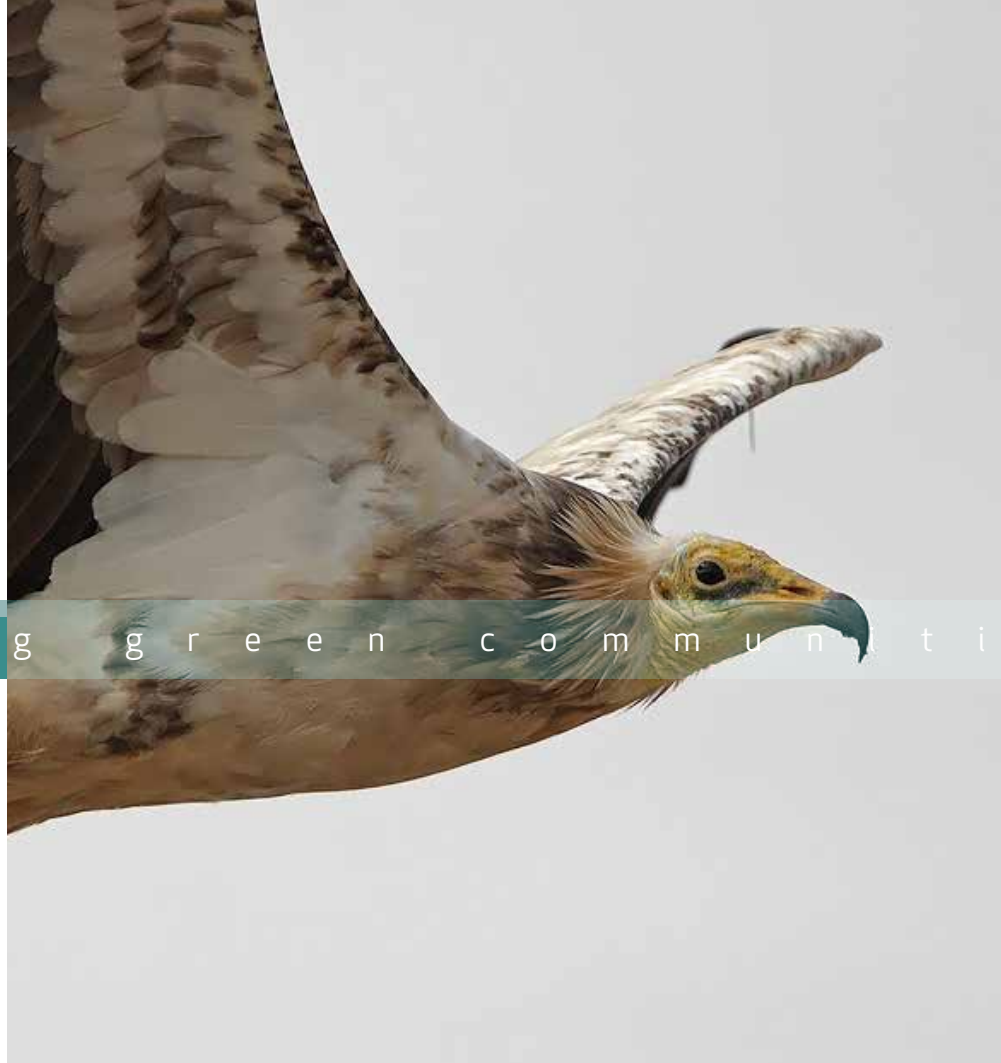
DEWA invited Russian companies to participate at WETEX 2016 and inaugural edition of Dubai Solar Show to be held as part of the third Green Week.

While in Russia, Al Tayer conducted a series of meetings with a group of officials including Vladimir Limin, CEO of the Russian Green Building Council; Magamed-Salam Umakhanov, Head of the Department of Renewable Energy Sources Development at the Russian Ministry of Energy; Aleksey Konev, Director of Innovation and Management Systems at the Russian Ministry of Energy; and other senior government officials.

Conservation

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

UAE reaffirms strong commitment to international raptor and dugong conservation



The UAE joins Convention on Migratory Species as its 123rd member state, reinforcing the already strong links between the country and the CMS family.

The Convention on Migratory Species, CMS, the United Arab Emirates Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, MOCCA, and Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi, EAD, have committed themselves to advancing their cooperation to conserve migratory species of wild animals, with the UAE's recent accession to CMS as its 123rd member state, and the extension of the long-standing financial and in-kind support of CMS Office - Abu Dhabi by EAD on behalf of the Government of Abu Dhabi Emirate.

The accession of UAE to CMS reinforces the already strong links between the country and the CMS family. The UAE has been a key partner in developing and supporting CMS agreements on migratory birds of prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MoU) and dugongs (Dugong MoU).

The country is also a signatory of specialised CMS agreements on migratory sharks and marine turtles. All four instruments have action plans that catalyse national-level conservation activities with

the aim of coordinating these across the species' migratory paths through international cooperation. The UAE has long recognised the importance of international cooperation to conserve migratory species.

Welcoming UAE to the convention, Dr. Bradnee Chambers, Executive Secretary of CMS, said, "The accession of UAE to CMS builds on the leadership it has already been demonstrating regionally with respect to migratory species conservation. We look forward to the UAE continuing to project



The Gulf hosts the world's second largest dugong population, with the greatest numbers found in the waters off the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

its leadership at a global level. The UAE has a rich diversity of marine and avian fauna. The country's long coastline boasts an abundance of marine wildlife such dugongs, whales, dolphins, marine turtles and sharks, and provides resting and foraging grounds for migratory birds on the Eurasian and Central Asian flyways, with migratory falcons playing an integral part of our national cultural heritage."

The UAE, being a contracting party to Ramsar, CITES and the Convention on Biological Diversity, CBD, recognises

the importance of developing synergies in its implementation of CMS and other treaties through the UAE National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, 2014 - 2020.

"We, and our future generations, are defined by the environments in which we live. The conservation of our environment at a time of growth and global climate change is the bedrock of a strong and prosperous economy and society while also providing an important link to our UAE heritage. That is why we see it

as one of the highest priorities on our government's agenda and we will continue to play a key part within the international efforts on issues relating to biodiversity and wildlife. Today's important announcement is an important step in this work", said Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment.

Since 2009, significant financial and in-kind contributions from EAD on behalf of the Government of the UAE have supported the operation of CMS Office - Abu Dhabi,



which provides secretariats coordinating the Raptors and Dugong MOUs.

Extending the arrangement by which the office was established in Abu Dhabi, Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak, Secretary-General of EAD, and Dr. Bradnee Chambers signed an agreement in Abu Dhabi and Bonn, respectively.

"The Gulf hosts the world's second largest dugong population, with the greatest numbers found in the waters off the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

"The UAE lies along the migratory pathway for 42 of the 93 species of African-Eurasian migratory birds of

prey under the Raptors MoU, including the threatened Sooty Falcon, the endangered Saker Falcon and the Egyptian Vulture as well," Dr. Chambers said.

Al Mubarak added, "For many years we have been amassing technical expertise and data on the status of migratory and resident species populations in the UAE and using this information to develop appropriate protection and management strategies.

"Given the migratory nature of so many species, it is only fitting that we support other nations in the development of their conservation plans. By working together in a cohesive

manner, we multiply our chances of success."

Al Mubarak continued, "The Raptors and Dugong MoUs support the conservation actions of Abu Dhabi and the entire UAE. They provide a platform for the nation to co-operate regionally with other countries that share these migratory animals as they pass through our country at different times of the year. Migratory species play an important role in the UAE's culture and heritage and are critical elements in maintaining environmental health and quality of life, while also contributing significantly to economic sectors such as fisheries and tourism."



Two new species discovered in Al Wathba Wetland Reserve

Two new species have been added to the global list of invertebrates after they were unexpectedly discovered on Abu Dhabi's Al Wathba Wetland Reserve, during regular seasonal wildlife trapping carried out by researchers at the Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi (EAD).

The Gasteruptiid Wasp (*Gasteruption alwathbaense*), measuring 11.3mm, and the Dance Fly (*Drapetis wathbaiensis*), measuring 2-3mm, have now been added to the list of hundreds of invertebrates already recorded on the reserve.

"This discovery further enhances Al Wathba Wetland Reserve's status as a biodiversity hotspot that must remain protected. EAD

is proud of this discovery and will continue to ensure the effective management and monitoring of species, water quality and vegetation on the reserve," said Dr. Shaikha Al Dhaheeri, Executive Director of the Terrestrial and Marine Biodiversity Sector at EAD.

The new Gasteruptiid wasp (*Gasteruption alwathbaense*) will have its genetic data analysis and DNA sequencing released through the Barcode of Life Data System (BOLD). It is one of four Gasteruptiid wasp species described in the UAE.

Dr. Andreas Stark from the German Entomological Institute, Senckenberg (Muncheberg, Germany) has identified the

Dance Fly (*Drapetis wathbaiensis*) and confirmed the species. Dr. Salim Javed, Acting Director of Terrestrial Biodiversity has suggested the name for the Dance Fly, *Drapetis wathbaiensis* 'as it draws on its origin of first discovery, cementing Al Wathba in the history books for species identification'.



Sustainability

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

UAE forms Emirates Committee for Sustainable Environment Research



The new Committee will oversee the development of a research strategy and integrated work streams on environmental sustainability and climate change.

Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al-Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment has issued a ministerial decree on the formation of the “Emirates Committee for Sustainable Environment Research”.

The committee will be headed by the Minister and comprised of representatives from a range of different organisations, entities and universities across the public and private sectors and will oversee the development of a research strategy and integrated work streams on environmental sustainability and climate change;

key national priorities of the UAE Government.

It will also mandate joint working efforts, information exchange and data sharing (including by making the Ministry’s technical data more freely available) across government entities and universities as well as setting strategic objectives for different organisations.

Speaking about the resolution, Dr. Al Zeyoudi said that the formation of the Emirates Committee for Sustainable Environment Research is part of the ministry’s

commitment to support sustainable practices, efficient use of resources and drive scientific research across the country and to drive behavioural change in accordance with the National Agenda. The committee will play an important role in the continued efforts to find research-driven creative, innovative and technical environmentally friendly and clean energy solutions in the UAE.

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment is also keen to develop its own testing and agricultural research stations, which are designed to carry out



The formation of the new Committee is part of the Ministry's commitment to support sustainable practices, efficient use of resources and drive scientific research across the country.

experiments and studies on plant growth and the introduction of species suited to local conditions. The stations also help farmers apply the latest technological and modern methods to improve their trade, encourage best practice and deliver a number of skills and training opportunities.

Dr. Al Zeyoudi stressed the wider imperative of continuing to drive agricultural research and studies that can act as a catalyst for sustainable development in the farming and livestock sectors. The committee includes members from the Ministry of Climate

Change and Environment, the Ministry of Education, the UAE University, the American University of Sharjah, British University in Dubai, Dubai Police Academy, Khalifa University of Science, Technology and Research, the Masdar Institute of Science and Technology, New York University, University of the Sorbonne in Abu Dhabi, University of Sharjah, Zayed University and Ajman University of Science and Technology as well as the American University in Dubai and International Center for Biosaline Agriculture and Dubai Real Estate Institute.

Meeting with agriculture and veterinary service providers

Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi met with a number of agricultural and veterinary service providers that work on a strategic level with the Ministry to discuss how they can continue to best meet the changing needs of the farming and animal breeding sectors.

Discussions also explored how agricultural and veterinary service providers can continue to improve customer service and integrate new technologies and systems into their operations to improve efficiency and outcomes for all.

Campaign

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

Nation-wide
campaign
launched to
minimize plastic
bottled water
consumption



Goumbook launches “Drop It – Say NO to plastic bottles” in a bid to reduce plastic waste across the UAE.

Under the patronage and attendance of H.H. Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Ali bin Rashid Al Nuaimi, UAE’s “Green Sheikh”, Goumbook announced the launch of its nation-wide campaign to minimize plastic bottled water consumption and reduce plastic waste across the UAE.

The event took place on May 3rd, 2016 at the Sofitel Downtown Dubai Hotel and attended by the campaign ambassadors and partners.

With the UAE having one of the highest consumption of bottled

water per capita in the world, the aim of the campaign is to raise awareness on the implications of consuming plastic bottled water on people’s health and the environment versus consuming filtered tap water, as well as tackling the plastic pollution issue in the UAE.

H.H. Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Ali bin Rashid Al Nuaimi commented: “The problem of plastic waste is becoming alarming not just locally but on a global scale. We truly believe we can minimize plastic bottle consumption by creating a change of mindset and making

a huge positive impact just by dropping consumption of plastic bottles.”

“Becoming a “Drop It” Member means joining a group of visionary leaders that are making a difference and taking actions that will decide what our tomorrow will look like for generations to come not only in the UAE but all over the world,” added H.H. Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Ali, bin Rashid Al Nuaimi.

By 2050, it is expected that there will be more plastic waste in the sea than fish, as per a report



The UAE has one of the highest consumption of bottled water per capita in the world.

released by The Ellen MacArthur Foundation during the World Economic Forum in January 2016.

Tatiana Antonelli, Managing Director of Goumbook commented: "Looking at international initiatives, Goumbook realized there was little being done locally to tackle the "plastic issue" or raise awareness on the excessive use of plastic in people's lives and its negative impact on the environment and health. Hence the Drop It campaign was designed to unite individuals and the local business community in

saying NO to plastic bottles."

"Choosing to embrace the campaign means people will not use plastic bottled water but instead they will filter and bottle their own, which will be used at home, in offices or in public areas. This makes an immediate positive environmental impact of reducing plastic waste and reducing the supply-chain carbon footprint," added Antonelli.

In-house filtration meets the demand of today's consumers for environmentally sound yet quality drinking water, while it helps

Facts about Bottled Water Consumption & its Impact:

- UAE has one of the highest consumption of bottled water per capita in the world
- It takes 3 liters of water to produce 1 liter plastic bottle
- It takes half a liter of oil to produce 1 liter plastic bottle
- Price of bottled water could be up to 1,000 times the cost of tap water

save money by moving away from expensive bottled water to affordable tap water. It is ideal for all, including the hospitality



sectors: hotels, restaurants, conference centers, offices and educational establishments.

The “Drop It” Campaign will also donate 5% of all corporate memberships to funding a Water Project under the Charity Water umbrella to bring safe, drinking water to global communities in developing nations.

The campaign is already supported by a number of organizations that are based and operate in the UAE like AccorHotels, Careem, Beco Capital and Fekra Communications, to name but a few. The AccorHotels have embraced the campaign in their endeavor to make a positive local impact, which is a key objective

of their sustainable development program Planet21.

Did you know?

- It can take up to 1,000 years for plastic bottles to degrade
- 80% of water bottles are not recycled
- Because they are made from a different type of plastic, almost all water bottle caps are not recycled. 92 % of the dead seabird had ingested plastic up to 5 % of their total body weight
- Plastic in the ocean breaks down into small particles that affect the marine environment
- In March 2016, 13 sperm whales were stranded on the coast with their stomachs full of plastic
- 54% of the 120 marina mammal species on the

threatened list have been observed entangled in or ingesting plastic.





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

Solar energy challenge to build on regional commitments made at COP21

Intersolar, the world's leading solar event, has officially launched the 'Young Leaders' Innovation Challenge' taking place this September in Dubai at Intersolar Middle East event.

The contest aims to encourage students across the MENA region to contribute to commitments made through the Paris Agreement at COP21.

"The Young Leaders' Innovation Challenge is intended to create links between academic research and applied science at a time when the United Arab Emirates seeks to make good on its goal to increase its share of renewable energy to 24 percent by 2021," said Hadi Tahboub, Vice President at MESIA.

The nationwide competition attracted academic teams from across the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Egypt and Qatar. The teams will demonstrate how 25 percent reduction in energy consumption can be achieved by retrofitting renewable energy technologies to a government building of their choice. Over 13 universities have joined the contest including Masdar Institute, Khalifa University and Petroleum Institute from UAE, Sultan Qaboos University from Oman, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology from KSA, and many more.

The winning entries will be selected by a prestigious panel of jury members, including officials from Middle East Solar Industry

Association (MESIA), DWTC, Dubai Municipality, First Solar, Green Technologies, Masdar, and Clean Energy Business Council, amongst others respectful entities.

Teams have until 31 July 2016 to submit their entries.



Report

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

Shams Dubai initiative transforms electricity users into producers

The Shams Initiative allows DEWA customers to install photovoltaic panels on their roof tops and generate electricity from solar power.

Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) has achieved significant results in its Shams Dubai initiative. The initiative allows customers to install photovoltaic panels on their rooftops to generate electricity from solar power, and connect the systems to DEWA's grid.

The electricity is used onsite and the surplus is exported to DEWA's grid. So far, a total of 30 photovoltaic systems have been installed, six of them have been connected to Dubai's electricity network. DEWA is working to connect the other projects.

One of the key projects completed and connected to DEWA's grid as part of Shams Dubai initiative is a 1.5 megawatt direct current (MWdc) photovoltaic generation project at Jebel Ali Power Station. It is one of the largest single-rooftop arrays in the Middle East and North Africa. DEWA installed 5,240 photovoltaic panels on the 23,000 square-metre roof of the water reservoir at its M-Station. The project reduces 1,600 tonnes of carbon dioxide annually.

DEWA connected a 1MW project at Emirates Engine Maintenance Centre in Warsan. It increases the

use of alternative energy while reducing carbon emissions. The installed system includes 2,990 photovoltaic panels installed on the rooftop of the centre's car park, which spans over 8,000 square metres. The system generates about 1,900 MWh of electricity annually.

DEWA has also connected a photovoltaic system at Premier Composite Technologies in Dubai Investment Park, with a capacity of 200 kilowatts (kW), which equals over 320MWh of electricity production every year. Photovoltaic systems were also





So far, a total of 30 photovoltaic systems have been installed, six of them have been connected to Dubai's electricity network

connected to the rooftop top of Jumeirah World Trade Centre Residence with a capacity of 31.1kW, which equals 46MWh of electricity every year, using 102 photovoltaic panels over 247 square metres.

DEWA connected a photovoltaic system to Dubai Municipality's building in Al Kifaf with a capacity of 12kW, which equals 17 MWh of electricity every year. This was done using 48 photovoltaic panels over 127 square metres. One of the first projects implemented as part of Shams Dubai, was the installation of 30KW capacity

on the rooftop of the Employee Gate at Al Maktoum International Airport.

DEWA is collaborating with 18 government organisations in Dubai to connect 37 projects under the Shams Dubai initiative, with a total capacity of 279kW and together produce about 445MWh annually.

DEWA finished installing 20 solar energy systems in 5 government schools, 10 villas within the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation's housing project, Dubai Media Incorporated (DMI)'s Building, Al Bayan and

Emarat Alyoum's building, Dubai Land Department, the Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Sports Complex, and the Community Development Authority (CDA). The total capacity of these projects is 146kW. They produce a total of about 235MWh a year.

"Under the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, and His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, the UAE takes priority in the diversification of



the country's energy mix. This is based on a vision that realises the importance of renewable energy to achieve a balance between development and the environment, to ensure the right of future generations to live in a clean, healthy, and safe environment.

"DEWA launched Shams Dubai to support the Smart Dubai initiative. Shams Dubai supports the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050, to make Dubai a global centre of clean energy and green economy. It aims to increase Dubai's total power output from clean energy sources to 75% by 2050," said Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, MD & CEO of DEWA.

Al Tayer commended the

government and private organisations that have installed photovoltaic panels as part of Shams Dubai, to produce electricity locally. He praised the roles played by these organisations in protecting the environment and reducing the carbon footprint by making use of solar energy, urging house and villa owners to take advantage of Shams Dubai.

"I urge all members of society to be our partners in producing renewable energy, and achieving Dubai Government's objectives to diversify the energy mix. This supports a smart, sustainable, and happy city and contributes to achieving the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, to transform

Dubai into the city with the lowest carbon footprint in the world by 2050, ensuring a sustainable future for us, and for generations to come," added Al Tayer.

To regulate electricity produced from photovoltaic panels to the power distribution system in Dubai, the Dubai Executive Council issued resolution number 46 for 2014 to put in place a comprehensive legislative framework to connect electricity produced from solar power to the distribution system. The resolution defines DEWA's responsibility to develop a policy for solar energy electricity production, and the adoption of binding agreement terms and models, and monitoring and supervising producers.

Shams Dubai is a net-metering scheme for solar photovoltaic (PV) systems allowing homeowners and businesses to connect their solar panels to Dewa's electricity grid.



DEWA has outlined easy steps to install photovoltaic systems in buildings to generate solar power as part of Shams Dubai initiative.

The installation process starts with the customer contacting one of the consultants or contractors accredited by DEWA to study the possibility of installing the solar power system and suggest the best solution. The consultant or contractor then obtains the necessary approvals from DEWA.

These include an NOC for installing solar energy system and connecting it to the power network, and approvals for the solar system design that meets all the requirements. After obtaining the necessary approvals, the consultant or contractor

undertakes on-site work. After completing installation, they submit a notification to DEWA to conduct the technical inspection of the site and install the meter to complete the connection process.

DEWA enrolls and accredits consultants and contractors. To enrol with DEWA as a solar photovoltaic electrical consultant or contractor, the company must have a valid trade license issued by the Department of Economic Development.

The company must also have at least one graduate electrical engineer under their sponsorship with at least one year's experience in supervising electrical works and design in compliance with DEWA's regulations for electrical

installations. The company's employees should also pass the photovoltaic systems expert programme, and submit applications via DEWA's website. Trainees can learn about the technical requirements, and safety standards. This is part of DEWA's efforts to ensure photovoltaic systems are designed and installed according to the highest international quality standards.

To date, a total of 143 engineers have been certified as enrolled electrical and solar photovoltaic consultants and contractors. DEWA's training course includes academic and practical training, covering all technical aspects of installing photovoltaic panels, as well as safety procedures.

IRENA celebrates five years of operations

[Since IRENA's first Assembly, 80 additional countries have joined the Agency bringing its total membership to 148, with 28 more countries in the process of joining.](#)

On 23rd May, 2016, at its headquarters in Masdar City, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) gathered Member State representatives, international stakeholders and local leaders to celebrate its fifth year of operations. Since its first Assembly, 80 additional countries have joined the Agency bringing its total membership to 148, with 28 more countries in the process of joining.

"The five years since the establishment of IRENA as a fully-fledged intergovernmental organisation have seen

unprecedented development in the deployment of renewable energy at a global scale," said Adnan Z. Amin, IRENA Director-General. "Renewable energy has emerged from the margins of the global energy system and is increasingly seen as the solution to a myriad of challenges including climate change, air pollution, energy security, energy poverty and sustainable economic development."

"IRENA's presence at Masdar City has been a source of pride for us. As an international force behind implementing renewable

energy solutions around the globe we believe that IRENA's mission is aligned with UAE's commitment towards diversifying its economy and expanding its renewable energy sector," said Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al-Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of Climate Change and Environment. "We are proud of what the agency has achieved in the past five years, and we feel that its strategic efforts have had an instrumental effect on advancing the renewable energy sector both locally and globally."

"Germany has supported IRENA from the very beginning and it is



5 YEARS OF ADVANCING THE RENEWABLE ENERGY SOLUTION



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

IRENA was created to support and accelerate the ongoing global energy transition.

great to see the success of this truly global agency in such a short time,” said Rainer Baake, State Secretary at the German Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy. “Renewables have undergone an incredible development in the past five years. A change in our energy landscape is taking place and this trend must be accelerated in the coming years. IRENA can support this transition with sharp analysis and concrete advice on the ground. May IRENA’s voice become even louder in the future.”

The evening highlighted the successes of IRENA and of the

renewable energy sector over the last five years. In addition to substantial development and growth in renewable energy capacity, investment, jobs and policies, a flourishing system for international cooperation on renewable energy has emerged.

IRENA’s engagement with more 175 countries is producing outcomes that are filling knowledge gaps, strengthening domestic capacities, informing policies, highlighting the business case and raising awareness about the many benefits of renewable energy.

“The growth of IRENA as an Agency is not just an IRENA success, but rather a testament to the strong commitment to renewable energy worldwide,” said Amin. “IRENA was created to support and accelerate the ongoing global energy transition. Together with the strong support of our Members, we have made great strides. We expect even greater achievements in the years to come.”

IRENA’s 11th Council Meeting opens in Abu Dhabi

To push forward the work of the Agency into its next five



years, more than 300 high-level government representatives from 94 countries also gathered for IRENA's 11th Council meeting on 24th May in Abu Dhabi. Composed of 21 IRENA Members, the Council meets twice annually to facilitate cooperation among Members, oversee implementation of the IRENA work programme and complete substantive preparations for the Agency's annual Assembly.

At the outset of the meeting, the Council elected Kenred Dorsett, Minister of the Environment and Housing of the Bahamas, as Chair of the meeting, and Ethiopia as Vice-Chair. "IRENA has made tremendous contributions to the advancement of renewable energy, notwithstanding its

relatively short history," said Mr. Dorsett. "The Bahamas has relied heavily on IRENA to chart its renewable energy future. We look forward to the deliberations over the next few days as countries come together to guide the work of the agency."

Following the election, IRENA's Director-General, Adnan Z. Amin, presented a progress report on the agency's work. "A lot has happened since IRENA's establishment. We are implementing our new work programme with confidence that the current biennium holds great promise for accelerating the global uptake of renewable energy."

At the council meeting, attendees

discussed cost reductions in solar and wind technologies, regional work to increase renewable energy deployment in Latin America and West Africa, and IRENA's roadmap to doubling the global share of renewables by 2030. They also discussed initiatives to increase renewable energy on islands and the strategic future direction of the agency's work.

On 25th May, IRENA launched the third edition of Renewable Energy and Jobs Annual Review. This publication provides the only global analysis of jobs in the renewable energy sector, presenting the status of renewable energy employment, both by technology and in selected countries, over the past year.



Winners of Al Wathba Photography Competition announced

The Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi, EAD, has announced the winners of the Al Wathba Photography Competition, which ran for the second year on EAD's Instagram account from the end of October 2015 until April 30th this year.

The competition, which was aimed at encouraging professional and amateur photographers to capture creative images that reflect Al Wathba Wetland Reserve's natural beauty and rich biodiversity, witnessed a high degree of competition with 144 photos taken by 77 professional and amateur photographers from UAE and abroad being exhibited.

The winning photographs were chosen by a jury comprising

a group of journalists and photographers. Winners were awarded on 17th May during a special ceremony at EAD with competition prizes worth a total of AED20,000.

Aaron Patrimonio won first prize, Mohamed Rageh Gohar won second prize and 3rd prize went to

Emmanuel Fajutag. Sultan Karrani was awarded with 4th prize and Arturo Rivo Junior won 5th prize.

Winning photos and all entries submitted for the Al Wathba Photography Competition can be viewed on EAD's Instagram account using the two hashtags, #Alwathbacontest #inabudhabi.



Conservation

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creating green communities

Groundbreaking marine conservation project on World Biodiversity Day



The new research project is critical to the protection of the Gulf marine environment, says EWS-WWF.

Emirates Wildlife Society in association with the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (EWS-WWF), marked World Biodiversity Day (May 22) by launching a ground breaking scientific research project – The Gulf Green Turtle Conservation Project – with the ultimate aim of conserving endangered marine species and critical habitats in the UAE and wider region.

Over the course of the next four years the team of marine experts will gather scientific data on green turtle migration

and mating patterns in order to identify critical marine habitats in need of protecting.

The research includes tagging green turtles with satellite transmitters in various nesting and foraging sites across the region, obtaining small tissue samples (DNA) from the turtles which will then be analysed to detect linkages between feeding and nesting populations; and finally, performing a laparoscopy on adult-sized turtles to provide ground breaking data on population connectivity.

Commenting on the role marine turtles play in maintaining the health of the world's oceans, Marina Antonopoulou, Marine Programme Leader at EWS-WWF said: "Green turtles are one of the very few animals to eat sea grass. By doing so, they help maintain the health of the marine environment. Sea grass is vital to many species of fish, shellfish and crustaceans. Without healthy seagrass beds, many marine species could be lost, which would also impact an important food source for us all. There is a lot at stake as worldwide, around 1 billion



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

The Gulf Green Turtle Conservation Project is a continuation of EWS-WWF's efforts to protect the Gulf's marine environment.

people rely on marine fish as a main source of protein.”

The Arabian Gulf is home to rich biodiversity including the second largest population of dugongs on Earth, critically endangered hawksbill and endangered green and loggerhead turtles, as well as over 25 species of sharks. However, with species numbers in decline, vital habitats like coral reefs and seagrass beds disappearing, and fish stocks being pushed to the limit, there is an urgent need for better marine planning and

management to ensure marine ecosystems can continue to function and remain resilient in the long term.

The Gulf Green Turtle Conservation Project is designed to provide robust scientific data from which strategies can be designed to address threats to marine species, rather than solely focusing on fragmented national and local actions that do not benefit highly migratory species.

“Despite our extensive understanding of nesting

populations in the region, there remains a considerable information gap on feeding and behaviour of marine turtles when they are at sea where they spend over 95% of their lives. With comprehensive understanding of the potential linkages between nesting and feeding grounds, we will be better equipped to develop recommendations towards safeguarding critical marine habitats for turtles and ultimately other marine species,” said Paola Ferreira, Conservation and Climate Director at EWS-WWF.

Conservation

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

150 artificial caves installed in Umm Al Quwain



The installation is the second phase of a larger national programme that aims to install a total of 900 caves in various areas across the UAE coasts.

Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment witnessed on 18th May, 2016, the installation of 150 artificial concrete caves in the fishing waters of Umm Al Quwain.

The installation is the second phase of a larger national programme that aims to install a total of 900 caves in various areas across the UAE coasts.

“The ministry decided to launch this initiative after conducting an in-depth research to explore viable and sustainable solutions

for challenges facing UAE fisheries. The caves are a suitable and safe haven that will allow fish and millions of fingerlings produced by the Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Marine Research Center to breed and grow,” said Dr. Al Zeyoudi.

In April, the minister witnessed the launch of the first phase of the project with the installation of 150 artificial caves off the coast in Ajman. The third phase of the programme will see the placement of 600 caves in Ras Al Khaimah and the Eastern Region. The objective of the initiative

is to protect and boost natural fisheries in the country and create a safe breeding place for marine life. It is part of a larger scheme of policies launched by the ministry that aims to tackle current fish stock challenges and to positively impact fishermen.

The policies will increase the fishermen's productivity while allowing them to reduce the expenses of their fishing trips by shortening the distances that they need to travel. Other policies include releasing of fingerlings in fishing waters and putting in place rules that regulate fishing.



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

The objective of the initiative is to protect and boost natural fisheries in the country and create a safe breeding place for marine life.

Mansoor Sultan Al Kharji, director-general of the department of economic development in Umm Al Qaiwain, who attended the event, praised the continued efforts of the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment in developing sustainable fisheries. “The artificial caves programme plays an important role in regulating the fishing industry in the UAE and helps the fishermen in overcoming obstacles. It also helps in boosting national fish productivity,” he said.

Also attending the event was Sultan Saeed Al Ali, the executive

director of the Ports, Customs and Free Zone Corporation in Umm Al Quwain who said that the initiative serves the local fishing industry. He also praised the fact that the caves are made out of eco-friendly materials and will contribute to a more sustainable industry.

“The caves will have a positive effect in enriching local fisheries. They are a modern science-based alternative for old fishing equipments, which were placed in the waters by fishermen and were made out of materials that were not eco-friendly. We would like

to thank Dr. Al Zeyoudi who was keen on attending the event and closely following the installation process in coordination with other participating entities,” he said.



Dubai's youth discusses sustainability at Youth Circle



Hosted by DEWA, the event saw young men and women actively participate in the session which discussed the role of young people in the sustainability of resources.

Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) hosted a Youth Circle session entitled Youth and Sustainability on 22nd May in Dubai's Zabeel Park.

The session is part of the Youth Circles initiative organised under the directives of Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, to listen to the next generation and learn their ideas, views and solutions for challenges.

The Youth Circle was organised at the Reading is Positive Energy

exhibition at Zabeel Park. It was attended by Shamma bint Sohail Faris Al Mazrouei, Minister of State for Youth Affairs; Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, MD and CEO of DEWA; and a number of DEWA's younger staff.

The young men and women actively participated in the session which discussed the role of young people in the sustainability of resources. They enriched the discussions by presenting constructive ideas related to the role of young people in achieving the sustainable development of the UAE. "The UAE is a young country and its

leadership depend on the youth in building the future. The Youth Circles is one of the tools adopted by the government to achieve this goal. Sustainability is one of the key pillars for the future that are important, especially for us as young people. We are the ones who will bear the results of the dependence on fossil fuels. Nonetheless, we will be the ones to reap the fruits of sustainability," said Al Mazrouei.

"Sustainability is not the responsibility of the government alone. It is important for each one of us as it affects both individuals



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

'Young people are the renewable energy, generating innovative ideas and coming up with solutions to meet the challenges of the future.'

and society as a whole. Each one of us is responsible to support the UAE's efforts to implement sustainability programmes. Young people are the renewable energy, generating innovative ideas and coming up with solutions to meet the challenges of the future," added Al Mazrouei.

The Minister called on the public and private sectors to organise Youth Circles to meet young employees and listen to them and transform their ideas and energy into practical programmes and innovative solutions for the challenges they will face.

British University in Dubai hosts Green Forum

The British University in Dubai has hosted the Green Forum to celebrate the success of a university-industry-government collaboration in a study trip to Scandinavia and discuss the feasibility of applying innovative green concepts in the UAE.

Professor Abdullah Alshamsi, BUiD Vice Chancellor, welcomed the returning participants and said, "BUiD's involvement in sustainability started in 2006 with the launch of our MSc. in Sustainable Design of the Built

Environment, and today we have a range of new programmes. BUiD has always been at the forefront of nationwide efforts to advance the cause of sustainability and we are very proud to have organised the trip to Scandinavia."

Eisa Maidoor, Deputy Director-General of Dubai Municipality had served as delegation leader and gave a brief presentation on the gains in experience and knowledge of participants and proposed recommendations for advancing sustainability practices with respect to environmental, social and economic development.

Conference

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

Public-private ties sought to achieve green economy



Dubai Green Economy Partnership showcases efforts to enhance the level of low-carbon and sustainable development at GLS event.

In line with the UAE's signing of the Paris Agreement at the Climate Conference COP21, the latest edition of Dubai Green Leadership Series (GLS) organized by Dubai Science Park and Dubai Green Economy Partnership discussed ways to unite public and private sector efforts in achieving a low-carbon resilient development in the UAE.

The event was held in the presence of Dr. Thani Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment in mid-May this year at The Address Hotel, Dubai Mall. "As global citizens, we are obliged to

make sure our planet can sustain future generations, which is only possible if we make fundamental changes at the grass root level.

"The UAE has been a driving force to make this global initiative a resounding success, and today we examine our efforts towards achieving a green economy and deliberate on how public-private partnership can help achieve green economy goals. It is an inevitable fact that both the public and private sector share the responsibility to take action to meet COP21 goals," commented Dr. Thani Al Zeyoudi, Minister of

Climate Change and Environment, in his keynote speech.

This year's discussions, themed "COP21 Outcomes and Effects on the Public-Private Sectors", was chaired by Marwan Abdulaziz Janahi, Executive Director of Dubai Science Park, with participation from Ministry of Energy, Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA), Dubai Supreme Council of Energy (DSCE), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Dubai Municipality and Suqia.

In his welcome speech, Ahmed Buti Al Muhairbi, Secretary General



The latest edition of Dubai Green Leadership Series (GLS) discussed ways to unite public and private sector efforts in achieving a low-carbon resilient development in the UAE.

of Dubai GEP, and Dubai Supreme Council of Energy, said, "How we manage our natural resources is the key to meeting the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

"To achieve set goals, the UAE government needs the support of the private sector. The discussions at GLS will help the integration of public and private efforts as well as create a roadmap for Public-Private partnerships. We are here to support the UAE's economic growth through sustainable energy supply and promote efficient energy use to meet green objectives.

"We want to help create a more sustainable and self-sufficient future that maximizes the use of indigenous resources and talent," said Marwan Abdulaziz Janahi, Executive Director of Dubai Science Park .

"Supporting innovation and promoting the use of cutting-edge technologies and information by companies to foster green growth is vital to achieving the Paris Climate Agreement goals," he added. "At Dubai Science Park, we aim to play a significant part in Dubai's own Vision 2021 goals, by facilitating a future that is

less reliant on natural resources through our business partner's work in the science sector."

All 196 participating countries at the COP21 signed the Paris Agreement adopting a universal accord on climate change agreeing to keep global temperature rise well below 2 degrees Celsius.

As per the agreement, all signatories will submit a climate action plan every five years from 2020, reflecting different national circumstances, as well as review progress every five years starting from 2023.

Launch

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

Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed launches Palau solar projects



[UAE-South Pacific Islands Partnership Fund accomplishes 11 clean energy projects delivered by Masdar.](#)

Tommy Remengesau, Jr., President of the Republic of Palau, and HH Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, inaugurated three small-scale solar energy projects in the South Pacific island nation of Palau on 15th May, 2016.

The projects were developed by Masdar, Abu Dhabi's renewable energy company, with funding provided by the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD) as part of "Cycle 2" of the US \$50 million UAE - South Pacific

Partnership Fund (UAE-South Pacific Islands Fund).

HH Sheikh Abdullah, who personally launched the UAE- South Pacific Islands Fund in 2013, performed the ribbon-cutting ceremony in the company of officials from the Government of Palau and the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

Commenting on the inauguration, H.H. Sheikh Abdullah said, "Three years ago, we launched the UAE-South Pacific Islands Fund to

help support countries who share the UAE's commitment to diversifying their energy mix and advancing sustainable development. Today, I am proud to see that the Fund - bolstered by strong government-to-government cooperation and through Masdar's effective execution and project management - is fulfilling its mission of supporting countries on their green development journeys."

Mohammed Saif Al Suwaidi, Director General of Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD),



The projects were developed by Abu Dhabi's renewable energy company, Masdar, with funding provided by the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development.

said: "In keeping with the directives of the UAE's wise leadership, ADFD is committed to supporting developing countries in meeting their energy needs from renewable resources, which, in turn, will help these countries achieve sustainable development."

He added: "The renewable energy projects financed by ADFD under the South Pacific Partnership Fund have brought significant social and economic benefits to the beneficiary countries through the generation of electricity

for rural areas, supporting the development of local economies as well as the creation of numerous job opportunities for local population. Additionally, these projects have significantly contributed to the mitigation of environment pollution and its harmful impacts on developing economies through the reduction of carbon emissions."

Masdar CEO Mohamed Jameel Al Ramahi commented, "As the implementing partner of the UAE- South Pacific Islands Fund, Masdar has successfully delivered innovative renewable

energy solutions to 11 South Pacific Island nations. These projects are supporting the South Pacific Islands to advance their national development priorities, including strengthening energy security, expanding energy access and driving economic growth."

Palau is a South Pacific island nation consisting of 458 square kilometres of land spread over 200 islands. Working in close collaboration with the government of Palau, Masdar deployed customised clean energy projects on Peleliu,



Angaur, and Koror, three of the archipelago's more densely populated islands.

In keeping with the innovative spirit of the UAE- South Pacific Islands Fund, each project features elements that meet the unique needs of the local communities. In Peleliu, the Masdar-developed 100 kW solar PV diesel hybrid plant features an advanced centralised control system that allows up to 90 per cent of power needs to be met by solar energy during peak time.

Meanwhile, the 100 kW solar PV diesel hybrid project in Angaur powers a water treatment facility capable of supplying 200 m3 of clean

water per day. As the first project in the UAE- South Pacific Islands Fund that incorporates a water supply element, the Angaur project reflects the inextricable link between water and energy security.

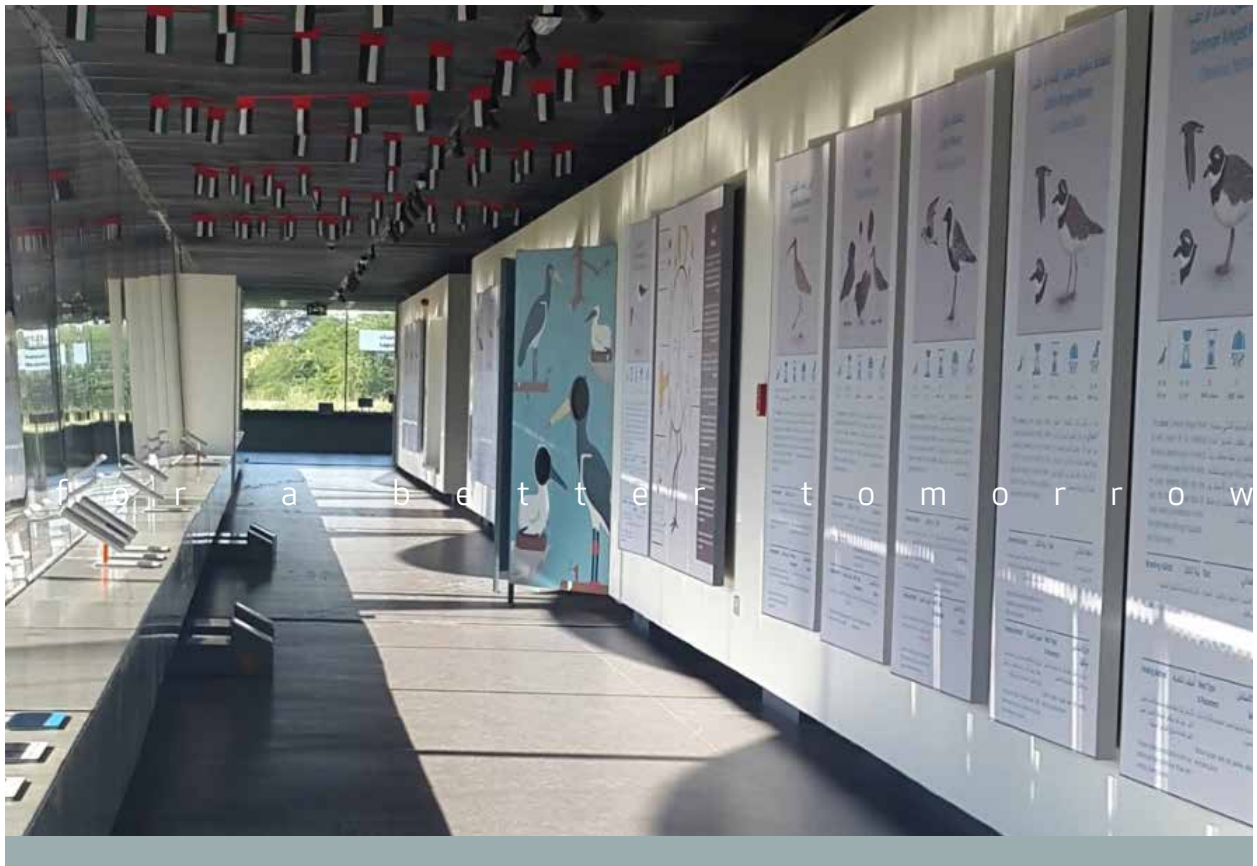
In Koror, Masdar delivered 100 1.7 kW individual solar home systems. Instead of delivering the systems directly to end users, Masdar provided the solar home systems to the National Development Bank of Palau, which offered loans to citizens for the installation of the system.

The US\$ 50 million UAE-South Pacific Partnership Fund was launched in March 2013 by

HH Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nayhan and is managed by Masdar, in close coordination with the Ministry and the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD).

The fund covers project feasibility studies, engineering design, plant equipment supplies and installation, construction and operation and maintenance training.

The inauguration in Palau follows closely on the heels of the inauguration of a 1 MW PV plant in Solomon Islands on May 10. Three additional inaugurations of clean energy solutions that make up "Cycle 2" of the UAE- South Pacific Islands Fund will be held soon.



Critically endangered northern bald ibis chicks hatch at Sharjah reserve

Five northern bald ibis chicks hatched recently at the Wasit Wetland Reserve in Sharjah.

The hatching, which is the first of its kind in the region, is part of the Environment and Protected Areas Authority in Sharjah (EPAA) breeding programme held in coordination with the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA). The accomplishment comes as part of the successful efforts made by the EPAA in protecting and breeding endangered species to maintain the ecosystem's natural balance.

Hana Saif Al Suwaidi, Chairperson of the Environment and Protected Areas Authority in Sharjah, said: "With the support of His Highness Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Muhammad

Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah, we are committed to adopting the best standards and services that meet the needs of organisms and birds in local habitats and to providing the necessary facilities to develop the work of reserves and preserve at-risk species."

Al Suwaidi added: "EPAA exerts the utmost effort to nurture, breed, rear and provide food and veterinary care to the northern bald ibis at Wasit Wetland Reserve."

The chicks hatched on the 27th of April after remote monitoring by experts. The EPAA will teach the young northern bald ibis how to use safe migration routes and stop-over points and how to

avoid war-torn areas. They will be released with a lead bird to fly in a flock together to Europe, Africa and Asia, through the UAE and to other Eastern countries. This will be repeated several times until the birds are trained on how to use safe migration routes.

The northern bald ibis is a rare and critically endangered bird, especially in war-affected countries. Wasit Wetland Reserve received the northern bald ibis from a North African reserve and provided the appropriate habitat to the bird to help it breed, nest and lay eggs.

Wasit Wetland Reserve, which was established in 2007, is a promising investment for environment conservation.

Etihad ESCO and DIFC sign EPC to cut energy use by 72%

DIFC to replace 28,500 traditional internal and external light bulbs and street lights with LED lights.

Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, Vice-Chairman of the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy and Chairman of Etihad Energy Service Company (ESCO), signed an Energy Performance Contract on 17th May, 2016, with Essa Kazim, Governor of Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC), to replace 28,500 of DIFC's traditional light bulbs with LED lights.

This supports the UAE Vision 2021 to make the UAE one of the best countries in the world by increasing the use of clean energy, and implementing the UAE Green

Growth Strategy to enhance sustainable development.

It also supports the Dubai Plan 2021 to transform Dubai into a city with a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment, while enhancing its position as an international hub for energy efficiency.

The signing was attended by Arif Amiri, CEO of Dubai International Financial Centre Authority, Saleh Al Akrabi, CEO of DIFC Property Management, Waleed Salman, Vice Chairman of Etihad Esco, Stephane Le Gentil, CEO of Etihad ESCO, and

Ali Al Jassim, COO of Etihad ESCO.

Due to the increasing importance of green energy, DIFC will replace internal and external light bulbs and street lights with LED lights.

This will increase and improve energy efficiency and sustainability. According to the contract, DIFC will achieve 72% in annual savings over 6 years.

DIFC holds an international position and includes over 1,445 registered companies, with a workforce of 19,808 employees. This number is due to triple by





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

DIFC is the first financial free zone in the UAE to conduct such a major transformation of lighting system infrastructure.

2024. DIFC is the first financial free zone in the UAE to conduct such a major transformation of lighting system infrastructure.

“The signing of the contract supports the directives of our wise leaders to increase the use of clean and renewable energy, and the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050 to diversify the Emirate’s energy resources, and increase dependence on clean and renewable energy,” said Al Tayer.

This contract emphasises our role to enhance the energy-efficiency market, and our commitment to

provide energy solutions, making Dubai an international role model for energy security and efficiency, and investments in renewable energy from low carbon. 28,500 traditional light bulbs were replaced with LED lights.

This will achieve annual savings of 72% over the next 6 years.

In light of this project, we are pleased to take the first step in developing DIFC as the financial centre for high-efficiency energy consumption,” continued Al Tayer.

“DIFC is a major part of Dubai’s

economic environment. To adhere to the Emirate’s objectives to adopt green energy solutions, our cooperation with Etihad ESCO aims to improve lighting infrastructure, making it more sustainable and efficient with energy consumption.

This reflects our commitment to the Growth Strategy 2024 to ensure an advanced and updated infrastructure through the use of sustainable energy solutions. This will enhance Dubai’s vision to become one of the most sustainable cities in the world,” said Kazim.



14 rehabilitated sea turtles successfully released

The Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD), in collaboration with the Tourism Development Investment Company (TDIC), has released 13 young critically endangered Hawksbill turtles and 1 young Loggerhead turtle on the beach of the Park Hyatt hotel, Saadiyat Island.

The low key event was the result of a successful rehabilitation prior to the release of the yearlings into their natural habitat. With the help of members of the public, fishermen, EAD rangers and stakeholders, these turtles were rescued over the last winter and kept under the supervision and research of the Agency. Often infested with and weighed down by barnacles, these young

reptiles are sensitive to rough sea conditions and get washed ashore. Turtles with minor injuries are cared for at EAD's facility, whereas all serious cases are sent to the Dubai Turtle Rehabilitation Center in Jumeirah for further veterinary care.

Dr. Shaikha Al Dhaheeri, Director of Terrestrial of Marine and Biodiversity at EAD, said, 'The turtle release shows EAD's commitment towards conserving endangered species through involving the community and the younger generation. By getting them closer to the species, they can connect to our natural heritage and become players in the conservation arena.'

Worldwide, the International

Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List classifies the Hawksbill turtle as critically endangered.

Ayesha Al Blooshi, Director of Marine Biodiversity, said "It's important that the public understands that as wonderful as they are, these are endangered wild animals and must be treated appropriately and handed over to authorities for expert care."





Conservation efforts lead to discovery of Houbara Bustard nest in Jordan

Field teams from the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature in Jordan (RSCN) have spotted for the first time a nest belonging to a Houbara bustard following the release of Asian Houbara between 2014 - 2016 under the Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Houbara Reintroduction Project.

The initiative is managed by the International Fund for Houbara Conservation (IFHC), under the direction of H.H. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, and Chairman of the IFHC board.

The Houbara bustard is a vulnerable species according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN),

the authoritative global body which categorises species according to the threat of extinction. The release is part of the IFHC's strategy to breed and release Houbara bustards, both North African and Asian Houbara, across their natural range, covering the regions of Asia, North Africa and the Arabian Peninsula, in a bid to re-establish a sustainable population. The nest was discovered thanks to the tracking devices which are utilised by the IFHC as part of its breeding and release programme and was found to contain three eggs.

Commenting on the discovery of the nest, Mohammed Saleh Al Baidani, Director General of IFHC said: "Ecology and scientific research are paramount to the

captive breeding and release program at the IFHC. Optimum sites are selected as potential release grounds for captive bred Houbara based on studies of the local flora and fauna. The discovery of this nest highlights the accuracy of our research and serves as an indication of the first step towards a viable population of Houbara across the Kingdom of Jordan."

Al Baidani added: "Thanks to the data we gather through the use of tracking devices, we are able to carefully monitor the migration routes and capacity of the released captive-bred Houbara to adapt to the wilderness, thereby increasing our knowledge of this vulnerable species and hopefully the success of our programme."

WED 2016

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

Celebrities join UN campaign to mobilize millions to end illegal trade in wildlife

Ban Ki-moon, Gisele Bündchen, Yaya Touré and Ian Somerhalder among those aiming to spur action to protect endangered species.

The United Nations, backed by A-list celebrities from across the globe, launched an unprecedented campaign against the illegal trade in wildlife, which is pushing species to the brink of extinction, robbing countries of their natural heritage and profiting international criminal networks.

“Each year, thousands of wild animals are illegally killed, often by organized criminal networks motivated by profit and greed,” said Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. “I call on all Governments and people everywhere to support the new United Nations campaign,

Wild for Life, which aims to mobilize the world to end this destructive trade. Preserving wildlife is crucial for the well-being of people and planet alike.”

#WildforLife, launched on 25th May at the second United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-2) in Nairobi in front of environment ministers from every corner of the planet, aims to mobilize millions of people to make commitments and take action to end the illegal trade.

The campaign is run by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the UN Development

Programme (UNDP), the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The Global Environment Facility (GEF) and World Bank are also on board as supporters.

UNEP Goodwill Ambassadors are lending their weight to the cause. These include Brazilian model Gisele Bündchen, who is fighting for sea turtles; four-time African Footballer of the Year Yaya Touré (Manchester City, Ivory Coast), who is backing elephants; and actor Ian Somerhalder (Vampire





Between 2010 and 2012, 100,000 elephants were killed for their ivory in Africa.

Diaries, Lost), who is rooting for pangolins.

They are being joined by major celebrities from China, India, Indonesia, Lebanon and Viet Nam battling to conserve species such as orangutans, tigers, rhinos and helmeted hornbills and calling for citizen support to end the demand that is driving the illegal trade.

“We are responsible for our choices and the only ones capable of changing our future,” said Gisele Bündchen. “It is clear to me that a radical global shift needs to occur and it will take everyone accepting

the challenge to support the UNEP Wild for Life campaign.

Between 2010 and 2012, 100,000 elephants were killed for their ivory in Africa. Three rhinos are killed every day, and the Western Black Rhino has already gone extinct. Pangolins - scaly anteaters - are the most illegally trafficked mammal in the world. Great apes are already locally extinct in several African nations. The campaign asks participants to find their kindred species and use their own spheres of influence to end the illegal trade, however it touches or impacts them.

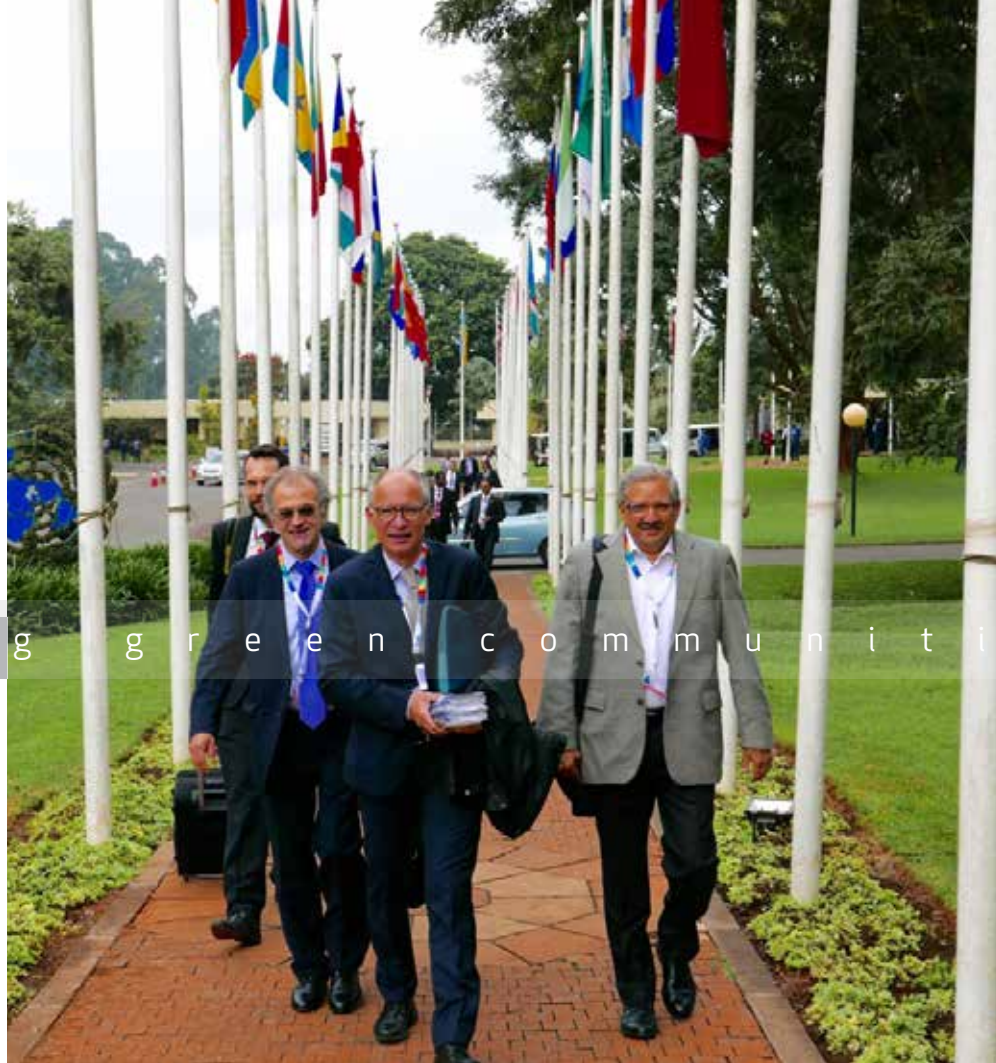
Profits from the illegal wildlife trade sometimes go into the pockets of international criminal networks, threatening peace and security, and damaging the livelihoods of local communities who depend on tourism.

Stopping this trade is also crucial to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDG15 in particular calls for the protection of wild fauna and flora as well as the ecosystems that they depend on - including targets on combatting and addressing the supply and demand of illegal wildlife products.

UNEA-2

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

Governments agree to 25 landmark resolutions to drive sustainability agenda



The second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-2) concluded in Nairobi, Kenya on May 27, 2016 as it agreed to 25 landmark resolutions for environmental sustainability.

The world's environment ministers gathered at the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-2) in Nairobi held from 23rd to 27th May and passed far reaching decisions on issues such as marine litter, the illegal trade in wildlife, air pollution, chemicals and waste, and sustainable consumption and production - which are an integral part of the global action needed to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Climate Agreement.

UNEP Executive Director Achim

Steiner said, "The environment has always been, and will always be, at the heart of humanity's prosperity. World nations recognized this in 2015 with global accords, such as the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

"What we have seen in the last five days is the same political will and passion for change that brought about the groundbreaking international agreements of 2015. With global consensus affirmed, we are taking steps to bring about a real transformation of our

development models. The United Nations Environment Assembly is providing leadership and guidance the world needs to take these unprecedented steps."

Thousands of delegates from 174 countries, 120 at the ministerial level, took part in UNEA-2 and associated side events on issues of global importance, including the Sustainable Innovation Expo and the Science-Policy Forum.

UNEA-2 sessions were attended by UN Deputy Secretary General Jan Eliasson; the President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E. Uhuru



UNEA is the world's most authoritative decision-making body on the environment, tasked with tackling some of the most critical issues of our time.

Kenyatta; UN Habitat Executive Director Joan Clos; and Vice-President of Iran and Minister of Environment Masoumeh Ebtekar. The sessions were presided over by Costa Rica's Minister of Environment Edgar Gutiérrez, who took over from Oyun Sanjaasuren, former Minister of Environment and Green Development for Mongolia.

Among the 25 resolutions and actions decided at UNEA-2, the theme of which was "Delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", the following themes dominated:

2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement Implementation

The main theme of UNEA-2, Delivering on the 2030 Agenda, was a particular focus. The implementation of the work to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be a primary undertaking of the UN system, and the Assembly showed their full understanding of this. UNEA asked UNEP to initiate new partnerships and strengthen existing ones, including with the private sector and civil society.

Building on its work in sustainable finance with the UNEP Inquiry

into the Design of a Sustainable Financial System and the UNEP Finance Initiative, member states also asked UNEP to continue to build on its work at the intersection of finance and the environment.

With the Paris Agreement one of the most significant environmental agreements in recent decades, UNEA also agreed that UNEP should accelerate support to countries, especially developing countries, to build national readiness capacity to implement the Agreement, build implementation capacity and



capacity to access finance and technology.

Illegal Trade in Wildlife

A key issue at UNEA-2 was the illegal trade in wildlife, which is pushing species to the brink of extinction, robbing countries of their natural heritage and profiting international criminal networks. UNEA-2 passed a resolution building upon previous commitments made at the first UNEA and General Assembly resolution 69/134, urging Member States to take further steps to prevent, combat and eradicate the supply, transit and demand related to the illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products.

This includes implementing

strategies and action plans, strengthening governance systems on issues such as anti-corruption and anti-money-laundering, supporting the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime and the African Elephant Fund.

UNEP and partners - with the backing of celebrities such as Gisele Bündchen, Neymar Jr. and many others - also launched a new campaign, Wild For Life, to engage millions of members of the public to end the illegal trade in wildlife.

Marine Litter and Debris

It is estimated that there are 5.2 trillion pieces of plastic floating in our oceans, harming both the marine environment

and biodiversity. To address this problem, member states resolved to encourage product manufacturers and others to consider the lifecycle environmental impacts of products containing microbeads and compostable polymers, including possible downstream impacts.

Delegates also sought the assistance of UNEP to assess the effectiveness of governance strategies and approaches to combat marine plastic litter and microplastics, and identify how to address gaps. They asked UNEP to help develop and implement national and regional action plans to target marine litter, with emphasis on those regions that are the largest sources.

“The environment has always been, and will always be, at the heart of humanity’s prosperity.”
-Achim Steiner, UNEP Executive Director



Healthy Environment, Healthy People

World Health Organization estimates show that an estimated 12.6 million deaths are attributable to environmental factors each year, highlighting the importance of a healthy environment to healthy people.

Several resolutions related to human health and the environment were passed. The resolution on sound management of chemicals and waste targeted actions on chemicals such as lead - exposure to which claimed an estimated 654,000 lives in 2010 and causes developmental damage to young children.

Delegates called on UNEP to develop research on actions that

could be adopted to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) relevant to the issue; asked the private sector to play a bigger role in an integrated approach to the sound management of chemicals and waste; and requested nations to ensure better recycling of lead-acid batteries at national or regional facilities.

Another resolution called on UNEP to establish a global research network on the threat posed by sand and dust storms.

Other resolutions

Armed conflict and its relation to the environment was also a significant source of discussion at UNEA-2. One decision called on Member States to take

appropriate measures to ensure compliance with international obligations under international humanitarian law in relation to the protection of the environment in times of armed conflict.

Resolutions on food waste and sustainable consumption and production, which both impacts on the 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement in terms of increasing emissions and resource use and holding back efforts to reduce hunger, were passed. The resolution called for increased efforts and cooperation to decrease the one third of all food produced each year that is lost or wasted and committed Member States to achieving SDG 12, which focuses on Sustainable Consumption and Production.

Report

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

'1.3 billion people and \$158 trillion in assets at risk from river and coastal floods by 2050'

Cities 'woefully unprepared' for rising disaster risk spurred by climate change, says new World Bank report.

A new World Bank report is warning that the world is ill-prepared for an increasing rise in disasters, spurred by climate change, rising populations and increasing vulnerability of people in large cities and unregulated housing.

The report, *The Making of a Riskier Future: How Our Decisions are Shaping the Future of Disaster Risk*, calls for a radical new approach to assessing risk, which takes into account extremely rapid changes in global disaster risk. Annual total damages from disasters have been increasing

for decades and models show that population growth and rapid urbanization could put 1.3 billion people and \$158 trillion in assets at risk from river and coastal floods by 2050.

"With climate change and rising numbers of people in urban areas rapidly driving up future risks, there's a real danger the world is woefully unprepared for what lies ahead," said John Roome, the World Bank Group's Senior Director for Climate Change. "Unless we change our approach to future planning for cities and coastal areas that takes into account potential disasters,

we run the real risk of locking in decisions that will lead to drastic increases in future losses."

In examining literature and case studies from around the globe, the report cites studies showing that densely populated coastal cities are sinking and when coupled with rising sea levels, annual losses in 136 coastal cities could increase from US\$6 billion in 2010 to US\$1,000 billion in 2070.

It also cites research warning that in Indonesia, river flood risk may increase 166 percent over the next 30 years due to rapid expansion





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

Annual losses in 136 coastal cities could increase from US\$6 billion in 2010 to US\$1,000 billion in 2070.

of urban areas, while the country's coastal flood risk could rise by 445 percent. Earthquake risk in Kathmandu is expected to double to 50 percent by 2045 due to informal building expansion.

At the heart of effective disaster risk management is reliable and accessible risk information. To help catalyze a move towards dynamic, accessible, and actionable risk information, the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) and the World Bank are also releasing ThinkHazard!- the first of its kind open-source platform to provide hazard

information and recommendations of how to reduce risk across eight hazards including earthquakes, floods, tsunamis and cyclones for 196 countries.

"By promoting policies that reduce risk and avoiding actions to drive up risk, we can positively influence the risk environment of the future," said Francis Ghesquiere, Head, GFDRR Secretariat "The drivers of future risk are within the control of decision makers today. They must seize the moment."

Last month over 700 experts and thought leaders gathered in Venice

to examine the critical role of technological advances in disaster risk management.



Honor

64

creating green communities

World-first as 50 Taj Hotels achieve Earthcheck gold certification



Over the years, the Taj Group has implemented innovative changes that now collectively make a significant impact on sustainability.

Taj Hotels Resorts and Palaces - one of Asia's largest and finest hotel companies - has achieved its world-first milestone in sustainable and responsible tourism management through an eight-year collaboration between EarthCheck.

50 individual hotels in the Taj Group portfolio, ranging from Rambagh Palace, Jaipur to Taj 51 Buckingham Gate Suites and Residences, London, have been awarded EarthCheck Gold Certification, with data revealing an average 28.6 per

cent reduction in energy, water and waste and USD\$6,107,585 in savings for the group.

Stewart Moore, EarthCheck Founder and CEO said that Taj is the first hotel group in the world to have 50 hotels achieve Gold Certification in the same year, having completed a minimum of five years of continuous benchmarking through EarthCheck Certified.

Rakhee Lalvani, Associate Vice President - Public Relations, Taj Hotels Resorts and Palaces said "The Taj EARTH sustainability

program is an initiative which reiterates the company's conscious efforts towards sustainability and is aligned with the Tata ethos of keeping communities at the heart of doing business. Taj is committed to environmental sustainability through efficient management of all its assets and resources and we constantly work towards closely integrating our operations with product design and development coupled with responsible sourcing.

"We have several on-ground green initiatives that enable us



Currently, 77 Taj Group hotels are enrolled in EarthCheck Certified and 50 are Gold Certified.

to function in tandem with the environment and over the years, we have implemented innovative changes that now collectively make a significant impact on sustainability and also resonate with our guests.”

Taj Hotels Resorts and Palaces enrolled in EarthCheck Certified and have achieved the following milestone saving achievements:

- 558 million megajoules of energy; an 11.9 per cent reduction, equivalent to 172,232 typical 4-person Indian households for a year

- 1.8 billion litres of water; a 24.8 per cent reduction, equivalent to 719 Olympic sized swimming pools
- 11.4 million litres of waste; a 49.3 per cent reduction, equivalent to 344 20ft standard cargo containers

Combined, these resource savings equate to USD\$6,107,585.

Initiatives undertaken by individual hotels to manage and reduce their environmental footprints range from a 2.1MW wind turbine generator which supplies 70 per cent of the

annual electricity requirements at Rambagh Palace in Jaipur, to a 117m² 'Green Living Wall' which insulates, absorbs noise and pollution and increases energy efficiency at Taj 51 Buckingham Gate Suites and Residences in London.





Green Flash

66

creating green communities for a better tomorrow



World Environment Day 2016

Go Wild for Life: Zero Tolerance for the Illegal Wildlife Trade

Wildlife hosts Earth's biodiversity which is essential for adapting to environmental changes such as climate change. Those who have no resilience and cannot adapt to changes will simply vanish whether they are human beings, animals, plants, fungi, bacteria or any form of living organism.

If you spray 1,000 mosquitos in a closed room with different insecticides, it will not be possible to kill all of them as genetic diversity allows some of them to be resistant to all these chemicals. The survivors will produce a more resistant generation and thenceforth, every generation will be more resistant. That is why we have to develop new, stronger pesticides over time which cost billions of dollars and inflict more harm to the environment. The same applies to other organisms.

We may be able to protect ourselves using technology, but we still need resources which are provided by other species and their ecosystems. Sustainable development is also dependent on maintenance of biodiversity for economic sectors such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism, amongst others. Preserving biodiversity is an investment in us, our lives and well-being.

The illegal trade in wildlife products is a serious threat to our precious biodiversity. Driving other species to extinction erodes our natural heritage; undermines economies/ ecosystems, supports organized crime, and feeds corruption and insecurity worldwide. That is why the UN theme for the World Environment Day 2016 focuses on wildlife conservation.

Iconic elephants, rhinos, tigers, gorillas and sea turtles are on the forefront of the endangered species list. Some of them have already disappeared in certain countries and are threatened in others. Many species of birds, flowers and timber plants are often the lesser known victims of illegal trade.

There are some great successes in fighting illegal trade due to stronger policies, awareness campaigns and investments in community conservation and law enforcement. However, it will take a dedicated and sustained effort by each and every one of us to stop this destructive practice. The value of environmental crime increased 26% and reached a record 258 billion dollars, according to a UNEP-INTERPOL report. Weak laws and poorly funded security forces are enabling poachers, armed rebels and organized crime networks to profit from wildlife trade. The amount of money lost due to environmental crime is 10,000 times greater than what international agencies spend on combatting it - just \$20-30 million. The complexity of this type of crime requires a multi-sector response underpinned by collaboration across borders.

A UNEP- INTERPOL report recommends strong action, legislation and sanctions at the national and international level. Disrupting overseas tax havens, increasing financial support and economic incentives and alternative livelihoods for those at the bottom of the environmental crime chain are essential measures to combat illegal wildlife trade.

Education and awareness-raising are the most effective weapons to fight this illegal activity, as they minimize the demand for illegal wildlife products and push governments and international bodies to introduce and enforce tougher laws and combat poaching.

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