

Environment & Society

July 2026 - Issue No. 251 | A publication issued by Zayed International Foundation for the Environment



drives global climate action on World Environment Day

■ UAE sets record conservation milestones in biodiversity protection

■ The Zayed International Foundation for the Environment participates in Eco Expo Central Asia 2026 at Uzbekistan



2nd DUBAI INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION ON GREEN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

(DICEGAI 2027)

**Human – AI – Nature:
A New Social Contract**

*Rethinking Relationships between
People, Machines & the Environment*



24 – 25 March 2027



Foreword

This year's World Environment Day asked us to be "Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future." It is a powerful reminder that when the planet's health is under challenge, the most effective solutions can be found in the resilience and ingenuity of the natural world itself. Nature offers a blueprint for a sustainable future, but it is a blueprint we must act upon with urgency.

The planetary crises of climate change and ecosystem degradation are two sides of the same coin. Human-caused emissions drive temperatures higher and increase extreme weather, which in turn degrades the forests, wetlands, and oceans that are our most vital carbon sinks. This dangerous feedback loop poses a direct threat to our food and water security, public health, and the stability of communities worldwide.

This understanding—that human prosperity is intrinsically linked to environmental health—is the very essence of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan's enduring vision. The founding father of the UAE taught us that true wealth lies not just in economic prosperity but in the preservation of our natural world. He believed that protecting our environment was a duty, not a choice. It is this foundational principle that guides the work of the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment as we strive to build a sustainable future.

At the Zayed Foundation, we are committed to being a catalyst for such progress. We champion the world's environmental stewards through the Zayed International Prize for the Environment, and we look to the future by harnessing technology



**Prof. Mohammed
Bin Fahad**

Executive Editor

for sustainability, and by spearheading initiatives like the Dubai International Conference on Green AI to ensure that innovation serves not only humanity, but our planet as well.

The challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental degradation demand a united global response. We saw the power of collective action here in the UAE with the landmark "UAE Consensus" achieved at COP28. The nation's Net Zero by 2050 Strategic Initiative also represents a comprehensive, long-term national framework to this end, and reinforces the UAE's commitment to building a green economy.

The path ahead requires a fundamental shift in perspective. We must see climate action not as an economic burden, but as an unprecedented opportunity for green growth. The transition to a sustainable economy is already unlocking new industries, creating the jobs of the future, and building a more resilient and equitable world.

Today, let us all commit to upholding the principles of stewardship, cooperation, and innovation, and be inspired by nature to take bold action for our climate and our future.

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Opinion

From awareness to action: The real-world impact of environmental awareness days

“The environment cannot be treated as a secondary concern. It is the foundation of our health, stability, and future well-being.”

Celebrating environmental awareness days is much more than a yearly tradition. It is an important opportunity to raise awareness, inspire action, and highlight the urgent need to protect our planet and preserve its increasingly limited natural resources. In recent weeks, the world has celebrated several major environmental events, including World Environment Day, World Oceans Day, World Sea Turtle Day, and the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought.

Although these occasions are sometimes viewed as symbolic, their true value lies in their ability to turn environmental concern into meaningful action. They encourage stronger government policies, inspire public participation, and draw



Dr. Hamdan Khalifa Al Shaer
Vice Chairman of the Zayed International
Foundation for the Environment

attention to the environmental challenges facing our region. Most importantly, they remind us of the damage being done to nature and motivate individuals and communities to adopt more sustainable practices that can help safeguard future generations.

World Environment Day is the largest global platform dedicated to environmental awareness and climate action. Its significance is especially evident in the Arab region, where temperatures are rising at nearly twice the global average. Climate projections suggest that temperatures could increase by as much as five degrees Celsius by the end of the century. Such changes are expected to intensify heatwaves, strain water resources, and place growing pressure on already fragile food production systems, making the transition to a greener economy more urgent than ever.

World Oceans Day focuses on protecting the oceans, which play a vital role in

“Through campaigns, documentaries, and educational initiatives, the media can encourage sustainable habits while also holding decision makers accountable for environmental commitments.”

sustaining life on Earth. Across the Arab region, marine ecosystems face increasing threats from plastic pollution. Arab countries produce nearly 20 million tons of municipal and environmental waste each year, while the Middle East and North Africa have the highest per capita plastic footprint in the world. On average, each person in the region releases more than six kilograms of plastic waste into marine environments annually. This pollution threatens coastlines, fisheries, and marine ecosystems in the Red Sea, the Arabian Gulf, and the Mediterranean.

World Sea Turtle Day highlights the challenges facing one of the ocean's most important and vulnerable species. Many Arab beaches and islands serve as critical nesting grounds for sea turtles, yet growing levels of pollution continue to put them at risk. Plastic waste from coastal communities often ends up in the sea, where turtles mistake plastic bags for jellyfish and ingest them. This not only threatens turtle populations but also disrupts the delicate balance of marine ecosystems and protected areas throughout the region.

The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought draws attention to one of the most pressing environmental issues facing the Arab world. Desertification affects approximately 68 per cent of the

total land area of Arab countries, while another 20 per cent remains at risk. As a result, less than 12 per cent of Arab land is currently outside the danger zone. The loss of around 35 million hectares of fertile agricultural land has weakened food security and increased the vulnerability of nearly 90 million people who are already experiencing the effects of drought, water scarcity, and environmental displacement.

The media has a crucial role to play in addressing these challenges. Its responsibility goes beyond reporting environmental news. By presenting scientific information in a clear and accessible way, media outlets can help the public better understand issues such as climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss. Through campaigns, documentaries, and educational initiatives, the media can encourage sustainable habits while also holding decision makers accountable for environmental commitments. In doing so, it helps transform environmental protection from a government responsibility into a shared societal responsibility.

The environment cannot be treated as a secondary concern. It is the foundation of our health, stability, and future well-being. Protecting oceans, combating desertification, and preserving endangered species require commitment from both governments and individuals. Simple actions such as reducing plastic consumption, conserving water, and supporting reforestation efforts may seem small, but together they can create lasting change. The choices we make today will shape the future of our region and determine the quality of life for generations to come.

Zayed International Foundation for the Environment champions global partnerships at Uzbekistan

The Foundation participated in Eco Expo Central Asia 2026, held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, and coinciding with World Environment Day 2026

The Zayed International Foundation for the Environment (ZF) reaffirmed its enduring commitment to global environmental stewardship through its participation in Eco Expo Central Asia 2026, held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, coinciding with the global celebration of World Environment Day on June 5, 2026.

H.E. Prof. Dr. Mohammad A. Bin Fahad, Chairman of the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, joined international experts, research institutions, and private sector innovators in Samarkand to address the planet's most pressing ecological challenges of land degradation and desertification, themes that resonate deeply with the Foundation's core mission.

Dr. Eisa Abdellatif, Chief Technical Advisor at the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, also participated in the event, distributed the publications of the Foundation, conducted bilateral meetings, and interacted with key experts and stakeholders.

The Zayed International Foundation

for the Environment was invited by the National Committee on Ecology and Climate Change of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the event to strengthen ties with Uzbekistan's environment agencies. The opening speech of the Foundation reflected its willingness to partner with the committee and the Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change, and to join hands in combating desertification in Central and West Asia. Eco Expo Central Asia 2026 had a strategic focus on land restoration and drought resilience and served as a critical platform for showcasing advanced solutions for desert greening, including large-scale afforestation of the Aralkum Desert, halophyte-based restoration models, and soil stabilization technologies. Special emphasis was placed on water-efficient agriculture, with demonstrations of drip irrigation, AI-enabled water management, and drought-tolerant crop systems designed for Central Asia's arid climate.

In a keynote address at the opening ceremony, H.E. Prof. Dr. Mohammad A.



Bin Fahad emphasized a powerful vision for collaborative action, highlighting how the Eco Expo Central Asia 2026 reflects the region's rising leadership in sustainability, innovation, and green economic transformation. He praised the host nation's leadership and outlined the Foundation's role in fostering a sustainable future built on shared knowledge and human-centric solutions.

Expressing his gratitude to the Government of Uzbekistan, the National Committee on Ecology and Climate Change, and the organizers for inviting the Foundation to the prestigious event, he said: "The Zayed International Foundation for the Environment has long believed that environmental progress is better achieved through partnerships. We are particularly encouraged by the

The event emphasized that restoring degraded lands and transforming dryland agriculture are central to Central Asia's environmental security and long-term economic resilience





Expo's emphasis on innovation and the strong presence of international organizations, which adds credibility, technical expertise, and global reach to the Expo's mission."

Introducing 'Humanware': A people-first approach to sustainability

A central theme of the Foundation's participation was the introduction of its "HUMANWARE" initiative. Moving beyond a singular focus on hardware and software, this philosophy emphasizes that lasting environmental progress is driven by people—their awareness, education, and empowerment.

The Zayed International Foundation believes that substantial change is possible only when people are aware and conscious about their impact and their capacity to make a difference to the rising global environmental challenges.

"The priorities of this Expo align closely with the Foundation's mission to advance environmental knowledge and awareness, support innovation, and empower communities," said Dr. Bin Fahad. "Our initiative on "HUMANWARE" calls for focusing on people more than

technology as an effective factor of change."

"As we face urgent challenges like water scarcity and land degradation, it is the ingenuity, dedication, and behavioral change of our communities that will ultimately fuel our success." H.E. Bin Fahad explained. This philosophy connects directly with the Expo's showcase of community-led environmental solutions, reinforcing the idea that sustainable practices must be embedded locally to be effective globally.

Deepening UAE-Uzbekistan cooperation

H.E. Bin Fahad also highlighted the powerful synergy between the UAE and Uzbekistan, framing the Expo as a milestone in their joint pursuit of green development.

"The United Arab Emirates and Uzbekistan share a deep and growing partnership rooted in economic cooperation, cultural exchange, and a shared vision for sustainable development," he emphasized.

"The UAE's experience in renewable energy, green finance and environmental

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The priorities of Eco Expo Central Asia 2026 align closely with the Foundation’s mission to advance environmental knowledge and awareness, support innovation, and empower communities.

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Prof. Dr. Mohammad A. Bin Fahad, Chairman of the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment

innovation—through initiatives such as Masdar, the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, and the UAE’s Net Zero 2050 Strategy—complements Uzbekistan’s ambitious national agenda. Eco Expo Central Asia 2026 is not the end of a journey—it is the beginning of a new chapter where governments and investors work hand in hand, where innovation becomes the engine

of sustainability, and where Central Asia becomes a global model for green transformation.”

In closing his address, the Chairman issued a powerful call to action, urging all participants to harness the momentum generated by the Expo

. “The Zayed International Foundation for the Environment is proud to be part of this journey. We look forward to deepening our cooperation with Uzbekistan’s institutions, supporting regional initiatives, and contributing to the Expo’s longterm legacy.”

Thanking the organisers, he added: “Your dedication reflects a shared belief that a greener future is not only necessary—it is achievable.”

“Let us seize this moment. Let us build partnerships that endure. And let us work together to ensure that the green transformation of Central Asia becomes a global success story,” he concluded.

A nexus of innovation and policy

Eco Expo Central Asia 2026 has established itself as one of the region’s most vital environmental forums. Held from June 2-4, the event strategically leveraged its location in the historic city of Samarkand and its alignment with the Eighth Assembly of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to attract over 10,000 participants from more than 100 nations.



Zayed International Foundation for the Environment champions urban innovation for sustainable cities



The Foundation showcased its commitment during a recent visit with the Urban Biodiversity Coalition to Dubai's foremost innovation hubs, where cutting-edge technology and collaboration are bringing the vision for sustainable cities to life

The Zayed International Foundation for the Environment reaffirmed its commitment to accelerating Dubai's vision of creating urban environments that protect and regenerate nature during its participation in the Urban Biodiversity Coalition's visit to MIT Senseable City Lab, Dubai Future Labs,

and Dubai Future Foundation.

The event hosted at Dubai Future Foundation, Jumeirah Emirates Towers, provided a firsthand look at the cutting-edge innovations, research initiatives, and future-focused technologies being developed in Dubai to foster more

sustainable and biodiverse urban environments. The Zayed International Foundation joined government representatives, academia, and industry experts and practitioners at the intersection of urban development, biodiversity, and technology to shape a future where cities and ecosystems thrive side by side.

The Urban Biodiversity Coalition is a collective of organisations, experts, and innovators working to bring nature into the heart of cities.

The visit followed a structured program that included insightful presentations by MIT Senseable City Lab, Dubai Future Labs, and Dubai Future Foundation. MIT representatives shared insights into their research activities in Dubai, including work related to urban heat islands, advanced technologies, and innovative approaches to improving urban environments. These topics, though “outside traditional biodiversity conversations,” hold significant potential to influence how cities are designed and managed for both people and nature.

Dubai Future Labs provided an overview of their robotics and technology initiatives, demonstrating how automation, AI, and advanced engineering can support sustainable urban systems. The presentation emphasized collaboration and knowledge exchange as drivers of innovation.

During a guided tour of Dubai Future Labs, the Zayed International Foundation joined participants in a behind the scenes look at ongoing projects at the state-of-

the-art research lab.

Dr. Eisa Abdellatif, Chief Technical Advisor at the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, said: “Our visit was inspiring and informative, providing us with a fascinating insight into the futuristic projects being developed in Dubai, which showcase the immense potential that emerges when research, technology, and collaboration unite for a sustainable future. Technology is helping us understand ecosystems in entirely new ways, and the vital role of young UAE nationals in driving research and development is commendable. This significant investment in human capital (HUMANWARE) will be crucial to accelerate our progress towards building the sustainable and innovative cities of tomorrow.”

Following the tour, the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment expressed a strong interest in future collaborations with both the Urban Biodiversity Coalition and the Dubai Future Foundation to organize joint functions and advance shared environmental goals. This reflects the Foundation’s commitment to advancing environmental innovation and strengthening partnerships that support urban biodiversity.

The visit highlighted the critical importance of integrating technological innovation into biodiversity and urban sustainability efforts, serving as a powerful reminder that building more resilient cities requires collaboration across disciplines.

‘Humanware’ is a catalyst for AI- driven circularity: Zayed International Foundation for the Environment



The Zayed International Foundation for the Environment delivered a pivotal message, positioning human-centric values, or ‘Humanware,’ as the essential catalyst for a truly circular economy at the recently concluded CircularNXT 2026 summit in Dubai, UAE.

Organized by AI and Quantum International Hub, UAE, (AIQUAINT) on World Environment Day, the summit brought together over 150 registrants and 13 expert speakers from 24 countries to address a single mission: How do we build an economy that gives back more

than it takes?

The discussions highlighted stark realities—from the surging power demand of data centers to the discovery of microplastics in human blood, converging on the consensus that incremental action is no longer sufficient.

While speakers celebrated the potential of Artificial Intelligence to accelerate circularity by making previously invisible data visible and turning waste streams into actionable data points, a critical theme emerged: technology



alone is not the bottleneck. The solution lies in the intersection of systems around it, such as governance, incentives, and collaboration. It was this crucial point of integrating green technology with human-centered leadership and planet-first values that the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment highlighted at the event.

In a presentation titled, ‘HUMANWARE in the AI Age: Community Role in Enabling Circularity and Climate Action’, Dr. Eisa Abdellatif, Chief Technical Advisor at the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, highlighted that technology alone cannot solve environmental issues. “Like software, we need humanware –

an approach that makes people more conscious of their daily actions and their impact on the planet,” he said.

Dr. Eisa Abdellatif argued that while AI provides powerful new tools, the success of any environmental framework depends entirely on the human layer. “Technology gives us tools. Knowledge, values, and community give us reason. Without the human layer, no framework survives implementation,” Dr. Eisa emphasized.

His main message was that Humanware complements the Hardware and Software in any environmental strategy, be it climate action, desertification control, pollution control, or conservation of biodiversity, and is even more important as it involves human consciousness, ethics, consumption patterns, and sustainable living practices.

Dr. Eisa’s message on Humanware directly aligns with the call for greater accountability, transparency, and traceability of advanced technologies. The practicality of this human-centric approach was underscored by the summit’s showcase of a successful Dubai community pilot program. Through simple wet/dry waste segregation—a process reliant on community participation—the pilot achieved an astonishing 90% diversion from landfills in just 90 days. This proves the playbook for circularity exists and that scaling it depends on engaging the ‘Humanware’ as Dr. Eisa emphasized, which should be at the heart of this new, regenerative economy.

**At CircularNXT 2026,
Zayed International
Foundation
presented its vision
on the way forward
to accelerate
intelligent,
sustainable
solutions to shape
a regenerative and
resilient future**



World Environment Day 2026 focuses on urgent climate action worldwide



**WORLD
ENVIRONMENT
DAY**

With global temperatures at near-record levels and El Niño set to return, governments, businesses, communities, and individuals worldwide marked World Environment Day (WED) on June 5, sounding the alarm on the need to urgently address climate change. This year, Azerbaijan hosted the official commemoration of WED 2026.

Extreme heat is one of the deadliest and fastest-growing climate threats to lives, livelihoods, and economies. With overshoot of the Paris Agreement goal of 1.5°C now almost inevitable and

impacts escalating, the world must act #NowforClimate, cutting emissions and adapting to rising risks.

“This World Environment Day, warning signals are everywhere. The past 11 years have been the 11 hottest on record. The world is heading for a temporary overshoot above 1.5 degrees,” UN Secretary-General António Guterres said in his message for WED 2026. “Our task is to make that overshoot as small, as short, and as safe as possible – and rapidly bring temperatures back down.”





Commemorated on 5 June annually, World Environment Day is one of the biggest international days for environmental advocacy

“That means slashing emissions. Accelerating a just transition away from fossil fuels and towards renewables – the only sustainable path to lower costs and to real energy security. Cutting methane – one of the fastest, cheapest ways to limit near-term warming. Protecting forests, land, and seas. Helping communities adapt to the devastating impacts already here. And it means fulfilling climate finance promises to developing countries – to save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen economies,” he added.

At the official ceremony in Baku, Azerbaijan, officials highlighted the need for urgent collective and individual action to stave off the worst impacts of climate change and adapt to a changing environment. Rashad Ismayilov, Azerbaijan’s Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources, said: “This year’s focus on climate action could not be more timely. Azerbaijan is committed to nearly doubling its renewable energy capacity by 2030 and implementing a 1.5°C-aligned climate action plan, alongside our partners. We call on governments, industries, and citizens worldwide to

match ambition with urgent action.”

Azerbaijan, like countries across the world, is working to address climate impacts, including the shrinking of the Caspian Sea, the world’s largest inland body of water. Alongside conservation efforts, the Government has pledged a 40 percent emissions reduction by 2035 and has a renewable energy target of 30 percent by 2030. Azerbaijan has also shown global leadership in multilateral environmental processes, including hosting the UN Climate Change Conference (COP29) and, more recently, the World Urban Forum.

Governments, businesses, educational institutions, civil society, and communities across the world joined in efforts to advocate for action to address climate change for the good of people and planet. More than 2,000 World Environment Day events were registered worldwide this year.

A high-level commemoration was held at the UN Secretariat in New York to highlight the importance of collective and transformative action to tackle climate

***Host country
Azerbaijan is
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Caspian Sea, the
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inland body of
water***

change. In Santiago, Chile, an in-person editathon organized by UNEP and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, together with the Wikimedia Chile organization, focused on strengthening environmental content and tackling misinformation on Wikipedia. A similar editathon in Nairobi, Kenya, produced tangible results: 15 new articles created, 121 articles edited, 336 total edits, 511 references added, 23 uploads to Wikimedia Commons, and 69,500 words added to the encyclopedia.

Ahead of WED 2026, more than 50 cities across the world joined UNEP's new 50@50 activation to confront one of the world's fastest-growing and deadliest climate risks: extreme heat. Cities across the world, including Antalya,





Lagos, Melbourne, Mendoza, Paris, and Yangzhou, have come together through the activation to learn from each other's experiences, share tested approaches to extreme heat adaptation and preparedness as well as sustainable cooling solutions.

The growing movement was reflected in related activities worldwide, from climate resilient building initiatives at Brazil's Museum of Tomorrow and public exhibitions to a chess-inspired campaign in India featuring five-time World Chess Champion Viswanathan Anand, highlighting how extreme heat can affect concentration, performance and daily life and urging faster action on sustainable cooling solutions.

On 3 June, UNEP launched a new policy brief, 'Cheaper. Cleaner. Unstoppable. Clean technologies that are delivering

for the climate', which highlights a powerful and hopeful shift: many clean solutions are no longer niche—they are becoming the new normal. Across energy, transport, buildings, and food systems, 'positive tipping points' are emerging. As costs fall, technologies scale, and public support grows, adoption is accelerating in self-reinforcing ways. Solar power, electric mobility, and sustainable cooling are proving that climate action can be economically competitive, socially beneficial, and globally scalable. The policy brief shows that the transition is not only possible — it is already underway.

In the run-up to World Environment Day, UNEP also launched the world's first global Climate Dance Challenge, inviting people everywhere to take part in the "Climate Limbo" as a creative signal to world leaders. Thousands of participants learned the moves, filming and posting their own versions on TikTok, Instagram, or YouTube, tagging #NowForClimate and @UNEP, and challenging friends to join in.

Meanwhile, the Altyn Dala Conservation Initiative released eight of the world's last truly wild horses into Kazakhstan's steppe for World Environment Day. The horses, which have been absent for over 200 years, now help reduce wildfire risk and improve soil carbon storage. Celebrations in Baku also featured a special acoustic performance by Korean-Canadian artist Mark Lee, one of the most recognizable and influential figures in contemporary K-pop.

World Environment Day 2027 will be hosted by Serbia.

UAE reinforces leadership in sustainability on World Environment Day 2026

The UAE brings the environmental vision of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan to life through a series of landmark initiatives and projects focused on environmental protection, expanding clean energy sources, and advancing green technologies



The UAE marked World Environment Day 2026, observed annually on 5 June, by reaffirming its strong commitment to advancing environmental sustainability through a wide range of pioneering initiatives and solutions aimed at protecting natural resources, conserving biodiversity, and promoting environmentally friendly practices. These efforts align with the country's national

objectives of achieving climate neutrality by 2050.

This year's occasion, held under the theme "Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future," coincided with the UAE's continued efforts to strengthen its leading role in supporting and driving international action to address the escalating challenges of climate change

and its adverse impacts.

The UAE implements a comprehensive policy framework aimed at enhancing environmental sustainability. This encompasses several national strategies and initiatives, including the UAE Net Zero 2050 Strategy, the UAE National Climate Change Plan 2017–2050, the National Circular Economy Policy 2021–2031, and the National Strategy to Combat Desertification 2022–2030.

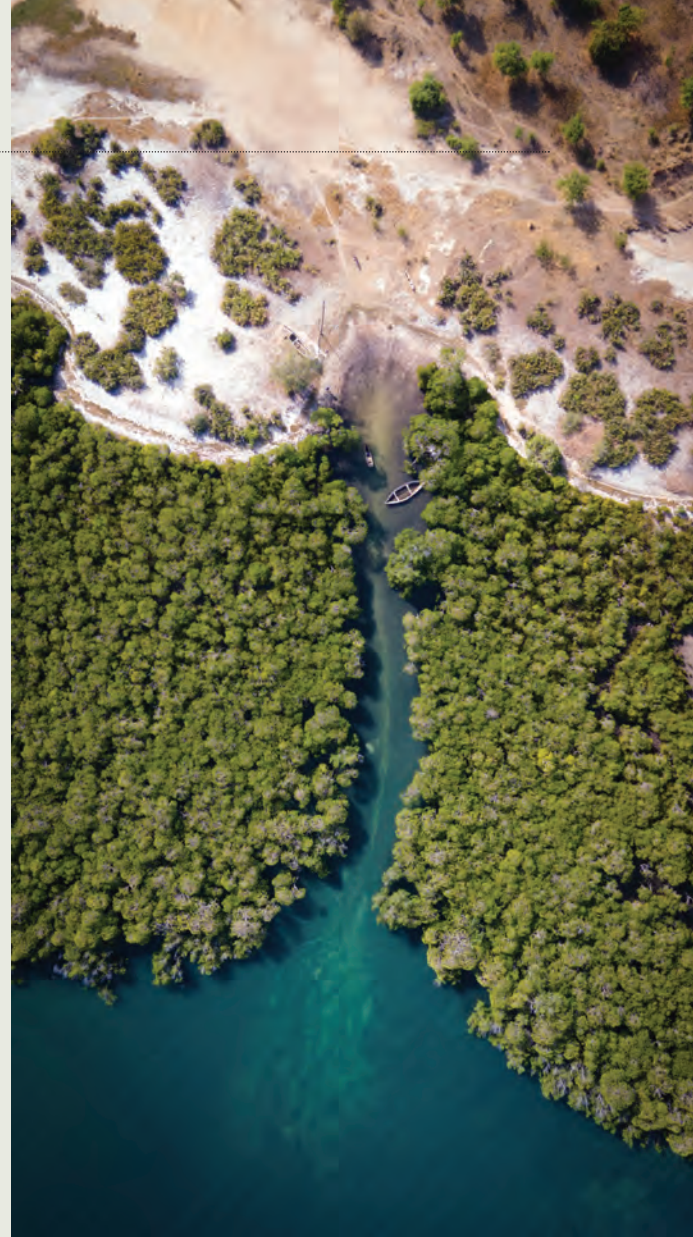
Since 2012, the country has also embraced the green economy model as a pathway to sustainable development through the UAE Green Agenda, alongside the launch of the National Climate Adaptation Programme.

In 2026, the UAE continues to roll out a series of landmark initiatives and projects focused on environmental protection, expanding clean energy sources, and advancing green technologies, further strengthening its global standing in sustainability.

55 terrestrial and marine reserves

The UAE's Seventh National Report on Biodiversity has revealed that the number of officially designated protected areas has risen to 55 terrestrial and marine reserves, covering 19.04% of the country's total area. In April, an Emiri decree was issued establishing the Wadi Al Qurha Nature Reserve in the Emirate of Sharjah.

The report highlighted tangible progress in protecting endangered species and improving their conservation status through integrated protection, breeding, habitat management programmes, and international cooperation. Coastal and



marine ecosystems witnessed significant advances through the national carbon sequestration project, which aims to plant 100 million mangrove trees by 2030.

Protection for endangered animal and plant species

The UAE has enacted a new law regulating and monitoring international trade in endangered animal and plant species. It has also launched, through the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund and Mubadala Foundation, an international initiative to protect dugongs and seagrass

habitats in the UAE and four other countries.

The Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) launched the ‘Hamdan bin Zayed: The World’s Richest Seas initiative’, which aims to double fish stocks in the emirate by 2030 as part of broader efforts to enhance marine productivity and protect natural resources.

Dubai has approved the “Layan Oasis” project, covering one million square metres and featuring a large natural lake, to highlight the desert environment and promote awareness of sustainability and quality of life. Meanwhile, the Sharjah Environment and Protected Areas Authority announced the discovery of four new spider species, reflecting the country’s rich biodiversity and growing scientific research efforts.

Single-use plastics policy

The UAE has also taken stringent measures to curb excessive consumption of plastic bags and reduce their harmful impact on the environment and living organisms.

In this context, the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi announced notable results since the launch of its single-use plastics policy in 2020, including the avoidance of more than 470 million plastic bags, with a reduction of up to 95% across major retail outlets.

National Agricultural Initiative

The UAE also announced the National Agricultural Initiative for the Adoption of Climate-Smart Crops, a strategic programme led by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment in cooperation

Over the past five decades, the UAE has accelerated efforts to turn the most daunting ecological challenges into real opportunities for growth and innovation

with the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA).

The initiative focuses on four strategic crops adapted to the UAE environment, notably foxtail millet, white millet, and sorghum, which offer a practical solution to water scarcity challenges by requiring up to 50% less water than conventional grain crops.

The launch of the initiative comes as the UAE continues to lead efforts to strengthen global water security through pioneering programmes such as the Mohamed bin Zayed Water Initiative, the UAE Water Aid Foundation (Suqia UAE), and the Abu Dhabi Global Water Platform. The country is also preparing to host the United Nations Water Conference in December in partnership with the Republic of Senegal.

Palm tree inventory project

Dibba Al Hisn Municipality has launched a project to survey and number palm trees in the city. The project aims to establish an





integrated database and a unified system to document information on palm trees and monitor their health and technical condition. This will facilitate routine maintenance, improve management efficiency, and ensure their preservation as an important environmental and heritage element in the city.

‘Sustainable Sea’ initiative

The Environment and Protected Areas Authority (EPAA) in Sharjah organised the “Sustainable Sea” initiative as part

of its World Environment Day activities to highlight the importance of protecting marine ecosystems, raise community awareness about the dangers of marine pollution and plastic waste, and promote a culture of environmental responsibility and volunteerism in safeguarding natural resources.

The initiative combined hands-on environmental action with awareness activities, featuring a seabed clean-up diving campaign involving divers and volunteers.

‘Millets Harvest Day’ supports the adoption of climate-smart crops in the UAE

The International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA) hosted “Millets Harvest Day” to mark World Environment Day 2026, as a field-based milestone that builds on the launch of the National Agricultural Initiative for the Adoption of Climate-Smart Crops in the UAE. The initiative was launched by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment and ICBA during the Emirati Agriculture Conference and Exhibition 2026.

The event highlighted the importance of millet as a crop capable of adapting to climate-related challenges and its role in supporting sustainable agriculture and strengthening food security. It forms part of ICBA’s efforts to translate scientific research into practical field applications by demonstrating the value of crops that can tolerate drought, high temperatures and salinity, while requiring less water than conventional crops. This supports more efficient use of natural resources and helps expand food and fodder production options in arid and saline environments.

Highlighting the UAE’s commitment to advancing practical solutions that enhance local food production and support the sustainability of the

agricultural sector, Dr. Mohammed Salman Al Hammadi, Assistant Under-Secretary for the Food Diversity Sector at the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, said the partnership with ICBA “enables farmers to gain access to science-based, more resource-efficient production options that strengthen their resilience and support the long-term sustainability of the agricultural sector”.

Dr. Tarifa Alzaabi, Director-General of ICBA, said, “Organising this event in conjunction with World Environment Day also underscores the environmental importance of crops such as millet, which can support more resilient production systems in arid and saline environments, where heat, salinity and water scarcity are major challenges. Through our research and field trials, we are working to connect science with field application, support farmers with evidence-based options, and strengthen the role of climate-smart crops in future food and fodder systems”.

The programme featured an overview of the objectives of the National Agricultural Initiative for the Adoption of Climate-Smart Crops in the UAE, an introductory session on the importance of millets as





Millets have a strong ability to adapt to drought, high temperatures and salinity, and have lower water requirements compared to conventional crops

climate-smart and highly nutritious crops, a presentation of ICBA's research and field efforts in this area, and a field visit that included a live millet harvesting activity.

Millets are among the strategic crops highlighted under the initiative due to their strong ability to adapt to drought, high temperatures and salinity, as well as their lower water requirements compared with conventional crops. They also have high nutritional value, containing around 7 to 12 percent protein, and are a source of iron, zinc, fiber, magnesium and essential antioxidants, reinforcing their relevance to food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture.



Al Shera'a sets a new global benchmark in sustainable and cognitive architecture



Al Shera'a, the new headquarters of the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) in Al Jaddaf, reflects Dubai's global leadership in innovation and sustainability. Its striking feature is an advanced cognitive system that thinks, senses, and responds, making Al Shera'a the world's smartest net-positive government building.

The system relies on Internet of Things technologies, big data analytics and artificial intelligence (AI) to successfully

redefine the government work environment in the digital age. This integrated cognitive system connects all operational systems through a network of over 110,000 smart sensors that monitor environmental and operational data in real time, over 1,500 wireless access points, and more than 3,200 network devices. This vast sensory network generates more than 1.9 million automated control commands daily, enhancing operational integration and

We inaugurated a new landmark that we proudly regard as an inspiring model in sustainability, energy efficiency, and the use of technology to serve humanity. Dubai's ambitious journey to shape the future can only be fulfilled by renewing our investments in minds, talents, and advanced infrastructure — elements that together define the path we are taking towards reinforcing the global leadership of the UAE and Dubai.

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai

improving performance efficiency.

All functions are unified through the 'Al Shera'a' smart app, a single interface that controls approximately 100 independent building systems—from smart parking and elevator experiences to HVAC, lighting, and air quality monitoring. With 167 distinct operating functions, the application provides a

user-centric experience for employees while enabling digital intelligence to manage resources based on actual usage, significantly enhancing operational and environmental efficiency.

Electricity generation by two photovoltaic systems

The building's primary distinction is its ability to generate more energy than it consumes, producing over 7,500 megawatt-hours (MWh) of renewable energy annually. This is achieved through a total of 5 MW of photovoltaic capacity integrated into its design.

The energy system is twofold. First, Building Integrated Photovoltaic (BIPV) panels are installed across the facade, covering nearly 9,000 square feet with 251 panels that contribute 187 kWp. The bulk of the power, however, comes from a second, larger system of approximately 8,400 photovoltaic panels installed on the roof, podium fins, and shading structures. This array covers over 200,000 square feet and provides 4.821 MW of capacity. To ensure peak efficiency, the solar panels are maintained by specialised robotic cleaning systems.

Global model for future buildings

Al Shera'a, which means "sail" in Arabic, is designed to evoke movement and progress. The interior draws inspiration from traditional Emirati houses, blending cultural authenticity with a contemporary, innovative style.

With a built-up area of more than 2 million sq ft, comprising 19 floors in



The building will generate over 7,500 megawatt hours (MW/h) a year of renewable energy and has 9,000 square feet of Building Integrated Photovoltaic (BIPV) panels

In addition to the ground floor and a basement, the building is not merely a workplace but a functioning model of Dubai's strategic commitment to the Clean Energy Strategy 2050 and Net Zero Carbon Emissions Strategy 2050.

It includes a conference hall, an

innovation centre, exhibition spaces, and a nursery for employees' children. The design has been developed to achieve the highest standards in sustainable and human-centric building, including LEED Platinum, WELL Building Standard Platinum, and Dubai's Al Sa'fat Platinum Rating.

Furthering its commitment to sustainability, the building is directly connected to the Al Jadaf Metro Station via a pedestrian bridge, encouraging the use of public transport to reduce congestion and lower carbon emissions. By combining advanced AI, resource efficiency, and a focus on quality of life, Al Shera'a serves as a tangible, global model for the future of building design.

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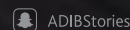
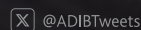
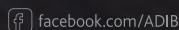
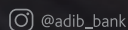


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UAE advances global fight against desertification and drought

The UAE's National Strategy to Combat Desertification 2022–2030 focuses on improving land productivity, requalification of degraded lands, and protection of water resources by 2030

The UAE is at the forefront of global efforts to combat desertification and drought through an advanced model that is reshaping the relationship between people and the environment, transforming escalating climate challenges into practical pathways for sustainable development and environmental security.

The UAE is leading this approach by deploying modern technologies and innovative scientific solutions to rehabilitate ecosystems, enhance vegetation cover and protect natural

resources, reflecting a strategic vision that goes beyond conventional responses to develop proactive solutions to climate-related challenges.

These efforts were in the spotlight as the world observed the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought on June 17. The UAE continues to advance the objectives of its National Strategy to Combat Desertification 2022–2030, which aims to increase the efficiency of local production systems by 40 percent, rehabilitate and restore at least 80 percent of degraded land where applicable, improve water-use efficiency, and raise the reuse rate of treated water to 60 percent.

The strategy includes 33 key initiatives and a roadmap extending to 2030, built around five pillars: conserving ecosystems and improving the condition of arid and dry lands; mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change on ecosystems affected by desertification; enhancing awareness, education and capacity building at the national level; adopting and applying modern technologies while strengthening the integration of scientific research; and reinforcing partnerships and cooperation at national, regional and international levels.

The UAE has implemented a range of





measures to protect land from degradation and combat desertification, including the National Biodiversity Strategy 2031, the Blue Carbon Project, an aerial mapping plan for agricultural areas, the date palm initiatives and programmes supporting organic farming.

The country has also achieved significant progress in the construction of dams, which have contributed to supplying irrigation water for forests and agricultural lands. During the heavy rainfall experienced in April this year, the UAE's dam network successfully retained approximately 72 million cubic metres of water. The network consists of 109 dams managed by the Ministry of Energy

and Infrastructure, with a total storage capacity exceeding 90 million cubic metres and an occupancy rate of around 83 percent.

The UAE has established research centres and experimental stations dedicated to research and development activities in combating desertification and monitoring climate variables. It has also created an international centre specialising in saline agriculture to conduct research on salt-tolerant plants and expand their cultivation.

Recently, the UAE launched the National Agricultural Initiative for the Adoption of Climate-Smart Crops, a strategic programme led by the Ministry of Climate



Change and Environment in cooperation with the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA).

The initiative focuses on four strategic crops adapted to the UAE environment, led by millet varieties and sorghum, which provide a practical solution to water scarcity challenges by requiring up to 50 percent less water than conventional grain crops.

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment has also implemented a project using drones to conduct

comprehensive surveys of agricultural areas across the country, supporting the restoration of degraded lands and the protection and development of existing agricultural areas. Drone technologies have also been used to disperse and plant seeds of native trees such as ghaf and samar in several locations nationwide.

In its second Nationally Determined Contributions report submitted to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the UAE raised its target for mangrove planting from 30 million to



The UAE's approach demonstrates how integrated policy can deliver food security, enhance biodiversity, and create a global benchmark for sustainable development

The UAE Research Programme for Rain Enhancement Science also represents a significant contribution to the country's efforts to achieve water security, sustain natural resources and combat drought and desertification. Since its launch, the programme has played a leading role in supporting scientific research and innovation and strengthening the UAE's position as a global centre for rain enhancement research and technologies.

At the international level, the UAE has signed numerous agreements related to combating desertification, including the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in 1994, and has hosted and participated in international and regional meetings addressing this environmental challenge.

In November 2022, the UAE joined the International Drought Resilience Alliance (IDRA), launched by Spain and Senegal with the support of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, to generate momentum and mobilise resources to strengthen drought resilience in countries, cities and communities worldwide.

100 million trees by 2030. This move significantly enhances soil protection and natural habitats, while strengthening resilience to climate change and reducing its causes.

The expansion of nature reserves is among the UAE's most prominent measures to address desertification and drought. The number of designated terrestrial and marine protected areas has risen to 55, covering 19.04 percent of the country's total area. In April, a decree was issued establishing the Wadi Al Qarha Nature Reserve in the Emirate of Sharjah.

Recycling plastic is no longer good practice

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

For decades now, recycling plastic has been promoted as a cornerstone of environmental responsibility. Yet emerging scientific evidence paints a far more troubling picture—one in which recycling itself has become a significant source of microplastic and nanoplastic pollution. As the world confronts the escalating health and ecological risks of plastic particles, it is time to rethink long held assumptions and push for bold international action.

The hidden threat of microplastics and nanoplastics

Microplastics and nanoplastics have infiltrated every corner of the planet—and the human body. Recent studies have detected plastic particles in human blood, with one landmark study finding microplastics in 77 per cent of tested samples.

Researchers have also identified microplastics in human breast milk, raising concerns about early life exposure, and most alarmingly, in human brain tissue, confirming that these particles can cross the blood–brain barrier. Their presence is linked to inflammation, oxidative stress, endocrine disruption, and potential long term neurological impacts. The scale of exposure is no

longer abstract; it is intimate, continuous, and unavoidable.

Recycling: A source of more pollution, not less

Contrary to public belief, recycled plastic often generates more microplastic and nanoplastic particles than virgin plastic.

During mechanical recycling—shredding, washing, melting, and re-extruding—plastic undergoes intense physical stress. Each step releases microscopic fragments into the air, water, and soil.

Recent investigations into recycling facilities revealed that wastewater from these plants can contain up to 13% microplastic by volume, meaning that recycling operations may be emitting billions of particles daily.

Even “high tech” recycling processes cannot prevent the breakdown of polymer chains. Every cycle of reuse weakens the material, making it more prone to fragmentation. In other

More than 10 billion metric tons of plastic have been produced globally to date, but only less than 9% of all plastic ever made has been “recycled”



The toxicity of plastic and recycled plastic presents serious dangers to the environment and public health, and drives environmental injustices

words, the more we recycle plastic, the more microplastics we release into the environment. This reality undermines the long standing narrative that recycling is a sustainable solution.

A global turning point: The UN's push for a plastics treaty

Recognizing the severity of the crisis, the United Nations is currently negotiating a legally binding international convention to restrict plastic production. The goal is not merely to manage waste but to reduce plastic at the source, phase out unnecessary plastics, regulate toxic additives, and establish global standards for monitoring microplastics. This treaty represents the most ambitious global effort yet to confront the plastic pollution emergency.

A call to environmentalists everywhere

Environmentalists, scientists, educators, and advocates must unite behind this emerging convention. The world needs a clear, coordinated message: plastic production must be phased out, not simply recycled.

Communicating this truth—through campaigns, institutions, classrooms, and community networks—is essential to countering decades of industry messaging that framed recycling as the ultimate solution for plastic pollution.

The evidence is clear. Recycling plastic is no longer a good practice. Supporting the UN's global Plastics Treaty is the next critical step toward protecting human health, restoring ecosystems, and ending the plastic era.

UAE sets leading example in biodiversity protection



The UAE's Seventh National Report on Biodiversity details the country's major environmental achievements, including the expansion of 55 terrestrial and marine protected reserves that cover 19.04% of the nation's total area

Biodiversity is the foundation of all life on Earth. But around the world, it is being lost at an unprecedented rate. The International Day for Biological Diversity 2026, held on May 22 under the theme “Acting Locally for Global Impact”, served as a call to re-examine our relationship with the natural world and take action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss.

Despite humanity's technological advances, mankind is completely

dependent on healthy and vibrant ecosystems for our water, food, medicines, clothes, fuel, shelter and energy, to name just a few. This involves respecting, protecting, and repairing our biological wealth. To realise these objectives, the UN adopted the “Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework” in 2022, an action plan that established 23 targets for 2030 and four global goals for 2050 aimed at protecting biodiversity, halting environmental degradation and





reversing its course by 2030.

On International Day for Biological Diversity this year, the UAE reaffirmed that protecting biodiversity depends on the strength of local action and the commitment of communities, organisations and governments working together to achieve this goal. This comes amid the major achievements realised by the UAE in this field, as highlighted in the country's Seventh National Report on Biodiversity, prepared as part of implementing commitments under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity.

National teams in the UAE have succeeded in increasing the number of approved

protected areas to 55 terrestrial and marine reserves, covering 19.04 per cent of the country's total area. The teams also achieved tangible progress in protecting endangered species and improving their status through integrated conservation, breeding, habitat management and international cooperation programmes.

The report shows that the UAE has achieved notable progress in coastal and marine ecosystems through the National Carbon Sequestration Project, which aims to plant 100 million mangrove trees by 2030, with more than 50 per cent of the target achieved by 2024.

The report also indicated that public awareness rose to 89 per cent, while



The UAE has made progress in protecting endangered species through breeding programmes, habitat management and international cooperation. On the marine front, the National Carbon Sequestration Project has surpassed the halfway mark toward its goal of planting 100 million mangrove trees by 2030

the environmental behaviour index improved to 85 per cent in 2024. Several national initiatives and programmes were implemented to strengthen the UAE's contribution to biodiversity conservation targets and environmental requirements in partnership and cooperation with relevant international organisations.

In 2026, the UAE continues a series of initiatives and projects aimed at enhancing biodiversity. The country issued a new law regulating and monitoring international trade in endangered animals and plants, and through the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund and Mubadala Foundation, it launched an international initiative to protect dugongs and seagrass habitats in the UAE and four other countries.





Meanwhile, the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi launched the “Hamdan bin Zayed: The World’s Richest Seas” initiative, aimed at doubling fish stocks in the emirate by 2030 as part of efforts to enhance marine productivity and protect resources. The agency also succeeded in raising the sustainable fishing index to 100 per cent by the end of 2025, compared to 8 per cent in 2018.

Dubai approved the “Layan Oasis” project, covering one million square metres and featuring a vast natural lake, to highlight the desert environment and promote sustainability. In Sharjah, the Environment and Protected Areas Authority recorded the discovery of four new spider species, reflecting the richness of biodiversity and scientific research in the country.

The UAE continues its biodiversity conservation journey in line with the objectives and frameworks outlined in the National Biodiversity Strategy, which aims to reduce direct pressures on biodiversity and improve biodiversity status through conserving ecosystems, species and genetic diversity; the National Strategy to Combat Desertification 2022-30, which includes 33 key short- and long-term initiatives and a national action agenda through to 2030; and the National Strategy for Sustainability of the Marine and Coastal Environment, and other related strategies.

In June 2024, nine globally significant biodiversity sites in the UAE were included under the “Key Biodiversity Areas” Secretariat. The country has implemented various laws to support biodiversity conservation efforts. These address the exploitation, protection and development of living aquatic resources, the prohibition of the hunting, transport, killing or harming of wild or marine organisms, and the regulation and monitoring of international trade in endangered animals and plants.

The UAE has joined numerous international agreements aimed at preserving biodiversity, including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its biosafety protocols related to genetically modified resources, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in 2007, and several other international agreements and global treaties.

Why organic waste management is central to the UAE's circular future

For years, the global conversation on waste has been dominated by plastics. While this focus is important, it has created a critical oversight in our strategic framework, obscuring a larger and more immediate challenge: organic waste. For the UAE, addressing this issue is no longer optional. Effective organic waste management is crucial to achieving the country's circular economy

ambitions, underscoring the urgent need to develop an integrated organic waste management system that aligns with the UAE's Green Agenda 2030 and Circular Economy Policy 2021-2031.

The scale of the organic waste problem in the UAE is far greater than commonly perceived. Accounting for approximately 40 percent of the UAE's municipal waste





stream, its impact is disproportionately high. When sent to landfills, organic materials decompose and release methane, a powerful greenhouse gas with a warming impact 86 times stronger than CO₂ per unit of mass over a 20-year-period. Methane is also the world's second-largest contributor to global warming after carbon dioxide

and a key ingredient in ground-level ozone pollution. This creates a policy mismatch where a significant climate and environmental threat receives less attention than more visible materials like plastic. This presents an opportunity for the UAE to recalibrate its approach with far greater precision and achieve its national climate targets.



Dr. Hamdan Khalifa Al Shaer
Vice Chairman of the Zayed
International Foundation for the
Environment



“True sustainability demands that we transform our organic waste into a valuable resource.

By building a circular system that returns this wealth to our soil and economy, we can close the loop on our organic resources and build a more resilient nation in harmony with the natural world.”



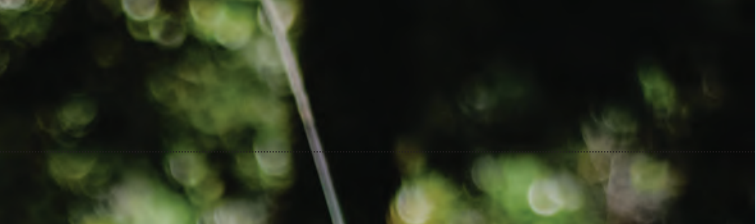
Nearly half of municipal waste in the UAE is organic, yet it continues to be collected in mixed streams

The barrier to progress is not a lack of innovative materials, but a lack of systemic readiness. The development of advanced compostable and bio-based packaging is a positive step, but these materials cannot deliver environmental value if the infrastructure to process them does not exist. The core of the problem lies in a single operational gap: the continued collection of waste in mixed streams. This practice leads to high levels of contamination, rendering organic feedstock unusable for high-quality composting or anaerobic digestion and undermining the viability of the entire circular value chain. A system that does not mandate the separation of waste at its source is a system working against itself.



In this context, certified compostable packaging serves as a crucial enabler. For food-contact items like cups and takeaway containers that are often too contaminated for recycling, compostable alternatives provide a viable pathway. When integrated with a source-separated organics collection system, these materials can be co-processed with food scraps, increasing the volume of waste diverted from landfills and simplifying sorting for consumers and businesses. They are a complementary tool designed to make organic waste streams cleaner and more efficient.





To unlock this potential, policy ambition must translate into enforcement reality. The most effective waste management systems globally utilize strong economic signals to drive behaviour. By implementing measures such as landfill tipping fees and penalties for mixed-waste disposal, the UAE can make diversion and recycling the rational economic choice for all stakeholders. This shift from voluntary encouragement to regulatory compulsion is essential for achieving change at scale. Furthermore, standards for compostable materials must be harmonized with the realities of

our domestic processing infrastructure, ensuring that a “compostable” label is a functional guarantee, not just a marketing claim.

Addressing the organic waste challenge also presents a significant industrial opportunity. The domestic production of bio-based materials and the development of a high-tech waste processing sector align directly with the goals of the UAE’s Operation 300bn industrial strategy. However, this opportunity is conditional on creating a coordinated policy environment where infrastructure and credible certification frameworks are established ahead of investment. Academic institutions also play a vital role, acting as essential partners in validating materials and providing the evidence base for effective policy design under local conditions.

The path forward requires decisive execution on three non-negotiable priorities. First, mandatory source separation of organic waste must become standard practice, particularly for major commercial and municipal generators. Second, a national certification framework for compostable materials, aligned with UAE infrastructure, must be established. Third, robust economic instruments that penalize landfilling and reward diversion must be implemented.

The circular economy debate in the UAE has matured beyond awareness. Success now hinges on execution, and execution depends on recognizing organic waste not as a peripheral issue, but as the very core of a sustainable and prosperous future.

Electrification to lead the next phase of energy transition

Rising geopolitical tensions, surging energy demand and growing fossil fuel market volatility are reshaping the global energy landscape, opening a new phase of the global energy transition centered on electrification, renewable power and the accelerated transition away from fossil fuels.

In its new report, 'Transitioning away from fossil fuels: A roadmap based on renewables, electrification and grid enhancement', the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) warns that beyond today's energy security concerns, current energy systems remain structurally unprepared to meet the 1.5°C climate goal.

The report, released in collaboration with the Brazilian COP30 Presidency, finds that whilst the global goals of tripling renewable power capacity and doubling energy efficiency improvements by 2030 remain essential, they are not sufficient to achieve the global energy transition.

As demand rapidly increases across transport, industry, buildings and digitalisation, the transition must now focus on electrifying these end-use sectors while transitioning away from fossil fuels.

IRENA's revised 1.5°C Scenario in the forthcoming 'World Energy Transition Outlook' sees electricity in global consumption rise from 23% today to 35% in 2035 and over 50% in 2050, with the rising demand mostly met by renewables. It envisages the share of fossil fuels declining across sectors from 80% today to 50% in 2035 and 20% or less in 2050.

The report highlights that electrification is becoming the primary structural driver of fossil fuel decline across all major end-use sectors. Transitioning away from fossil fuel would mean a complete restructuring of energy infrastructure and investment allocation.

Countries must simultaneously invest in grids, storage and system flexibility to ensure reliable, secure and affordable electricity systems capable of supporting growing demand.

However, infrastructure has become a critical bottleneck, with around 2,500 gigawatts of wind and solar awaiting connection to grids. Upgrades by 2035 and 2050 will not be achieved without fast-tracked permitting and scaled-up investment. IRENA estimates grid investment needs at USD 1.2 trillion per year on average, more than double the





Updated **1.5°C** roadmap reflects geopolitical and market realities; targets faster fossil fuel decline and 35% global electrification by **2035**

USD 0.5 trillion invested in 2025.

Significant investments will also be needed in hydrogen and alternative fuels supply chains as well as electrification of end-use technologies and their enabling infrastructure – from EV charging and building retrofits to construction for electric heating and cooling and industrial electrification.

The report also underlines the importance of monitoring progress on electrification, grid enhancement and fossil fuel decline to support implementation and guide

international cooperation.

At COP28, the UAE Consensus and the First Global Stocktake under the Paris Agreement called for a tripling of renewables and doubling of energy efficiency by 2030. It also established an important foundation for the transition away from fossil fuels (TAFF). The TAFF roadmap, launched by the COP30 Brazilian Presidency and supported by IRENA, provides an important pathway to advance climate, energy security and development objectives in parallel.

From poaching to pandemics: The hidden costs of the wildlife trade

The recent interception of 223 endangered animals by Dubai Customs at Dubai International Airport is more than just a victory for the vigilance, expertise, and operational readiness of law enforcers in the Emirate. Each rescued animal represents a small but significant triumph for wildlife activists globally.

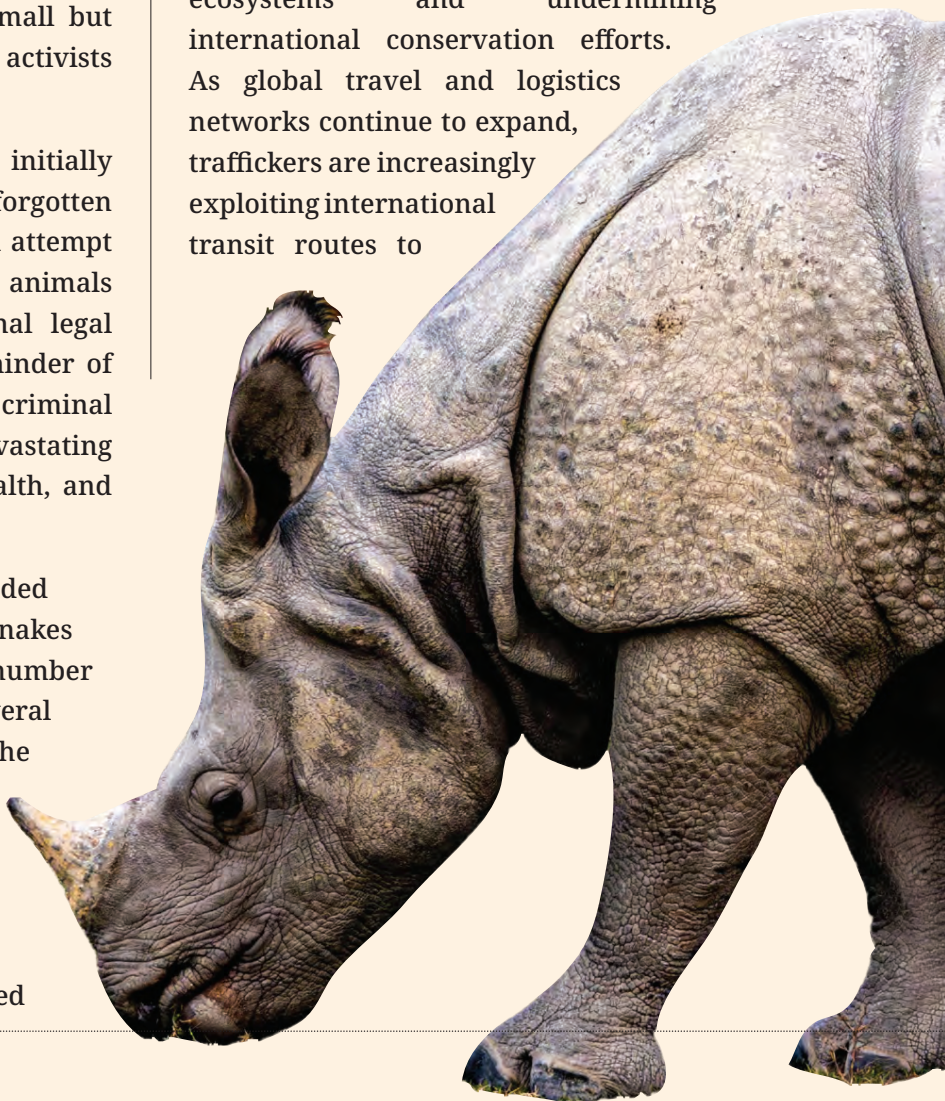
This single seizure, from what initially appeared to be the case of a forgotten suitcase, ultimately revealed an attempt to move hundreds of live animals outside established international legal frameworks and is a stark reminder of a multi-billion-dollar global criminal enterprise that inflicts devastating damage on our planet, our health, and our societies.

The latest seizure in Dubai included 129 lizards, 36 scorpions, eight snakes and 50 frogs, bringing the total number of recovered animals to 223. Several of these species may fall under the protection of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the global agreement governing the international trade of endangered

wildlife species.

Wildlife trafficking is widely regarded as one of the most profitable forms of transnational organised crime, threatening biodiversity, disrupting ecosystems and undermining international conservation efforts.

As global travel and logistics networks continue to expand, traffickers are increasingly exploiting international transit routes to



move protected species across borders.

The most immediate and obvious impact of such illicit trade is the catastrophic loss of ecological integrity and biodiversity. Wildlife trafficking is a primary driver of extinction. When criminal syndicates poach elephants for their ivory, rhinos for their horns, or pangolins for their scales, they are systematically erasing entire species from existence.

Many of these targeted animals are keystone species and have critical roles in maintaining ecosystem balance. For instance, the killing of elephants for their tusks alters entire landscapes, as these giant creatures

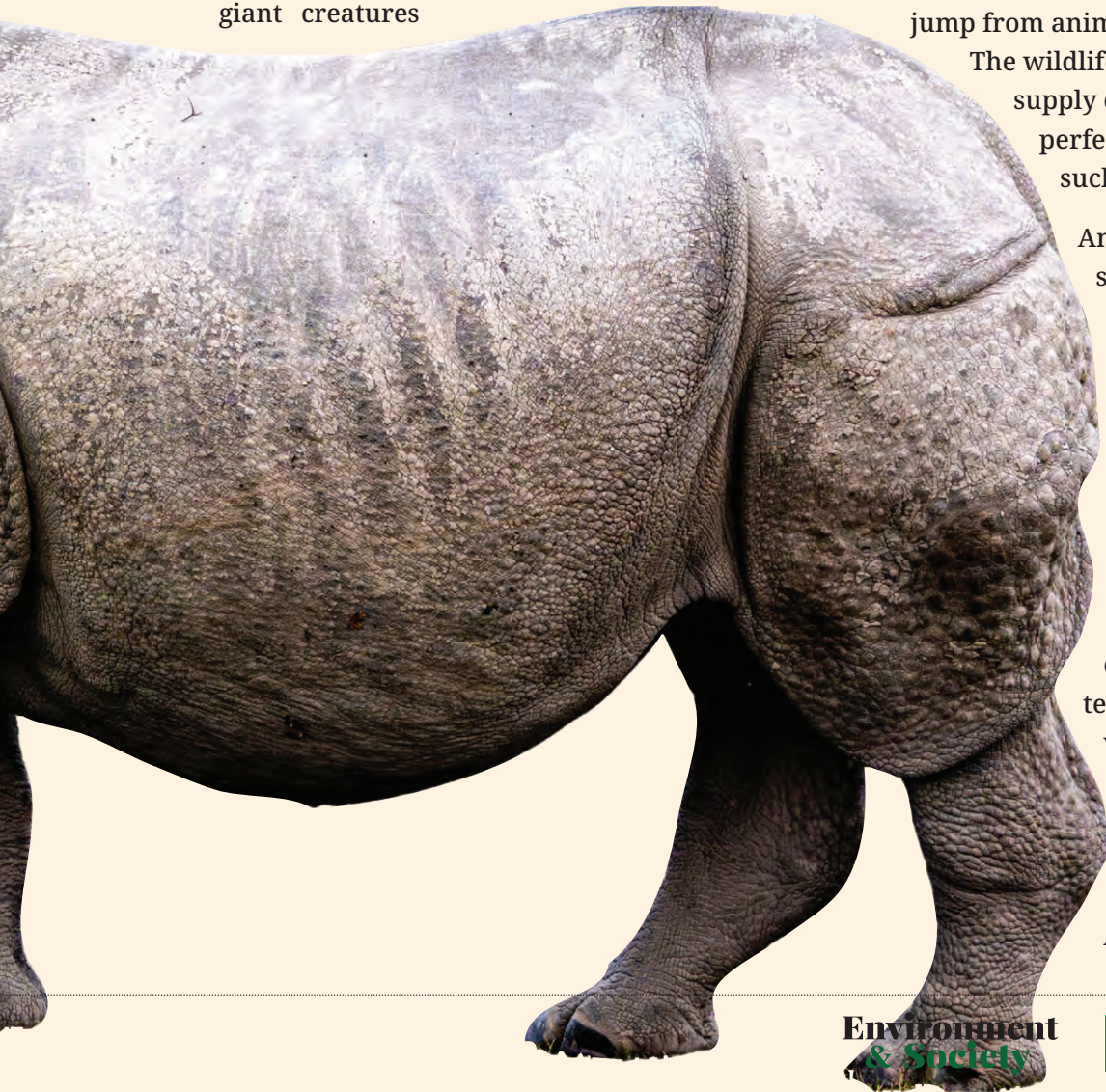
play a crucial role in seed dispersal and maintaining savanna ecosystems.

The loss of predators and herbivores disrupts entire food webs, leading to degraded, unstable environments that are less resilient to climate change. Each animal stolen from the wild weakens the very fabric that sustains our planet and provides essential services like clean air, fresh water, and fertile soil.

Perhaps more urgently for humankind, the illegal wildlife trade accelerates concerns of global health and biosecurity. The COVID-19 pandemic served as a brutal lesson in the dangers of zoonotic diseases—pathogens that jump from animals to humans.

The wildlife trafficking supply chain is a perfect incubator for such spillovers.

Animals, already stressed and immunocompromised, are snatched from diverse environments and crammed together in unsanitary conditions, creating a terrifying “mixing vessel” for viruses and bacteria to mutate and cross species. According





to the World Health Organisation, more than 60% of emerging infectious diseases are zoonotic in origin, with historical examples including Ebola, SARS, and HIV.

The damage caused by wildlife trade also extends deep into the foundations of our economies and societies, as this is a highly organized transnational crime, often run

by the same violent syndicates involved in drug, arms, and human trafficking. This criminal enterprise fuels corruption, bribes officials, and undermines the rule of law in source, transit, and destination countries alike.

It robs nations, particularly in the developing world, of their precious





The commercial capture, use, and killing of wild animals is a growing industry, but with little governance and many severe hidden costs

natural heritage, decimating their potential for legitimate, sustainable revenue from eco-tourism. The violence associated with poaching destabilizes communities, endangers the lives of wildlife rangers, and perpetuates cycles of poverty and instability. Allowing this trade to flourish is to cede control of vast

territories and economies to criminal networks, eroding global security for profit.

While decisive actions taken by regulatory authorities are a crucial part of the solution, to truly combat this crisis, we need a unified global response that treats wildlife trafficking with the same gravity as other major transnational crimes. This requires strengthening international laws and intelligence sharing, but it also demands that we aggressively target the demand that fuels the trade.

We must invest in education and awareness campaigns in consumer countries to dismantle the myths and status symbols associated with wildlife products. Simultaneously, we must support communities in source countries with sustainable, alternative livelihoods, turning them from potential poachers into dedicated custodians of their natural resources.

Climate action is key to affordable housing, but progress stalls

Decarbonisation of the buildings and construction sector has slowed, leaving it both a major emissions source and increasingly vulnerable to climate impacts and energy price shocks, according to a new report from the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GlobalABC).

The tenth edition of the 'Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction (2025-2026)' assesses progress across the sector using seven key indicators covering policies, finance, technologies, and investment aligned with global commitments towards a 2050 net-zero emissions pathway.

Published amid a global housing and energy affordability crisis, the report highlights how climate action in buildings can reduce energy bills, improve living conditions, and strengthen resilience to climate impacts, while cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

Globally, buildings are becoming more energy efficient, but progress is too slow to meet climate goals

Every day, the world builds an estimated 12.7 million square metres of floor area –roughly the equivalent of adding the entire city of Paris in new floor space nearly every week.

In 2024, the global buildings' floor area expanded by 1.7 per cent, reaching 273 billion square metres. This rapid growth was driven largely by construction in emerging economies, including India and Southeast Asia. The buildings and construction sector now accounts for nearly 50 per cent of global material extraction, 37 per cent of global emissions, and 28 per cent of global energy consumption.

The report notes that since 2015:

- Global building energy intensity – measuring a building's annual energy consumption relative to its size – has reduced by 8.5 per cent.
- Green building certifications have nearly tripled.
- In 2024, renewables supplied just 17.3% of buildings' energy demand, far below what is needed for a net zero pathway.
- Investment in energy efficiency reached USD 275 billion in 2024, contributing to cumulative investment of USD 2.3 trillion since 2015.





Since 2020, however, progress has slowed, as the green transition has not kept pace with the rate of construction. To align the sector with a net-zero pathway, policymakers should accelerate energy efficiency improvements and phase out fossil fuels, while investment in building energy efficiency must reach USD 5.9 trillion by 2030, equivalent to USD 592 billion annually.

The report highlights positive examples across regions, including:

- The European Union deployed

The buildings and construction sector now accounts for nearly 50 per cent of global material extraction, 37 per cent of global emissions, and 28 per cent of global energy consumption

policies tackling operational emissions and emissions released before and during construction (embodied emissions). Improvements in building energy performance in Japan and Switzerland.

- Growth in on-site renewables in buildings in Australia, Germany, India, and Pakistan.
- National climate action plans substantively covering building sector strategies in the Bahamas, Cambodia, and Colombia.
- Updated building energy codes in California, Kenya, Japan, and Singapore.
- Expansion of green building certification in China, Colombia, India, and Türkiye.
- National roadmaps supporting sector transformation in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Ghana, and Senegal.
- Growth in investment and financing for sustainable buildings in Canada, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom.

World invests 30 times more to destroy nature than to protect it, finds UN report

For every USD1 the world invests in protecting nature, it spends USD30 on destroying it. This stark imbalance is the central finding of the ‘State of Finance for Nature 2026’, a report by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). It calls for a major shift in global financing of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and phasing out harmful investments to deliver high returns, reduce risk exposure, and enhance resilience.

The State of Finance for Nature 2026, which uses data for 2023, finds that of the USD 7.3 trillion in total nature-negative finance flows, USD 4.9 trillion is from private sources, which are highly concentrated in a few sectors like utilities, industrials, energy, and basic materials. USD 2.4 trillion from the public sector goes towards environmentally harmful subsidies to fossil fuels, agriculture, water, transport, and construction.

Of the USD 220 billion in NbS finance flows, close to 90% comes from public sources, reflecting a steady rise in domestic and international support for NbS. Meanwhile, private investment in NbS amounted to only USD 23.4 billion or 10 per cent of the total NbS investments. Business and finance have yet to invest at scale in NbS, despite the

growing awareness of dependencies, risks, and opportunities related to nature.

The study finds that NbS investments need to grow 2.5 times to USD 571 billion per year by 2030. This constitutes just 0.5% of global GDP (in 2024).

Since reforming and repurposing private and public capital flows is the most powerful tool to shift markets toward sustainability, the report introduces a new Nature Transition X-Curve, a framework designed to help policymakers and businesses sequence reforms and scale up high-integrity NbS across all sectors of the economy.

Investment in nature-based solutions needs to grow by 2.5 times to USD571 billion per year by 2030





The framework charts a path for phasing out harmful subsidies and destructive investment in entrenched systems of production, while simultaneously scaling up NbS and nature-positive investments. It offers specific options to public and private sector businesses across the supply chain.

The Nature Transition X-Curve also offers roadmaps to meet the challenge of a ‘trillion-dollar nature transition economy’. The report highlights examples of how this is already being

applied by governments and business leaders around the world: Greening urban areas to counter heat-island effects and improving liveability for citizens; embedding nature in road and energy infrastructure; producing emissions-negative building materials using carbon dioxide.

A crucial principle in nature-positive investments is to ground them in local ecological, cultural, and social contexts, while ensuring their inclusivity and equity.

A blueprint for global energy resilience

The energy sector is the lifeblood of global commerce. From the food on our tables and the fertilizers in our fields to the technology in our hands and the planes in the sky, every aspect of the modern world runs on a model of just-in-time efficiency, which seamless energy flows help underpin. To avoid disruptions in times of unprecedented volatility, nations must move beyond reactive measures and proactively build energy systems that are robust, redundant, and ready for the future.

The core of the problem is a dangerous and deeply rooted combination of chronic underinvestment and an over-reliance on a few critical chokepoints. For years, upstream investment in the energy sector has hovered around \$400 billion annually, a figure that barely offsets the natural decline rates of existing production. This has left global spare capacity perilously thin. The world is now facing a massive 6 million barrels per day oil supply shortage that could keep markets tight well beyond 2026, according to the International Energy Agency.

Compounding this issue is our

dependence on a handful of maritime transit points. When this is disrupted, everything is impacted. The flow of LNG, jet fuel, fertilizers, aluminum, helium, critical minerals, plastics, and countless consumer goods can be instantly threatened. This impact is tangible; it is felt directly in the wallets of consumers and the balance sheets of businesses worldwide. Following recent geopolitical challenges, fuel prices climbed 30 percent, fertilizer costs soared 50 percent, and airfares rose by 25 percent. Every farm, factory, and family feels the strain when the arteries of global trade are constricted.

The UAE has long recognized these vulnerabilities, understanding that true security cannot be left to chance. As Dr. Sultan Al Jaber, UAE Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and ADNOC Group CEO, recently emphasized, ensuring long-term energy security requires significant, forward-thinking investment across the entire value chain. This philosophy is being put into action by ADNOC through a landmark US\$150 billion capital expenditure program aimed at enhancing operations and meeting future global demand with a

stable, reliable supply of low-cost, low-carbon energy. Crucially, this strategy includes accelerating infrastructure projects that build systemic redundancy. A prime example is the construction of a second pipeline to the Port of Fujairah, a project initiated over a decade ago with foresight that is now doubling export capacity completely outside the Strait of Hormuz. Already 50 percent complete, its delivery is being accelerated, representing a tangible step toward a future where energy can continue to flow reliably to global markets, irrespective of localized disruptions.

Looking ahead, the challenge of energy resilience is set to intensify with the dawn of the artificial intelligence revolution. Global electricity demand from data centers is projected to double by the end of this decade to nearly 1,000 terawatt-hours. AI's growing energy footprint is transforming the energy conversation as meeting data centre power demand has significant impacts on energy affordability, security, and the wider economy. It highlights the energy infrastructure, capital investment, and national competitiveness required to

A multi-layered strategy, built on infrastructure, technology, and strategic foresight, is essential to ensure energy security



power the economy of the next century. Countries that can provide reliable, scalable, and affordable baseload power will gain an insurmountable strategic advantage.

Recent events have taught the world three critical lessons about resilience. First, it may seem expensive until the day it is needed, at which point it becomes priceless. Second, technology like AI must be built into our systems, not added as an afterthought, to provide the speed of insight needed for effective crisis management. Third, energy security is no longer just about production. True resilience is a multi-layered strategy encompassing diversified routes, secure access, strategic storage, and systemic redundancy. It is about scaling deliberately through decades of prudent investment, integration of advanced technology, and cultivation of strong global partnerships.

Publication

Institutional Publications (Jan–April 2026): *Ants .. Kingdoms and Environmental Destinies*

In Q1 2026, the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment released a new booklet as part of its Environmental Knowledge Series. Several other booklets in the same series, along with a new title in the World of Environment Series, are currently undergoing peer review, evaluation, and design.

Title: Ants .. Kingdoms and Environmental Destinies

Author: Mohammed Ahmed Al-Feelabi

Review & Evaluation: Prof. Mohammed Abdullah Al-Rayeh

- Environmental Knowledge Series No. 6
- 180 pages, medium format
- This nine-chapter booklet presents a comprehensive exploration of ants, covering scientific facts, ecological roles, and astonishing behaviors:
- **Chapter 1** – We Shall Not Tire:



The miracle of formation, social structures, reproduction, ant movement, and physical characteristics.

- **Chapter 2** – Types of Ants: Red ants, termites, black ants, yellow ants, Argentine ants, moisture ants, bullet ants, fire ants, crazy

ants, and Asian ants.

- **Chapter 3** – Wonders of Ants: The bridge builders, self-sacrificial practitioners, “Mushall’eeb,” random wanderers, and enslavers.
- **Chapter 4** – Ants and Professions: Soldiers and workers, farming ants, shepherds, diggers, plant guardians, tailors, surgeons, and builders.
- **Chapter 5** – Ant Homes: Vaults and ecological shelters.
- **Chapter 6** – Worlds of Astonishment: The wise writer, stories and lessons, debunking myths, the secret code, and “Salah the ant” and her sisters.
- **Chapter 7** – Ecological Insurance: Flood competition, forest ecological insurance, and sustainable environmental contribution.
- **Chapter 8** – Ants and Technology: Engineering solutions, ant algorithms, collective robotics, desert ant simulation, and earthquake resistance.
- **Chapter 9** – Destinies and Perils: Human interventions, ants and climate change, “none shall survive,” pangolin extinction, forest ants in distress, ants and pesticides, and practical solutions.

Foreword

In his foreword, Prof. Mohammed Ahmed bin Fahd, Chairman of the

Higher Committee of the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment and Editor in Chief of the series, writes: “This work will be an indispensable reference for students and researchers in biology and environmental sciences, an inspiring source for nature enthusiasts, and a catalyst for anyone seeking a deeper understanding of how our planet functions.”

Peer Review Commentary

Prof. Mohammed Abdullah Al-Rayeh notes in his evaluation report: “Indeed, you will ‘never tire’ of the engaging narrative and rich information the author presents about the nation of ants—facts many readers may be encountering for the first time.”

He highlights human interventions such as the use of pesticides that eliminate large ant populations, and the recent emergence of ant trafficking, where ants are smuggled across continents in matchboxes.

He concludes by reminding readers that, regardless of how much knowledge humans acquire, there remain nations like the ants—as mentioned in the Qur’an—that live by their innate nature and perform tasks we can scarcely comprehend.

He adds: “I previously wrote about ant communication in my book *Humanizing Animals*, yet I find Al-Feelabi’s work more comprehensive in its treatment of the subject.”

Books

The Joyful Environmentalist

By Isabel Losada



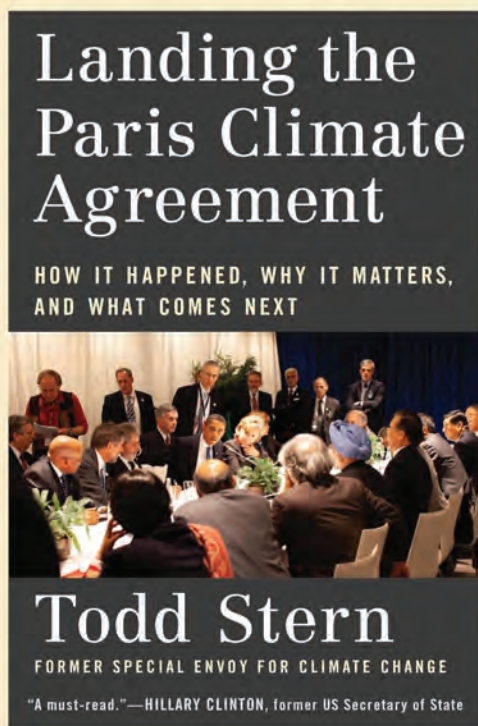
Thought-provoking and inspiring, this book chronicles the author's personal journey towards becoming a more environmentally conscious individual. Through a series of engaging anecdotes, Losada explores various aspects of sustainability, climate change, and environmental activism with a refreshing and optimistic perspective. She delves

into practical solutions, innovative ideas, and the power of individual actions in creating a more sustainable world.

The book not only educates readers on pressing environmental issues but also encourages them to embrace a more joyful and positive approach to environmentalism. *The Joyful Environmentalist* is a compelling read that empowers readers to make a difference and find hope in the face of global environmental challenges.

Landing the Paris Agreement: How It Happened, Why It Matters, and What Comes Next

By Todd Stern

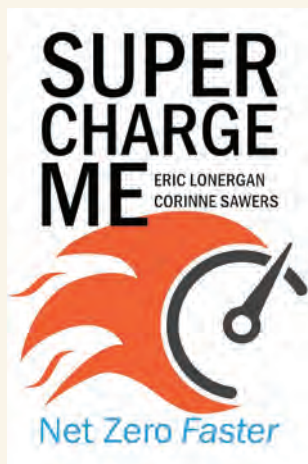


This timely and insightful book delves into the intricate negotiations and events surrounding the historic Paris Agreement on climate change. The author, a former US Special Envoy for Climate Change, provides a detailed account of the key players, political dynamics, and challenges that shaped the agreement, offering a behind-the-scenes look at the intense efforts to secure a global consensus on climate action.

Through compelling narrative and analysis, the book highlights the significance of the Paris Agreement as a pivotal moment in international efforts to combat climate change and emphasizes the importance of collective action in addressing this urgent global issue.

Supercharge Me: Net Zero Faster

By Eric Lonergan and Corinne Sawers



Supercharge Me takes a look at how governments, businesses, and individuals behave and discuss what has (and hasn't) worked so far in transitioning the global

economy to net zero. Fund manager Eric Lonergan and sustainability adviser Corinne Sawers introduce practical ideas for change that will embolden people to reframe the climate crisis as an opportunity and suggest augmenting traditional economic solutions, such as carbon pricing, with EPICs: extreme, positive incentives for change that “supercharge” behavioural change.

The Climate Book

By Greta Thunberg



The Climate Book by Greta Thunberg – the world-famous Swedish climate activist and founder of the global movement ‘Fridays for Future’ – features essays of over one hundred thinkers and experts, from oceanographers and meteorologists to economists and geophysicists, to raise awareness about the climate crisis and equip us with the knowledge to fight climate disasters and halt global warming. Thunberg also shares her own stories of demonstrating and uncovering greenwashing around the world, revealing how much we have been kept in the dark.

Our Final Warning: Six Degrees of Climate Emergency

By Mark Lynas



A sequel to Lynas' classic, *'Six Degrees'*, this book sets out the consequences for our world of each degree of warming above pre-industrial temperatures.

We are living in a climate emergency with collapsing ice sheets, torrential dust clouds and deadly heat waves. But how much worse could it get? Will civilization collapse? Are we already past the point of no return? What kind of future can our children expect? Rigorously cataloguing

the very latest climate science, Mark Lynas explores the course we have set for Earth over the next century and beyond.

What will the future hold for us if atmospheric carbon levels continue to rise, industries continue to pollute and governments fail to enact firm changes? This book delivers an account of the future of our earth and our civilisation, if current rates of global warming persist. Degree by terrifying degree, he charts the likely consequences of global heating and the ensuing climate catastrophe.

At one degree, the world we are already living in will see vast wildfires scorch California and Australia, while monster hurricanes devastate coastal cities. At two degrees, the Arctic ice cap melts away, and coral reefs disappear from the tropics.

At three, the world begins to run out of food, threatening millions with starvation. At four, large areas of the globe are too hot for human habitation, erasing entire nations and turning billions into climate refugees. At five, the planet is warmer than for 55 million years, while at six degrees, a mass extinction of unparalleled proportions sweeps the planet, even raising the threat of the end of all life on Earth.

These escalating consequences can still be avoided, but time is running out. We must largely stop burning fossil fuels within a decade if we are to save the coral reefs and the Arctic. If we fail, then we risk crossing tipping points that could push global climate chaos out of humanity's control.



Unfortunately, one of the planet's most biodiverse and important ecosystems will not survive two degrees intact. The science on corals and global warming has become steadily more alarming over recent years, in tandem with the accelerated destruction of reefs by rapidly rising temperatures around the world's tropical coastlines. In 2018, the IPCC had to admit that 'tropical corals may be even more vulnerable to climate change than indicated in assessments made in 2014. Marine biologists watched in horror as the Great Barrier Reef suffered back-to-back bleaching events in 2016 and 2017, losing fully half its coral cover in the process. The IPCC's latest predictions for the two-degree world are dire: even if global temperatures stay under 1.5 degrees, 70–90 per cent of reef-building corals will be lost. With two degrees of warming, this increases to 99 per cent.

— Mark Lynas





Global renewable energy capacity hits record high in 2025

2025 saw total renewable power capacity reach 5149 gigawatts (GW) after the addition of 692 GW, or a 15.5% of annual increase, according to a new report by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). The Renewable Capacity Statistics 2026 also finds renewable energy dominates the total capacity expansion at 85.6% share, while non-renewables continue to account for a smaller share of additions.

Geopolitical tensions in the Middle East have thrust energy into the global spotlight, raising concerns over supply security and fossil fuel price volatility. Against this backdrop, renewable energy is gaining attention to build more

resilient systems that are less vulnerable to international shocks. As renewables are homegrown, low-cost, and can be deployed immediately, increasing their share in national energy systems can reduce exposure to international fuel markets. Countries that invested in the energy transition are weathering the current crisis with less economic damage, as they boost energy security, resilience, and competitiveness.

In line with the previous year, solar energy led the increase, accounting for 511 GW or approximately 75% share in the total renewables capacity addition. Wind energy followed suit, adding 159 GW. Together, solar and wind accounted for





With a near-700 GW surge, 2025 marks another record for installed global capacity, signaling countries worldwide to strengthen energy security with domestic renewable sources

96.8% of all net renewable additions last year, reflecting the biggest cost decrease among all renewable technologies.

Bioenergy took the third place with 2.3% annual growth, adding 3.4 GW to total renewable energy expansion.

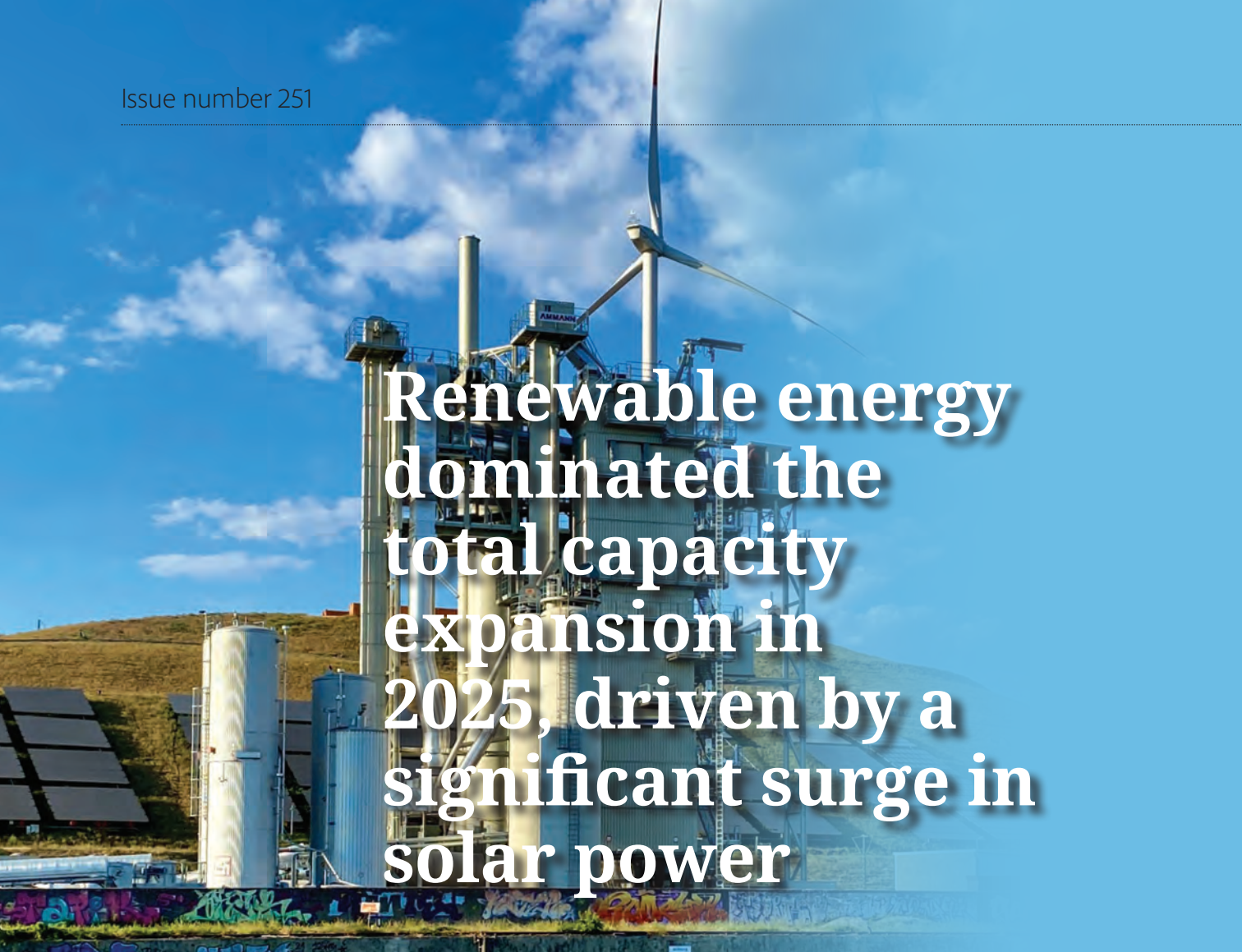
The report also confirms, however, the persistent and significant disparities amongst countries and regions. Asia continued to lead with a 74.2% contribution to all new renewable capacity; the 513.3 GW additions represent a growth rate of 21.6%. Africa recorded its highest capacity increase, rising by 15.9% or adding 11.3 GW, driven by Ethiopia, South Africa, and Egypt.



Another region that experienced its largest annual growth is the Middle East, which increased by 28.9%, led by Saudi Arabia.

In terms of total global capacity, Asia unsurprisingly keeps its top position with 2,891 GW of total renewables capacity, followed by Europe which recorded 934 GW in total. Central America and the Caribbean had the lowest renewables capacity with a total of 21 GW in 2025.

This disparity exposes the vulnerability of economies with low share of renewables, and underscores the urgent need to increase the share for their energy security.



Renewable energy dominated the total capacity expansion in 2025, driven by a significant surge in solar power

Technology highlights

Solar energy: Solar photovoltaics accounted for 510.3 GW out of 511.2 GW of total solar power additions in 2025.

Renewable hydropower (excluding pumped hydro): 18.4 GW was added in 2025, with 96% of the increase coming from China.

Wind energy: Capacity grew by 14% from 2024, with record additions of 158.7 GW in 2025. China accounted for nearly three-quarters of the expansion, adding 119.4 GW, while India saw an increase of 6.3 GW.

Bioenergy: Capacity increased by 3.4 GW,

led by Japan, which more than doubled its bioenergy capacity expansion from 2024, adding 1.1 GW in 2025.

Geothermal energy: Capacity grew at a similar rate to the previous year at 1.7%, adding 0.3 GW in 2025. The Philippines and Indonesia each contributed 0.1 GW of the additions, followed by Germany, Türkiye and Japan.

Off-grid electricity (excluding Eurasia, Europe and North America): Expanded by 1.7 GW, led by solar power with 1.5 GW. A broad range of bioenergy types added 0.2 GW to the total addition of off-grid capacity.

23 rehabilitated sea turtles released in Dubai to mark World Sea Turtle Day

Jumeirah, a global leader in luxury hospitality, marked World Sea Turtle Day with the release of 23 rehabilitated sea turtles into the Arabian Gulf.

Among them was Foxy, a green turtle fitted with a satellite tracker through the Dubai Turtle Rehabilitation Project (DTRP), allowing her journey to be monitored following release. With her release, the programme has now returned more than 100 satellite-tracked turtles to the wild.

Foxy was rescued by a fisherman off the coast of Ras Al Khaimah in January 2025 after losing a front flipper. By chance, DTRP Ambassador Sheikh Fahim Al Qasimi was in Ras Al Khaimah at the time and drove the turtle back to Dubai for treatment and rehabilitation. Following more than a year of specialist care, Foxy has made a remarkable recovery, demonstrating strong swimming ability despite her injury.

The flotilla of rehabilitated sea turtles released on World Sea Turtle Day followed months of care through the DTRP. Since its launch in 2004, the programme has rescued, rehabilitated, and returned more than 2,350 turtles to the wild, becoming one of the region's most significant long-term conservation efforts.

The turtles released included predominantly green turtles, alongside one little hawksbill turtle, many of which had undergone extensive rehabilitation



following serious illnesses and injuries, including flipper loss, plastic ingestion and boat strikes. Central to this work is the turtle rehabilitation sanctuary at Jumeirah Al Naseem, a purpose-designed lagoon that plays a critical role in recovery. Its direct access to the sea, shallow waters, natural food sources and carefully designed features – including underwater caves that support rest and buoyancy – create an environment that closely mirrors natural conditions, enabling turtles to regain strength and instinctive behaviours before release.

The DTRP's satellite tracking programme plays a critical role in advancing marine conservation research. Since the first tracker was deployed, monitored turtles have travelled thousands of kilometres across international waters, providing valuable data on migration routes, feeding grounds and regional turtle populations.

Green Flash

The Power of Humanware in Environmental Action

World Environment Day, celebrated on June 5 every year, aims to raise awareness about the human impacts on the sustainability of planet Earth. When people are aware and conscious about their impact and their capacity to make a difference, big change is possible. This human power to effect substantial change is what we call “HUMANWARE”.

Humanware is the blend of human values, skills, creativity, and collective will. It is the most decisive force in solving today’s environmental challenges. Technology matters, but people power determines whether solutions actually take root.

Humanware refers to the human side of environmental action, involving Mindsets (how we think about nature), Behaviors (the daily choices we make), Skills (scientific, creative, and leadership abilities), and Values (what we believe is worth protecting).

Humanware is the human spirit (our empathy, innovation, and responsibility) working alongside hardware and software technology.

Humanware can be effective because environmental crises are not just technical problems, but human problems rooted in consumption patterns, governance, and culture. Technology alone cannot change habits or policies; sustainability requires long-term commitment, while community action amplifies impact faster than any device, and education shapes future generations’ relationship with the planet.

The foremost pillar of Humanware for environmental action is environmental literacy. This includes understanding ecosystems, ecological balance, and the



Dr. Eisa M. Abdellatif

Chief Technical Advisor, Zayed International Foundation for the Environment

consequences of human activity. Secondly, we need emotional intelligence because caring about the planet is emotional first, before it becomes practical. Thirdly, collaborative culture is important because environmental progress accelerates when governments, the private sector, academia and communities work together. Finally, creative problem-solving is crucial as innovation doesn’t come only from labs, but from people imagining new ways to live, build, and consume.

There are real examples of Humanware in action, such as:

- Youth-led climate movements showing how collective voice shifts global policy
- Indigenous knowledge systems guiding sustainable land and water management
- Urban communities transforming rooftops into gardens and micro-habitats
- Schools and universities embedding sustainability into curricula and culture.

Our dream is for a “Humanware-driven planet” and the next era of environmental action will be defined by how well we integrate green technology with human-centered leadership and planet-first values.

It is time we understood that the planet doesn’t need more tools, but people who know how to use them wisely. Humanware is our greatest renewable resource—limitless, creative, and capable of transforming the future of Planet Earth.

مؤتمر ومعرض دبي العالمي الثاني حول الذكاء الاصطناعي الأخضر (DICEGAI 2027)

الإنسان - الذكاء الاصطناعي - الطبيعة:

عقد اجتماعي جديد

إعادة التفكير في العلاقات بين الإنسان والآلة والبيئة
دعوة للأوراق العلمية

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