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# Society & Environment

creating green communities for a better tomorrow

A monthly publication issued by Zayed International Foundation for the Environment



06

'UAE Will Continue To Connect Minds,  
And Create The Future'



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POLESTAR O<sub>2</sub>:  
High Performance Electric Roadster



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## Chairman's Message

With more than 24 million visits and having welcomed 192 countries, the spectacular success of Expo 2020 Dubai has been a defining moment for Dubai, UAE, the region and beyond.

The first event of its size and scale to be held anywhere in the world since the start of the pandemic, Expo 2020 Dubai heralded a historic moment for the UAE when it was hosted in the year of the nation's Golden Jubilee.

The closing ceremony on March 31 marked the culmination of months of planning, years of building, and more than a year of navigation through the unprecedented pandemic. The six-month event, held with the support of thousands of organisers and volunteers, was a fitting tribute to a city and emirate that has always looked to the future with positivity and enthusiasm.

True to its ethos, Expo 2020 Dubai has connected minds, created the future, and inspired the world. Its success symbolizes the spirit of unity and hope as it brought



**Prof. Mohammed  
bin Fahad**  
Executive Editor

together nations and cultures in a show of resilience in uncertain times and drew the attention of the world with its agile and robust health-and-safety response.

The enduring legacy of Expo 2020 Dubai lies in the conversations and actions it has taken to address issues including poverty, hunger, gender inequality and climate change, and the tangible solutions it has presented to tackle some of the greatest global challenges. It was a platform for knowledge sharing, in line with its belief that best practices should not only be celebrated but also drive us forward towards a sustainable and inclusive future and inspire action around the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

The world fair has also given us a glimpse of the global economic recovery after the pandemic and shows us how by promoting opportunities and cooperation, we can shape a future based on the principles of solidarity and tolerance.

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## Upcoming events

### 7th Our Ocean Conference

**Date:** April 13-14, 2022

**Location:** KOROR, Republic of Palau

The seventh Our Ocean Conference is a key moment for governments, civil society, and industry to commit to concrete and significant actions to protect the ocean. The conference focuses on six thematic areas: climate change, sustainable fisheries, sustainable blue economies, marine protected areas, maritime security, and marine pollution. Palau is the first small island developing state (SIDS) to host an Our Ocean Conference.

### Earth Day

**Date:** April 22

The Earth Day 2022 Theme is 'Invest In Our Planet'.

This is the moment to change it all — the business climate, the political climate, and how we take action on climate. Now is the time for the unstoppable courage to preserve and protect our health, our families, our livelihoods... together, we must Invest In Our Planet.

Because a green future is a prosperous future. We need to act (boldly), innovate (broadly), and implement (equitably). It's going to take all of us. All in. Businesses, governments, and citizens — everyone accounted for, and everyone accountable. A partnership for the planet.

### UN Biodiversity Conference (COP 15)

**Date:** April 25 - May 8, 2022

**Location:** Kunming, China

Despite on-going efforts, biodiversity is deteriorating worldwide and this decline is projected to worsen with business-as-usual scenarios. The UN Biodiversity Conference will convene governments from around the world to agree to a new set of goals for nature over the next decade through the Convention on Biological Diversity post-2020 framework process. The framework sets out an ambitious plan to implement broad-based action to bring about a transformation in society's relationship with biodiversity and to ensure that, by 2050, the shared vision of living in harmony with nature is fulfilled.

The Conference will also look at the implementation of the protocols of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) that deal with the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of nature, and the safe transport, handling and labelling of Living Modified Organisms.

## 'UAE Will Continue To Connect Minds, And Create The Future': Mohammed bin Rashid

Curtains came down on Expo 2020 Dubai, the first such gala event for the Middle East North Africa and South Asia region, after offering a spectacular 182 days of unforgettable experiences, best of innovation, fun, memorable family moments and entertainment, and after having recorded 24,102,967 visits and welcomed 192 countries and shown the world what can be achieved when



"Today is not the end of Expo 2020, but a new beginning."

*– HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum*

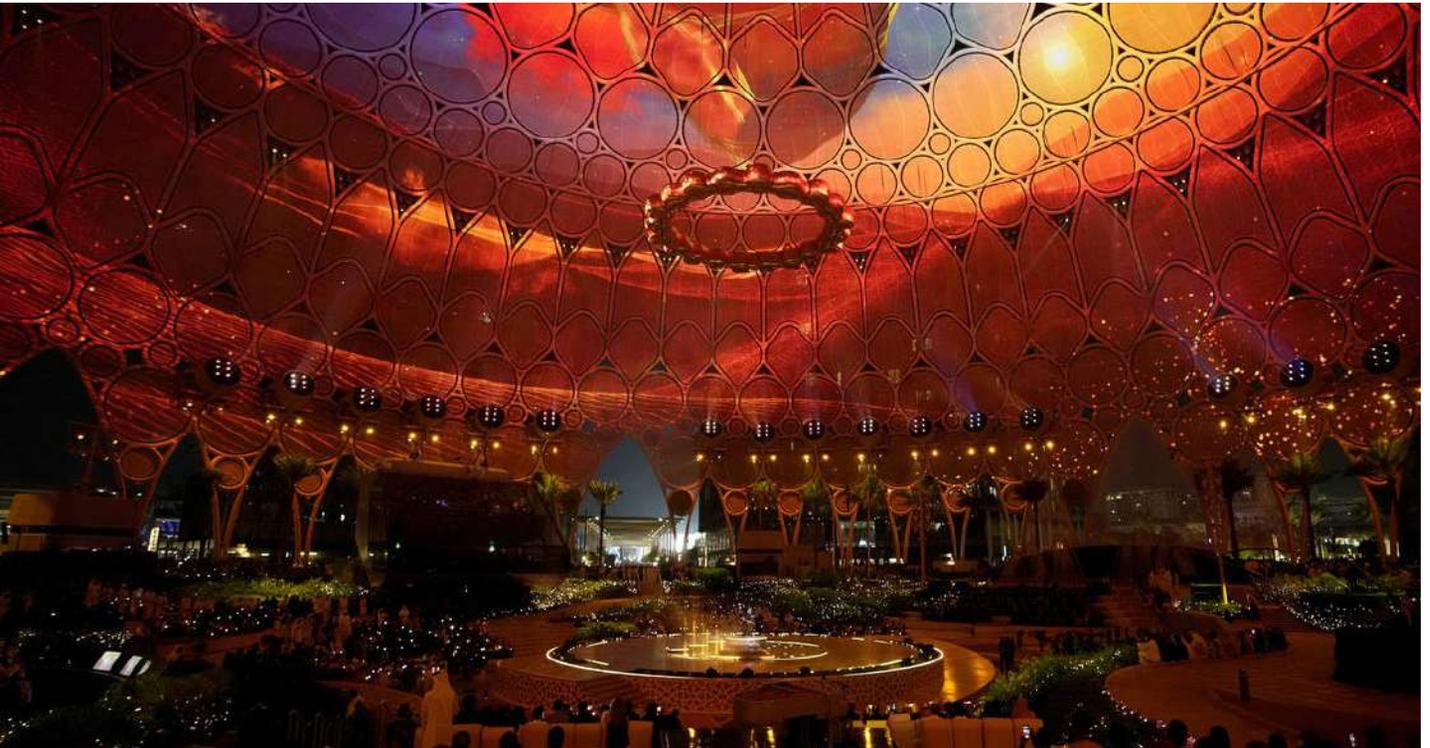
humanity comes together.

As the first event of its size and scale to be held since the start of the global pandemic, Expo 2020 Dubai marked a major achievement for Dubai and heralded a historic moment for the UAE – made even more significant by being hosted in the year of the nation's Golden Jubilee – and paved the way for the next generation of changemakers to continue Expo's legacy.

At the spectacular closing ceremony held at the splendid Al Wasl Square, the beating heart of the six-month global event, the baton for World Expo was handed over to Osaka, Japan, which will host the next Expo in 2025.

Global music icons Christina Aguilera, Norah Jones and Yo-Yo Ma too sprinkled stardust on the stunning setting, with 20-plus giant screens across the Expo 2020 Dubai site, including the

*The closing ceremony cast included over 400 professionals and volunteers from 56 countries, with 745 costumes*



main stages, Festival Garden and various Country Pavilions, enabling everyone to experience the magic.

Also taking to the stage was Expo 2020 World String Ensemble, a group of 16 talented international musicians led by Maestro Harut Fazlian, and the talented Italian pianist Eleonora Constantini, familiar to many Expo 2020 Dubai visitors as a performer of the amazing 'Flying Piano' show in the Mission Possible pavilion.

Addressing the gathering at the closing ceremony, HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, said that Expo 2020 Dubai offers the opportunity of "a new beginning" for the UAE and the world.

In an audio message delivered at the closing ceremony of the mega global event, His Highness

Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, told the audience: "During the Expo 2020 Dubai journey, we portrayed to the world a different version of ingenuity that touched the hearts and minds of every member of society. Our sons and daughters have proven their ability to overcome unprecedented difficulties and challenges. And in every moment of this journey, we reflected the values of the UAE - values of affection and hospitality. Today is not the end of Expo 2020, but a new beginning."

"The UAE and Dubai will continue, God willing, to be graceful and strong - and able, to Connect Minds and Create the Future with this exceptional government, and the leadership of my brother Mohamed bin Zayed," His Highness added.

His Highness Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed



bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, accompanied by His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman of Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, Chairman of Dubai Airports, Chairman and Chief Executive of Emirates Airline and Group and Chairman of the Expo 2020 Dubai Higher Committee, attended the closing ceremony of Expo 2020 Dubai, held on March 31 at Al Wasl Square.

The ceremony was also attended by His Highness Sheikh Mansoor bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Chairman of the Dubai Sports Council; Her Highness Sheikha Latifa bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Chairperson of the Dubai Culture and Arts Authority; Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence and Commissioner-General of Expo 2020 Dubai; Reem Al Hashimy, Minister of State

for International Cooperation and Director-General of Expo 2020 Dubai; and a number of officials.

Over six months, Expo 2020 Dubai brought together over 190 participating nations, including multilateral organisations and academic institutions, and millions of visitors under the event's theme, 'Connecting Minds, Creating the Future', to exchange new ideas and perspectives, inspire meaningful change and create a brighter future for all.

The global event that opened in October 2021 made history as the first World Expo to be held in the Middle East, Africa and South Asia (MEASA) region and the first to be hosted by an Arab nation.

The closing ceremony started with the UAE

*The spectacular closing ceremony was held at the splendid Al Wasl Square, the beating heart of the six-month global event*



national anthem, followed by an address by His Highness Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence and Commissioner-General of Expo 2020 Dubai, in which he congratulated the UAE leadership on the exceptional success of Expo, which he said "will remain engraved proudly in the memory of history, and the world, as one of our young country's many achievements."

Sheikh Nahyan attributed the success of Expo to the remarkable efforts of its leadership team led by His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, as well as to Reem Al Hashimy and her entire team.

He also thanked the thousands of volunteers and the Bureau International des Expositions (BIE) for their relentless efforts in presenting the magnificent event. He also highlighted the various

events that took place at Expo 2020 Dubai during the six months of the event, including the celebration of the UAE's Golden Jubilee. The UAE is looking forward to participating in Expo 2025 Osaka Kansai and sharing the unique and rich experiences gained from the organisation of the mega global event in Dubai, Sheikh Nahyan added.

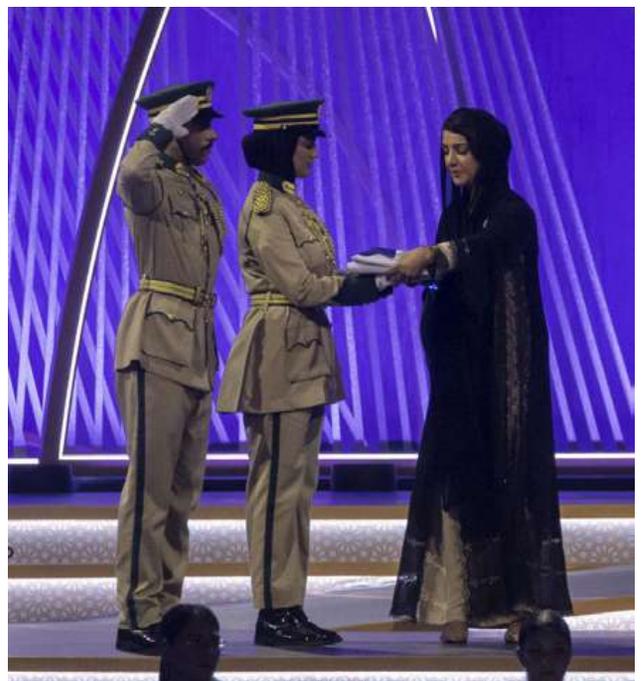
Jai-chul Choi, President of the General Assembly of the Bureau International des Expositions (BIE) thanked the UAE leadership for its support for the success of the event. He also said that this is the first World Expo in which more than 190 countries participated with their own pavilions, which is a collective achievement and a demonstration of solidarity, fraternity and international coordination.

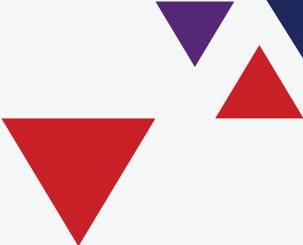
"It has been made possible by the UAE's dedication to hosting a transformational and unifying event,



and by the commitment of the BIE, the organiser, and all participants to persevere in the delivery of this wonderful World Expo," Choi said. "During this tumultuous period, Expo 2020 Dubai has been a beacon to remind us all that, to navigate these challenges, we must join together and work in unison."

He also said participating countries, visitors and all those who have been part of Expo 2020 Dubai will take away essential lessons for the future based on their experiences at the event. "When the Expo ends and this site evolves into a new urban district, the enduring spirit of Expo 2020 Dubai will persist, adding new energy and ideas to the meaning of what a World Expo is. The impact of Expo 2020 Dubai will undoubtedly be woven into the Expo tapestry, an essential part of our shared global narrative," Choi added.





# Pace

# Passion

# Professionalism

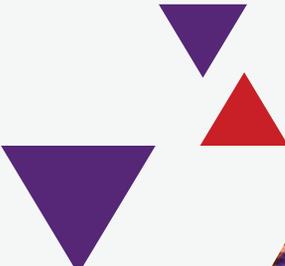


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## Zayed International Foundation For The Environment And Dubai Women Establishment Plant 50 Trees In The Garden Of Dubai Ladies Club

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ZAYED FOUNDATION



To mark the celebrations of the 'Year of the 50th' and commemorate 50 years of the UAE's formation, the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment and Dubai Women Establishment have planted 50 trees in the garden of Dubai Ladies Club in line with its 'Environmental Initiative of the Year of 50th to Plant 50 Trees'.

HE Major General Prof. Dr. Mohamed Ahmed bin Fahd, Assistant Commander-in-Chief for Academic and Training Affairs at Dubai Police, and Chairman of the Higher Committee of the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, and HE Shamsa Saleh, Secretary-General of the UAE Gender Balance Council, and Chief Executive Director of the Dubai Women Establishment, planted the trees in the presence of Dr. Hamdan Khalifa Al Shaer, member of the Higher Committee of the Zayed International

Foundation for the Environment, and a number of directors and officials representing the two institutions.

Speaking at the event, HE Major General Prof. Dr. Mohammed Ahmed bin Fahd emphasised the importance of such initiatives, which reflect the values and principles instilled by the Founding Father of the UAE, and his keenness in preserving the environment. He added that Sheikh Zayed's unstinting encouragement and support for agriculture was elucidated in his famous saying: "Grant me agriculture ... and I shall guarantee civilization for you".

Prof. Dr. bin Fahd further stated that the initiative enhances cooperation and partnership between the Zayed Foundation and Dubai Women Establishment and commended the entity for its commitment to environmental and sustainability



issues, which are also reflected in the beautiful green spaces and native rare trees planted in the garden of its subsidiary, the Dubai Ladies Club.

Expressing her happiness on partnering with Zayed Foundation as part of the 'Environmental Initiative of the Year of 50th to Plant 50 Trees', HE Shamsa Saleh said: "Emirati women have played an integral role in nation-building in the UAE under the leadership of the founding father, the late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan."

She commended the efforts made by the Zayed Foundation to consolidate this wise approach, under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai.

HE Shamsa Saleh added: "Under the directions of HH Sheikha Manal bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al

Maktoum, wife of HH Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs, and President of the Emirates Council for Gender Balance and President of DWE, the Dubai Ladies Club has launched various community initiatives in the fields of health, education and the environment. The new initiative reinforces its commitment to environmental protection and preservation through afforestation, expansion of green spaces and activities to replenish the beachfront with the aim of boosting environmental awareness among the club's female employees and members, and the wider community."

Dr. Hamdan Al Shaer, member of the Higher Committee of the Zayed Foundation, commended the efforts made by both the entities to make the initiative a success.

## Thousands Unite For 'Walk For People And Planet' At Expo 2020 Dubai

Thousands of people united on 29th March 2022, for the three-kilometre 'Walk for People and Planet' across Expo 2020 Dubai, coming together in a shared commitment to continue addressing the greatest challenges and opportunities facing people and the planet.

Kicking off at 7:30 GST, the walk celebrated the success of the Programme for People and Planet,



which has united an unparalleled diversity of perspectives across the six months of Expo 2020 Dubai – to collectively accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals and create a tangible impact that will continue to drive action even after Expo 2020 Dubai closes its doors.

The walk was a culmination of activities under Expo 2020 Dubai's Programme for People and Planet, which has inspired collective and meaningful action to address the world's most critical challenges and opportunities.

The programme featured 229 events and involved more than 14,000 participants from 143 nationalities, with women making up 45 percent of the total speakers.

Nadia Verjee, Chief of Staff, Programme for People and Planet, Expo 2020 Dubai, said, "The

Expo has brought the world together for six months and affirmed commitment to people and planet, and a sustainable future for all. Through our efforts, the Expo has provided a powerful platform for people's voices to be heard, to trigger new ideas, stimulate new perspectives, and map a transparent path forward for effective action."

The event celebrated the collective six-month contribution of stakeholders from across the World Expo in fostering a safer, cleaner, healthier and more sustainable future, working towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Reem bint Ibrahim Al Hashemy, Minister of State for International Cooperation and Director-General of Expo 2020 Dubai, offered opening remarks to the group, which comprised of adults and children of numerous nationalities.



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We are honored to extend our congratulations to



His Highness

**SHEIKH KHALIFA BIN ZAYED AL NAHYAN**

President of the United Arab Emirates



His Highness

**SHEIKH MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM**

Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates  
and Ruler of Dubai

and their highness members of the supreme council,  
rulers of the emirates and the people of united arab emirates  
on the occasion of the

**Holy month of Ramadan**



الأسعد موتورز ش.م.ح.  
**AL Asaad Motors FZCO**

**AL MUTEENA**  
GENERAL TRADING

## Expo 2020 Dubai Spotlights Conservation Of Planet's Most Precious, Finite Resource

Expo 2020 Dubai's Water Week, the final of 10 Theme Weeks across the World Expo's six-month run, ended on March 26, 2022, after seven days of expert discussions on ways to better safeguard our planet's most precious but finite natural resource. Among the key topics examined throughout the week were water security, future technologies and indigenous people's knowledge as standout themes.

EXPO TALKS:  
**WATER**



Water security, tech-led water management, and indigenous knowledge feature in discussions at Water Week hosted at Expo 2020 Dubai

The Theme Week, a collaboration between Expo 2020 Dubai, the UAE Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure and the UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, began on March 20, with World Majlis panel discussion Deep Blue: The (Other) Final Frontier – a collaboration with the Portugal Pavilion held at Terra – The Sustainability Pavilion.

Speakers included His Excellency Ricardo da Piedade Abreu Serrão Santos, Minister of the Sea, Government of Portugal; Kathleen Swalling, maritime law and strategy advisor, and Managing Director, Nature Based Solutions LLC; and Burton Jones, Professor of Oceanography, the Red Sea Research Center, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST).

Jones warned of exploiting the deep sea without appreciating the environmental ramifications:

*Water experts explored global community's collective responsibility to better manage and preserve water in the face of climate change, plastic pollution, over-fishing, and other threats*



“It’s a unique ecosystem – we don’t fully understand that ecosystem yet ... so, if we go start exploiting these before we understand the ecological aspects of it, we have the potential to destroy it before we knew what we had.”

On March 21, Nina Jensen, CEO, REV Ocean – a state-of-the-art research vessel – and former Secretary-General of WWF Norway, joined other maritime experts for a marine habitat-focused World Majlis, touting the role of next-gen robotics, AI and satellite monitoring in protecting marine ecosystems.

His Excellency Suhail Mohamed Faraj Al Mazrouei, UAE Minister of Energy and Infrastructure; His Excellency Saeed Mohammed Ahmad Al Tayer, Managing Director and CEO, DEWA (Official Sustainable Energy Partner of Expo 2020 Dubai); and His Excellency Hamad Buamim, President

and CEO, Dubai Chamber of Commerce, then opened the Water Business Forum. The event was a co-curation between Expo 2020 Dubai, Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Estonia, held at Dubai Exhibition Centre (DEC).

Later that day, water experts gathered at the flagship World Water Day event at Expo 2020 Dubai’s Nexus for People and Planet in a series of discussions tasked with reimagining our relationship with water and exploring innovations to improve sustainable water use.

His Excellency Mark Harbers, Minister of Infrastructure and Water Management, Netherlands, spoke on protecting the country’s groundwater reserves. He said: “In the Netherlands, the three extremely dry summers we’ve had since 2018 have been a wake-up call. In higher areas, groundwater levels are still too low



... that's why we're here to find these answers, to implement them rapidly and to take better care of our joint treasure - our groundwater. Groundwater may be out of sight, but it must not be out of our minds."

The Nexus also hosted an expert-led discussion titled, 'The Indian Ocean: A Shared Heritage and Sustainable Future' on March 2023, with speaker Randall Mabwa, Regional Communications Officer, Blue Ventures, touting indigenous communities' key roles in coastal conservation success: "Once you realise that they have the rights for management of resources, then you put them first: it's not nature and then people, it is people and then nature.

"That's why this is called Programme for People and Planet - the people take care of the resources if you secure their rights. It's putting them first."

Water-focused projects supported under Expo Live, Expo 2020 Dubai's global innovation and partnership programme, and the Global Best Practice Programme, spotlighting tangible solutions to the SDGs for greater global impact, also featured across the Week.

Water Week was the last of 10 Theme Weeks that have taken place throughout the six months of Expo 2020 Dubai, forming part of the Programme for People and Planet.

Since 1 October 2021, the programme has provided a platform for leaders and change makers from across the world to exchange new and inspiring perspectives. In doing so, it has generated meaningful conversations and collaborations that will positively impact lives even after Expo 2020 Dubai has concluded.



*Our Sincere Congratulations To*  
**The UAE Leadership and Citizens**  
**On The Auspicious Occasion**  
**of The Holy Month Of Ramadan**



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## 'Make Every Drop Count'

“The world needs a more inclusive, integrated and innovative way of addressing the issue of water scarcity, which already threatens as many as 3.2 billion people living in vulnerable rural communities,” said the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Qu Dongyu.

"We need solutions that tackle both the socio-



FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu addresses World Water Forum in Dakar stating an inclusive, integrated and innovative approach to water scarcity is critical

economic and environmental dimensions of the interlinked problems of poverty, food, water and climate," Qu said in a video message to a high-level roundtable at the 9th World Water Forum in Dakar, Senegal.

The World Water Forum is the world's largest event on water, organized every three years by the World Water Council with a host country. This year's edition was the first to be hosted in Sub-Saharan Africa.

According to FAO's latest report - The State of Land and Water Resources for Food and Agriculture - water scarcity and pollution are stretching key agrifood systems around the world to breaking point. In all, 2.3 billion people already live in water-stressed countries, with over 733 million of them - or about 10 percent of the global population - living in countries with

*Agriculture accounts for more than 70 percent of all freshwater withdrawals in the world*



high and critical water stress. An even bigger number of people living in agricultural areas - 3.2 billion - are threatened by the risks that water scarcity poses for global food security and sustainable development.

Agriculture accounts for more than 70 percent of all freshwater withdrawals in the world, which is why there's a need to focus on a "More Food per Drop" approach based on new forms of water management, said Qu.

While the tremendous progress witnessed in food production in the last half century has made it possible to feed a rapidly growing population - thanks to irrigated agriculture that produces about 40 percent of the world's food on only 20 percent of global cropland - there is still scope for improvement.

The climate crisis is also adding to the pressures

on the availability of water, which is why "we need to protect and restore our ecosystems through green and climate-resilient agricultural practices that enable the sustainable production of agrifood products, while minimizing impacts on biodiversity and reducing greenhouse gas emission," Qu said.

FAO is already supporting countries to attract and access climate finance and to implement climate-resilient innovation across agrifood systems, including through the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund.

The organization's Strategic Framework for the next decade calls for the transformation to more efficient, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable agrifood systems for better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life for all.

## MENA Climate Week 2022 Kicks Off In UAE For First Time

The Middle East and North Africa Climate Week 2022 (MENACW22), concluded on March 31 at Atlantis, The Palm in Dubai, after having addressed key climate challenges, and paving the way for smart, progressive climate solutions.

The opening ceremony of MENACW 22 on March 28 was held in the presence of Dr. Sultan bin



MENA Climate Week builds momentum towards COP27 and COP28 by taking the pulse of climate action in each region, exploring climate challenges and showcasing ambitious solutions

Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology, Special Envoy for Climate Change; Mariam bint Mohammed Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and the Environment; Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, Chairman of the World Green Economy Organisation (WGEO) and MD and CEO of Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA); and Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Also present were a host of officials from the government and private sectors, dignitaries from MENA region and beyond, and several heads of UN organisations, as well as a large number of climate action experts from all over the world.

At the opening ceremony, HE Dr. Sultan Al Jaber said, "As a young country, and a responsible energy leader, the UAE has always faced the

*MENA Climate Week 2022 is a platform to advance action at national, regional and local levels, taking regional priorities into consideration*



future with a positive mindset and addressed challenges head on. We view climate challenges, not just as problems to fix, but as opportunities to seize. As hosts of COP 28, we will make it as inclusive as possible, reflecting the views of the public alongside the private sector, civil society, women and youth. And we will focus on commercially viable climate solutions to translate strategies on paper into results on the ground."

Saeed Al Tayer said, "This event constitutes a milestone in global climate action and marks a key moment for the region as we take up a leadership role in this global agenda. We believe MENACW 2022 is an opportunity to press forward, leverage the momentum and continue to enhance climate ambition and climate action."

He also underscored the UAE's clear commitment to embracing and building momentum for the green-economy shift, along with significant

investments in renewable energy.

Almheiri said that, during the MENA Climate Week, the UAE will build regional synergies to increase the pace and scale of climate action and devise a regional response model that caters to the challenges and requirements of countries from the region to enhance climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts.

On her part, Patricia Espinosa recognised the host country for its ongoing climate leadership, and said that the MENACW 2022 advances efforts to open opportunity in the transition to net-zero emissions and protect communities and economies against the worst impacts from climate change, bringing together stakeholders to discuss regional solutions and strengthen the global response to climate change.

## Second Edition Of Global FoodTech Challenge Launched At Expo 2020 Dubai

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, attended the launch of the second edition of the Global FoodTech Challenge at Expo 2020 Dubai on March 25, 2022.

The FoodTech Challenge seeks to identify the next wave of technology innovations that are on



Attended by the Ruler of Dubai, the second edition of the Global FoodTech Challenge focused on early-stage start-ups

the cusp of transforming traditional agriculture practices, efficiently and sustainably. Targeted at early-stage start-ups, ranging from international university-based research teams to individual entrepreneurs and small firms, the competition invites innovations in two vital fields: food production; and food loss and waste.

The 'food production' track seeks to address the availability and abundance of food and explore 'next gen' nutrient rich alternatives, while the 'food loss and waste' track seeks to ensure sustainability across the food supply chain and the planet.

The launch event was attended by H.H. Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance; H.H. Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and

*The FoodTech Challenge seeks to identify the next wave of technology innovations that are on the cusp of transforming traditional agriculture practices*



Minister of Presidential Affairs; and Mohammed Al Gergawi, Minister of Cabinet Affairs.

The winners of the Challenge will be offered an opportunity to scale-up their business model within the UAE, supported with R&D, start-up accelerators, commercial incentives and mentorship to take winning concepts from lab-to-market. Applications are being encouraged from around the world, with a priority on agri-tech concentrated nations.

The Global FoodTech Challenge is organised by the UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment and Tamkeen, an Abu Dhabi entity that partners with leading local and international institutions to deliver projects that enrich the UAE's social, cultural and educational landscape.

For this edition of the competition, they are joined by ASPIRE, the programme management

pillar of the Advanced Technology Research Council (ATRC), which oversees technology related R&D funding for Abu Dhabi and the UAE in general.

The Challenge is supported in each field by a local champion. ADQ and Silal are the field partners in the area of increasing food production, while Emirates Foundation is the field partner in the area of reducing food loss and waste.

Commenting on the launch of the Challenge, Mariam bint Mohammed Almhairi, Minister of Climate Change and the Environment, said, "The importance of food security has never been more pertinent, with supply chain challenges and climate change disrupting the world as we know it. The pressure is on for us to rethink food for the future, to rethink resilient agricultural practices, and to leverage the best of technological



advancements. The FoodTech Challenge brings us closer to finding some of those solutions, acknowledging the critical role that innovation has to play in addressing our shared challenges."

Rima Al Mokarrab, Chair of the Tamkeen board of directors, added, "Responding to the UAE's long-term and far-reaching food security ambitions requires bold approaches that foster creative ideas, newfound models and extensive coordination with the global agri-tech ecosystem."

The FoodTech Challenge brings together a powerful consortium of multi-sector partners who drive progress - supporting sustainable, technology-driven, commercially viable solutions to thrive here in the UAE."

Faisal Al Bannai, Secretary-General of ATRC, said, "The UAE is one of the most exciting places

in the world right now when it comes to innovation and harnessing the power of cutting-edge technology to help find the answers to some of society's most pressing issues. The FoodTech Challenge is yet another fantastic example of this with the UAE hosting the brightest minds on the planet as they come together to collaborate, explore, and push the boundaries in agri-tech."

The competition is additionally supported by Abu Dhabi Global Market, Abu Dhabi Residents Office, The Catalyst Accelerator, and Khalifa Fund for Enterprise Development.

Applications for the Challenge will remain open until June, when submissions will be shortlisted and the top 10 teams will be given an opportunity to present their business cases at the award ceremony in November.

# UAE Launches Sustainable Green Building Codes

EXPO 2020



The United Arab Emirates launched a set of green building codes to help save energy and water at Expo 2020 Dubai's Water Week.

Suhail bin Mohammed Al Mazrouei, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, introduced the list of terms, conditions and specifications that government buildings and organisations are

encouraged to uphold in an effort to be get sustainable and environmentally-friendly.

Speaking at Terra - The Sustainability Pavilion, the minister said: "The initiative seeks to unify local and federal efforts and goals relevant to energy and water efficiency standards at the state level, and contribute to the creation of high-efficiency buildings.

"The initiative also works on updating current construction manuals and streamline the development of new guidelines and regulations that align with the objectives of the UAE for the next 50 years and its aspirations to become a global leader in the field of sustainable economic development."

The codes have been prepared by the ministry in collaboration with relevant federal and local

authorities in line with the UAE Energy Strategy 2050 and the Water Security Strategy 2036.

They provide a list of standards, conditions and requirements that ensure a more sustainable environment for future generations, reduce energy and water consumption, mitigate the carbon footprint of construction and building sites, and improve the quality of buildings and the environment around them.

"The Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure renews our commitment to unifying efforts to reduce energy and water consumption, preserve natural resources and the environment, and promote the transition towards a green economy that supports sustainable development in the UAE," Al Mazrouei added.

## Efforts Of Emirati Women In Environmental Conservation Hailed

The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), the Ministry of Climate Change and the Environment, and the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD) held a symposium on 22 March 2022, at the Women's Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai titled: 'Women in Conservation: Let's get to work.'

Mariam bint Mohammed Almheiri, Minister of



Women in Conservation Symposium held at the Women's Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai highlights global achievements of Emirati women in the field of environment

Climate Change and the Environment, commended the role of women around the world in the areas of environmental care. She spoke about many Emirati women who have made global achievements in the field of environment, including Dr. Shaikha Salem Al Dhaheri, Secretary-General of EAD.

Almheiri called for joint action to enhance the potential of women, through education and training, and to create opportunities for women to realise their ambitions in this field.

In a recorded message which introduced the attendees to the women working to advance the concept of environmental and climate conservation, Almheiri said, "It is clear that there is no shortage of role models for wildlife conservation, and it is up to us to ensure that this trend will continue into the future."

*Almheiri called for joint action to enhance the potential of women through education and training*



For her part, Dr. Shaikha Al Dhaheri said, "For many years women have been actively involved in conservation to the extent that they are now eulogised as symbols of nature as 'Mother Earth'. Many women have made a noticeable impact on the environment within their own communities and beyond."

She elaborated that the UAE has stepped up its ambition to expand its mangrove cover to reach 100 million trees by 2030 and to lead and coordinate efforts to execute the UAE Net Zero by 2050 strategic initiative. The UAE will also continue to develop plans, strategies and policies related to the environment, agriculture, animal husbandry and fisheries.

She also stressed on the fact that as an Emirati woman, she has always looked to the example set by the wise leadership of the UAE. "The leadership

has always empowered women and provided us all with the support and resources to help build the nation, protect our natural heritage and fulfil our ambitions and aspirations," she added.

The IFAW event at the Women's Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai, was organised to showcase and amplify the efforts of women in the region, from the highest level of government and international organisations to current influencers who are engaging new generations of young women to follow the path of environmental conservation. Attending from IFAW was Azzedine Downes, President and CEO of the organisation.

In 1969, IFAW was founded by Brian Davies with a goal to stop the commercial hunt for whitecoat seals on the east coast of Canada and in 2019, it celebrated its 50th anniversary.

## Wadi Wurayah Nominated As UNESCO World Heritage Site

The UAE's first mountain nature reserve, Fujairah's Wadi Wurayah National Park, WWNP, has been inscribed on the UAE's tentative list of nominations for UNESCO World Heritage Site status.

The nomination has been submitted to UNESCO's World Heritage Centre for assessment on the basis of the Outstanding Universal Value, OUV,



Fujairah's Wadi  
Wurayah National Park  
has been inscribed on  
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of nominations for  
UNESCO World Heritage  
Site status

of Wadi Wurayah's natural heritage. A formal nomination document was drawn up by the Fujairah Environment Authority, working in collaboration with the Cultural Heritage Department of the Ministry of Culture and Youth. This was then submitted to UNESCO by the UAE National Commission for UNESCO.

A detailed explanation of the Park's environment and biodiversity and its international significance will now be prepared for evaluation by UNESCO scientific teams.

H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad bin Mohammed Al Sharqi, Crown Prince of Fujairah, said, "Under the directives of H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Mohammed Al Sharqi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Fujairah, the Fujairah Government has given full support to the Wadi Wurayah National Park. With the only permanent

*The nomination has been submitted for assessment on the basis of the Outstanding Universal Value, OUV, of Wadi Wurayah's natural heritage*



waterfall in the UAE, and with a population of endangered plants and animals, it is a unique part of the country's biodiversity, and a key element of our environmental protection programme." he added.

Noura bint Mohammed Al Kaabi, Minister of Culture and Youth, added, "I commend the efforts of the Fujairah Environment Authority and other Fujairah institutions in working to preserve and protect Wadi Wurayah, a key part of the country's biodiversity."

Aseela Al Moalla, Director General of Fujairah Environment Authority, said that "work is still continuing in order to highlight the role we play in preserving the environment and the natural heritage of the UAE. The teams are working day and night with the goal of reaching best practices." She expressed her gratitude for the support

received from H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad.

WWNP, which covers an area of 220 sq.km., is managed by the Fujairah Environment Authority. It was first declared as a nature reserve in 2009, under the terms of a decree issued by H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Mohammed Al Sharqi.

It has been recognised since 2010 as an important wetland, under the terms of the international Ramsar Convention, because of its freshwater ecosystem and has also received recognition under UNESCO's 'Man and Biosphere' programme.

Scientific studies have shown that the Wadi Wurayah National Park is home to at least 860 different species of plants and animals, including rare mammals like Caracal and Blanford's Fox and the UAE's only native orchid, the Helleborine Orchid.

## Heriot-Watt University Announces Winners Of Construction Sustainability Hackathon

Heriot-Watt University has announced the winners of the recently concluded Sustainability Hackathon that brought together students and experts to address sustainability challenges in construction and the overall built environment.

Held at the UK Pavillion at Expo 2020 Dubai, the hackathon witnessed 78 individual applicants



AED 15,000 worth  
scholarships per individual  
awarded to five winners

who presented various ideas showcasing challenges in the built environment and the potential solutions. Ten entries made it to the final round, where five emerged as winners.

The five winners - Ayodeji Tifase, Atsenokhai Apakhumhe from Nigeria, Jafar Adam from the UAE, Shubhankar Ghosh, and Ankita Gupta from India - presented ideas around the four central themes of the event: Sustainable Materials, Clean Energy Use, Smart Technologies, and Urban Developments. Each winner was presented with AED 15,000 worth of study scholarships at Heriot-Watt University.

The event was part of the University's research efforts in accelerating the agenda to decarbonise the construction industry. Currently, the Centre of Excellence in Smart Construction (CESC) at Heriot-Watt University Dubai is working with the UAE Ministry of Climate Change and

*Construction and the wider built environment accounts for around 40% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions*



Environment to identify the challenges preventing the decarbonisation of the cement industry before focusing on four key areas: materials and waste management, building permits and regulations, new technologies, and education.

Dr. Anas Bataw, Director of the Centre of Excellence in Smart Construction at Heriot-Watt University Dubai, said, "The built environment continues to be of global concern due to the impact the construction industry has on sustainability. Around half of all non-renewable resources mankind consumes are used in construction, making it one of the least sustainable industries. With the UAE's construction sector set to grow by 3.9 percent by 2025, it is key for the government, industry, and academia to work alongside each other to address and reduce its impact on the environment."

He added: "The hackathon was a significant step

towards bringing the young generation together on one platform to create solutions for environmental challenges that we witness now and will see in the future. The young minds presented impactful projects that focused on sustainable construction and building materials, embracing a low carbon future, climate crisis, and showcased current challenges and innovative solutions."

"During the global transition to net zero, the construction sector needs to dramatically reduce the amount of carbon embedded in new infrastructure and buildings, ultimately reducing its wider impact on the environment. Through activities such as the hackathon, we can not only bring young minds together but also inspire them to be active participants in creating a more sustainable environment," he concluded.

## Marshall Islands Makes Fervent Plea For Stronger Action On Climate Change

The Marshall Islands celebrated its National Day at Expo 2020 Dubai on March 28, 2022 with calls for further support for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and a fervent plea for stronger action on climate change.

Sultan Mohammed Al Shamsi, UAE Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs and International

EXPO 2020



Cooperation for International Development Affairs, welcomed John M. Silk, Minister of Natural Resources and Commerce, Republic of the Marshall Islands at the event.

Al Shamsi said, "The Marshall Islands' Pavilion emphasises the vital need for joint action towards tackling the challenges posed by climate change by emphasising the powerful impact of collective action.

"Over the past decade, we have witnessed significant growth in our bilateral ties with the Marshall Islands, and look forward to exploring the potential of enhanced collaborations across various fields of mutual priority, for our collective progress and well-being."

Silk said, "In agreeing to take on the challenge of setting up our pavilion here in Dubai, we wanted to tell the world our story. Our story is one of

resilience, determination, friendship and unity, symbolised by our unique culture and traditions and our advocacy for greater climate ambition at all levels. For us, when we talk about climate change, it means an existential threat."

The ceremony was rounded off with two traditional Marshallese dances. Few countries are more acutely aware of the impacts of climate change than the Marshall Islands, which are entirely made up of low-lying atolls - coral deposits on the crater rims of submerged volcanoes - sitting just one metre above sea level.

Based in the Opportunity District, the Marshall Islands Pavilion showed the beauty and history of this island, while flagging the challenges they are facing for the future, putting out a call for action on climate change.

## Dubai Saves 329 MW Of Electricity During Earth Hour 2022

The Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) recorded savings of 329 megawatts (MW) of electricity consumed in the emirate during Earth Hour 2022, equivalent to a reduction of 132 tons of carbon dioxide emissions. This savings is 13% higher than the 291 MW savings recorded during Earth Hour 2021. This year's savings are the largest since 2008, when Earth Hour was first held in Dubai.

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Residents of Dubai joined millions of people around the world in expressing their solidarity with efforts to reduce climate change by turning off unnecessary lights and appliances during Earth Hour from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 26, 2022. This year's Earth Hour was held under the theme "Shaping Our Future". Dubai's landmarks, government and private buildings also took part in the event by turning off the lights for one hour.

H.E. Said Mohammed Al Tayer, CEO of DEWA, thanked everyone who took part in Earth Hour, stressing that the goal goes beyond simply turning off unnecessary lights and electrical appliances for 60 minutes.

The goal of Earth Hour is to make saving electricity and water a daily practice to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and combat

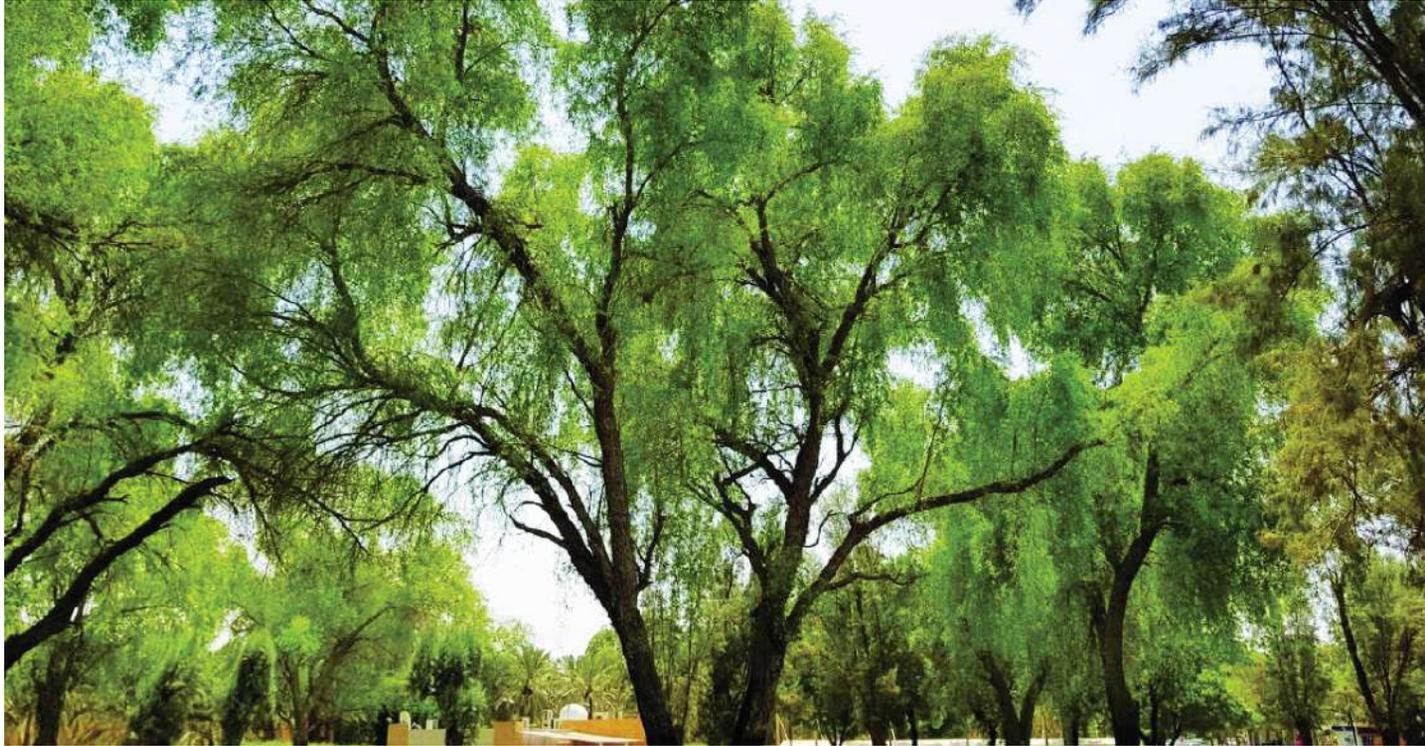
environmental issues such as climate change and global warming.

"The results achieved during Earth Hour Dubai each year highlight the key role society members play in conserving nature and reducing their carbon footprint. The goal of Earth Hour is to encourage members of society to adopt conscious and responsible lifestyles to support national efforts to limit carbon emissions and protect natural resources to ensure their sustainability for future generations," said Al Tayer.

DEWA buildings participated in Earth Hour by turning off unnecessary lights from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. This included the DEWA pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai, which also hosted various events, including traditional performances by the Emirati band Al Harbiya.

## EPAA Announces Winners Of 7th Sustainable Trees Initiative

The Environment and Protected Areas Authority in Sharjah (EPAA) has announced the winning schools in the seventh edition of the Sustainable Trees Initiative "The Ghaf & Mangroves" under the slogan "Sustainable trees are environmental treasure", with more than 60 public and private schools participating from across the country. This was in collaboration with the Emirates Foundation for School



Seventh edition of initiative titled, 'The Ghaf & Mangroves', was held under the slogan "Sustainable trees are an environmental treasure"

Education, Sharjah Private Education Authority and the Knowledge and Human Development Authority, Dubai.

The initiative targeted Kindergarten students, basic education students - first cycle, basic education students - the second cycle, secondary education students, to implement a 10-day programme of educational awareness activities for each school category about Al Ghaf and Mangroves trees.

Hana Saif Al Suwaidi, Chairperson of EPAA, said, "The sustainable trees initiative embodies the visions and directives of His Highness Dr. Sheikh Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah, emphasising social responsibility in preserving the environment of wild areas and its biodiversity, encouraging local agriculture and

*The 10-day programme consisted of educational activities for each school category to raise awareness of Al Ghaf and Mangrove trees*



taking care of the preservation of perennial annual plants. It also raises awareness of the importance of preserving Al Ghaf trees."

All schools participated by engaging in a variety of activities, including planting Al Ghaf tree seedlings, writing short stories about Al Ghaf, designing brochures and posters, writing articles about mangroves, visiting Khor Kalba Centre for Mangrove, and other interactive activities.

Three winning schools were selected from each school category. The winning schools for the categories Kindergarten and Basic education - Cycle One Schools, were honoured for their excellence in implementing a distinguished programme of activities about the Al Ghaf tree.

And for the categories of basic Education - Second Cycle schools and Secondary Education

schools were honoured for their excellence in implementing a distinguished programme of activities about the mangrove trees.

The winning schools from the kindergarten category are, Al Baraem Nursery, New Delhi Private Kindergarten and Al Garayen Nursery; from category of Basic Education - First Cycle are the American School of Creative Science, Al Andalus School for Basic Education, and Al Zuhour Private School; from category of Basic education - Second Cycle are Pakistan Islamia Higher Private School, Masar Private School, and Al Najma Private School.

The winning schools from the secondary education category are: Al Ansar International Private School, Al Rifaa School for Secondary Education, and New Indian Model School.

## 'Dubai's Role In Inspiring Smart, Sustainable Future Cities'

The Museum of the Future hosted Professor Greg Clark, Group Advisor, Future Cities & New Industries at HSBC Group, during a panel session held on March 17, 2022, as part of its new Future Talks series.

The session, titled "The Future of Cities and Dubai's Role", highlighted the reality of cities in the post-pandemic period, future trends of



The Future Talks series explores the making of the future, enhances ability of research institutions to shape the future, celebrates scientists, and aims to design and build the future

urban communities in light of recent technological advancements, and Dubai's role in inspiring future cities. Clark, who has consulted more than 50 governments and 200 cities globally, discussed the concerns of scientists and decision-makers regarding the future of cities, such as decarbonisation and rapid changes in digital communications and services.

"The pandemic has stimulated human appetite for the interactions that cities make possible," he told the audience. "I think it will lead our cities to make big switches, such as the move away from dependence on corporates and consumption to focusing instead on habitats, environment and experiences."

"We're at the beginning of another decade. This will be a decade about health, clean air, technology innovation, and cities that can bring

*"The net-zero city is not just an environmental idea; it is an idea of how to reform our cities to make them better places to live"*



together people from diverse backgrounds and create a coherent social community. This is a decade about optimising the use of new digital technology not to create 'robot cities' but to create cities that can be co-created by leaders and citizens."

Clark continued, "Dubai's position in the global family of cities is changing radically. Dubai is creating a new kind of city."

Saeed Al Gergawi, Head of Dubai Future Academy, said, "The main mission of the Museum of the Future is to bring together futurists and people with inspiring and innovative ideas about the future of humanity. Cities are a key pillar in this context."

"The extent to which the museum is interested in the future of cities is clearly showcased through its exterior design, which sets a new benchmark

for sustainable construction. This is in addition to its futuristic labs that support innovation in health, education, smart cities, energy and transportation, and its exhibitions which contain prototypes in the fields of waste management, environment, food security, agriculture, city planning, and 4IR tech; all of which are key to designing future cities."

Speaking about the importance of building sustainable cities, Clark said, "The net-zero city will save money, particularly for people on low incomes."

It will improve our mobility choices. It will produce cleaner air, reduce respiratory diseases. The net-zero city is not just an environmental idea; it is an idea of how to reform our cities to make them better places to live."

## POLESTAR O<sub>2</sub>: High Performance Electric Roadster

Polestar, the pure play performance car brand, has revealed a new concept car that redefines sports roadsters for the electric age. Named Polestar O<sub>2</sub>, the hard-top convertible is Polestar's vision of open-top performance and a thrilling driving experience - with all the benefits of electric mobility.

Polestar was established as a new, standalone



Second concept car from Polestar has been created with a focus on sustainability in terms of design and materials

Swedish premium electric vehicle manufacturer in 2017. Founded by Volvo Cars and Geely Holding, Polestar enjoys specific technological and engineering synergies with Volvo Cars and benefits from significant economies of scale.

As the company seeks to reduce its climate impact with every new model, Polestar aims to produce a truly climate-neutral car by 2030.

"Polestar O<sub>2</sub> is the hero car for our brand," comments Thomas Ingenlath, Polestar CEO. "It opens the door to our secret chamber of future potential. This is a taste of what we can design and engineer with the talent and technology we have in-house. It looks incredible, and being able to lower the roof and not hear an engine promises a superb sensation!"

### Dynamics

Maximilian Missoni, Polestar's Head of Design,

# *Sustainability and technology ambitions take next steps toward greater circularity with recycled polyester thermoplastic mono-material and aluminium labelling*



## **Design**

“This car is a meeting point between technology and art, between precision and sculpture, with a determined but not aggressive stance,” continues Maximilian Missoni.

Aerodynamics are manipulated to maximise range thanks to disguised design features like integrated ducts that improve laminar air flow over the wheels and body sides, and the rear lights that function as air blades to reduce turbulence behind the car.

Clearly related to the Polestar Precept concept car but with its own distinct character, the look of Polestar O<sub>2</sub> shows how Polestar’s evolving design language can be adapted to different body styles with a strong family resemblance. The low and wide body with an assertive stance, compact 2+2 cabin design, minimal overhangs and a long wheelbase, embody classic sports car proportions but with a clearly modern, electric feel.

says: “Polestar O<sub>2</sub> is our vision of a new era for sports cars. By mixing the joy of open top driving with the purity of electric mobility, it unlocks a new mix of emotions in a car. But as with all our cars, we are about more than just straight line sprints. It’s when you turn the steering wheel that the true fun begins.”

The driving experience in the Polestar O<sub>2</sub> is designed to be lively, light and full of confidence. Predictability and playfulness are core to exciting, spirited driving. Tight body control, high rigidity and intuitive dynamics are inherent benefits of the bespoke bonded aluminium platform which is adapted from the Polestar 5, developed in-house by the R&D team in the UK.

The high quality and rigidity of the bonded aluminium platform are geared towards heightened dynamic response.

## **Sustainability and technology**

Polestar O<sub>2</sub> also showcases advances in sustainability and technology. A new thermoplastic mono-material features extensively in the interior. The term “mono-material” describes the use of a single base





material to manufacture different components.

In Polestar O<sub>2</sub>, recycled polyester is the sole material used for all the soft components of the interior: foam, adhesive, 3D knit fibres and non-woven lamination. This simplifies recycling and is a significant step towards greater circularity, while also reducing weight and waste.

Polestar sustainability teams believe that materials should be recycled, not downcycled.

In Polestar O<sub>2</sub>, they have integrated a new method of controlling recycled content and improving circularity of metal components. Different grades of aluminium are used throughout the chassis to help deliver a thrilling driving experience.

These different grades are labelled, allowing them to be recycled more effectively and for their properties to be retained. High grade

aluminium remains high grade, while other grades maintain their varied characteristics, allowing for greater material efficiency and a lower requirement for virgin aluminium.

### Innovation

In a world increasingly driven by social media, the Polestar O<sub>2</sub> features an autonomous cinematic drone integrated behind the rear seats. Developed in collaboration with Aerofugia's consumer electronics brand Hoco Flow, the concept drone can be deployed while the car is moving, to record the perfect driving sequence.

"We wanted to emphasise the experience you can have with a car like the Polestar O<sub>2</sub> in new and unusual ways," continues Maximilian Missoni. "Integrating an autonomous cinematic drone was something that allowed us to push the boundaries on the innovation front. Not needing to stop and

*Polestar O<sub>2</sub> continues the strong foundations laid by Polestar Precept as a vision of the company's future design, technology and sustainability ambitions*



off-load the drone before filming, but rather deploying it at speed, is a key benefit to this innovative design.”

Polestar engineers have developed a specialised aerofoil that raises behind the rear seats to create a calm area of negative pressure that allows the drone to take off when the car is on the move. The drone operates autonomously, automatically following the car at speeds up to 90 km/h, and the driver can choose between an atmospheric sequence – great for a coastline cruise – or a more action-filled sequence with a sportier expression. After filming, the drone can autonomously return to the car. Video clips can be edited and shared directly from the 15-inch centre display when the car is parked.

Polestar O<sub>2</sub> continues the strong foundations laid by Polestar Precept as a vision of the company's

future design, technology and sustainability ambitions. Polestar plans to launch three new cars over the coming three years, starting in 2022, each of which has potential to gradually realise some of the ideas presented by these concept cars.



## UAE, Israel Sign First Mutual Agricultural Agreement

The UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MoCCA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Israel to cooperate in the field of agriculture. Mariam bint Mohammed Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, and Oded Forer, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Israel, signed the MoU.



Under the five-year MoU, the ministries will collaborate on developing and sharing knowledge, best practices, and technology to increase the quantity and quality of agricultural produce and enhance the sustainability of crop and livestock production. They also aim to boost bilateral trade in agricultural and animal products and align their animal health and food safety procedures.

In addition, they will work towards mutual recognition of the UAE's and Israel's organic farming standards, boost technical cooperation, particularly in innovative applied R&D in agriculture and beekeeping, and conduct joint training sessions for agriculture and food safety experts and researchers.

Mariam Almheiri said, "Due to their arid desert environment, the UAE and Israel face similar challenges in developing sustainable, climate-

resilient agricultural sectors and strengthening food security. Our new partnership aims to initiate a dynamic exchange of experience and expertise in these areas to help us achieve our common goals. Israel is a leader in technology innovation, and we especially look forward to a productive cooperation in technology transfer."

Oded Forer said, "This new collaboration will lead to better solutions for common challenges in the region, such as food security and climate change."

The two parties will establish a joint committee to review the progress of the collaboration, set priorities, and develop action plans for targeted projects. To support the objectives of the MoU, the ministries will engage relevant partners, including government entities, private sector companies, and research institutions.

## Airport Show To Unveil Innovative Sustainability And 'Green' Technology

Sustainability will be the central theme at the world's largest airport industry B2B platform scheduled to be held from May 17 - 19 at the Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC).

The 21st edition of Airport Show, under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman of Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, Chairman of Dubai Airports and

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Chairman and Chief Executive of Emirates Airline and Group, will provide insights about airports facing the sustainability challenge.

Airport show, in partnership with dnata, will launch e-Apron zone, which will provide exhibitors an opportunity to display electric and hybrid ground handling equipment and GSE.

With the Airports Council International (ACI) predicting global passenger traffic recovering by 2023-end to the 2019 levels, airports, especially in the Middle East region, have started sharply focusing on their sustainability and 'green' goals.

More vulnerable to climate changes than most regions due to limited water supplies and harsh summers, the Middle East is expected to see its aviation market reaching the US\$23.07 billion mark in 2026. The region is seeing airports using environment-friendly reclaimed wood,

daylighting systems and water treatment technologies.

Raed Younes, Vice President, UAE and Regional Business Development at dnata, said that reducing the carbon footprint is a key target for dnata as a world-leading air and travel services provider at 129 airports and he expressed hope that more exhibitors would join the efforts for more sustainable operations.

"The airport operations have a sharp focus on reviewing the intensity of environmental impacts like carbon emissions, energy consumption, air and noise pollution, waste management and biodiversity. They are practising innovative, unconventional and alternative solutions and, through operational efficiency, working drive significant sustainability," he added.

## 175 Nations Commit To Environmental Cooperation

More than 175 Heads of State raised a united plea for multilateral action on March 4, 2022, marking the 50th anniversary of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). The Special Session of the UN Environment Assembly, which wrapped in Nairobi, addressed how to build a resilient and inclusive post-pandemic world. The two-day event was an important highlight among a

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CLIMATE ACTION



Heads of State affirm  
commitment to  
environmental  
cooperation marking the  
50th anniversary of the  
UN Environment  
Programme

number of activities and events over the past year to recognize the significant progress made on tackling climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, and address the challenges to come.

The President of the Republic of Kenya, Uhuru Kenyatta, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Muhammadu Buhari, President Mokgweetsi Masisi of Botswana, and Prime Minister Félix Molula of the Central African Republic joined ministers of environment and other representatives from 175 nations for the event. In his opening speech, President Kenyatta recalled some notable environment successes of UN Member States, coordinated through UNEP, including historic conferences like the Rio 1992 Earth Summit and the 1987 Montreal Convention to protect the ozone layer.

“I want to commend all Member States for the

## *Special Session of UNEA adopts 14 resolutions, two declarations and one decision on curbing pollution and for the protection and restoration of nature*



dedication and diligence that you've shown in prioritizing the issues that affect our planet. We cannot talk of development, peace, and security without highlighting the nexus with climate change," he said.

In the spirit of celebrating UNEP@50, President Kenyatta concluded by announcing a new bi-annual award of USD\$25,000 from the people of Kenya to persons or institutions who champion environmental sustainability and peace.

Nigeria's President Buhari said: "It's time to stimulate collective action to address the triple crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and rising levels of pollution and waste. No country or continent can achieve this alone. Each nation has an essential role to play."

Botswana's President Masisi said: "Economic activity and population growth has compounded

the enormous strain on the world's natural resources and ecosystems. Climate change, desertification, loss of biodiversity and growing levels of poverty are painful realities of our times."

Detailing the country's record on sustainable management of its biodiversity – 40 per cent of its land is under protected area status – and integrating environmental considerations into national planning processes, President Masisi affirmed his country's commitment to Multilateral Environmental Agreements, urging "green philanthropists, private sector, research institutions and development agencies... (to) incentivize success in conservation."

The 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm is regarded as one of the first major multilateral meetings on the



environment; it spurred the formation of environment ministries and agencies around the world, kickstarted a host of new global agreements to collectively protect the environment and led to the formation of UNEP – the only UN agency whose headquarters is in Africa. For five decades, Kenya has been the host of UNEP and over the past week it has hosted the resumed 5th session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2).

Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP, extended gratitude to Kenya for hosting UNEP for 50 years, and for the country's unwavering support for UNEA-5.2.

“UNEP is now at the heart of protecting the asset upon which we all rely, the environment. The world has realized that we cannot pollute our way to development and clean up after. We have a human

right to a healthy environment. Youth are demanding change. Governments, cities and regions are acting. Businesses are acting. Investors are acting,” she said.

“None of this was in place 50 years ago. However, our journey will only conclude when we ensure that humanity can thrive without skewing the delicate balance of life on this glorious planet,” she concluded.

The Assembly adopted 14 resolutions, two declarations and one decision on curbing pollution and for the protection and restoration of nature. Among these are a historic resolution to forge an international legally binding deal to end plastic pollution, the establishment of a science policy panel on the sound management of chemicals and waste, and on the definition and implementation of nature-based solutions.

# Carrefour Opens Its First BIO Store In The UAE

Supermarket giant Carrefour has opened its first Carrefour BIO concept store in downtown Dubai. The new BIO store is designed to make it easier for customers to access eco-friendly and safe products.

Drawing on qualitative data studies around organic shopping in the UAE, the store has been specifically designed with health-conscious

UAE NEWS



customers in mind. With over 3,000 items to choose from, the new concept store specialises in healthy and organic products spanning from food and beverages to beauty, personal, and home care items.

Carrefour BIO supports organic living and promotes locally grown produce in line with UAE's National Food Security Strategy 2051.

The store also offers a wide selection of fresh fruit and vegetables sourced from 100% organic certified farms, poultry and meat that is high in nutrients and contains no added hormones, plus organic-fed fish from approved piscaries, whilst catering to every dietary requirement with its extensive range of vegan, keto, free-from and dairy-free products.

Fresh greenery and wooden finishes bring the store to life, with a café offering all-day breakfast,

delicious salads, fresh juices, and organic teas and coffees, as well as fan favourites from manakeesh to burgers with a plant-based twist.

Carrefour BIO offers recyclable paper bags and uses biodegradable packaging across its fresh products in line with the leading retailer's mission to eliminate single-use plastic from its operations by 2025. Customers will find refilling stations for water and detergents that are quick and easy to use and help to prevent excessive plastic consumption. The store also houses an innovative hydroponic farm to offset Carrefour's carbon footprint and bolster food security in the UAE.

Carrefour BIO also aims to support the community and local small businesses by showcasing artisanal products from UAE businesses in a dedicated section at the store.

## Thinking Ahead: Wellington, New Zealand

Wellington, the capital of New Zealand, encompasses a waterfront promenade, sandy beaches, a working harbour and colourful timber houses on surrounding hills. Situated near the North Island's southernmost point on the Cook Strait, its strong winds give it the nickname 'Windy Wellington'.

The city of Wellington has a low ecological



Focused on a long-term vision for a greener, sustainable capital city puts Wellington above the rest

footprint compared to the rest of the country. Reasons include Wellington's more efficient use of land, and its lower energy needs for transport. These are both based on having a compact urban form. Wellington's use of light rail is also credited in reducing the city's ecological footprint.

Wellington is also home to some spectacular species and is unique for the way the city is nestled into nature, with green spaces and the harbour surrounding it. From Kiwi to Kauri, the city is known globally for its native biodiversity that is widespread, with flora and fauna you can only find here. Wellington has been working hard for decades to protect and conserve its natural biodiversity in the face of climate change.

### Climate Action Plan

Te Atakura - First to Zero is a blueprint to make Wellington City a zero carbon capital (net zero

# *Te Atakura – First to Zero is a blueprint to make Wellington City a zero carbon capital by 2050*



2019/2020 year were likely reduced between 1-6 percent due to the city's COVID-19 response measures, mostly from reduced transport emissions.

## **Transport**

Around 50 percent of the city's carbon emissions come from the way its citizens travel, with petrol and diesel road vehicles making up about a third of the city's emissions. Let's Get Wellington Moving (LGWM), a joint initiative between Wellington City Council, Greater Wellington Regional Council, and Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency invests in rapid transit and improving public and active transport to provide the infrastructure for low emission transport.

Wellington City is also focused on 'urban form', or the designing and planning of a city in such a way to allow its citizens to live close to public transport, shops, schools, and work to ensure

emissions) by 2050. This blueprint outlines key activities that can help reduce the city's emissions in four target areas: Transport, Building Energy and Urban Form, Advocacy, and the Council.

The Te Atakura - First to Zero, action plan seeks to achieve three key goals:

- Reduce the city's emissions by 57% by 2030, and to net zero by 2050.
- Reduce the Council emissions to net zero by 2050.
- Support Wellington City to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

In the year 2020, Wellington successfully achieved an 8 percent gross reduction of carbon emissions, or a 7 percent net reduction due to increases in forestry emissions. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown of Wellington City showed that emissions for the





shorter travel distances. The Spatial Plan reflects Wellingtonians' desire for a compact, high-density city, that reduces pressure on housing and is ideal for supporting a low carbon lifestyle.

### Food

Te Whanganui-a-Tara, is the food initiative the Wellington Council is working on to support a more sustainable, equitable and resilient food system. The food system ties into the economic, environmental and social health of the city. A food system covers all stages of keeping one fed. This includes growing, processing, transporting, distributing, consuming, and disposing of food. Wellington's local food system is a vibrant one, full of restaurants, cafés, gardens, and farmers markets.

Wellington's food system contributes up to 30 percent of global carbon emissions. By promoting

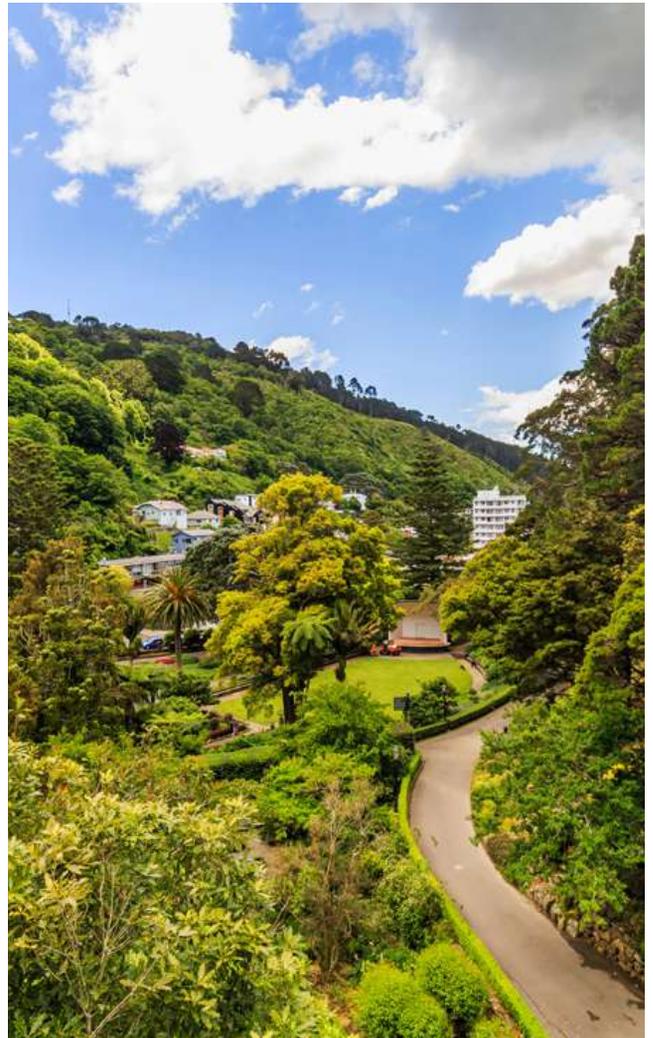
a more sustainable food system, the city aims to save carbon and support sustainable food producers.

### Biodiversity

Wellington's Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan's goals and actions are grouped into four themes:

- Protect the ecologically significant areas on private and public land, particularly through pest reduction
- Restore these areas - create safe buffer zones around them and connect them
- Connect people to the importance of and threats to the city's indigenous biodiversity, and provide resources and support for restoration work across all reserves
- Research the best ways to continue to manage the city's issues and progress

*Te Whaganui-a-Tara, is the food initiative the Wellington Council is working on to support a more sustainable, equitable and resilient food system*



The Wellington Council aims to protect and restore biodiversity through a range of projects and services across the nearly 4500 hectares of public open spaces they manage.

The Council also plants eco-sourced native species across Wellington to create a variety of habitats in dunes, wetland, streams and forests that are closer to their original, natural state. They plant appropriate species and transitions areas from exotic to indigenous plant life.

### **Water**

Wellington's water supply is known as a 'run-of-the river' system – effectively the water that passes through its water supply catchments today provides the water consumed tomorrow. Very little of the city's water demand is met by water stored in a bulk supply. This means that the supply can be significantly affected by climatic

conditions and spikes in consumption – or peak demand.

Wellington focuses on saving water by:

- monitoring water consumption and water restriction compliance throughout the city
- assisting with regional public education campaigns on water conservation and water restrictions
- installing water efficient devices on rental housing as part of the housing upgrade project.

## Resolution To End Plastic Pollution By 2024 Adopted

The UN Environment Assembly concluded on 2 March 2022 in Nairobi with 14 resolutions to strengthen actions for nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The Assembly is made up of the 193 UN Member States and convenes every two years to advance global environmental governance.

The world's ministers for the environment



The UN Environment Assembly concluded with 14 resolutions to curb pollution, protect and restore nature worldwide

agreed to establish an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee with the mandate to forge an international legally binding agreement to end plastic pollution. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), said this was most significant environmental multilateral deal since the Paris accord.

“Against the backdrop of geopolitical turmoil, the UN Environment Assembly shows multilateral cooperation at its best,” said Espen Barth Eide, the President of UNEA-5 and Norway’s Minister for Climate and the Environment.

Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the UN, added: “No area on the planet is left untouched by plastic pollution, from deep-sea sediment to Mount Everest. The planet deserves

*Plastic production volume is around 400 million tonnes per year and is expected to double by 2040*



a multilateral solution that speaks from source to sea. A legally binding global agreement on plastic pollution will be a truly welcome first step.”

Along with putting an end to plastic pollution, a second key resolution supports the establishment of a comprehensive and ambitious science policy panel on the sound management of chemicals and waste and preventing pollution. The Ministerial Declaration recognises humanity’s failure to date to manage chemicals and waste, a threat that is further aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic through widespread use of single-use plastics and disinfectant chemicals.

In the spirit of the UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration, a third key resolution agreed by the Assembly focuses on nature-based solutions: actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage ecosystems. The resolution calls

on UNEP to support the implementation of such solutions, which safeguard the rights of communities and indigenous peoples.

Three resolutions prioritize ecosystem restoration, biodiversity protection, resource efficiency, consumption and production patterns, climate mitigation and adaptation, job creation and poverty reduction.

A resolution on minerals and metals calls for the development of proposals to enhance their environmental sustainability along their full lifecycle.

A resolution on sustainable lake management calls on Member States to protect, conserve, and restore, as well as sustainably use lakes, while integrating lakes into national and regional development plans.



A resolution on sustainable and resilient infrastructure encourages Member States to integrate environmental considerations in all their infrastructure plans.

A concluding Ministerial Declaration recognised the risk for future pandemics and other health risks if humanity doesn't overhaul its patterns of interaction with nature by adopting a holistic approach such as One Health.

In this context, a resolution on animal welfare calls on Member States to protect animals, protecting their habitats and meeting their welfare requirements. Another resolution on biodiversity and health calls on Member States to reduce health risks associated with trade in live wildlife captured for the purposes of food, captive breeding, medicines and the pet trade, through regulation and sanitary controls.

The Ministerial Declaration stressed the urgent need to halt the decline of biodiversity and the fragmentation of habitats, driven by changes in land and sea use, exploitation of nature, unsustainable consumption and production patterns, climate change, invasive alien species and pollution of oceans, air and soil.

In this context, the Assembly adopted a resolution to accelerate actions to significantly reduce nitrogen waste from all sources, especially through agricultural practices, and saving US \$100 billion annually.

The world's environment ministers also committed to promoting an inclusive and sustainable recovery, a green and just transition, by incorporating biodiversity, climate change and pollution concerns into all policies and tools.

# International Conference Unveils Sustainable Solutions For Arid Regions

The National Water and Energy Centre at the United Arab Emirates University (UAEU) has organised the "Water Resources Management and Sustainability: Solutions in Dry Regions" conference at Expo 2020 Dubai on March 25, 2022. The three-day conference was held under the patronage of Suhail bin Mohammed Al Mazrouei, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure; and David Spears, Minister of

EXPO 2020 DUBAI



Environment and Water of South Australia.

Zaki Nusseibeh, Cultural Adviser to the UAE President and Chancellor of UAEU, said that the conference aligns with the UAE's national principles for the future development of the country. It also addresses the United Nation's goal for sustainable clean water and sanitation development.

"Without enough high-quality water, we may not be able to achieve security of food supplies. We gather delegates from 55 countries representing all five continents to discuss a vital topic to humankind's future sustainable development and prosperity.

"The very fact of the diversity and international reach of countries represented at this conference demonstrates that effective management of water resources is both a global concern and a

mutual challenge," he added.

Dr. Ahmed Ali Murad, Associate Provost for Research and President of the Conference, stressed that the conference is in line with the university's vision to support development and the priorities of the UAE, the UAE Agenda for Advanced Sciences 2031, and the UAE Water Security Strategy 2036.

"This conference represents an important platform to share and present new insights and introduce innovative technologies and unconventional practices that will improve the future of water management and sustainability in arid and semi-arid regions worldwide. It will also help discover appropriate solutions to future challenges in water resource management and sustainability," Dr. Murad stated.

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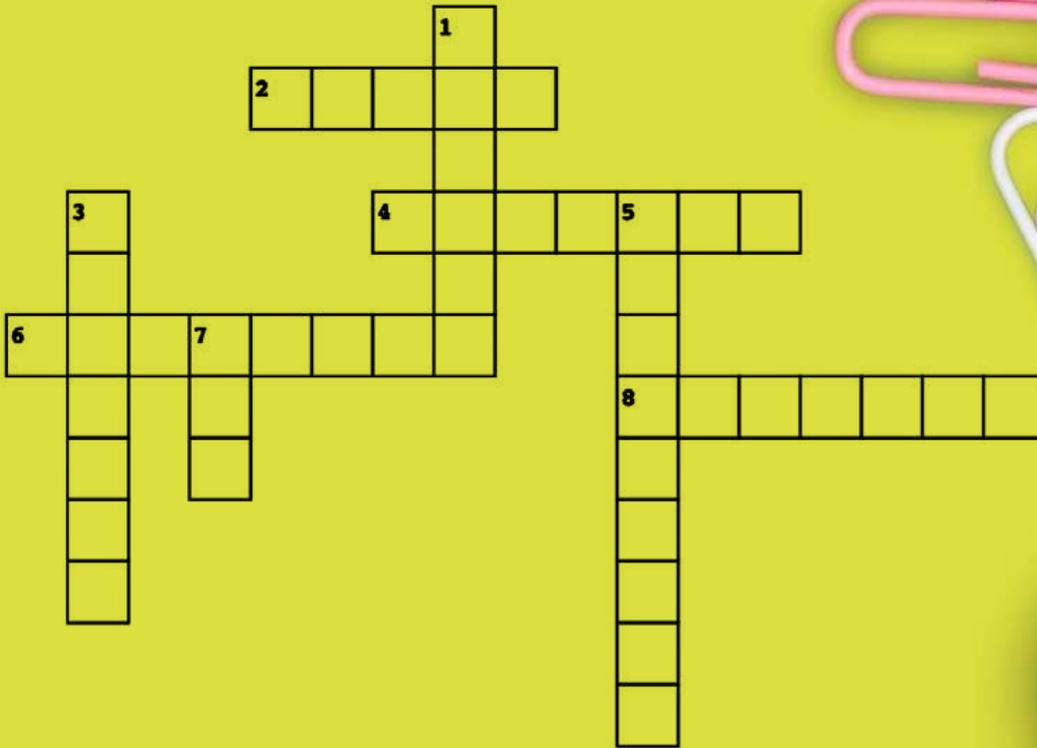
Answers: 1) WATER 2) WASTE 3) FISHERIES 4) DESERTS 5) OASIS 6) SUSTAIN 7) PROTECT 8) CLEAN

Word Search

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

- VEGANISM
- STORMS
- OCEANS
- RAIN
- EVAPORATE
- EARTH
- POLLUTE
- PLASTIC
- RESERVE
- WILDLIFE
- RECYCLE
- UNIVERSE

# Crossword Puzzle



## Across

2. Biodegrade
4. A workplace where fish are caught and processed and sold
6. Keep in safety and protect from harm, decay, loss, or destruction
8. Make impure

## Down

1. A severe shortage of food
3. A shortage of rainfall
5. Cause to change into a vapor
7. The star around which our planetary system revolves

Answers: 1) Famine 2) Decay 3) Drought 4) Fishery 5) Evaporate  
6) Conserve 7) Sun 8) Pollute

## WORD OF THE DAY:

# EXTINCTION

Extinction is one of the major features of evolution. A species is extinct when no members of the species are still alive.

All species become extinct sooner or later. The end of a species may happen for many reasons. It may be caused by habitat loss or by being overhunted, or by a major extinction event. An example of an animal that is now extinct is the Dodo, from over-hunting.

Endangered species are those which may become extinct. A report from Kew Gardens suggests that one fifth of plant species may be at risk of extinction. Fossil species sometimes reappear millions of years after they were thought to be extinct.

Habitat degradation is currently the main cause of species extinctions. The main cause of habitat degradation worldwide is agriculture, with urban sprawl, logging, mining and some fishing practices close behind. The degradation of a species' habitat may alter the fitness landscape to such an extent that the species is no longer able to survive and becomes extinct.

### Facts about Extinction:

- Wildlife population sizes dropped by 68% between 1970 and 2018.
- Populations of freshwater wildlife species are declining disproportionately faster than others, dropping by an average of 84% between 1970 and 2018.
- Some 100 million hectares of tropical forest were lost between 1980 and 2000



## SAVE THE ELEPHANT DAY - APRIL 16TH

Elephants are magnificent, gentle, and much-loved animals. But they're in danger in their native habitats. Save the Elephants Day is a day to raise awareness of the threats they face and pledge to help protect them.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List of endangered animals includes both the Asian Elephant and the African Elephant.

The Asian elephant is listed as Endangered, with its population still declining. The African elephant has a slightly brighter outlook. It was upgraded from Endangered to Vulnerable, and its population is increasing but both species still need our help.

Save the Elephant Day is celebrated on April 16 of every year. Save the Elephants Day is created to raise awareness about the danger's elephants face and various difficulties they have to overcome to live. By spreading awareness, the general people can understand the significance and consequences of their actions, or inactions on the future of elephants. The two main problems to elephants are their habitat loss and ivory trade, both threats are because of humans.

### Facts about Elephants:

- The elephant has the largest brain of the animal world. They are very intelligent!
- Elephants live in families with females being the head of the herd (called a matriarch). There can be as few as 8 or as many as 100 in a group.
- An elephant tusk can be as long as 10 ft. and weigh over 200 pounds.
- Elephants walk on average about 4 mph but can actual run up to 24 miles per hour!

## WORLD EARTH DAY - APRIL 22

Every year on April 22, Earth Day marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970. The first Earth Day was celebrated in 1970, when a United States senator from Wisconsin organized a national demonstration to raise awareness about environmental issues. Rallies took place across the country and, by the end of the year, the U.S. government had created the Environmental Protection Agency. By 1990, Earth Day was an event celebrated by more than 140 countries around the globe.

The theme for Earth Day 2022 is ‘Invest in our Planet.’ Unless businesses act now, climate change will ever more deeply damage economies, increase scarcity, drain profits and job prospects, and impact us all.

Studies show a direct correlation between sustainable business practices, share prices, and business performance. Companies who develop strong Environment Social Governance (ESG) standards have better profitability, stronger financials, happier employees, and more resilient stock performance.

Smart companies are discovering that it is no longer a choice between going green and growing long-term profits — sustainability is the path to prosperity. So, for both humanitarian and business reasons, it is imperative that companies of all sizes take action and embrace the benefits of a green economy.

As individuals, we have the simple yet effective power to make our voices heard through our

choices, our civic actions, and our personal interactions. What each of us does, and how we do it, has a huge ripple effect on our ecosystems, and on the pace of corporate and government action.



### What can you do to help?

#### Things to Do...

- Use both sides of a sheet of paper
- Carry a reusable water bottle around
- Use the metro
- Avoid single use tissues and wipes
- Volunteer for a clean-up drive!

COLOUR ME!



# Nominations Open For Champions Of The Earth Award 2022

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has launched a call for nominations for its annual Champions of the Earth award – the UN's highest environmental honour – to recognize outstanding leaders from government, civil society and the private sector for their transformative impact on the environment.

To highlight the importance of ecosystem

AWARD



restoration, the 2022 call especially encourages the nomination of people and organisations who have contributed to preventing, halting and reversing the degradation of ecosystems worldwide.

Since its inauguration in 2005, the award has shone a spotlight on leaders who have dedicated their lives to working for a healthier, more just and more sustainable planet.

UNEP's 2021 Champions of the Earth laureates were:

- Prime Minister Mia Mottley of Barbados, honoured in the Policy Leadership category for her powerful voice for a sustainable world from the Global South, consistently raises the alarm about the vulnerability of Small Island Developing States due to the climate emergency.
- The Sea Women of Melanesia (Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands), honoured in the Inspiration and Action category, train local women to monitor and assess the impacts of widespread coral bleaching on some of the world's most endangered reefs using marine science and technology.
- Maria Kolesnikova (Kyrgyz Republic), won in the Entrepreneurial Vision category and is a youth advocate and head of MoveGreen, an organization working to monitor and improve air quality in Central Asia.
- Dr. Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka (Uganda), honoured in the Science and Innovation category, was the first-ever wildlife veterinarian of the Uganda Wildlife Authority, and is a recognised world authority on primates and zoonotic diseases.

## The Last Glaciers: New Film Issues Powerful Call For Climate Action

Paraglider, entrepreneur and environmental filmmaker Malcolm Wood has featured in a unique new documentary that shines a spotlight on how the world's water towers are being lost due to climate change. The film is produced by award-winning filmmaker Craig Leeson ("A Plastic Ocean") and Malcolm Wood, who is also the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Mountain Advocate.



New documentary with Malcolm Wood - paraglider, entrepreneur and environmental filmmaker, shows the drastic loss of ice worldwide on World Water Day

Launched on World Water Day, the immersive cinematographic experience showcases the causes and effects of climate change in mountains - our Earth's disappearing and precious water reservoirs. Witnessed first-hand by adventurous extreme sports athletes using para-alpinism, leading scientific experts, and affected mountain communities, the fragility of our natural world is brought to screen.

"Rising temperatures and melting glaciers influence water availability and quality for millions of people, increase the risk of natural hazards such as snow avalanches, floods or landslides, and force plants and animals to adapt or mitigate. A large proportion of mountain species are expected to face an increased risk of extinction as a result," says UNEP's Europe Office Director Bruno Pozzi, who features in the documentary.

*Filmed in 12 countries over four years, the inspiring 40-minute film is a global call to action to protect and restore mountain ecosystems*



Filmed in 12 countries over four years, the inspiring 40-minute film is a global call to action to protect and restore mountain ecosystems, our global water towers.

According to the latest IPCC report on Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability (2022), which includes a cross-chapter paper on mountains, human-induced climate change already has led to widespread losses and damages to nature and people in most ecosystems of our planet. Risks in mountain regions are expected to further increase over the course of this century with accelerated climate change negatively affecting biodiversity, ecosystem services and human well-being. Many mountain regions have already witnessed radical glacier loss with many low elevation and small glaciers around the world – including all of Africa’s remaining glaciers – at risk of disappearing within this century.

The melting and drastic retreat of glaciers also has severe effects on the environment and people further afield. Glacial melt leads to reduced water supply for towns, and especially farmers, as less water is available for hot dry seasons.

Combined with the drastic ice loss in Greenland and Antarctica, glacial melt in mountains around the world also contributes to rising sea levels. The latest IPCC report estimates that, by the end of this century, the average sea level could be one meter higher than in pre-industrial times, posing a particular threat to small islands and low-lying coastal areas.

UNEP aims to tackle the climate crisis and prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of mountain ecosystems, and support the achievement of SDG 15.

## Microplastics in Human Blood

I have been alarmed by the discovery of microplastic particles since reports first came out in 2018 in *Frontiers in Chemistry*. Results of analyzed samples from 259 bottled water in several countries had found that 93% contained microplastics.

Previous studies in the USA had also found microplastic particles in 97% of bottled water tested. A 2019 WHO report, 'Microplastics in drinking-water', which focused on the potential health impact, indicated that microplastics have been detected in sea water, fresh water, food, air, wastewater and drinking water - bottled and tap water. Isn't this scary?



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

A recent study published in *Environment International* noted that microplastics have been detected in human blood. They were found in nearly 80 percent of the people tested by researchers in Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam in the Netherlands. The main sources are bottles, food packaging, clothing, household products and grocery bags. Microplastics have also been detected in 100% of the human stool samples tested.

Microplastics in blood are a cause for concern as it could cause chronic inflammations. More in-depth study is required on the types and sizes of plastic particles and their health impact. Specifically, we need to know if microplastic particles can escape through the body's protective barriers and enter the brain?

There is hope that we can control this problem as microplastic particles can be removed by both the water treatment and the wastewater treatment systems. However, most low- and middle-income countries lack access to sewage treatment systems or have no adequate treatment methods even for drinking water.

Water bottles, single-use plastic and grocery plastic bags are the three major sources of microplastics in drinking water and human body. This can be managed by intensifying awareness of the health risks and the fact that tap water is much healthier than bottled water.



## عالم مصرفي أفضل في مجتمع أفضل لمستقبل أفضل.

يُعتبر بنك الإمارات دبي الوطني من البنوك الرائدة والأكثر ابتكاراً في الإمارات العربية المتحدة.

نفخر اليوم بالدور الكبير الذي نؤديه في مجال الخدمات المصرفية للأفراد والشركات التي تشمل الخدمات المصرفية الإسلامية، الأسواق العالمية والخزينة، الخدمات المصرفية الاستثمارية، الخدمات المصرفية الخاصة، إدارة الأصول وخدمات الوساطة.

إنّ الالتزام بتنمية المجتمع من أهدافنا الدائمة، ويتجلى هذا الالتزام في سعينا الدؤوب إلى إيجاد أفكار جديدة تسهم في تحسين خدماتنا ومنتجاتنا، دعم ذوي الهمم ونشر ثقافة الوعي المالي.

هذا هو نهجنا التقدمي والمسؤول الذي يؤكد إيماننا بمستقبل واعد.

**#للأفضل\_نعمل\_دوماً**



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