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creating green communities for a better tomorrow



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Chairman's Message



Prof. Mohammed bin Fahad
Executive Editor

The UAE's commitment to global climate action resonated powerfully throughout COP29, held in Baku, Azerbaijan. The UAE's efforts in shaping discussions, fostering collaboration, and driving tangible progress toward a sustainable future reflect its dedication to accelerating a just and equitable global transition.

The UAE's proactive stance on climate change is not new. From pioneering renewable energy projects to investing in cutting-edge climate technologies, the nation has consistently demonstrated its commitment to a low-carbon future.

Central to the UAE's approach is recognizing the importance of South-South cooperation. Developing nations face unique challenges in adapting to climate change, and these countries often possess innovative solutions tailored to their specific contexts. The UAE understands that fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange is crucial for accelerating global progress.

This understanding is embodied in initiatives like the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment's partnership with the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) signed in Baku. The landmark agreement builds on the Foundation's 25-year legacy of environmental action and focuses on supporting youth, women, and grassroots organizations, recognizing their crucial role as agents of change. By providing these groups with resources, training, and platforms, the partnership aims to amplify their voices and enable them to lead climate action in their communities.

Significant pledges made at COP29 to the Loss and Damage fund offer a lifeline for vulnerable nations facing climate disasters, though equitable access and implementation remain key challenges. The world anticipates COP30 in Brazil, focusing on nature-based solutions and indigenous knowledge, to deliver concrete progress on deforestation and biodiversity.

The UAE continues its investments in renewable energy and sustainable development, fostering the next generation of climate leaders through youth engagement and capacity building. The path forward demands global collaboration, bold action, and unwavering commitment—a path the UAE is firmly committed to forging.

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UAE delegation concludes COP29 in Baku, reinforces global climate leadership

The nation endorsed several key declarations, demonstrating its dedication to addressing critical climate priorities and driving impactful solutions

The UAE proudly concluded its successful participation at COP29, highlighting its ongoing commitment to global climate action and the COP28 legacy.

President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nayhan attended the opening of the World Climate Action Summit. The UAE delegation engaged proactively across the conference, including the COP Presidency handover to Azerbaijan on the first day, and participated in plenaries, high-level dialogues, and presentations at the UAE Pavilion under the theme “Accelerating Action Together”.

Building on the achievements of the COP28 Presidency, the UAE remains committed to playing an effective and ambitious role as a global steward in climate action. Throughout COP29, the UAE has proudly demonstrated its unwavering dedication to fostering sustainable and impactful environmental initiatives worldwide.



United Nations
Climate Change



COP29
Baku
Azerbaijan



“Climate action has been embedded in the UAE since its inception. The unprecedented achievements at COP28 and the UAE Consensus contributed the roadmap for how climate needs to be prioritized. Constructive diplomatic efforts are central to climate action, and we will continue to promote the value of the Consensus signed by 198 nations in Dubai,” said Abdulla Balalaa, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Energy and Sustainability, and Head of the UAE Delegation at COP29.

He added: “During the conference, notable



progress was made in multiple areas, including the operationalisation of the Loss & Damage Fund which has now amassed over USD 940m. COP29 has also demonstrated the significant technological progress achieved, highlighting innovative new tools can realize a future where the climate issues of today become the climate

Focus remained on accelerating climate action and building on the successes of COP28, including the operationalization of the Loss & Damage Fund

opportunities of tomorrow. As we look forward to both COP16 in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and COP30 in Brazil, we commit to greater global alignment, cooperation, implementation, and solutions-identification.”

The UAE was represented at COP29 by a delegation of over 1,000 including Ministers from ministries and departments from the COP28 team, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Climate Change and Energy, the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, and the Ministry of Health. The delegation included several key figures in UAE climate action, among them H.H. Lt. General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, Dr. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology, Dr. Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, and many officials from various entities and authorities in the UAE.

Over the course of two weeks, the UAE Pavilion – staffed by a dedicated team of guest experience ambassadors – welcomed thousands of Blue Zone attendees who participated in discussions and tours. Among the visitors were heads of government, ministers, high-level representatives from global and local organizations, as well as private sector companies from various industries.

The many initiatives launched or updated during the conference include the operational launch of



the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD), the establishment of the Global Energy Efficiency Alliance, and the Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM for Climate), led by the UAE and the USA, which announced additional investment commitments totaling USD29.2 billion, along with 129 Innovation project and over 800 global partnerships.

Other notable initiatives included the launch of AIM for Scale, the world's first ChatGPT tool for the agricultural community, the launch of Chapter Zero UAE, and the signing of a 2-GW solar project in Saudi Arabia by the Masdar-led consortium in partnership with the Saudi Power Procurement Company (SPPC). Masdar also signed a power

purchase agreement with the Financial Settlement Centre for Renewable Energy Sources Support LLP for a wind farm in Kazakhstan.

The UAE endorsed declarations related to key climate priorities, including the COP29 Truce Appeal, the Global Energy Storage and Grids Pledge, the Green Energy Pledge, the Green Energy Zones and Corridors, the Hydrogen Declaration, the Declaration on Green Digital Action, the Declaration on Reducing Methane from Organic Waste, the Multisectoral Actions Pathways (MAP) Declaration for Resilient and Healthy Cities, and the Declaration on Water for Climate Action.

UAE Pavilion hosted numerous events and dialogues, fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing among international stakeholders

The UAE Pavilion also hosted insightful discussions across 62 programs, reflecting a shared commitment to creating solutions for building climate resilience around the world, particularly in the most challenged areas. The programs featured over 255 diverse speakers, including UAE diplomats and representatives, climate experts, government officials, private sector leaders, academics, and youth. International thought leaders and COP29 participants attended to exchange ideas, engage in thoughtful dialogues, and share global perspectives on current critical climate matters.

With global convening conversations partner, Goals House, the National Media Office's "UAE/Climate initiative" hosted additional programmes on climate finance, water scarcity, and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

At COP29, the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs led broad engagements to build momentum for the UN 2026 Water Conference, which the UAE is co-hosting with Senegal in December 2026.

The Ministry's delegation held several sessions and consultations with stakeholders across sectors to identify innovative solutions and impactful outcomes for the conference. Through these engagements, the UAE also showcased various efforts on water such as the Mohamed bin Zayed Water Initiative and Clear Rivers.

The UAE's vital climate action work continued with the Global Food Week in Abu Dhabi (26-28 November), where participants discussed food security for global transformation and highlighted the need to build secure, sustainable food



systems. From December 2-13, a UAE delegation will be at COP16 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. In January 2025, Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week will be hosted in Abu Dhabi, bringing together leaders from various governments, the private sector, and civil society to showcase solutions and innovations in clean energy, aiming to accelerate sustainable development and economic, social, and environmental progress.



COP29: Landmark agreement between the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment and UNOSSC fuel innovation for a sustainable future through South-South collaboration

The agreement leverages 25 years of Zayed International Foundation's environmental leadership and UNOSSC's expertise in South-South cooperation to accelerate global impact

The Zayed International Foundation for the Environment and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) have announced a landmark agreement at COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, solidifying their commitment to driving sustainable development through South-South and triangular cooperation.

Building upon Zayed International Foundation's 25-year legacy of environmental action in the region and globally, and its new "Transforming Cities into Practical Learning Hubs for the Environment and Sustainable Development" project, this partnership will leverage the newly launched South-South and Triangular Cooperation Solutions Lab to incubate, finance, and scale innovative solutions. The Lab

represents a paradigm shift in collaborative problem-solving, bringing together Southern countries and triangular cooperation partners to address critical development challenges.

Recognizing the critical role of South-South cooperation in facilitating knowledge exchange, scaling effective climate solutions, and promoting inclusive climate action for a just global transition, the partnership will harness the strengths of both organizations to foster innovation, skills development, and entrepreneurship, with a



particular focus on empowering youth, women, and retiring professionals.

The lab's current partners are the Gulf Organisation for Research and Development (GORD), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Masdar City, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the World Food Programme (WFP), and the Zayed International Foundation for Environment.

Prof. Mohamed Ahmed bin Fahad, Chairman of the Higher Committee of the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, and UNOSSC

Director Dima Al-Khatib signed the agreement during an event hosted by the Gulf Organization for Research and Development (GORD) in the presence of distinguished guests and speakers.

Representing Zayed International Foundation at the event were Dr. Hamdan Khalifa Al Shaer, Deputy Chairman of the Higher Committee; Dr. Eisa M. Abdellatif, Chief Technical Advisor; and Dr. Saji Ittoop Thomas, Technical Advisor.

Speaking at the event, **Prof. Mohamed Ahmed bin Fahad** said: "This partnership marks a significant milestone in Zayed International Foundation's 25-year journey of environmental stewardship. By joining forces with UNOSSC, we amplify our commitment to fostering innovation and empowering local communities to lead the change toward a sustainable future. This collaboration will unlock new opportunities for knowledge sharing, resource mobilization, and impactful initiatives on the ground."

He further emphasized the importance of global cooperation in tackling climate change and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals to build a greener, more resilient world for generations to come.

Dr. Hamdan Khalifa Al Shaer emphasized the importance of innovation and inclusivity and said: "We are entering a new era focused on research, innovation, and practical knowledge sharing. This collaboration with UNOSSC on 'Transforming Cities' exemplifies our dedication to building capacity and nurturing environmental leadership to empower communities, particularly in the Global South."

The "Transforming Cities" project will pilot technology-enabled training centers, train-the-trainer programs, and entrepreneurship initiatives. These efforts will cultivate a network of ambassadors for the UN 2030 Agenda and beyond, fostering sustainable development globally. The Zayed International Foundation for



the Environment and UNOSSC will work together to build global partnerships, establish an advisory body, and host workshops and conferences to promote the program's objectives.

The collaboration will focus on several key areas:

Funding and Technical Assistance: Zayed International Foundation has committed financial and technical support to the Solutions Lab, including contributing to the first global Innovation Challenge.

By joining and contributing to the Innovation Challenge, the Zayed Foundation will not only fund innovation awards but also join the Independent Evaluation Panel, shaping the direction of this transformative initiative.

Joint Innovation Challenge: A cornerstone of the collaboration, this challenge seeks

groundbreaking solutions in climate tech, agriculture, urban planning, and inclusive digital transformation.

Zayed International Foundation's financial and technical contributions, along with their participation in the evaluation panel, will ensure the challenge's impact and alignment with its "Transforming Cities" initiative. This initiative aims to establish a network of innovation labs across universities and colleges in Africa, Asia, and the Arab region, fostering local innovation and capacity building.

Empowering Youth, Women, and Retiring Professionals: The partnership will prioritize initiatives that empower these key demographics to become prominent agents of change in their communities. This includes supporting entrepreneurship programs, technology

Distinguished speakers at the event highlighted the potential of collaborative innovation, coherent solution portfolio building, and building resilient development pathways



enablement, and skills development.

Knowledge Exchange and Capacity Building:

Zayed International Foundation and UNOSSC will facilitate the sharing of best practices and lessons learned through workshops, conferences, and collaborative platforms. This will enhance the capacity for evidence-based policymaking and promote the adoption of effective solutions.

Promoting South-South Cooperation:

The partnership will actively promote South-South and triangular cooperation as a vital mechanism for achieving sustainable development goals. This includes fostering partnerships between developing countries and leveraging the expertise and resources of the Global South.

“The Solutions Lab and its thematic focus areas resonate deeply with the goals and themes of COP29, especially in advancing climate resilience, low-emission transitions, and sustainable urbanization,” said **Dima Al-Khatib**.

“Our partnerships within the Solutions Lab are a testament to strategic and thematic complementarity. Each partner brings specialized expertise and resources to support diverse yet interlinked thematic areas.”

Other speakers at the event included Dr. Ammar Elhoweris, Head of Technology and Innovation at GORD, and Liu Hua, Deputy Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

We are honored to extend our congratulations to



His Highness

**SHEIKH MOHAMED
BIN ZAYED AL NAHYAN**

President of the United Arab Emirates

His Highness

**SHEIKH MOHAMED
BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM**

Vice President, 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 53rd National Day.

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COP29: UAE reaffirms commitment to collective action in achieving world's climate goals

Dr. Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, delivered the UAE's National Statement at COP29 in Baku

Dr. Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, delivered the UAE's National Statement at COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, reaffirming the country's commitment to promoting multilateral collective action and inclusivity in realising the world's climate goals.

In the presence of the Heads of State, Presidents, and representatives of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Dr. Al Dahak highlighted the UAE's significant role in hosting COP28 last year in Dubai, as well as focusing on its historic outcomes.

Dr. Al Dahak emphasised that COP28 was the most inclusive conference hosted to date. The minister also outlined how COP28 marked the first 'Global Stocktake' of the world's efforts to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. Al Dahak emphasised that COP28 achieved outstanding success with the historic 'UAE Consensus', which brought together 198 parties to endorse a

practical roadmap to achieve a just, orderly, and equitable energy transition.

She further stressed COP28's role in activating the essential Loss and Damage Fund as well as other key achievements that paved the way towards delivering greater global climate action.

"The UAE continues to build on the success of COP28 by implementing ambitious initiatives that utilise innovation, technology and forge strategic partnerships to enhance its sustainable

Dr. Al Dahak underscored the importance of climate finance, technology, and collaboration for achieving net zero



impact. These include the launch of the 'Mohamed bin Zayed Water Initiative', which aims to accelerate the development of innovative solutions to address the global water scarcity crisis," said Dr. Al Dahak. She added that the UAE looks forward to hosting the UN 2026 Water Conference, in collaboration with Senegal, where it hopes to accelerate action on Sustainable Development Goal 6.

The minister added, "As part of the shared vision of the COP Presidencies Troika, which represents

a partnership between COP28, COP29, and COP30, the UAE is committed to working closely with Azerbaijan and Brazil to strengthen unified efforts, accelerate global energy transformation, enhance climate financing, as well as advance adaptation and resilience in response to climate challenges.

Dr. Al Dahak emphasised the UAE's substantial progress toward achieving Net Zero by 2050, driven by its dedicated and impactful efforts, including tripling its renewable energy capacity,



doubling energy efficiency by 2030, and investing USD55 billion (AED 200 billion) to ensure that the country's growing energy demand is met. She noted the UAE's success earlier this year, in collaboration with the United Nations and the Republic of Panama, in establishing the International Day of Renewable Energy.

Dr. Al Dahak went on to underscore the importance of technology as an enabler in accelerating climate action, noting that the UAE achieved a technological milestone in October 2024 by utilising green hydrogen in the production of iron and steel. This was made possible through the establishment of a sustainable industrial facility as a pilot project by Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company, Masdar, and EMSTEEL to produce steel using green hydrogen. This project is part of the UAE's National Hydrogen Strategy 2050, which aims to position the UAE as a leading producer and exporter of low-emission hydrogen by 2031.

During the COP29 negotiations, Dr. Al Dahak stated: "The UAE will prioritise the establishment of an ambitious climate finance goal - the New Collective Quantitative Goal (NCQG) - which is crucial for ensuring affordable and accessible climate financing for the Global South. The UAE also aims to finalise the activation of Article 6 of

the Paris Agreement to facilitate effective climate action."

Dr. Al Dahak stated: "We reaffirm our commitment to advancing balanced outcomes across all key areas of the COP29 Conference, including mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage, just transition, water, technology, and enhancing the engagement of women and youth.

Dr. Al Dahak concluded, "There is no room for hesitation. As emphasised by the UAE's wise leadership, we must view climate action as an opportunity rather than a burden."





COP29 fully operationalises the Loss and Damage Fund

COP29

At COP29, a decision was made to ensure the full operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund, long-awaited by developing countries, including small island states, least developed countries, and African nations.

This aligns with the priority set by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, to address the challenges posed by climate change impacts on small island states under the COP29 Presidency.

The establishment of the Loss and Damage Fund was agreed upon during COP27 held in Egypt. The fund aims to provide financial assistance to countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

During COP28 in the UAE, a decision was made to launch the Fund's operations. The COP29 Presidency has taken significant steps to ensure the Fund's operationalization, working closely with its Board and the World Bank.

In September of this year, during the Fund's third Board meeting held in Baku, critical measures were taken to commence its operations, including the appointment of Ibrahima Cheikh Dion as the Fund's Executive Director.

Within the framework of COP29, several important agreements related to the Loss and Damage Fund were signed. These include the "Trustee Agreement" and "Secretariat Hosting Agreement" between the Fund's Board and the World Bank, as well as the "Host Country Agreement" between the Fund's Board and the host country, the Republic of the Philippines.

To date, the total pledged financial support for the Fund exceeds USD730 million.

With these achievements, the Loss and Damage Fund will be able to start financing projects beginning in 2025.

Breakthrough in Baku delivers USD1.3trillion “Baku Finance Goal”

The Baku Finance Goal sets a new global target to channel USD1.3tn of climate finance to developing countries by 2035 in significant uplift

The COP29 Presidency of Azerbaijan has announced the agreement of the Baku Finance Goal (BFG), a new commitment to channel USD1.3tn of climate finance to the developing world each year. Success on the COP29 Presidency's top priority for the UN Climate Summit represents a significant uplift from the previous climate finance goal of USD100 billion and will unlock a new wave of global investment.

The Baku Finance Goal contains a core target for developed countries to take the lead on mobilizing at least USD300 billion per year for developing countries by 2035. This represents a USD50bn increase on the previous draft text and pays special consideration to support the least developed countries and small island developing states, with provisions on accessibility and transparency.

The Baku Finance Goal is the centrepiece of a



package of agreements that deliver progress across all climate pillars. These breakthroughs are the result of months of intensive diplomacy by the Azerbaijani Presidency to deliver some of the most complex and controversial tasks in multilateral climate action. They mark a critical step in putting in place the means to deliver a pathway to 1.5C.

COP29 ended the decade-long wait for the conclusion of Article 6 negotiations on high-integrity carbon markets under the UN. Financial flows from compliant carbon markets could reach USD1 trillion per year by 2050. They also have the potential to reduce the cost of implementing national climate plans by USD250 billion per year. When combined, the Baku Finance Goal and Article 6 will forever change the global climate finance architecture by redirecting investment to the developing world.

The COP29 Presidency also succeeded in getting the Fund for Loss and Damage up and running and ready to distribute money in 2025. This decision was long awaited by developing countries, including small island states, least developed countries, and African nations. This aligns with the priority set by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, to address the challenges posed by climate change impacts on small island states under the COP29 Presidency.

COP29 President Mukhtar Babayev said, “When the world came to Baku, people doubted that Azerbaijan could deliver. They doubted that everyone could agree. They were wrong on both counts. With this breakthrough, the Baku Finance Goal will turn billions into trillions over the next decade. We have secured a trebling of the core climate finance target for developing countries each year.”

“The Baku Finance Goal represents the best possible deal we could reach, and we have pushed the donor countries as far as possible. We have

The breakthrough achieved at COP29 includes a new core finance goal of USD 300bn that triples the previous USD100bn target



forever changed the global financial architecture and taken a significant step towards delivering the means to deliver a pathway to 1.5C. The years ahead will not be easy. The science shows that the challenges will only grow. Our ability to work together will be tested. The Baku Breakthrough will help us weather the coming storms.”

UAE unveils Mangrove Alliance for Climate Strategy 2031 at COP29

The Mangrove Alliance for Climate 2031 Strategy offers a blueprint to enable mangrove ecosystems to thrive on a global scale

Dr. Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, unveiled the MAC (Mangrove Alliance for Climate) Strategy 2031 at the second ministerial meeting of the MAC held on the sidelines of COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan on 21st November.

Al Dahak co-chaired the ministerial meeting with Nani Hendiarti, Deputy Minister of Coordinating Ministry for Food Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia. The meeting was attended by ministers from MAC member countries, who reviewed the MAC Strategy 2031 and explored future directions to enhance their collaborative efforts in promoting mangrove restoration globally. Their discussions focused on strengthening joint initiatives to expand and protect mangrove ecosystems worldwide.

Dr. Amna Al Dahak highlighted the UAE's efforts in conserving and expanding its mangrove forests. She emphasised the country's



contributions to global mangrove ecosystems and discussed the benefits of mangrove ecosystems in climate mitigation and adaptation as well as fostering other marine and coastal species.

Dr. Al Dahak said, “Mangroves act as a natural carbon sink, capturing four times more carbon than rainforests. They provide natural flood protection, prevent erosion, and help limit sea level rise. In the UAE, we recognise the critical role of mangrove forests in achieving our nation’s Net Zero by 2050 Strategy. At COP26 in 2021, we stepped up our ambition to expand the UAE’s mangrove cover and pledged to restore 100 million mangroves by 2030.”



She underscored the importance of collaboration referencing the success of the Mangrove Alliance for Climate (MAC) and the closely coordinated efforts of its members.

She thanked Indonesia for their unwavering support for mangroves conservation worldwide and also welcomed the work of other members in

The initiative seeks to scale up and accelerate the conservation and restoration of mangrove ecosystems for the benefit of communities worldwide

contributing to their ecosystems.

Unveiling the MAC Strategy 2031, Dr. Al Dahak said, “Our collective efforts to boost mangroves worldwide are embodied in the MAC 2031 Strategy, which offers a blueprint to enable mangrove ecosystems to thrive on a global scale. This Strategy raises MAC’s ambitions in mangrove conservation and will drive clear, coordinated action.”

Her speech was followed by a keynote address by Nani Hendiarti and a presentation by the Mangrove Breakthrough.

MAC members pledge to rehabilitate and restore mangroves within their countries while also supporting similar efforts internationally. By doing so, the alliance aims to leverage and bolster the ongoing commitments of member countries across various areas, including scientific research, coastal management and conservation, education, climate mitigation, climate adaptation, and relevant policymaking.

Before the ministerial meeting, technical committees representing all 45 MAC members convened at COP16 in Cali, Colombia, to review and finalise the proposed MAC Strategy 2031 for ministerial deliberation. This Strategy offers a roadmap to support member states in adhering to their mangrove conservation commitments and promoting sustainable climate action through nature-based solutions.

UAE showcases Green Building initiatives at COP29 High-Level Roundtable

Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure highlights UAE's sustainable building measures at the roundtable

At the 29th UN Climate Change Conference (COP29), taking place in Baku, Azerbaijan, Sheikh Naser Al Qassimi, Assistant Under-Secretary for the Infrastructure and Transport Sector at the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure (MoEI), participated in a High-Level Roundtable on Green Construction and Energy Efficiency in Buildings and Climate Resilience in Cities.

He said, "The UAE, in its commitment to environmental protection and sustainability, has actively pursued several national initiatives and strategic directives to decarbonise the building sector. Our 'Green Home Loans' programme exemplifies our approach, enabling citizens to partake directly in our nation's green transformation by making sustainable housing more accessible."

Sheikh Al Qassimi noted that to enhance its commitment to sustainability, the UAE has



developed comprehensive sustainability guidelines that span various sectors including roads, buildings, maintenance and operations, and housing. These guidelines ensure that every infrastructure project aligns with national goals for environmental integrity, efficiency, and sustainability. The stringent standards for energy and water usage, waste management, and the integration of sustainable materials, ensure that development projects not only supports but also actively contribute to the country's sustainable development objectives.

He added, "Recent studies on the impact of sea level rise on UAE's coastal area, such as the collaborative research with NYU Abu Dhabi, have underscored the urgency of our mission. These studies project significant risks not just to our ecological treasure - the mangroves and coral reefs - but also to our urban infrastructure. This research directs our efforts in coastal and urban planning to ensure resilience against the inevitable rise in sea levels, thereby safeguarding our communities and economies against future vulnerabilities.

"Innovation in construction and infrastructure development is pivotal, and this is where the 'UAE National Guide for Smart Construction' comes into play. This comprehensive guide is designed to standardise smart construction practices across all new projects thus ensuring that smart technologies and digital designs lead the way in our construction industry.

"Further enhancing our national landscape is the 3D Digital Twin project—an innovative platform that maps out our urban infrastructure, enabling precise planning and substantial enhancements in our cities' liveability and sustainability. This project exemplifies our dedication to employing cutting-edge technology in our fight against climate change."

He added, "At the forefront of our drive to

At COP29, the UAE shared its national strategy for green building, emphasizing energy efficiency, sustainable materials, and citizen engagement



decarbonise the building sector is our National Demand Side Management Programme that aims to optimise energy and water consumption, enhance efficiency, and reduce environmental impact. Built Environment DSM Programmes target reductions of 51 percent in energy and 40 percent in water by 2050. Under the programme, we developed the National Green Building Regulation, expanded solar energy use in government buildings, started a retrofitting of government buildings programme, promoted district cooling, and implemented energy efficiency standards and rating system for appliances and equipment."



United Nations
Climate Change



COP29
Baku
Azerbaijan



26

COP29: GENDER EQUITY

Women at the heart of climate action: UAE leads gender-focused dialogue at COP29

Global leaders call for increased climate finance and gender equality for future economic resilience

The UAE's main programming focus for Day 10 at COP29 centred on built environment, gender, humanitarianism and the role of lives and livelihoods.

The first session, held in collaboration with the Alliance for Gender Responsive Climate Finance, was introduced by Razan Al Mubarak, UN Climate Change High-Level Champion at COP28.

She explained how gender and climate are intrinsically linked – “climate impact is not gender neutral; we need to ensure we empower women on the frontlines of climate change, making sure they are co-designing the solutions required to combat climate change.”

Taking up the theme, former President of Ireland, member of The Elders, and longtime campaigner for women's rights, Mary Robinson, said, “Gender-responsive climate policy will make things move faster – women at grassroots level are accelerating the transition and making a difference.”

Leaders across international organisations and governments, civil society, and philanthropic foundations underlined the importance of increased access to climate finance and enhanced gender equality in building the climate-resilient economy of the future.

The UAE Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure (MoEI), in partnership with Spotnik Technologies, then presented the UAE 3D Digital Twin to improve livability and sustainability in cities. Naseibah Abdulla Almarzooqi, Director of

The session, 'Redefining Mobility in a Planetary Urban Sprawl' led by Al Futtaim, was followed by 'Innovating the Future: UAE's Path to Sustainable, Circular, and Cognitive Cities'. Pooja Ganatra, Senior Consultant in Sustainability at Buro Happold, outlined the circular economy as "a transformative approach that aims to decouple economic growth from the consumption of finite resources - a system where materials never become waste and nature is regenerated".

Referencing Masdar's Master Plan, she said:



Studies Research and Development and Chief Innovation Officer at MoEI, described it as "a single platform to inform urban decision-making while centralising information in one place."

She said: "This is the first urban digital twin platform covering an entire country - a digital replica of UAE infrastructure, including buildings and transportation assets, at the local and federal levels, which uses AI to visualise the impact of livability and sustainability initiatives., and our two main KPIs are sustainability and livability."

"They have recycled over 9 million plastics while giving them another purpose and social value."

The session, 'Strengthening Climate Action in Countries Affected by Armed Conflict: A Way Forward', addressed the integration of climate action with foreign policy and was introduced by Sheikha Dr. Moza bint Tahnoun Al Nahyan of the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs. With insight into climate change as a policy focus, the discussion noted how humanitarian responses have accounted for 35 percent of UAE's development



aid over the last decade. Dragana Kojic, Head of the ICRC Delegation to Azerbaijan, endorsed the “vital” declaration adopted at COP28 because “it recognised the importance of climate action in conflict settings”.

Closing the day, ‘Culture for Climate: Linking National and International Climate Policy’ presented by the UAE Ministry of Culture highlighted the importance of cultural dimensions in enhancing climate action.

The Integrated Model for Building Future Schools with MoEI then explored progress and infrastructure efforts being implemented across the UAE in Building Future Schools.

MoEI, in collaboration with First Islamic Bank, Emirates NBD, and Dubai Islamic Bank, also presented the National Green Home Loans

Program – a specialised loan product designed to encourage the purchase of environmentally friendly homes that utilize sustainable products and practices.

Emirati women step up to shape global climate action

Emirati women have made a strong impact at COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, showcasing their leadership in climate decision-making. Their participation highlights the UAE's commitment to empowering women to shape the future of climate action.

Dr. Nawal Al-Hosany, UAE's Permanent Representative to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), praised the strong participation of Emirati women, which is facilitated by the unwavering support of the UAE

‘Climate impact is not gender neutral and women must be empowered to co-design the solutions required to combat climate change’



leadership and the tireless efforts of H.H. Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak (Mother of the Nation), Chairwoman of the General Women's Union, President of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, and Supreme Chairwoman of the Family Development Foundation, to engage women in international forums.

Dr. Alanoud Alhaj, Acting Assistant Undersecretary for the Green Development and Climate Change sector at the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA), said she is working on the UAE Net Zero strategy, developed in collaboration with multiple sectors.

She noted that the UAE's leadership continues to drive climate action, which was evident during

COP28 when the country secured the historic "UAE Consensus".

Amal Abdulrahim, Chief AI Officer at the MOCCA, highlighted the significant female representation in the UAE delegation at COP29, reflecting the leadership's trust in women's abilities.

Hiba Obaid Al Shehhi, Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Biodiversity and Marine Life Sector at MOCCA, noted the vital role of women in biodiversity conservation and climate initiatives, with over 70% of the ministry's biodiversity sector led by Emirati women.



30 countries pledge to reduce global methane emissions from organic waste

COP29

The COP29 Presidency has launched the Reducing Methane from Organic Waste Declaration, with over 30 states amongst the initial signatories declaring their commitment to set sectoral targets to reducing methane from organic waste within future NDCs. This includes 7 of the world's 10 largest organic waste methane emitters.

This declaration, developed with the UNEP-convened Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), builds on the work of previous COPs by supporting the implementation of the 2021 Global Methane Pledge (GMP), launched at COP26. The GMP sets a global target of reducing methane emissions by at least 30 percent below 2020 levels by 2030. Organic waste is the third largest source of anthropogenic methane emissions, behind agriculture and fossil fuels, and action in this sector is crucial to meet the goals of the GMP.

Alongside this, the Ministry of Agriculture of Azerbaijan, in partnership with the UNEP-convened Climate and Clean Air Coalition, has announced a new cooperation on the development of a methane reduction roadmap for the country's agricultural sector. This collaboration supports

Azerbaijan's commitment to the Global Methane Pledge and aims to implement innovative, sustainable practices in livestock management and manure systems.

"Fast-tracking actions to reduce methane from organic waste is critical to keep the goals of the Paris Agreement within reach and can strengthen our food systems globally while harnessing circular economy opportunities," said Martina Otto, Head of the UNEP-Convened CCAC Secretariat. "Given over 50 percent of municipal solid waste is organic waste that emits methane, and nearly one-third of all food produced is lost or wasted each year, this declaration will help to increase ambition in the prevention, separate collection, and improved management of organic waste, including through targets in the next round of countries' climate plans."





UAE showcases land regeneration and sustainability leadership at COP16 in Riyadh

COP16

Building upon the momentum of COP29 in Baku, the UAE announced its thematic pavilion as part of its robust engagement at the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification COP16.

Centred on “Our Land, Our Future”, the UAE Pavilion at COP16 will convene more than 20 insightful dialogues on land degradation neutrality, drought resilience, sustainable agri-food systems, inclusive land governance, financing mechanisms, and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

“For generations, the UAE has lived in rhythm with the land, where our arid environment, water scarcity, and saline soil has inspired our people to make innovation a central pursuit,” said Dr. Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak, Minister of Climate Change and Environment. “As we come together at COP16, we will embrace our role in regenerating the ecosystems that sustain us and accelerate action to address land degradation and build global resilience for all.”

Located in the Blue Zone, the UAE Pavilion will demonstrate the UAE’s inspirational sustainability heritage and ongoing leadership, and how championing action through shared learning and engagement can build climate resilience.

Delegates will learn how the UAE is elevating critical challenges across nature, food and health, and through its inclusive approach, building momentum and opportunity for all. Speakers will showcase how accelerating land regeneration by 2030, enhancing drought resilience, ensuring that land supports climate and biodiversity solutions, securing sustainable land management, and engaging youth in sustainable practices are all within reach.

Driven by its climate reality and arid environment, entities across the UAE are committed to accelerating and scaling innovative solutions for sustainable land and water management and food systems transformations, crucial to combating desertification.



Investments in climate-smart agriculture soar to USD29.2 billion

The Agriculture Innovation Missions for Climate has mobilized USD29.2 billion from more than 800 government and non-government partners over the past three years

The Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM for Climate), the largest global coalition at the intersection of food security and climate change, spearheaded by the UAE and the United States, has announced nearly double the investments, partners, and Innovation Sprints in transformative climate-smart agriculture and food systems innovation. The announcements were made at the 29th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 29), hosted in Baku, Azerbaijan under the theme “In Solidarity for a Green World.”

AIM for Climate partners turn ambition into action, driving climate-smart agriculture and food systems innovation to tackle the climate crisis, build resilience, and deliver co-benefits for people and the planet. Building on a record year at COP28, investments have surged from USD17 billion to an unprecedented USD29.2 billion, over a 2020 baseline. The addition of 52 new Innovation Sprints, bringing the total to 129, further underscores AIM for Climate’s transformative impact. With AIM for Climate

expanding from 600 to over 800 partners worldwide, the initiative reflects the urgency and strength of its mission.

The investment increase comprises USD16.7 billion from 56 Government Partners and USD12.5 billion from the accelerated investments of 129 Innovation Sprint Partners, driving change in climate-smart agriculture and food systems. The growing number of high-impact, private-

AIM for Climate, led by the UAE and the United States, is the world's largest coalition addressing agriculture and climate change



sector, and public-private partnership-led projects deliver solutions to today's climate and food challenges. Aligned with COP 29's priorities of climate finance, emission reduction, and developing adaptive solutions for climate-related loss and damage, these initiatives focus on one or more of AIM for Climate's focal areas: Smallholder Farmers in Low- and Middle-Income Countries; Emerging Technologies; Agroecological Research; and Methane Reduction.

The latest investments, partnerships, and Innovation Sprint announcements were unveiled by AIM for Climate co-leads U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and UAE Minister of

Climate Change & Environment, Her Excellency Dr. Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak, at the UAE Pavilion, COP 29 on November 18. Dignitaries at the event emphasized the critical need for bold, innovative solutions. They highlighted AIM for Climate's impactful role in fostering resilient agricultural and food systems practices through collective investment and partnerships to address climate change and advance global food security.

Following announcements at the UAE Pavilion, the U.S. Center hosted a high-level panel: "AIM for Climate: Mobilizing Climate-Smart Agriculture and Food Systems Innovation for a



Food Secure Future” on November 19. The event highlighted the vital connections between agriculture, food, and water sectors within the context of climate change.

The UAE and the US also co-hosted the 3rd AIM for Climate Ministerial on November 20 and highlighted AIM for Climate’s lasting legacy and continued momentum with the presentation of the AIM for Climate Report, “Cultivating Transformative Investments in Climate-Smart Agriculture and Food Systems Innovation”, developed in collaboration with the United Nations Foundation. This report encourages ongoing partner advocacy and investment in climate-smart agriculture and food systems innovation, providing a roadmap for continued action in 2025 and beyond.

The report urges governments to integrate climate-smart agriculture and food systems innovations into the design and implementation of NDCs, making them central to national climate strategies and addressing food security challenges. It also advocates for sustained, normalized investments in climate-smart

agriculture and food systems innovations, establishing increased budgetary baselines in 2026 and beyond to ensure long-term sustainability and resilience.

Another key recommendation is global partnerships between governments, the private sector, and civil society to overcome technological and financial barriers to agricultural innovation, and emphasises the need to foster public-private partnerships to achieve the full potential of AIM for Climate’s goals.





Decarbonized GigaFarm breaks ground in Dubai Food Tech Valley

UAE NEWS

An innovative decarbonized farm has been announced in the Dubai Food Tech Valley, a UAE-government-led initiative designed to address food security locally, regionally, and globally. Dubai-based group ReFarm Global and Intelligent Growth Solutions (IGS) have initiated the "GigaFarm" project, which will collocate six complementary technologies, establishing a self-contained closed-loop ecosystem designed to maximise resource efficiency and prevent any waste from going to landfill.

Dr. Amna bint Abdulla Aldahak, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, said: "The UAE is progressing in presenting a global model of food security based on innovation to build sustainable food and agricultural systems. The 'Food Tech Valley' initiative plays a vital role in these efforts enabling us to meet domestic demand and achieve the National Food Security Strategy 2051 goals."

The GigaFarm project is being developed on a 900,000 sq. ft. plot at Food Tech Valley, a UAE-

government-led initiative designed to address food security locally, regionally, and globally, and is a partnership between the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment and Wasl.

The site will begin food production in 2025 and will be capable of growing more than three million kilos of produce annually when complete, using IGS smart AI-driven vertical farming technology.

In addition, by diverting more than 50,000 tonnes of food waste from landfills each year through integrated waste-to-value and regenerative farming technologies, the GigaFarm will significantly advance the UAE's efforts to decarbonise food production, offsetting 1% of the country's fresh produce imports.

This pioneering project places Dubai Food Tech Valley at the forefront of sustainable agriculture, establishing a new benchmark for innovative, technology-driven and cost-effective food production in the region.

UAE participates in UN Biodiversity COP16 in Colombia

UAE showcases biodiversity progress at UN Summit; Minister of Climate Change and Environment champions collaborative action for nature-based solutions

Dr. Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, led a delegation from the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MoCCA) to represent the UAE at the UN Biodiversity COP16, in the Colombian city of Cali.

The Conference of Parties, held from 21st October to 1st November 2024, marks two years of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework which sets out an ambitious pathway to reach the global vision of a world living in harmony with nature by 2050.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Al Dahak said: "Biodiversity runs through every element of our climate action. In the UAE, we have made significant progress in protecting our biodiversity. We have adopted a 360-degree, whole of society approach from enacting legislation and monitoring its implementation, establishing and expanding protected areas as



well as protecting, breeding and reintroducing endangered species into their natural habitats.”

In an Informal Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Local Governments for Biodiversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Dr. Amna Al Dahak highlighted the UAE’s efforts in protecting and boosting biodiversity and called upon member states to strengthen their commitment to the Global Biodiversity Framework and stressed the critical need for driving action through collaboration.

Highlighting the Mangrove Alliance for Climate, Dr. Al Dahak underscored the vital role of collaboration and joint work in addressing climate challenges, emphasizing the UAE’s pledge to plant 100 million mangroves by 2030 and the launch of the Plant the Emirates Programme.

At a session on ‘Advancing the Marine Conservation Breakthroughs: Connecting Global Action to Scale Nature-Based Solutions’, she reiterated the need for strengthening global cooperation in protecting oceans and marine ecosystems.

At the One Water Summit: Ministerial Event on Freshwater Ecosystems, Dr. Al Dahak spoke extensively about the COP28 Water Agenda and its focus on conserving and restoring freshwater ecosystems; enhancing urban water resilience, and bolstering water-resilient food systems. She also highlighted the Freshwater Challenge, the Mohamed bin Zayed Water Initiative and the UAE’s commitment of USD150 million in new funding for water security solutions in fragile and vulnerable communities.

Dr. Al Dahak also shed light on the UAE’s Water Security Strategy and how the nation is leading the charge in desalination, wastewater treatment, and smart irrigation systems. She underscored the importance of collaborative work to unlock finance and foster innovative solutions to

address global water issues.

The delegation participated in several engagements at COP16 to showcase the UAE’s National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and the nation’s progress in achieving its biodiversity goals in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

The MoCCA delegation highlighted the UAE’s national achievements in identifying Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and showcased unique sites that contribute significantly to both global and regional conservation efforts. They shared insights into the nation’s freshwater ecosystems conservation initiatives, emphasising collaborative efforts across international



agreements and underscoring the essential role of sustainable water management in regional biodiversity resilience.

As part of the Freshwater Challenge, the UAE joined global partners in a commitment to restore freshwater ecosystems and wetlands, and presented its ambitious freshwater ecosystem restoration goals, highlighting the upcoming 2026 UN Water Conference.



Global Food Security Summit 2024 concludes in Abu Dhabi

The summit brought together 21 ministers and government officials to discuss sustainable solutions, international collaboration, and strengthen efforts to combat hunger and bolster global food security systems

The Global Food Security Summit 2024, held during Global Food Week (November 26-28) concluded its sessions, bringing together 21 ministers and senior officials involved in global food security policymaking, along with leading experts and scientists from around the world.

Discussions focused on addressing current challenges, exploring future opportunities to enhance food security, and fostering sustainable and resilient food systems to face future crises.

Organised by the Abu Dhabi National Exhibitions Company (ADNEC), in collaboration with the Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority, the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, and the Food and Beverage Manufacturers Group as a knowledge partner, the summit shed light on critical issues including global hunger as over 733 million people suffer from hunger worldwide, posing a threat to peace, stability, and human dignity.

At the summit, the Islamic Organisation for Food

Security highlighted governance, sustainability, and resource mobilisation initiatives across its 41 member countries, emphasising the significance of a dedicated Food Security Day for the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). The summit also focused on Africa to discuss sustainable agri-food systems and highlighted progress in West Africa, where 73 percent of farming households improved their resilience to climate shocks.

Over 80 global experts shared insights on climate-smart agriculture, agri-tech, and supply chain resilience to build sustainable food systems and foster global partnerships to address common challenges



Participants emphasised sustainability as essential for achieving food security, and advocated for efficient resource use, renewable energy in agriculture, and the importance of fostering value-added food production. Women's empowerment was a key theme at the event, as delegates emphasised the importance of enhancing women's roles in agriculture and recognising their contributions to economic growth and sustainability.

Despite the challenges posed by greenhouse gas

emissions, the summit called for adopting clean energy solutions, proposing a six-pillar framework encompassing inclusivity, incentives, data, investments, institutions, and innovation. The summit also stressed on the need to invest in advanced agricultural technologies and sustainable practices to ensure reliable food supplies and a better future for coming generations. It called for enhanced cooperation along food value chains to address global crises effectively.

Delegates at the summit urged immediate and unified international efforts to create a resilient, equitable global food system, ensuring access to healthy and sustainable food for all.

Turning the spotlight on the UAE, participants praised the UAE National Food Security Strategy 2051 for its alignment with global goals, supported by initiatives like the "Nema" platform, which combats food waste and promotes sustainable consumption practices. The summit also acknowledged the UAE's leadership role at COP28, where the nation advanced its vision of eliminating food waste and transforming traditional food systems.

By convening the first-ever Global Food Security Summit, the UAE reaffirmed its commitment to building sustainable food systems, setting an example for collective action towards a future free of food waste.

ne'ma launches nationwide awareness campaign for food loss, waste reduction

ne'ma's "Valuing Our Roots" initiative aims to reduce food loss and waste by 50% by 2030

ne'ma – the National Food Loss and Waste Initiative – has launched a nationwide awareness campaign to help the public understand the importance of reducing food loss and waste, as the UAE commits to transforming its approach to food sustainability.

The campaign theme “Valuing Our Roots” celebrates rich traditions while promoting behaviors that lead to resource conservation. The campaign aligns with long-held Emirati values of environmental stewardship and a deep commitment to preserving resources for future generations. It is launched in partnership with ADQ and Tadweer Group.

The campaign launch event saw participation from key stakeholders across the food value chain in the UAE, such as the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority, Aldar, Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi, Emirates Food Bank and



Dubai Municipality. The event featured engaging discussions and an exhibition that highlighted innovative solutions that are focused on food sustainability.

Mariam Almheiri, Head of the Office of International Affairs, the Presidential Court, and Chairwoman of the ne'ma Steering Committee said, "This campaign represents a strategic step towards a comprehensive transformation in societal behaviours, as ne'ma leads the charge in reawakening a sense of responsibility toward food preservation, grounded in the wisdom of our traditions."

The "Valuing Our Roots" campaign supports the objectives of the UAE Food Security Strategy 2051, which aims at bolstering national food security through minimising food waste. "Through this campaign, we aspire to establish a sustainable food system that supports the country's long-term objectives while reinforcing our commitment to balancing present needs with the preservation of future resources," Almheiri concluded.

Khuloud Hasan Al Nuwais, Chief Sustainability Officer of Emirates Foundation and ne'ma Steering Committee Secretary-General, said, "This campaign is a vibrant dialogue that spans generations, where young and old come together to share their insights on the significance of food within our community, by drawing on the wisdom of our forefathers and the innovative spirit of the youth. We recognize the vital role that both the wisdom of the past and the creativity of the present play in cultivating a culture where food is valued, preserved and shared with care and mindfulness."

The ne'ma nationwide awareness campaign is a cornerstone of its strategy to engage diverse communities across the UAE, as part of its wider mandate to reduce food loss and waste in the UAE by 50 percent by 2030. ne'ma aims to introduce initiatives that promote a circular

ne'ma initiative honors tradition while promoting sustainable food practices for a secure future



economy, while reflecting on the values instilled by the UAE's forefathers that stress the importance of practising sensible stewardship of resources.

An exhibition was organised as part of the campaign launch to spotlight pioneering solutions that significantly impact the food ecosystems, covering crucial topics such as reducing food waste, promoting sustainable consumption, and enhancing food preservation practices.



UAE prepares for 2026 UN Water Conference at COP29

The upcoming conference, scheduled for December 2026 in Dubai, is seen as a pivotal opportunity to not only address immediate water challenges, but also to define a long-term vision for issues like governance and financing

At COP29, and in preparation for the UN 2026 Water Conference, the UAE's Head of delegation, Abdulla Balalaa, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Energy and Sustainability, participated in wide-ranging discussions that highlighted the country's commitment to advancing water issues on the international agenda.

The UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs kickstarted the programming of the UN 2026 Water Conference at the UAE Pavilion on COP29's Food, Agriculture and Water Day. During the session, the UAE discussed global water priorities, including enhancing the focus on water within the three Rio conventions and taking a cross-sectoral approach to accelerating global water efforts.

Co-hosted by Balalaa, and Daouda Ngom, Senegal's Minister of the Environment and Ecological Transition, the session gathered together key actors from across sectors and stakeholder groups including María Fernanda Espinosa, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of

Ecuador and 73rd President of the UN General Assembly; Francesco La Camera, Director-General of the International Renewable Energy Agency; Astrid Schomaker, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity; as well as senior representatives from the government of Brazil, the COP29 Presidency, the Islamic Development Bank, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the University College of London, and the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa.

Without direct engagement and commitment from governments and other stakeholders, water and sanitation will continue to be sidelined

government organisations to address challenges to water investment.

At COP29, the UAE also participated in various events to highlight its prioritisation of water and climate issues, building on the success of COP28, which gave unprecedented attention to water within the COP process.

Activities at the conference included a keynote address at the inauguration of the Water for Climate Pavilion, which was attended by the President of Tajikistan, Emomali Rahmon, the UN Special Envoy for Water, the Climate Envoy of the Netherlands, and the Climate Ambassador of Sweden. Additionally, the UAE, highlighted key initiatives on water such as the Mohamed Bin Zayed Water Initiative (MBZWI), as a catalyst for solutions to water scarcity.

The UAE also endorsed the COP29 Water for Climate Action Declaration and joined the ministerial launch of the Baku Dialogue on Water for Climate Action, as its implementation mechanism, to ensure the continuity of dialogue between COPs.

At the launch event, Balalaa emphasised the importance of positioning water at the centre of climate action and ensuring that dialogue and actions on water are taken forward from COP to COP, and on to the UN 2026 Water Conference in the UAE.



Balalaa said, “Through the UN 2026 Water Conference, the UAE aims to raise ambition, reimagine ways of working, and collaboratively identify innovative solutions and impactful outcomes that will move the needle on Sustainable Development Goal 6.”

Engagements at the UN 2026 Water Conference also included an informal consultation for non-state actors on the potential themes for the interactive dialogues of the Conference, and convening a roundtable discussion with the private sector, philanthropies, and non-



Towards a green future: Winnipeg, Canada

The city of Winnipeg has made various strides toward sustainability and environmental preservation

Winnipeg, the capital of Manitoba, Canada, has been improving sustainability across various sectors, including energy, waste management, transportation, and urban development.

OurWinnipeg 2045 is Winnipeg's long-term community plan that sets the vision, goals, and policies for the city's development over the next several decades. It provides a framework for making decisions that align with sustainable growth, environmental stewardship, and improved quality of life. Approved in 2022, OurWinnipeg 2045 replaces earlier iterations of the plan and aligns with global sustainability goals like the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Winnipeg is envisioned as a "city that prioritizes equity, resilience, and sustainability" in its

OurWinnipeg 2045 provides a framework for making decisions that align with sustainable growth, environmental stewardship, and improved quality of life



growth and operations, striving to be inclusive and environmentally responsible.

OurWinnipeg 2045 strongly incorporates the city's Climate Action Plan, focusing on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for the impacts of climate change. Strategies include:

- Expanding public transit and active transportation networks
- Enhancing energy efficiency in buildings and infrastructure
- Reducing waste through circular economy initiatives and composting programs

The plan reflects a global perspective, tying its policies to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, ensuring Winnipeg contributes to

addressing global challenges like poverty, inequality, and climate change.

The City of Winnipeg has created a companion document, the Complete Communities 2.0 plan, which provides more detailed guidance on land use and development. These documents guide zoning bylaws and development approvals, include performance indicators to monitor progress on key goals and provide mechanisms for periodic reviews and updates to ensure the plan remains relevant.

Key action priorities:

- **Equitable Growth:** Reducing disparities in housing, transportation, and access to services across neighborhoods.
- **Sustainable Infrastructure:** Upgrading infrastructure to meet future needs while minimizing environmental impacts.
- **Community Engagement:** Encouraging participation from residents and stakeholders in shaping the city's future.

Geothermal Energy

Winnipeg is a leader in adopting geothermal energy systems to improve energy efficiency and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. These systems harness the Earth's natural heat for heating, cooling, and hot water, offering a sustainable and cost-effective solution for residential, commercial, and industrial energy needs.

The city also relies on:

- **Ground Loops:** Underground pipes (either vertical or horizontal) circulate a fluid, which absorbs heat from the Earth in winter or disperses heat into the ground during summer.
- **Heat Pump:** The heat pump transfers heat



between the building and the ground loop. It amplifies heat for warming or removes it for cooling.

The energy is renewable, significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions compared to conventional heating and cooling systems.

Winnipeg has embraced geothermal technology for its efficiency and suitability to the region's extreme climate, with harsh winters and warm summers. Manitoba Hydro Place, one of Winnipeg's most iconic and energy-efficient buildings, incorporates a vertical geothermal system. The geothermal system works with solar shading, triple-glazed windows, and passive ventilation, making the building a model of sustainability.

Many homeowners in Winnipeg are adopting geothermal heat pump systems to reduce heating

costs and environmental impact. These systems are particularly beneficial given the high heating demands during Manitoba's long winters.

Green Transport

Winnipeg has been testing and integrating electric buses into its fleet to transition away from diesel-powered vehicles.

The Transit Master Plan (2021 - 2050) is a long-term strategy to overhaul the public transit system, including a shift toward zero-emission vehicles and enhanced service frequency. This includes plans for a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system expansion, prioritizing dedicated transit corridors to reduce travel times and encourage ridership.

The Active Transportation Strategy (2015) is a comprehensive plan to enhance Winnipeg's network of cycling and pedestrian paths,

The city is a leader in adopting geothermal energy systems to improve energy efficiency and reduce reliance on fossil fuels



connecting neighborhoods to key destinations like downtown and transit hubs. It includes the development of protected bike lanes, multi-use pathways, and bike-friendly bridges.

The city has also expanded its bike lanes, including the Southwest Rapid Transit Corridor with integrated active transportation routes and improved pedestrian crossings with safety measures like audible signals and enhanced visibility. This has resulted in increased kilometers of cycling infrastructure, with over 400 km of bike paths and trails in the city.

Green Spaces

Winnipeg is known for its extensive tree canopy, but urban growth and pests like the emerald ash

borer have posed significant challenges. To address these issues, the city has prioritized reforestation and urban tree-planting programs.

The Million Tree Challenge is a collaborative initiative aiming to plant one million trees to enhance the city's urban canopy, mitigate the effects of climate change, and improve air quality.

Programs like ReLeaf Winnipeg also encourage residents to participate in tree planting on private and public lands. The city has also implemented a long-term strategy to combat EAB infestations, including planting diverse tree species to reduce dependency on any single type.

Winnipeg has over 1,100 parks, which play a critical role in biodiversity conservation and providing recreational opportunities. The Assiniboine Forest and Park is one of Canada's largest urban forests, it serves as a natural habitat for wildlife while offering educational and recreational benefits. The city also utilises initiatives that incorporate Indigenous knowledge and stewardship practices, such as restoring native prairie grasslands and wetlands.





WGEO announces support for 11 African cities under Carbon Neutral Cities Initiative

The Carbon Neutral Cities Initiative will provide tailored assistance, focusing on capacity building, technical guidance, and investment facilitation for 11 African cities to decarbonize the waste sector

The World Green Economy Organisation (WGEO) has announced its support for 11 African cities under the Carbon Neutral Cities Initiative in partnership with United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG-Africa).

This significant initiative was announced during a keynote address by Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, Chairman of WGEO, at the WGEO Pavilion in the Blue Zone of Baku Stadium. The meeting was held in the presence of Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi, the Secretary General of UCLG Africa.

In his address, Al Tayer emphasised the urgency of addressing climate change, stating, "In a rapidly urbanising world, cities contribute over 70 percent of global CO2 emissions but are also uniquely positioned to drive transformative change. African cities, particularly in emerging regions, hold significant potential to champion the global green agenda and move us closer to our shared sustainability goals. Climate change is no longer a future threat - it is a present reality affecting millions, particularly in vulnerable communities across Africa."

He added: “Increasingly frequent extreme weather events, rising temperatures, and climate-related challenges demand immediate, targeted action. The Carbon Neutral Cities Initiative is WGEO’s response to this urgent need. Through our partnership with UCLG-Africa, we commit to supporting African cities in reducing their carbon footprint, developing sustainable infrastructure, and fostering innovations that benefit both people and the environment.”

The initiative aims to equip African cities with the tools and resources needed to combat climate change and achieve sustainable development



"WGEO’s partnership with UCLG-AFRICA is designed to address the specific challenges faced by the 11 selected cities as they embark on the journey toward carbon neutrality. Through this initiative, WGEO will provide an integrated assistance tailored to the unique needs of each city. Our approach focuses on building city leaders’ capacity and expertise with the latest tools and best practices in green urban planning and climate resilience, which is highly essential. We provide technical guidance on green urban

planning for sustainable urban growth, low-carbon infrastructure, energy efficiency, and green mobility. Finally, we help cities enhance resilience by supporting nature-based solutions, sustainable water management, and disaster risk reduction strategies," Al Tayer stated.

In addition, the Carbon Neutral Cities Initiative will support participating cities through a six-pronged approach: Quantifying emissions through detailed profiles, monitoring progress regularly, recording key data points to build comprehensive databases, setting reduction targets aligned with international frameworks, supporting informed decision-making through climate-smart policies, and finally, facilitating investments for climate-smart projects and resilient initiatives.

The cities participating in this transformative initiative include Chefchaouen, Nouakchott, Cotonou, Ndiop, Brazzaville, Bangangté, Bangui, Blantyre, Quelimane, Homa Bay, and Jinja. Each city will receive specialised support, aimed at building robust, data-driven strategies for carbon neutrality.

Al Tayer expressed his gratitude to UCLG-Africa and said: “The cities of Africa hold vast potential to become models of green development. This initiative is a critical step toward a sustainable, climate-resilient future that will inspire and lead the way globally.”

Word Scramble

SCREOEURS
RMNENEIONTV

ERGNE
OEPLSICI
UTSNAI
MYOLOEN
IRCARCLU
SDSIARET

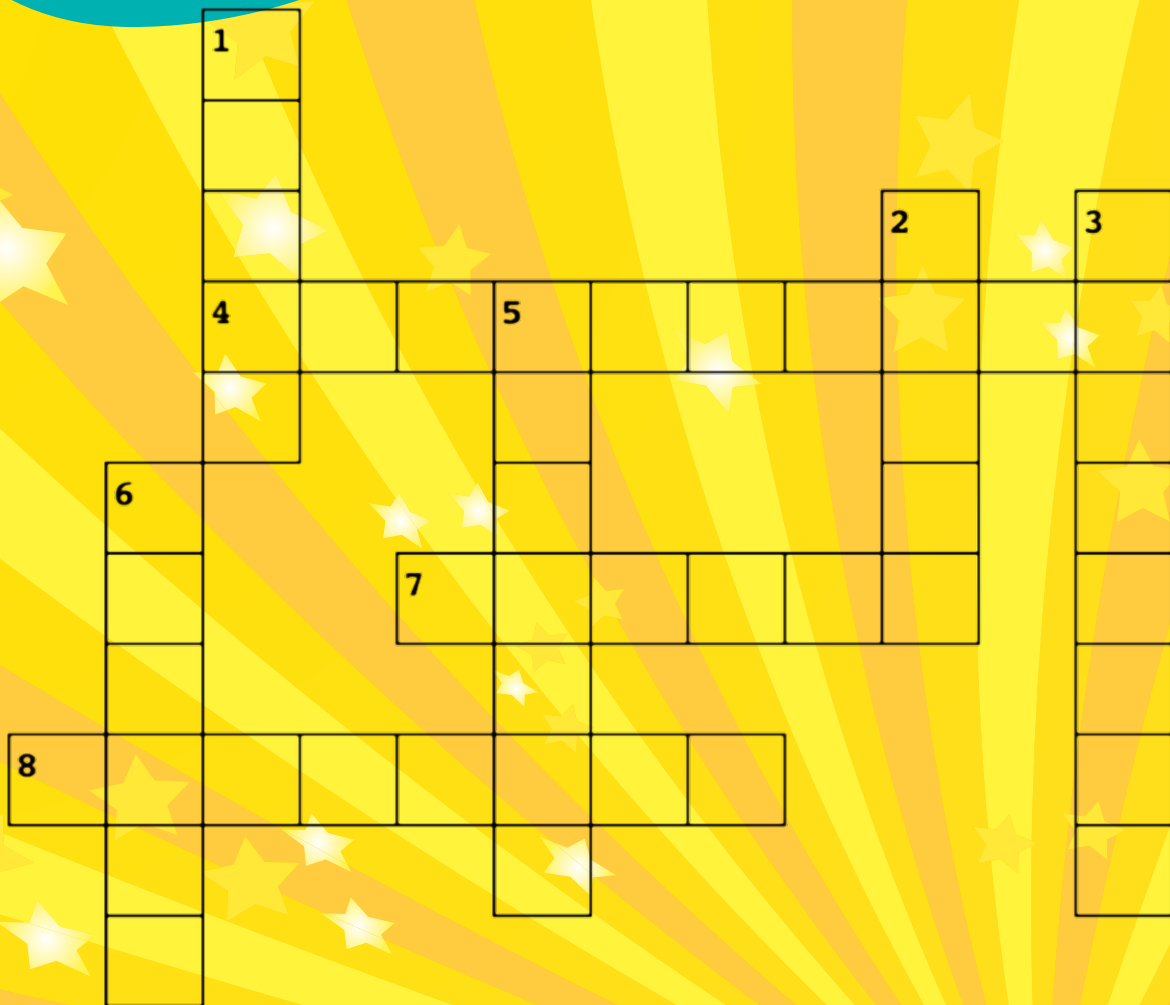
ANSWERS: 1) POLICES, 2) ENVIRONMENT, 3) GREEN, 4) CIRCULAR, 5) ECONOMY, 6) DISASTER, 7) RESOURCES, 8) SUSTAIN.

Word Search

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

- EXTINCTION
- GERMINATE
- MUD
- WARMTH
- SOIL
- FERTILE
- MOUNTAINS
- MANAGE
- PLANTS
- PROCESS

Crossword Puzzle



Across

4. Like thrift shop wares
7. World of plants, animals, landscapes etc
8. Disaster or misfortune

Down

1. Reprocess
2. Discarded materials
3. Publicly recommend
5. Produced without artificial chemicals
6. Study of plant

ANSWERS: 1) REUSE, 2) WASTE, 3) ADVOCATE, 4) SECONDHAND, 5) ORGANIC, 6) BOTANY, 7) NATURE, 8) CALAMITY.

★ WORD OF THE DAY:

GEOENGINEERING/ CLIMATE ENGINEERING

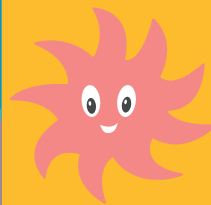
Geoengineering (literally "Earth-engineering") is the currently fashionable term for making large-scale interventions in how the planet works to slow down or reverse the effects of climate change. In theory, the word "geoengineering" could be used to describe almost any large-scale scheme for tackling climate change.

The goal of geoengineering is to reduce our atmospheric temperatures, typically by sucking carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere, also known as carbon capture, or "negative emissions technologies". This has gone from an option to a widely accepted necessity if we are to avoid the worst of climate change.

Strategies to remove atmospheric CO₂ include storage in forests and soils, or underground burial after combustion or chemical capture. However, they are too energy and cost-intensive to be worthwhile at the moment (although researchers are making progress).

The second largest school of geoengineering is that of solar radiation management (SRM). It comprises all methods used to reflect some of the incoming sunlight back into space. While these would theoretically help lower temperatures, carbon concentrations would continue to acidify our oceans. Solar geoengineering involves reflecting some sunlight (solar radiation) back to space.

Overall, geoengineering has a lot of promise to be a part of our strategy to handle the climate crisis, but it by no means represents either our first solution or last hope as a climate solution. In most of the geoengineering examples we have outlined above, more research is needed to either make the technology viable for practical use and global impact. But it is a good idea to invest in the research, as they have the potential to aid us in our fight over the decades to come.



INTERNATIONAL CHEETAH DAY - DEC 04

It all started in 1977 when American zoologist, Dr. Laurie Marker took Khayam, a cheetah she raised from a cub at Wildlife Safari in Oregon, to Namibia. It was a part of an experiment to determine whether captive cheetahs could be taught to hunt and live in the wild on their own again.

The experiment was a success, and she and Khayam returned home to the U.S. But during her stay in Namibia, Dr. Marker noted that livestock owners posed a threat to the cheetah population in the wild. They were eliminating cheetahs vigorously because they were becoming a threat to their livestock.

Determined to help resolve the rift between Namibian farmers and cheetahs, Dr. Marker vowed to preserve the wild cheetahs and founded the Cheetah Conservation Fund in

1991. She negotiated with the locals and educated them about wildlife preservation.

In honor of his memory, Dr. Marker chose Khayam's birthday as the day to promote cheetah conservation. Since 2010, the world has been celebrating International Cheetah Day on December 4 to raise awareness about the threat of extinction that they face.

Sadly, due to excessive hunting of wild cheetahs for their fur, and the loss of their habitat due to increased human settlements, as of 2020, there are only around 7,100 cheetahs left in the wild. This is a shocking 50% decline in the last four decades. So, let us recognize this as the day to respect and conserve cheetahs.

DEC
12

INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN DAY

Mountains are natural jewels we should treasure. They are home to 15% of the world's population and host about half of the world's biodiversity hotspots. They provide freshwater for everyday life to half of humanity, helping to sustain agriculture and supply clean energy and medicines. Unfortunately, mountains are under threat from climate change, overexploitation and contamination, increasing the risks for the people and the planet.

Over centuries, mountain communities have developed solutions to adapt to their harsh environments, deal with climate change, reduce poverty and protect or restore biodiversity.

This International Mountain Day 2024 (IMD 2024) focuses precisely on the capacity and needs of its people through a triple approach: "Mountain solutions for a sustainable future – innovation, adaptation and youth."

Adaptation strategies such as ecosystem-based approaches to disaster risk reduction and the integration of indigenous knowledge systems are vital for building resilience and reducing vulnerability.

Lastly, the active participation of youth is



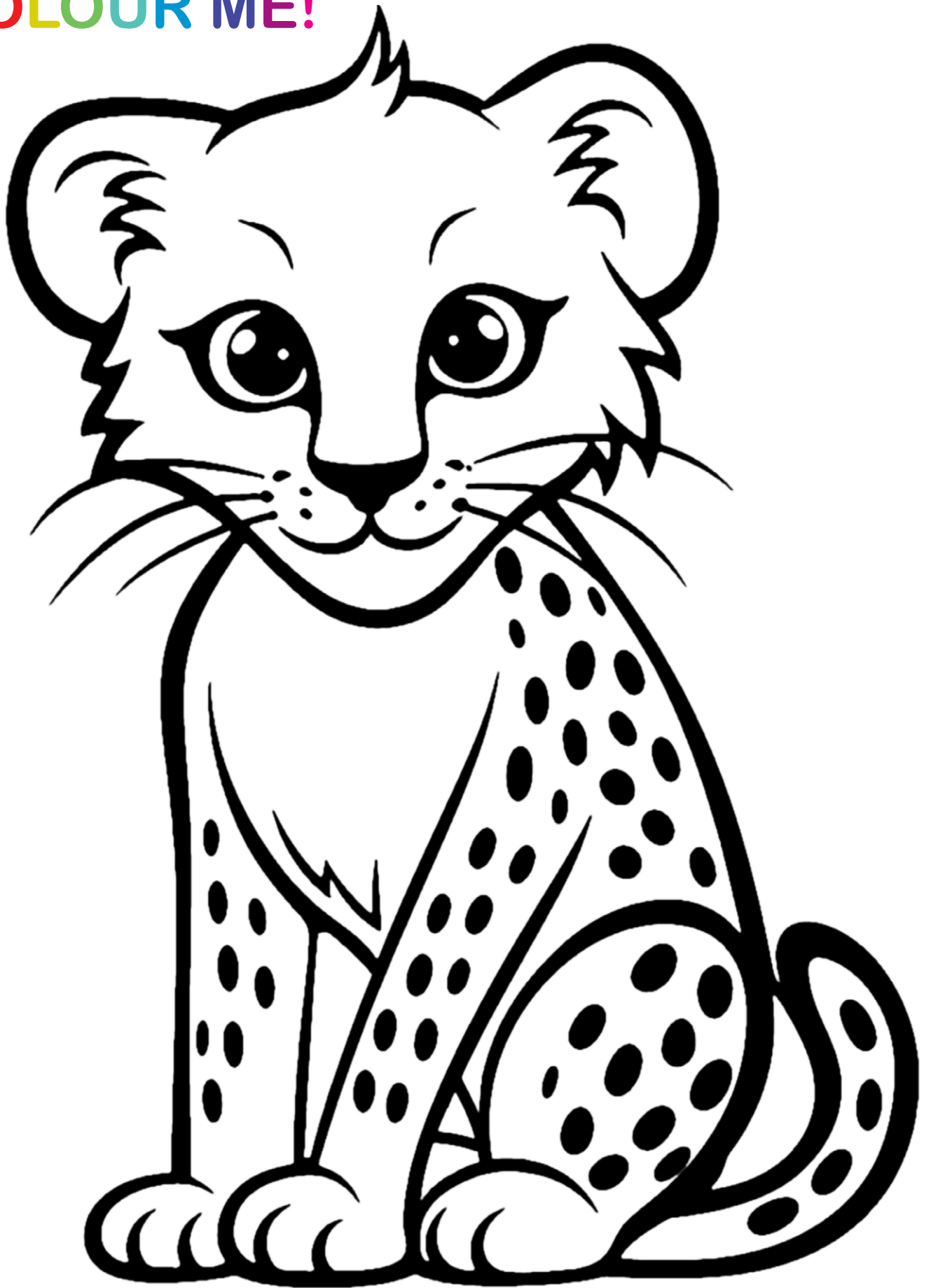
essential for ensuring the long-term sustainability of mountain solutions. IMD 2024 promotes decent work and quality employment for young persons, accessible training, and entrepreneurship opportunities that contribute to the sustainable use of mountain resources.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

Things to Do...

- Use both sides of paper! _____
- Carry a reusable water bottle _____
- Grow a plant _____
- Volunteer for a cleanup drive _____
- Switch off all lights when not in use! _____

COLOUR ME!



UAE Minister of Energy and Infrastructure



RAK Energy Summit concludes with strong government commitment to advance climate action

UAE NEWS

The RAK Energy Summit concluded in Ras Al Khaimah on November 28, bringing together regional and global decision-makers, speakers, and experts to support the global conversation on sustainability, renewable energy and decarbonisation.

The Summit, opened by H.H. Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi, UAE Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah, shed light on local and international efforts and best practices in approaching the energy transition.

Suhail Mohamed Al Mazrouei, UAE Minister of Energy and Infrastructure said: “The UAE works relentlessly toward improving resource efficiency focusing on leveraging state-of-the-art, smart technologies and investing in research and development to devise innovative solutions to energy and water challenges. Inter-sectoral local and international collaboration is key to achieving future energy objectives.”

Ahmed Ali Al-Ebrahim, CEO, GCC Interconnection

Authority from Saudi Arabia, led a presentation on regional grid integration. Lucas Boehlé, Energy Efficiency Analyst, International Energy Agency (IEA) from France, showcased global energy efficiency trends, while Anne Dekeukelaere, Executive Director, Center for Worldwide Sustainable Construction, Switzerland, highlighted decarbonisation of the cement industry.

Andrea Di Gregorio, Executive Director, Energy Efficiency and Renewables Office, Ras Al Khaimah Municipality, announced significant upgrades to Ras Al Khaimah’s energy and sustainability strategy, aimed at increasing both the scope and impact of interventions. Key announcements included a revised strategy with a broader focus on decarbonisation and environment protection alongside energy efficiency and renewables; and new mandates to promote accelerated intervention for the government in the fields of energy efficiency and green procurement, and for large industries in the field of energy management.

FAO Statistical Yearbook 2024 turns spotlight on global agrifood systems

The publication provides a thorough analysis of emerging trends and ongoing challenges in food production, food security and nutrition, and the environmental impact of agrifood systems

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has launched its 2024 Statistical Yearbook, offering an in-depth overview of the most significant trends shaping global agrifood systems. This year's edition highlights critical challenges, including increased temperatures over land, the ongoing global struggle with food insecurity alongside increasing obesity rates, and the environmental pressures faced by agricultural production.

Drawing on a wealth of data, the publication synthesizes the key factors influencing global agrifood systems. The 2024 edition is structured into four thematic chapters covering: the economic dimensions of agriculture; the production, trade, and prices of commodities; food security and nutrition; and sustainability and environmental aspects of agriculture.

"Timely, accurate and high-quality data and statistics are the cornerstone of solid policy



design,” said José Rosero Moncayo, FAO Chief Statistician and Director of the Statistics Division. “This edition of the Yearbook presents newly released country-level estimates on employment in agrifood systems as a sign of the transition of FAO statistics to consistently inform about the state of agrifood systems in the world. It also features a new dataset on dietary-related data, which is an important achievement

Drawing on a wealth of data collected by FAO statisticians, the publication synthesizes the key factors influencing global agrifood systems



to understand what people eat and how this affects nutritional outcomes.”

Key highlights:

- Global agricultural value has increased by 89 percent in real terms over the past two decades, reaching USD3.8 trillion in 2022. Despite this growth, agriculture’s contribution to global economic output has remained relatively stable, and the proportion of the global workforce employed in agriculture has decreased, from 40 percent in 2000 to 26 percent in 2022.
- Food production has continued to rise, but hunger remains a persistent issue. In 2023, between 713 and 757 million people were undernourished. Considering the mid-range (733 million), this is about 152 million more people than in 2019. The majority of the undernourished people lives in Asia, even though the prevalence of undernourishment is highest in Africa.
- Obesity rates are also rising, particularly in high-income regions. Over 25 percent of adults in the Americas, Europe and Oceania are obese, reflecting the global challenge of ensuring access to healthy, nutritious food.
- The global production of primary crops reached 9.6 billion tonnes in 2022, an increase of 56



percent compared to 2000. Staple crops such as sugar cane, maize, wheat and rice account for nearly half of global crop production.

- Meat production increased by 55 percent from 2000 to 2022, with chicken accounting for the largest share of this rise. In 2022, 361 million tonnes of meat were produced globally.
- The use of pesticides increased by 70 percent between 2000 and 2022. The Americas accounted for half of the global pesticide use in 2022.
- Inorganic fertilizers used in agriculture reached 185 million tonnes of nutrients in 2022, with 58 percent of this amount being nitrogen, an increase of 37 percent compared with 2000.
- The production of vegetable oils grew by 133 percent between 2000 and 2021, largely driven by an increase in palm oil production.
- Greenhouse gas emissions from agrifood systems have risen by 10 percent between 2000 and 2022. Farm-gate emissions increased by 15 percent over the same period, with livestock contributing to around 54 percent of

these emissions.

- Water scarcity remains a growing concern in regions such as the Near East and North Africa, where many countries face extreme water stress, impacting the sustainability of agricultural production. Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia are withdrawing each year 9 to almost 40 times their renewable freshwater resources available.

The 2024 Statistical Yearbook is also available in a digital, interactive format and comes with a companion pocketbook, offering a clear reference to key data on agriculture, food security, and sustainability. It is part of FAO's ongoing effort to improve data accessibility, complementing the FAOSTAT platform, which hosts the world's largest collection of free agricultural statistics, covering over 245 countries and territories.

The Statistical Yearbook serves as a vital resource for policymakers, researchers, analysts, and anyone interested in understanding the current state and future trajectory of global food and agriculture.



Unhealthy dietary patterns drive USD8 trillion in annual hidden costs

STUDY

A new study by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) involving 156 countries confirms that hidden costs within global agrifood systems amount to approximately USD12 trillion annually. Of this figure, around 70 percent (\$8.1 trillion) arise from unhealthy dietary patterns and are linked to alarming non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as heart disease, stroke, and diabetes, far exceeding the costs related to environmental degradation and social inequalities.

The study details how global hidden costs are largely driven by health hidden costs, followed by environmental hidden costs, in more industrialized agrifood systems in upper-middle and high-income countries.

In examining health impacts, the report identifies 13 dietary risk factors. These include insufficient intake of whole grains, fruits, and vegetables; excessive sodium consumption; and high intake of red and processed meats.

Overall, the report calls for a value-driven transformation of agrifood systems. This requires going beyond traditional economic measures like GDP by utilizing true cost accounting to recognize hidden costs. With this approach, decision-makers can make more informed choices that enhance the societal value of agrifood systems, acknowledging their essential roles in food security, nutrition, biodiversity conservation, and cultural identity.

Achieving this transformation also demands bridging sectoral divides, aligning policies across health, agriculture, and the environment, and ensuring that the benefits and costs are equitably shared among all stakeholders.

“The choices we make now, the priorities we set and the solutions we implement will determine our shared future. The transformation of global agrifood systems is fundamental to achieving the SDGs and securing a prosperous future for all,” said FAO Director-General QU Dongyu.

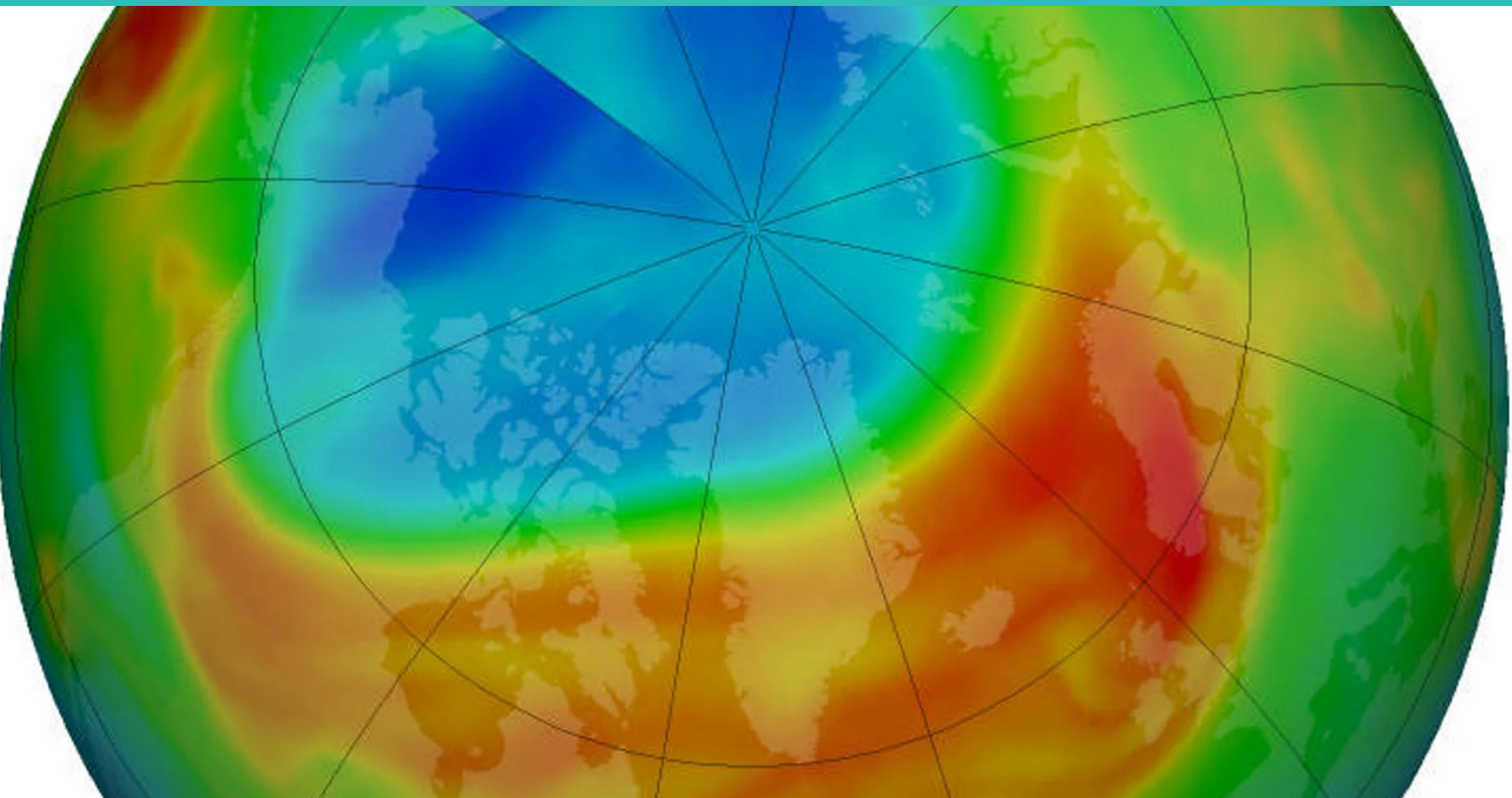
‘Rise in nitrous oxide emissions endangers the pathway to 1.5°C’

Findings from the new Global Nitrous Oxide Assessment (N_2O) warns that without urgent action on rising N_2O emissions, there is no viable pathway to limiting global warming to 1.5°C

A new United Nations ‘Global Nitrous Oxide Assessment’ is warning that nitrous oxide (N_2O), a potent greenhouse gas, is rapidly accelerating climate change and damaging the ozone layer. Launched at the 2024 UN Climate Change Conference (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan, the assessment signals that emissions are rising faster than expected and that immediate action is required to curb the environmental and health impacts of this super pollutant.

Nitrous oxide is approximately 270 times more potent than carbon dioxide in terms of warming the planet and is currently responsible for approximately 10 per cent of net global warming since the Industrial Revolution. Primarily emitted from agricultural practices such as the use of synthetic fertilizers and manure, N_2O is the third most significant greenhouse gas and the top ozone-depleting substance still being released into the atmosphere.

The findings from the Assessment are clear:



urgent action on N₂O is critical to achieving climate goals, and without a serious reduction in emissions, there is no viable path to limiting warming to 1.5°C in the context of sustainable development as outlined in the Paris Agreement.

“Abating N₂O emissions could avoid up to 235 billion tonnes of CO₂-equivalent emissions by 2100,” said David Kanter, Associate Professor of Environmental Studies at NYU and Co-Chair of the Assessment. “This is equivalent to six years’ worth of current global carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuels.”



This Assessment identifies practical, cross-sectoral abatement strategies that could cut N₂O emissions by more than 40 per cent from current levels. By transforming food production systems and rethinking societal approaches to nitrogen management, even deeper reductions could be achieved, offering a critical opportunity to move the world closer to its climate, environmental,

The report provides tangible tools to reduce emissions by more than 40% from current levels

and health goals.

It also shows that N₂O emissions from the chemical industry can be quickly and cost-effectively abated; agricultural and industrial practices impact the natural nitrogen cycle, leading to increased N₂O emissions.

“A sustainable nitrogen management approach not only reduces nitrous oxide emissions but also prevents the release of other harmful nitrogen compounds,” said A.R. Ravishankara, Chemist and atmospheric scientist, Colorado State University, and Co-Chair of the Assessment. “This could improve air and water quality, protect ecosystems, and safeguard human health, all while maintaining food security.”

Nitrous oxide is currently the most significant ozone-layer-depleting substance being emitted into the atmosphere. The Assessment shows that proactively tackling N₂O would also support the continued recovery of the ozone layer, helping to avoid a future where much of the global population is exposed to harmful UV levels.

“The ozone layer is crucial for all life on Earth. For decades, parties to the Montreal Protocol have worked hard to safeguard it. This Assessment highlights the need for continued vigilance, commitment, and action for the ozone layer to



recover as soon as possible to its pre-1980 levels,” said Megumi Seki, Executive Secretary of the Montreal Protocol Ozone Secretariat, UNEP.

“This Assessment sounds the alarm on a relatively forgotten super pollutant that contributes greatly to climate change and air pollution,” said Martina Otto, Head of Secretariat of the UNEP-convened Climate and Clean Air Coalition. “By using the abatement tools highlighted in the Assessment that are already available to us, we can yield multiple benefits across climate, clean air, and health” she added.

Simultaneously reducing nitrogen oxide emissions and ammonia would also significantly improve air quality, potentially avoiding up to 20 million premature deaths globally by 2050. Abatement measures would also enhance water quality, improve soil health, and protect ecosystems from the impacts of nitrogen runoff.

“Addressing nitrous oxide emissions is essential for ensuring sustainable, inclusive and resilient agriculture that simultaneously helps countries achieve their climate and food security goals. As the assessment clearly shows, there are ways to

produce more with less, by improving the efficiency of nitrogen use in agriculture and reducing excessive nitrogen application” said Kaveh Zahedi, Director of FAO’s Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment.

The Assessment underscores the need for immediate and ambitious action to reduce N₂O emissions, as part of a broader strategy to tackle super pollutants, which, alongside efforts to achieve net-zero carbon dioxide emissions, can put the world on track to meet long-term climate, food security, and health goals.





Oil, grease trap waste treatment plant launched in Ajman

UAE NEWS

In a significant step towards enhancing environmental sustainability in Ajman, the Municipality and Planning Department - Ajman (MPDA), in cooperation with Alserkal Group LLC, inaugurated the Envirol LLC Grease Trap Waste Receiving Plant in the Al Jurf Industrial Area. The plant aims to collect waste generated by oil and grease traps (specialized systems that separate these materials from sewage), to protect drainage systems from blockage and curb negative environmental impacts.

The plant can receive up to 10,000 gallons of this waste per day, with future expansion plans to meet the increasing demand.

Abdul Rahman Mohammed Al Nuaimi, Director General of the MPDA, asserted that the project is a vital milestone within the framework of improving waste management in the emirate of Ajman, noting the MPDA's commitment to carrying out innovative and sustainable solutions that enhance a clean environment and improve quality

of life. This project reflects the MPDA's vision to develop an integrated infrastructure that supports the emirate's sustainable development strategies, His Excellency added.

Eng. Khalid Moeen Al Hosani, the MPDA's Executive Director of the Public Health and Environment Sector, explained that the plant adopts smart technologies to manage the process of collecting and transporting oily waste. He pointed out that the plant contributes to converting waste into useful resources when treated in the State's specialized stations, such as treated water for agricultural use, fertilizer organic materials, and bio-oils that support the green economy.

Ahmed Eisa Alserkal, Chairman of Alserkal Group, stressed that the Envirol plant in Ajman is a qualitative leap in the management of oil and grease trap waste and embodies the two-party commitment to achieve sustainability goals.



Silal, KEZAD Group launch two innovative AgTech projects in Al Ain

UAE NEWS

Silal, Abu Dhabi's leading agri-food and technology company, has signed a Musataha agreement with KEZAD Khalifa Economic Zones Abu Dhabi - KEZAD Group, the largest operator of integrated and purpose-built economic zones. The agreement aims to establish two cutting-edge AgTech initiatives in Al Ain Industrial City focused on sustainable farming and local food production.

The first initiative, in collaboration with Iyris - a world-leading sustainable agriClimate tech company advancing commercial in hot climates globally - is a revolutionary indoor farming project spanning 50,000 square metres, equivalent to 10 football fields.

Dedicated to cultivating premium berries, the project addresses the challenges of growing high-quality produce in the UAE's desert climate and embodies Silal's commitment to advancing local food production, reducing imports, and pushing the boundaries of agricultural technology.

The second initiative focuses on utilising advanced controlled-environment agriculture technologies across 100,000 square metres to cultivate high-value crops. It employs cutting-edge methods to drastically reduce water consumption, minimise carbon emissions, and maximise year-round yields.

Salmeen Alameri, CEO of Silal, said: "These flagship initiatives underscore our commitment to advancing the UAE's agricultural sector. By integrating cutting-edge technologies with sustainable practices, we aim to foster a thriving local food production ecosystem, enhance food security, and strengthen the country's self-sufficiency efforts."

Abdullah Al Hameli, CEO Economic Cities & Free Zones, AD Ports Group, said: "This collaboration underscores our commitment to fostering innovation and setting a global benchmark for agricultural excellence."



MOCCAЕ deploys artificial reefs in UAQ to promote marine environment, sustainable fisheries

UAE NEWS

As part of its efforts to protect the marine environment and promote sustainable fisheries in the UAE, the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCAЕ), in collaboration with the Marine Affairs and Living Aquatic Resources Regulatory Committee of Umm Al Quwain, has installed several artificial reefs off the coast of Umm Al Quwain.

The artificial reefs serve as a strategic solution designed to bolster fish stocks and help in supporting a sustainable fishing industry, promoting food security, and revitalising marine areas by creating a conducive environment to promote marine biodiversity.

The artificial reefs installation project was carried out in collaboration with the Marine Affairs and Living Aquatic Resources Regulatory Committee of Umm Al Quwain and Embankment, a Russian firm that specialises in interior and exterior road and space landscaping.

The caves have been installed near the protected

area of Al Sinniyah Island, about 1.5 nautical miles offshore.

Hiba Obaid Al Shehhi, Acting Assistant Under-Secretary for Biodiversity and Marine Life Sector at MOCCAЕ, said, "The initiative aims to create an eco-friendly artificial marine reserve that supports marine life and enhances environmental sustainability. This project will support the rebuilding of fish stocks in the coastal marine environment."

The UAE has been at the forefront of using artificial reefs to improve the marine habitat. Since the launch of the UAE's artificial reefs project, over 4,331 artificial reefs have been installed between 2014 and 2022 across various marine areas throughout the country.

These artificial reefs have created new habitats for fish spawning and incubation, leading to increased fish stocks and improved marine biodiversity.



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

Combining action for desertification and climate change

I recently participated in the Conference of Parties for the UN Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD COP16) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, held under the theme of “Our Land Our Future”. More than 18,000 participants attended this landmark event that featured an impressive opening ceremony.

32 years after its proposal at the 1992 Rio Summit, progress combating desertification remains short of expectations, particularly impacting developing nations. This is partly due to greater focus on broader climate change initiatives with a global impact. However, we cannot separate desertification from climate change and biodiversity loss because these are closely interlinked, and demand integrated solutions.

The Zayed International Foundation for the Environment continually seeks innovative models to combat desertification and implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Foundation has aligned all its initiatives with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through 25 years of partnerships and specialized activities in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development, the Foundation has

gained deep insight into the global challenges hindering the implementation of key UN conventions.

To achieve this vision, the Foundation partners strategically with UN bodies, governments, educational institutions, businesses, and civil society organizations to accelerate efforts to preserve the environment and achieve sustainable development. The Foundation has forged partnerships with almost all United Nations organizations and is currently implementing a very important program with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) to support and empower innovative youth and women in countries of the South, where desertification poses a significant environmental challenge.

The Zayed International Foundation prioritizes human development, particularly for future generations. Over the next decade, it will focus on disseminating environmental knowledge and sustainable development skills among youth, women, and retired professionals, fostering responsible decision-making and wise practices for greener communities and future leaders.



Zayed International Prize for the Environment


Together for a green century

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