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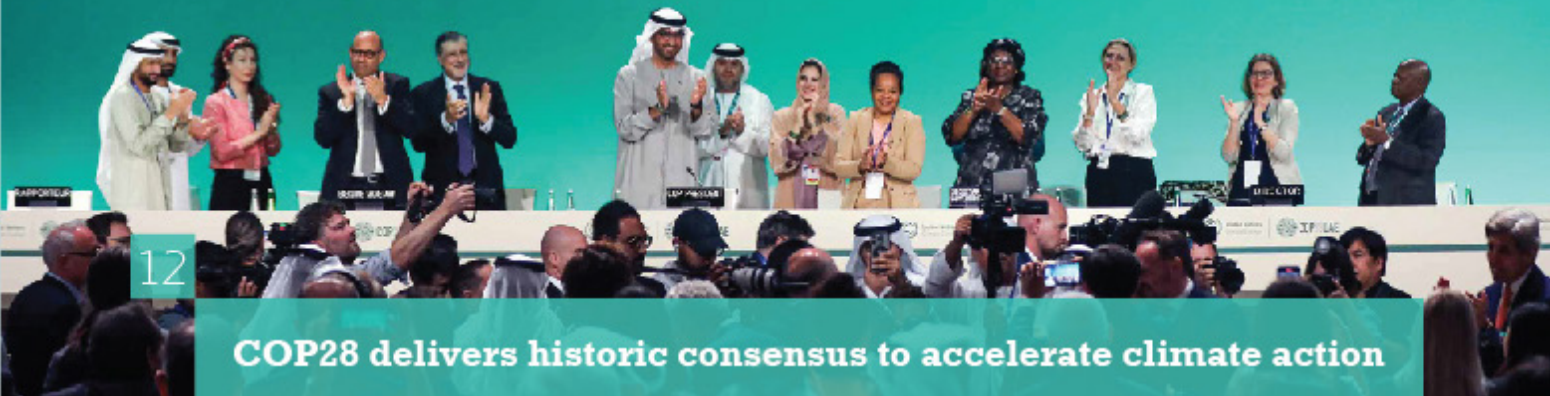


United Nations
Climate Change



COP28UAE

DUBAI 2023



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COP28 delivers historic consensus to accelerate climate action

Zayed International Foundation
for the Environment hosts two
sessions at COP28

COP28 recognises crucial role of
nature, ecosystems in climate
action

COP28 delivers lasting
legacy for youth inclusion

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Emirates Appreciation Award For The Environment

Together for a
green home





Chairman's Message



**Prof. Mohammed
bin Fahad**
Executive Editor

As the curtains came down on COP28, the UAE emerged as a beacon of hope and a catalyst for transformative change with the unveiling of The UAE Consensus. Far from being just an outcome of the conference, The UAE Consensus has consolidated the nation's position as a pioneer in climate action and stands as a testament to the nation's unwavering commitment to address the urgent climate crisis and foster global cooperation in achieving net zero goals.

The UAE Consensus is a blueprint for a new era of global climate action and a model for addressing multifaceted challenges. It charts a course for tangible, sustainable initiatives that transcend borders and traditional divisions. For the first time in nearly three decades of UN climate talks, a commitment to reducing fossil fuel production and use has been agreed to.

The holistic approach of The UAE Consensus recognizes the interconnectedness of various global challenges. It recognizes that problems caused by climate change require sweeping solutions across all sectors. The UAE Consensus acknowledges the pressing need for immediate and collective action and exemplifies the UAE's commitment to international collaboration. This collaborative approach reflects a nuanced understanding of the shared responsibility that nations bear in combating climate change and fostering environmental resilience.

COP28 reflects a win for ambition, compromise and a practical approach to problem-solving. As the UAE positions itself at the forefront of the global movement towards a sustainable future, the Consensus underscores the nation's evolving role as a pioneer in environmental leadership. The success and achievements of COP28 demonstrates that with vision, collaboration, and unwavering commitment, we can chart a course towards a more sustainable and resilient future.

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Zayed International Foundation for the Environment upholds environmental legacy of Founding Father of the UAE at COP28

The Zayed International Foundation for the Environment made an impactful presence at the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Dubai, UAE, where it joined nations around the globe in galvanizing action to address major global climate challenges.

Delivering on its commitment to raise awareness on climate challenges and solutions, and in setting new and positive milestones in sustainability, the Zayed International Foundation hosted two sessions on December 8, at Expo City Dubai, that served as a platform for thought-provoking discussions, where leaders, policymakers, and influencers collaboratively explored strategic solutions to tackle the urgent challenges posed by climate change.

The UAE Pavilion, a symbol of global unity, provided a fitting backdrop for this critical dialogue. The **'Leadership Engagement'** session was hosted at the UAE Pavilion in the Blue Zone

in the presence of leading environmentalists and representatives of international organisations.

Speaking at the session, Prof. Mohammad Ahmed Bin Fahad, Chairman of the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, reinforced the Foundation's determination to be part of the climate solutions and its commitment to driving action on the ground by supporting international efforts to realise the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. Recalling the efforts of the UAE's founding fathers and visionary leaders,

“The unwavering commitment to sustainability and respect for humanity and the environment that is instilled in the UAE today stems from the deep connections our leaders had to the land and its people.”

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



Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum, whose pioneering initiatives formed the bedrock of the nation, the Chairman of the Zayed International Foundation said that under their leadership, the UAE underwent remarkable transformations.

“The unwavering commitment to sustainability and respect for humanity and the environment that is instilled in the UAE today stems from the deep connections our leaders had to the land and its people. The paths they forged in pioneering initiatives in sustainable agriculture, water

conservation, and wildlife preservation, and their foresight and dedication to sustainable development continue to shape the nation's environmental policies and practices,” said Prof. Bin Fahad.

Under their leadership, the nation focused on strategic infrastructure projects that not only propelled economic growth but also incorporated sustainable practices, he said. “Together, Sheikh Zayed and Sheikh Rashid forged a legacy that places sustainability and the well-being of both the people and the environment at its core. Their

enduring influence resonates in the UAE's commitment to green initiatives, renewable energy projects, and a holistic approach to development that prioritizes harmony with nature. The sustainable foundations they established continue to guide the UAE towards a future where progress is synonymous with environmental stewardship and respect for all."

In his address, Dr. Hamdan K. Al Shaer, Member of the Higher Committee, Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, elucidated the

"In commemorating Sheikh Zayed, we celebrate a leader whose enduring legacy transcends time."

**Dr. Hamdan K. Al Shaer, Member of the Higher Committee,
Zayed International Foundation for the Environment**



environmental leadership of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and his enduring legacy that has paved the way for sustainable development and future prosperity of the UAE.

Outlining some of the most prominent environmental initiatives of the visionary leader, Dr. Hamdan K. Al Shaer said: "Sheikh Zayed believed that protecting the environment was a shared responsibility between individuals and governments.

"To spread environmental awareness among UAE society, he established a host of legislative, educational and research institutions to undertake pathbreaking and pioneering

programmes, plans and projects to protect the environment."

In addition to establishing several nature reserves and protected areas including the Sir Bani Yas Island, Jebel Hafeet, and Al Wathba Reserve, Sheikh Zayed also launched many land, irrigation, and agricultural projects, and supported scientific research by laying the foundation for the rise of institutions such as the Sheikh Zayed Center for Environmental Studies and Research, explained Dr. Al Shaer.

"In commemorating Sheikh Zayed, we celebrate a leader whose enduring legacy transcends time," he said, adding that the Founding President of the



UAE was a role model in environmental leadership.

“He had a clear vision of the importance of protecting the environment, and he worked to achieve this vision. The values Sheikh Zayed espoused centred on Humanity – he was a humanitarian leader valuing human dignity and well-being; Wisdom – he was a wise leader with a clear vision for the future; Justice – he was a just leader dedicated to social justice; and Peace – he was a leader advocating peace and cooperation among all peoples.”

Internationally, Sheikh Zayed emerged as a prominent supporter of environmental issues and the establishment of prominent environmental institutions, including the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, showcases his commitment to global sustainability, added Dr. Al Shaer.

“Anticipating the future was a cornerstone of

Sheikh Zayed's thought, driven by optimism and a commitment to building the UAE on solid foundations. He viewed the future as an opportunity for progress and took decisive measures to prepare for it. In the lead up to establishing the UAE, he also began to develop its infrastructure, invest in education and health, and laid a strong focus on sustainable development to ensure future prosperity,” he concluded.

Speaking at the ‘Leadership Engagement’ session, Dr. Eisa Abdellatif, Chief Technical Advisor of the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, outlined the Foundation’s initiatives and programs undertaken since its establishment in 1999 by HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, the outcomes of many of which have since been adopted by several UN organizations.

He said: “The Zayed International Foundation for

the Environment stands as a beacon of environmental stewardship, reflecting the visionary commitment of its founders to global sustainability. Through its multifaceted initiatives, the Foundation has achieved remarkable milestones in fostering environmental awareness and conservation."

Dr. Eisa Abdellatif added: "The work of the Foundation continues to honor the development philosophy of the late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, and through the Zayed International Prize for the Environment, it also recognizes pioneering

'Wisdom Fuelling the Future!' at the Dubai Police Academy in January 2023.

In his introductory remarks at the event, Dr. Charles Savage, said: "Our "Seventh Generation Wisdoming Cafe" is so named because of two discoveries. One, the Seventh Generation Principle is based on an ancient Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) philosophy that our decisions today should result in a sustainable world seven generations into the future.

"And secondly, instead of thinking about NOUNS,



contributions in the field of environment and sustainable development on the global level!"

The Seventh Generation Wisdoming Cafe

The second session hosted by the Zayed International Foundation was held at the House of Sustainability - Actionists Hub (Green Zone).

Led by Dr. Charles Savage, President and Mentor, Knowledge Era Enterprising (KEE) International, and a Professor of Business and Sustainability, and Jan Artem Henriksson, Executive Director of Inner Development Goals Initiative, and co-founder of Self Leaders, Relate & MindShift, the Seventh Generation Wisdoming Café, follows from the first 'World Cafe' held under the slogan,

we might realize life is a 'living adventure' (i.e., VERBs). Therefore, instead of thinking about being WISE, we understand that it involves the VERB form of mastering 'Wisdoming'."

After introducing the concepts and format of the interactive workshop, participants at the session were seated randomly at tables of four. On each table was a powerful question to reflect on for 12 minutes, following which members of the audience moved to different tables for the next 12 minutes to reflect on the interrelationships of their questions. Finally, they had 12 minutes back in their original group to reflect on their learnings and capture new insights.



COP28: Bahrain announces 30% reduction in emissions by 2035, zero carbon by 2060

During its participation at COP28, the Kingdom of Bahrain announced its commitment to the national carbon neutrality strategy that aims to reduce carbon emissions by 30 percent by 2035 and reach zero carbon by 2060.

The Kingdom of Bahrain participated at the COP28 climate summit with a distinguished pavilion that showcased the "Bahrain Blueprint" national action plan, announced by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, which aims for carbon neutrality through a low-carbon economy, climate change adaptation, and sustainable opportunities in the new green economy.

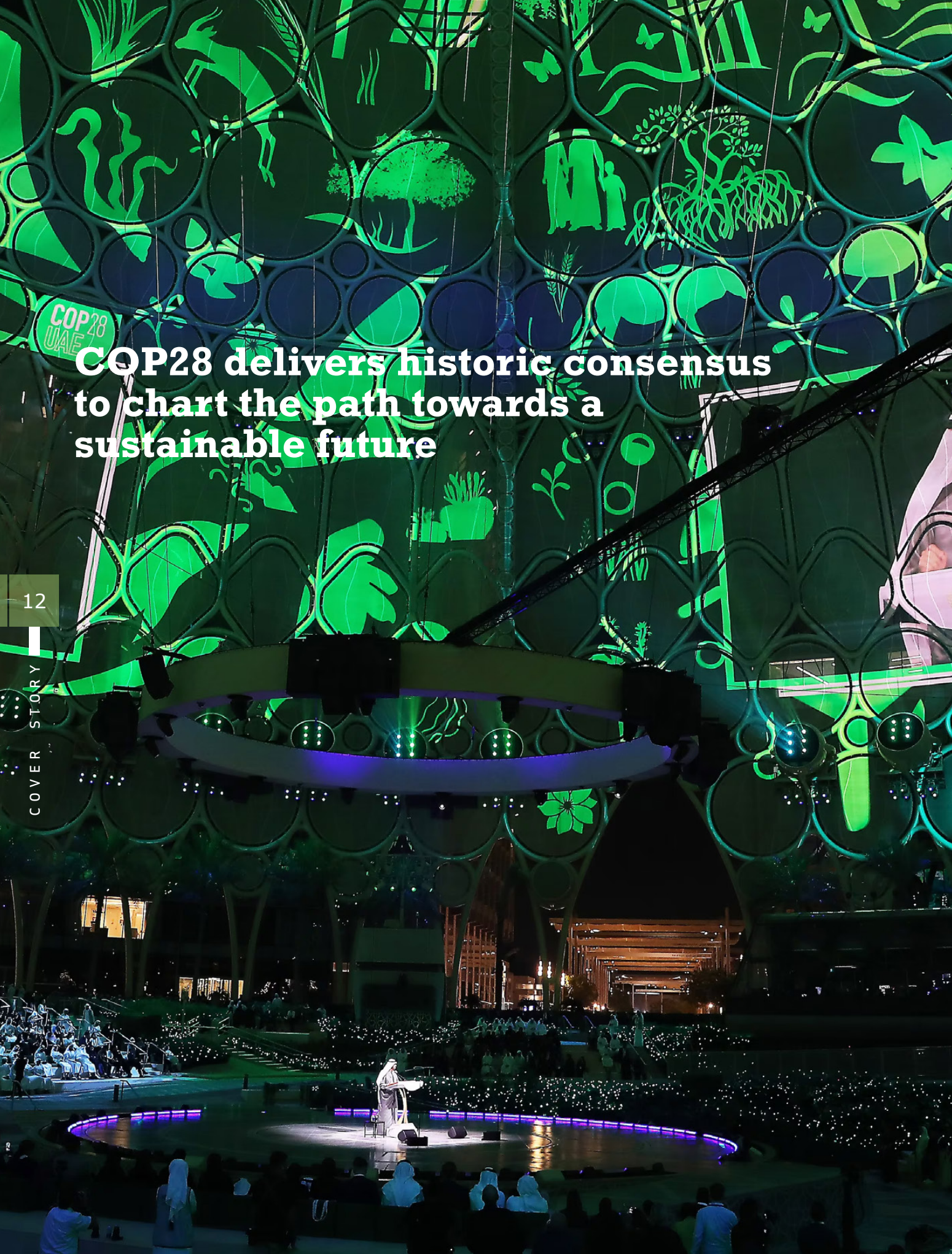
The pavilion also highlighted the initiatives recently launched to enhance environmental security including the Bahrain's National Energy Strategy, and the launch of a USD750 million fund, in addition to establishing the Safaa voluntary platform to offset carbon emissions.

Mohammad Mezal, Environmental Specialist at

Bahrain's Supreme Council, noted the role of Bahrain's pavilion in highlighting its ambitious environmental goals and its impact on the global community.

He pointed out that as part of its commitment at COP26 to reach 30 percent carbon neutrality by 2035, the Kingdom has been investing in green economy, where it has harnessed its efforts to change and mitigate 80 percent of carbon emissions, which is emitted from only 7 places (factories) that emit 80 percent of carbon emissions.

Regarding the Kingdom of Bahrain's initiatives to promote environmental conservation, he stressed the need to provide incentives to reduce energy waste and resort to new and renewable energy. He also emphasised the progress made as part of an initiative to quadruple mangrove trees, as 400,000 trees have been planted since COP26, and the Kingdom aspires to plant 1.6 million trees by 2035.



COP28 delivers historic consensus to chart the path towards a sustainable future

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COVER STORY

Representatives from 197 countries, in addition to the European Union, approved a historic consensus on climate change on the concluding day of COP28 in Dubai, to put the world on the right track to protect humanity and the planet.

The landmark agreement aims to deliver a new era of climate action.

The Parties agreed on a landmark text named 'The UAE Consensus', which sets out an ambitious

The 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) came to a historic close in Dubai, marking a turning point in global efforts to combat climate change



climate agenda to keep 1.5°C within reach. The UAE Consensus calls on Parties to transition away from fossil fuels to reach net zero, encourages them to submit economy-wide Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), includes a new specific target to triple renewables and double energy efficiency by 2030, and builds momentum towards a new architecture for climate finance.

The UAE Consensus, which follows a year of inclusive diplomatic engagements and two weeks of intense negotiations, reflects the COP28

Presidency's goal to provide the most ambitious response possible to the Global Stocktake and deliver on the central aims of the Paris Agreement.

"The world needed to find a new way. By following our North Star, we have found that path," said Dr. Sultan bin Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and COP28 President, during his closing speech on December 12, 2023, at Expo City Dubai. "We have worked very hard to secure a better future for our people and our planet. We should be proud of our historic achievement."

"I promised a different sort of COP. A COP that brought everyone together – private and public sectors, civil society and faith leaders, youth and indigenous peoples. Everyone came together from day one. Everyone united. Everyone acted. And everyone delivered."

Throughout the COP28 process, the COP28 Presidency team expressed determination to deliver "a plan that is led by the science" and to define a new way for this and future COPs, based on the inclusion of diverse peoples and elevating the needs of the Global South.

- A significant step forward in the expectations for the next round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by encouraging "economy-wide emission reduction targets."
- Building momentum behind the financial architecture reform agenda, recognising the role of credit rating agencies for the first time, and calling for a scale up of concessional and grant finance.
- A new, specific target to triple renewables and double energy efficiency by 2030.



"It is a balanced plan that tackles emissions, bridges the gap on adaptation, reimagines global finance and delivers on loss and damage," said Dr. Al Jaber.

"It is built on common ground. It is strengthened by inclusivity and it is reinforced by collaboration. It is an enhanced, balanced, but make no mistake, historic package to accelerate climate action," he said.

Major commitments contained in the final negotiated text include:

- An unprecedented reference to transitioning away from all fossil fuels to enable the world to reach net zero by 2050.

- Recognising the need to significantly scale up adaptation finance beyond the doubling to meet urgent and evolving needs.

Outside the Global Stocktake, COP28 delivered historic negotiated outcomes to operationalise Loss and Damage, securing USD792 million of early pledges, providing a framework for the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), and institutionalising the role of the Youth Climate Champion to mainstream youth inclusion at future COPs.

Throughout 2023, the COP28 Presidency had taken bold and decisive steps to deliver beyond the negotiated text through its 'Action Agenda' which spans four pillars: fast tracking a just and

orderly energy transition; fixing climate finance to make it more available, affordable, and accessible; focusing on people, nature, lives and livelihoods; and fostering full inclusivity in climate action.

The scale of achievements delivered under the Action Agenda has been unprecedented for any COP and is a testament to the willingness of representatives from a huge range of sectors and industries to take positive action.

Under the total Action Agenda at COP28, over USD85 billion in funding has been mobilised, and 11 pledges and declarations have been launched and received historic support.

Major Action Agenda achievements, which sit apart from the negotiated text, include:

- The launch of ALTÉRRRA, the UAE's USD30 billion catalytic private finance vehicle, which seeks to mobilise a total of USD250 billion for global climate action.
- The 'COP28 UAE Declaration on Agriculture, Food, Climate,' embedding sustainable agriculture and food systems in the response to climate change. It has received endorsements from 158 countries.
- The 'COP28 UAE Declaration on Climate and Health,' to accelerate the development of climate-resilient, sustainable and equitable health systems. It has been endorsed by 144 countries.
- The Global Decarbonisation Accelerator (GDA) – a series of landmark energy initiatives across the public and private sectors to speed up the energy transition including:
- The Global Renewables and Energy Efficiency Pledge to triple worldwide installed renewable energy generation capacity to at least 11,000 gigawatts and to double the global average

annual rate of energy efficiency improvements to more than 4 percent by 2030. It has been endorsed by 132 countries.



- The Oil and Gas Decarbonisation Charter (OGDC), which commits signatories to zero methane emissions and ending routine flaring by 2030, and to net-zero operations by 2050 at the latest. To date, 52 companies, representing over 40 percent of global oil production have signed up to it.

Nations agree on 'The UAE Consensus' that calls for a transition away from fossil fuels to achieve net zero by 2050



- The 'Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP) Pledge' aims to advance the integration of sub-national leaders in climate-related decision-making, which has been endorsed by 67 countries.
- The COP28 Presidency's receipt of the Global Youth Statement: the collective climate policy demands of children and youth from over 160 countries worldwide. Its delivery follows a year of youth engagements championed by Shamma Al Mazrui, the first official Youth Climate Champion.

The COP28 Presidency has been clear in its intention to ensure that the agreements made at COP28 are delivered and followed through to COP29 and COP30, with mechanisms to track progress against implementation. Already, the Presidency has signed an agreement with Brazil,

the host country of COP30, to deepen collaboration and increase climate ambitions by COP30.

Central to the agreement with Brazil will be working with Azerbaijan, the hosts of COP29, to ensure Parties come to COP30 with ambitious updated climate plans for action in this critical decade, as well as whole-of-economy NDCs building on the momentum generated at COP28.





UN launches ground-breaking plan to transform world's agrifood systems

C O P 2 8

At COP28, the UN's agriculture wing launched a ground-breaking plan to transform the world's agrifood systems from a net emitter to a carbon sink by 2050.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has identified 10 priority areas – such as livestock, soil and water, crops, diets and fisheries – where following the roadmap can help push the world closer to achieving 'Zero Hunger', the second of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The aim is to transform agrifood systems – which encompass how the food is farmed or raised, how it is transported, and how and where it is disposed – growing harvesting from net emitters to a carbon sink by 2050, capturing 1.5 gigatons of greenhouse gas emissions annually. This is to help eliminate world hunger without driving the planet past the 1.5 degree limit for global warming as set by the Paris Agreement.

David Laborde, Director of the Agrifood Economics Division at FAO, said that the roadmap

is designed to avoid “doomism” and provides avenues to act today in a way that can benefit all now and in the future.

“We need policymakers to act. We need the civil society to be mobilised and the private sector to understand that making better choices today means making investments more sustainable and more profitable for tomorrow.”

While 120 action points may seem like a great deal, Laborde stressed that the end goal is to achieve “a system transformation where everyone has to play a role”.



Heads of governments, changemakers, decisionmakers, hail UAE's climate action efforts at COP28

In a resounding display of global cooperation and environmental stewardship, delegates at the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) have collectively applauded the unwavering commitment and transformative efforts of the UAE in leading the charge in sparking optimism for a more sustainable future on a global scale. With the announcement of groundbreaking initiatives and strategic policies that impact humanity, COP28 stands as a testament to fostering positive change and galvanizing collective action in the face of our planet's most urgent challenges.

'Outcomes of COP28 exceptional' **Outi Honkatukia, Head of Climate Unit at the Ministry of the Environment of Finland**

Outi Honkatukia, Head of Climate Unit at the Ministry of the Environment of Finland, said that COP28 is the most important climate conference since the Paris Conference in 2015, noting that the results of the conference were exceptional.

In a statement, she praised the UAE's successful hosting of COP28 in its efforts towards the Global Stocktake and operationalising the Loss and Damage Fund and highlighted the need to increase funding for climate change adaptation, as well as support for capacity building.



'UAE showcased exceptional leadership'

Saudi Princess Noura bint Turki Al Saud, Sustainable Development Specialist and Founding Partner of AEON strategy

Saudi Princess Noura bint Turki Al Saud, Sustainable Development Specialist and Founding Partner of AEON strategy, has emphasised the UAE's success in organising COP28.

In a statement, she said, "We congratulate the UAE on its success in hosting COP28, and we salute the COP28 Presidency for its exceptional leadership, the likes of which we have not seen



since the leadership of Paris in 2015, for its ability to deal with everyone with diplomacy, impartiality, and understanding the needs of all different parties, especially since the policy it took was of the highest levels."

Princess Noura pointed to the great role played by COP28 Presidency in unifying global paths and returning to the correct path of the Paris Agreement, which is to maintain the global temperature rise at 1.5 degrees Celsius, and to develop policy to reduce carbon emissions.

'Focused on achieving tangible results'

Senator Shantal Munro-Knight, Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister of Barbados

Senator Shantal Munro-Knight, Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister of Barbados, responsible for Sustainable Development, said that COP28 was exceptional, especially for its practical approach and focus on achieving tangible results.

In a statement, she said that one of the most important results of COP28, particularly for

small island developing states, is the operationalisation of the Loss and Damage Fund. She added that these states are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, and they need significant support to adapt to the changing climate.



The activation of the Fund is a step in the right direction, but more needs to be done to ensure that these states have the resources they need to address the challenges of climate change, she added.

‘Exemplary organisation’

John Silk, Minister of Natural Resources and Commerce of the Marshall Islands

John Silk, Minister of Natural Resources and Commerce of the Marshall Islands, has praised the UAE's exemplary organisation of COP28.

Speaking about his country's efforts in terms of climate action and adaptation to climate change, Silk noted that the Marshall Islands launched its first National Adaptation Plan in December 2023, and it was submitted as part of COP28. Marshall Islands is a small country with a population of



only 40,000 people, spread over more than 33 small islands, he said, adding that although the country's contribution to global emissions is zero, the nation has sought solutions to reduce emissions to move proactively.



‘A historic milestone’

US President Joe Biden

US President Joe Biden welcomed the agreement reached at COP28, calling it a “historic milestone”.

In a statement released

by the White House, Biden said, “At COP28, world leaders reached another historic milestone – committing, for the first time, to transition away from the fossil fuels that jeopardise our planet and our people, agreeing to triple renewable energy globally by 2030, and more,” while stating that, “there is still substantial work ahead of us to keep the 1.5 degree Celsius goal within reach, this outcome puts us one significant step closer.”

Describing the climate crisis as the existential threat of our time, Biden noted, “It is our collective responsibility to build a safer, more hopeful future for our children.”

‘A step forward for the world’

Chris Bowen, Minister for Climate Change and Energy of Australia



Chris Bowen, Minister for Climate Change and Energy of Australia, confirmed that COP28 culminated in a remarkable agreement to tackle climate change, congratulating the COP28 President on the achievement.

Following the announcement of ‘The UAE Consensus’, Bowen highlighted the importance of this COP edition describing it as a step forward for the world. He noted that the UAE can be very proud of the role it played in hosting COP28.

‘United voices of African countries’

Dr. Ruth Nankabirwa, Minister of Energy and Mineral Development of the Republic of Uganda



Dr. Ruth Nankabirwa, Minister of Energy and Mineral Development of the Republic of Uganda, said that COP28 succeeded in uniting the voices of African countries and gave them opportunities to play a proactive role in climate action.

Praising the COP28 Presidency's efforts to hear all parties, communities, and countries, including African countries, and giving them opportunities to negotiate, she lauded the decisions to address the issues of African countries, especially those related to the gradual phase-out of fossil fuel use and the protection of green spaces.

She added that Uganda announced the launch of a national energy transition plan during COP28, noting that the plan aims to protect forests and green spaces by transitioning to "clean cooking" using low-carbon technologies.

The minister explained the importance of setting policies for agricultural practices in Uganda to prevent deforestation and promote environmental conservation, ensuring that clean electricity is produced and delivered, with the generation capacity to be increased from 2,000 megawatts (MW) to over 52,000 MW by 2040.

'Results of COP28 are a big step forward'

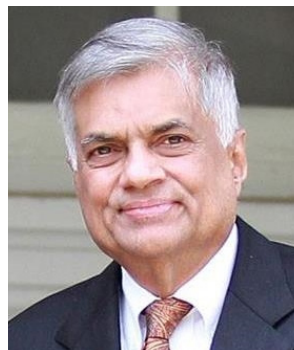
Leonore Gewessler, Federal Minister for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology in Austria



Leonore Gewessler, Federal Minister for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology in Austria, has emphasised that the consensus reached through COP28 was a major step forward.

The Austrian Minister praised the deal presented by the COP28 Presidency to transition away from fossil fuels across energy systems in a fair, orderly and equitable manner, a first in COP history, stressing that it is a historic achievement.

She also said that the decision keeps the objectives of the Paris Agreement within reach to limit global warming to levels below 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2050.



'A turning point in world's approach to climate change'

President Ranil Wickremesinghe of Sri Lanka

Emphasising the significance of COP28, President Ranil

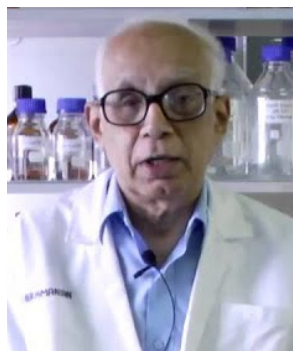
Wickremesinghe of Sri Lanka said it was a turning point in the world's approach to climate change, adding that its importance lies in being a platform for making final decisions on climate change and reaching agreements to propel global efforts forward.

He noted that the UAE, through hosting COP28, demonstrated its capability of "developing and also getting involved in resolving global issues". President Wickremesinghe praised the significant efforts made by the UAE in the field of renewable energy, particularly solar energy, aiming to diversify energy sources.

'COP28 has come out with long-awaited announcements, initiatives'

Charles Hamilton, Climate Change Advisor in the Office of the Prime Minister of the Bahamas

"We came here knowing that we all have our challenges, but we know that if we come together, we can provide solutions that do not serve one party or the other, but rather serve everyone," said Charles Hamilton, Climate Change Advisor in the Office of the Prime Minister of the Bahamas.



He added, "At COP28, we saw many long-awaited initiatives and announcements, and we witnessed the official adoption of the Loss and Damage Fund on the first day. This is something that took 30 years to do." Underlining the critical need for action, he emphasised the importance of transforming pledges into concrete initiatives that benefit all stakeholders. He highlighted the urgent necessity of building capacity, particularly

for vulnerable island nations like the Bahamas. Furthermore, he stressed the need for technical assistance, equipment procurement, and other resources to support countries in mitigating climate change and adapting to its impacts.

‘A major stride in UAE's journey of global excellence and leadership in sustainability, climate action’

Mohamed Karam, Regional Director of



InSinkErator, a subsidiary of Whirlpool Corporation

Mohamed Karam, Regional Director of InSinkErator, a subsidiary of Whirlpool Corporation, affirmed that COP28 has set itself apart as a global platform that highlights

the environmental, economic, and social impacts of climate change, noting its significance in delivering possible strategies and solutions, and clear and effective policies to adapt to climate change and mitigate its impact.

The UAE's hosting of the event is a major stride in its journey of global excellence and leadership in sustainability and climate action, said Karam, highlighting the country's unique approach to hosting the event in combining action with innovation and technology. He noted that COP28, besides gathering industry specialists and leaders to drive collective climate action, enabled the exchange of expertise and best practices between countries and organisations.

‘COP28 reaffirms global commitment to protecting the Earth’

Kersti Kaljulaid, Former President of Estonia



Kersti Kaljulaid, Former President of Estonia, underscored the importance of COP28 as a reaffirmation of the world's commitment to protecting the planet from the effects of climate change.

In a statement, Kaljulaid praised the new

announcement and initiatives made during the climate conference, highlighting the importance of global unity in terms of achieving climate common goals and objectives.

The former President of Estonia stressed that her country participated in the COP28 climate conference to pave the way for a sustainable society, and to promote the exchange of ideas that will push towards achieving the ambitious goals set by the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. She reaffirmed Estonia's commitment to supporting people most vulnerable to climate change, as it funds green technology solutions and directs around €1.5 million annually to developing countries.

The Former President of Estonia explained that her country is also working to build future climate-resilient cities, pointing to the importance of digital infrastructure and nature-based solutions that support climate adaptation and form climate-resilient communities.

‘COP28 outcomes and initiatives ‘very encouraging’

Karen Ellemann, Secretary-General of the Nordic Council of Ministers

Following an ambitious and positive beginning, Karen Ellemann, Secretary-General of the Nordic Council of Ministers, praised the inclusion of food security on the COP28 agenda, underscoring the



importance of keeping all related topics on the discussion table at all times.

Nordic countries have a large environmental footprint, and therefore all Nordic governments have set very ambitious specific goals to allocate public funding, in cooperation with the private sector, for further advancements in the science and technology sectors, Ellemann explained.

She pointed out that the Nordic Pavilion at COP28 provided a platform to meet, exchange views and ideas, discuss, and gain knowledge.



UAE launches landmark climate-focused investment vehicle at COP28

ALTÉRRRA is one of a range of finance-led initiatives launched during COP28 to accelerate the global transition to a low-carbon economy and build climate resilience

As world leaders gathered for COP28, the UAE announced a USD30 billion commitment to the newly launched catalytic climate vehicle, ALTÉRRRA, that will drive forward international efforts to create a fairer climate finance system, with an emphasis on improving access to funding for the Global South.

With this USD30 billion commitment, ALTÉRRRA becomes the world's largest private investment vehicle for climate change action and will aim to mobilize USD250 billion globally by 2030. It aims to steer private markets towards climate investments and focus on transforming emerging markets and developing economies, where traditional investment has been lacking due to the higher perceived risks across those geographies.

Finance for climate action is not currently available, accessible or affordable enough where it is needed. By 2030, emerging markets and developing economies will require USD2.4

trillion every year to address climate change. That is why COP28 made fixing climate finance a key pillar of its Action Agenda and has worked to deliver ambitious solutions, including mobilising private markets at scale.

The launch of the vehicle was described by COP28 President Dr. Sultan Al Jaber as a “defining moment” in the creation of a new era of international climate finance.

Dr. Al Jaber, who will chair ALTÉRRAs Board,

ALTÉRRAs becomes the world’s largest private investment vehicle for climate change action with USD30 billion in catalytic capital



added: “ALTÉRRAs provides a transformational solution for attracting private capital. Its scale and structure will create a multiplier effect in climate focused investment, making it a vehicle like no other. Its launch reflects the COP Presidency’s Action Agenda and the UAE’s efforts to make climate finance available, accessible and affordable.”

Ambassador Majid Al Suwaidi, COP28 Director-General, will serve as ALTÉRRAs Chief Executive Officer. ALTÉRRAs will have a team of specialist climate investment professionals who bring a

strong track record of investing in emerging and developing markets. ALTÉRRAs has been established by Lunate, an independent global investment manager, and is domiciled in the Abu Dhabi Global Market.

ALTÉRRAs is one of a range of finance-led initiatives launched during COP28 to accelerate the global transition to a low-carbon economy and build climate resilience.

Ambassador Al Suwaidi, said: “ALTÉRRAs is a critical element in the UAE’s efforts to create a

global green finance ecosystem that stimulates and empowers the growth of a new climate economy. It will build a vibrant climate investment landscape which further catalyzes investment into the Global South.”

ALTÉRRRA will have an innovative two-part structure to spur new ideas, incentivize policy and regulatory frameworks, and identify solutions to rapidly deploy capital across the entire value chain of the new climate economy. It has a dedicated investment focus on supporting four

By 2030, emerging markets and developing economies will require USD2.4 trillion every year to address climate change



key priorities that underpin COP28’s Action Agenda, namely: Energy Transition, Industrial Decarbonization, Sustainable Living and Climate Technologies.

ALTÉRRRA ACCELERATION, a USD25 billion component of ALTÉRRRA, will steer institutional capital towards climate investments at scale that have the greatest potential to accelerate the transition to a net-zero and climate resilient economy.

ALTÉRRRA ACCELERATION will serve as an anchor investor and co-investor in climate strategies, allocating capital both directly and through fund partnerships to maximize its global impact.

ALTÉRRRA TRANSFORMATION, a USD 5 billion component of ALTÉRRRA, will provide risk mitigation capital to incentivize investment flows into the Global South, directly addressing the challenges that currently limit climate investment and access to affordable capital.

In line with COP28’s message of full inclusivity, ALTÉRRRA TRANSFORMATION will also create opportunities to leverage concessional finance to further attract climate investment to Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

The vehicle will add to the UAE’s accomplished track record of managing large investment



platforms and successfully developing and operating renewable energy projects around the world, leading change as a trusted facilitator at the global crossroads between North, South, East and West.

ALTÉRRRA, in collaboration with BlackRock, Brookfield and TPG as inaugural launch partners, has committed USD6.5 billion to climate-dedicated funds for global investments, including the Global South. The partners are expected to mobilize capital from other institutional investors, and global entities. ALTÉRRRA will continue to expand its partnerships as it creates investment opportunities, develops innovative solutions, and deploys capital at scale.

ALTÉRRRA and its partners are committed to the rapid deployment of capital in high-impact projects, particularly in emerging markets. From the vehicle's initial commitment, immediate capital investment has been earmarked for the

development of over 6.0 GW of new clean energy capacity in India. This includes the construction of 1,200 MW of wind and solar projects that will begin producing clean power by 2025.

The vehicle and its launch partners are actively exploring a range of additional investment opportunities, including an African development platform with a pipeline of 5GW+ of onshore wind and solar PV energy projects and a rural electrification platform in Latin America that will provide electricity to over 1 million people in remote rural areas and with growth potential.

ALTÉRRRA will put in place a Climate Impact Framework to ensure it is driving positive climate transformation towards collective climate objectives, aligning with international best practices to safeguard the vehicle's climate mandate, and ensuring accountability and transparency.



COP28's Food, Agriculture and Water Day secures major commitments to address climate impacts and keep 1.5°C within reach

158 nations commit to taking bold food-based climate action and restoring critical freshwater ecosystems

COP28's Food, Agriculture and Water Day saw major announcements on climate action for both water and food security and decarbonisation, as countries demonstrated their commitment to implement the COP28 UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action (the Declaration).

Mariam bint Mohammed Almheiri, UAE Minister of Climate Change and Environment and COP28 Food Systems Lead, said, "To achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement, to keep 1.5°C within reach, we must address the connection between global food systems, agriculture, and the climate. At COP28, we have built the foundations for action, which commit 152 countries to transform their food systems, and embedding those commitments in their climate strategies, all the while ensuring they are protecting the livelihoods of those who depend on those sectors.

"Together, we must build a global food system that is fit for the future. Today marks an important moment in achieving this."

COP28's Food, Agriculture and Water Day closed the Presidency's two-week thematic programme. The announcements made during the day follow those made during the World Climate Action Summit (WCAS) on 1st December, when 134 countries endorsed the Declaration. Since then, 18 additional countries have stepped forward to endorse it, bringing total signatories to 158.

Reflecting the COP28 UAE's Presidency's commitment to inclusion, the COP28 Food, Agriculture and Water Day involved various non-

There are no healthy food systems without healthy freshwater ecosystems



government stakeholders, who were invited to share their perspectives and insights. This included smallholder and traditional farmers and communities who work at the frontline of food system transformation and employ sustainable practices like agroecology, agroforestry, organic farming, paludiculture, and local freshwater management, among others. Private sector leaders also showcased their work in food innovation, nature-positivity, and procurement.

Key announcements on food systems transformation during Food, Agriculture and

Water Day included:

- **The Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM4Climate)** announced an increase of USD3.4 billion in aggregated funding for climate-smart food systems and agriculture, as well as 27 new innovation sprints. Launched by the UAE and the US at COP26, AIM4Climate has evolved into the largest advocacy and coordination platform for increased investment in dual climate-food investment.
- **Philanthropic funders** announced USD389 million to support food producers and consumers. This funding will help to drive the



ambitious implementation of the objectives that leaders agreed on in the Declaration.

- **Technical Cooperation Collaborative (TCC):** Building on a USD200 million commitment from the COP28 Presidency and a group of international organisations and governments to support the TCC, Italy pledged a further commitment of up to 10 million Euros to be made available over the next two years, and the UK announced a new commitment of GBP45 million over the next five years which will be channeled through the World Bank's Food Systems 2030 Trust Fund.

Commenting on the TCC, Manuel Otero, Director-General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), said, "This is the right response to the multiple crises we face. The greater the crises, the deeper and more effective the cooperation must be." He added that

the transformation of agrifood systems "must be guided by three principles: farmers must be at the center of efforts, decisions must be based on science, and agriculture must play a key role in climate solutions."

Dr. Agnes Kalibata, President of AGRA and member of the COP28 Advisory Committee, said, "African leaders have come to COP28 ready to lead on food systems and climate action, as the impact of climate change is already being felt in countries across the continent. The need is so great that we must best leverage our combined resources and learn from each other to come through on the bold vision of the COP28 UAE Declaration on Agriculture and Food."

Call to Action for Transforming Food Systems for People, Nature, and Climate

Razan Al Mubarak, UN High Level Champion for

Healthy rivers, lakes, and wetlands are the best buffer and insurance against the worsening impacts of climate change



COP28 announced that over 200 diverse non-State actors – including farmers, cities, businesses, financial institutions, civil society and philanthropies – have signed the 'Call to Action for Transforming Food Systems for People, Nature, and Climate', a complement to the Declaration. Signatories have committed to take 10 priority actions to transform food systems. They have also united to call for a set of time-bound, holistic, and global targets by COP29 at the latest, and included commitments to respect and value the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples.

Convergence Initiative on Food Systems and Climate

The UN Deputy Secretary-General, Amina

Mohammed, announced a Convergence Initiative on Food Systems and Climate, which will support countries in their efforts to integrate agriculture and food systems into their climate action plans and help drive momentum towards the objectives of the Declaration. The initiative is supported by the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub in strategic partnership with the COP28 UAE Presidency.

Agrifood Sharm-El Sheikh Support Program

The COP28 UAE Presidency, FAO, the World Bank, CGIAR and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) announced the creation of the Agrifood Sharm-El Sheikh Support Program, a three-year program to facilitate dialogue and

knowledge-sharing amongst global and regional policymakers. The program aims to drive consensus within the UNFCCC process and ultimately enable countries and regions to unlock finance and support for farmers, food producers, small agribusinesses and local communities.

Commenting on the creation of the Agrifood Sharm-El Sheikh Support Program, Ismahane Elouafi, Executive Managing Director, CGIAR, said: "If we act urgently to transform our agrifood systems through the adoption of proven

Urban and peri-urban food systems are integral to achieving climate, nature and health goals



technologies and innovations, we can end hunger for all and grow prosperity within safe planetary boundaries. By pooling our efforts, we can support countries, namely in the Global South, to develop and implement their national pathways based on science and evidence. Together, with science, we can."

COP28 Food-Agri-Climate National Action Toolkit for National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

A taskforce comprised of the FAO, WWF, the NDC Partnership, Climate Focus and the Global Alliance for the Future of Food launched the 'COP28 Food-Agri-Climate National Action

Toolkit for National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)'. Created in collaboration with the German government, the toolkit will provide guiding principles for governments to enhance their climate policy frameworks and represent a vital resource for countries as they implement the Declaration.

Alliance of Champions for Food Systems Transformation (ACF)

A new coalition was formed by Brazil, Cambodia, Norway and Sierra Leone aimed at helping reorient policies, practices and investment priorities to deliver better food systems outcomes for people, nature and climate. Each

country that has formed the ACF pledged to improve their national food systems and build on the progress of the Declaration.

Key water-focused outcomes of the Food, Agriculture and Water Day included:

COP ministerial dialogue on building water-resilient food systems

The COP28 UAE Presidency and Ministers from more than 25 countries convened the first-ever COP ministerial dialogue on building water-resilient food systems, co-convened by the UAE and Brazil.

A two-year partnership was also launched under the UNFCCC to assist countries with integrating water and food into their NDCs and NAP, targeting COP30, noting that agriculture accounts for 70 percent of freshwater consumption.

Water and Climate-Resilient Infrastructure Investment Strategy

USD100 million was announced by Water Equity, raised as part of their Water and Climate-Resilient Infrastructure Investment Strategy. This will seek to leverage impact investments in climate-resilient water infrastructure to enhance the coping capacity for the most vulnerable communities at the urban water system and watershed levels in emerging markets in South and Southeast Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Latin America.

Urban Water Catalyst Initiative (UWCI)

Germany and the Netherlands, together with the EU and other international partners, announced the intention to establish the Urban Water Catalyst Initiative (UWCI) at the UN 2023 Water Conference.

The UWCI focuses on accelerating urban water utility turnarounds worldwide and mobilising finance for performance improvement, climate-resilient infrastructure investment and improving access to underserved population groups.

Freshwater Challenge

The COP28 UAE Presidency and partners announced more than new 30 country members of the Freshwater Challenge, which commits members to work to protect and restore 30



percent of the Earth's degraded freshwater ecosystems by 2030. During the Food, Agriculture and Water Day ministerial, members also committed to progress reviews at the upcoming One Water Summit and Ramsar COP.

The announcements on water build on outcomes from the World Climate Action Summit. The UAE pledged USD150 million in funding for innovation to address water scarcity, and eight Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) announced that they will double the number of people benefitting annually from their technical and financial support on water within three years.

The COP28 Water Agenda is anchored in its partnership with the Netherlands and Tajikistan. It aims to implement the outcomes of the UN 2023 Water Conference.



COP28's Faith Pavilion addresses climate crisis and sustainability

Faith leaders called for innovation and active participation in environmental conservation initiatives to address the climate crisis for future generations

The Faith Pavilion at COP28 hosted several panel sessions that focused on exploring various religious approaches to climate action. Topics ranged from youth engagement and climate concerns to the shared commitment of faith actors to climate justice and exploring climate and sustainability in the Quran and Sunnah.

Participants in the first session, "Exploring Religious Resistance to Climate Action," stressed the urgent need for broad-scale engagement and practical responses to the climate crisis, emphasising the vital role of religious communities. They highlighted the importance of shifting societal mindsets towards environmental preservation from a religious and moral perspective. Additionally, they underscored the need to move away from resource exploitation through mismanagement and political disputes to address climate change repercussions.

They also stressed the importance of considering all religious perspectives and orientations within

societies to realise collaborative climate actions.

Titled "Youth, Climate Anxiety, and the Role of Faith," the second session addressed the significant concerns, particularly among young people and children, regarding climate change and the future of the planet.

Participants highlighted the crucial role of religious leaders and communities in addressing this concern. They called for innovation and active participation in environmental conservation

The events hosted at the Pavilion showcased the role of interfaith dialogue and action on climate change



initiatives to address the climate crisis for future generations. They also emphasised the need to raise religious and cultural awareness among young people regarding environmental protection and the impacts of climate change, encouraging them to devise solutions for tackling this crisis.

In the third session, titled "Call to Action: Joint Commitment of Faith-Based Actors for Climate Justice," participants emphasised the importance of religious leaders in enabling all communities to adapt to climate changes fairly, ensuring they benefit adequately from the transition to

renewable energy sources and the optimal utilisation of natural resources available in many societies, particularly in Africa.

Participants discussed the impact of floods, wildfires, droughts, and hurricanes on their communities. They emphasised the proactive response of religious leaders, which extended beyond simple reconstruction efforts. These leaders, participants pointed out, have made efforts to mitigate climate emergencies by encouraging changes in consumption patterns concerning water, food, and natural resources

within their respective communities.

In the fourth session, Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim Farsi, Senior Grand Researcher at the Islamic Affairs and Charitable Activities Department in Dubai, discussed the theme of 'Sustainability in the Quran and Sunnah'. He highlighted that sustainability in the Quran and Sunnah signifies sustaining the primary sources of the Islamic faith. Dr. Farsi explained that sustainability involves providing for the current generation's needs without compromising the rights of future generations.



The fifth session, titled "A Visual Expression of Humanity's Values," delved into shared human values through topics and initiatives in the field of climate justice. It also addressed gender equality, youth involvement, dietary patterns, and their role in promoting human values and collaboration to protect planet Earth from the impacts of climate change.

Participants emphasised the importance of forging new partnerships and alliances among all communities, especially religious ones, to guide individuals toward shared values and principles that advocate for environmental care and sustainability across all walks of life.

COP28 President congratulates Azerbaijan for hosting COP29

The COP28 Presidency congratulated Azerbaijan for being chosen to host COP29 in 2024.

"We look forward to working together to continue building momentum on climate action, ensuring we keep 1.5°C within reach and leave no one behind," said COP28 President Dr. Sultan bin Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology.

For his part, Mukhtar Babayev, Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan, expressed his gratitude to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat and the UAE for their tireless efforts in organising this exceptional event, noting that the challenges being faced require collective work and dedication in achieving the goals and aspirations agreed upon jointly.

He said that Azerbaijan realises the critical importance of climate change mitigation efforts and that the support of the Parties and the member states of the Eastern European Group have been a decisive factor in Azerbaijan's success in hosting the 29th Conference of the Parties. He affirmed that his country's commitment to sustainability is not just a promise but a reality that is reflected in its national policies and actions.

He noted his country's commitment to forge close cooperation with the UAE and Brazil, the host country of the 30th Conference of the Parties, to ensure a smooth transition and to continue the joint efforts in climate action. "We recognise the importance of the global response to climate change, and through joint initiatives, we aim to accelerate progress towards a sustainable future."

'One Point Five', first metaverse climate newspaper in the Arab world launches at COP28



Khaled Ammar

COP28 witnessed the launch of the "One Point Five", a newspaper dedicated to climate and environmental issues in the metaverse world to shed light on the repercussions of climate change and its impact on the environment.

Sharing details about the newspaper, which integrates virtual reality, metaverse, and artificial intelligence technologies, Khaled Ammar, Founder of the "One Point Five" newspaper, explained that the idea behind the launch of the newspaper is to keep pace with the massive technological advancements in the metaverse world. Additionally, it actively contributes to easing the burden on nature by utilising virtual media.

Ammar, who is also a journalist, lecturer and writer at the International Journalists Network in Washington, added that the newspaper was launched by a group of Egyptian journalists, featuring a virtual studio, an editorial hall,

meeting and lecture rooms, and a training centre. Through these facilities, they work to provide live models of nature, reducing physical visits to reserves and forests by allowing virtual exploration.

Ammar emphasised that achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement and maintaining the possibility of avoiding a temperature increase above 1.5 degrees Celsius requires launching numerous effective initiatives based on technological advancements such as artificial intelligence and the metaverse.

He believes that utilising metaverse technologies may help mitigate global warming, contribute to temperature reduction, and decrease heat emissions and energy consumption. This involves a greater reliance on virtual technologies, providing remote communication, conducting field visits, and working remotely without needing transportation and air travel.



COP28 and International Energy Agency reaffirm 1.5°C-aligned energy transition

Over 40 Heads of State, Ministers and business leaders from Europe, the Americas, Africa, and Asia were part of the High-Level Dialogues series at COP28

The COP28 Presidency and the International Energy Agency (IEA) High-Level Dialogues concluded with strong consensus on the key elements needed for the energy transition.

The fifth and final Dialogue held during COP28 was attended by over 40 high-level leaders, including Heads of State and Government, Heads of Delegation and business leaders. It marks a significant achievement for the co-Chairs, COP28 President Dr. Sultan Al Jaber and Dr. Fatih Birol, Executive Director of the IEA.

The Dialogues concluded with clear convergence on the building blocks of a 1.5°C-aligned energy transition and strong support for an ambitious decision on the Global Stocktake at COP28.

Dr. Birol set out an ambitious and integrated package across five pillars for COP28, for which there was strong support in the room:

- Tripling global renewable energy generation capacity by 2030
- Doubling annual energy efficiency improvements by 2030

- An orderly decline of fossil fuel use demand by 2030, starting with no new coal plants
- Commitment from the oil and gas industry to align their strategies and investment portfolios with 1.5°C, with a focus on a 75 percent reduction in methane emissions by 2030
- Financing mechanisms for a major scaling-up of clean energy investment in emerging and developing economies

At the conclusion of the Dialogues, Dr. Sultan Al Jaber said: “This series of dialogues has allowed

industry to meaningfully commit to clean energy transitions, for a massive increase in financing for developing economies, and for an orderly decline of fossil fuel use.”

Attendees highlighted the strong support for the COP28 Presidency’s Global Renewables and Energy Efficiency Pledge, which has been signed by 130 countries. There was broad agreement on the need for urgent action on coal, not only against new unabated coal plants, but also on accelerating the retirement of existing plants. There was also acknowledgement that countries



us to converge on the critical elements of the just energy transition. The transition will not be straightforward, but it will be harder if we cannot agree on its central components. Simply put, to deliver the highest possible ambitious response to the Global Stocktake, we must work together.”

Dr. Birol commented: “I’m encouraged by the support by governments around the world during the dialogue for the IEA’s five pillars for success at COP28, including the need by 2030 for tripling renewable capacity, for doubling energy efficiency improvements, for the oil and gas

must seize the opportunity to develop and accelerate their own energy transition plans, while supporting developing countries with finance and technology transfer. Initiatives such as Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JETPs) were highlighted as an effective mechanism for enabling a just and orderly energy transition that supports developing countries.

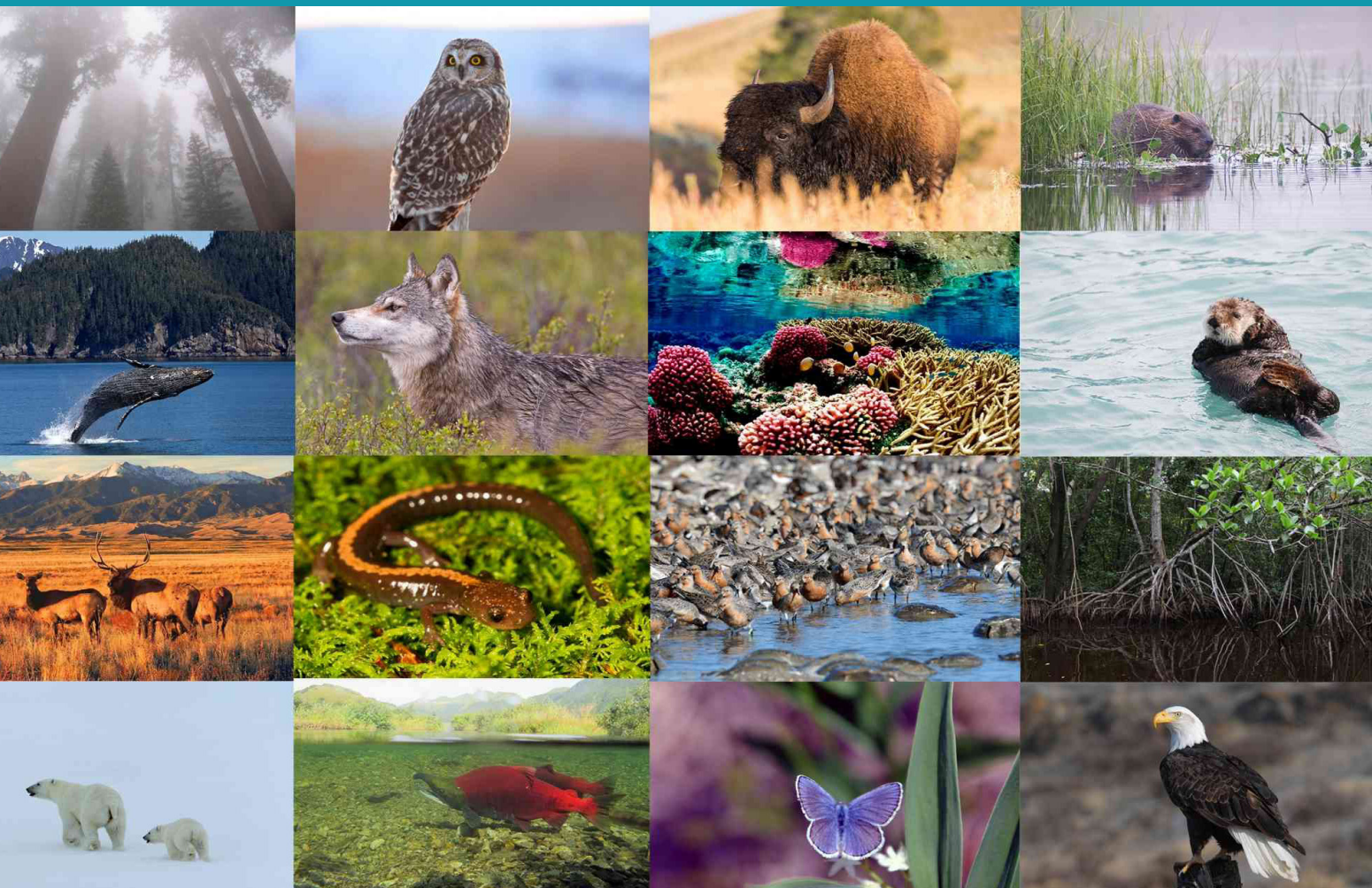
During the dialogue, world leaders displayed significant ambition to achieve concrete targets and accelerate deployment of renewable capacity and improve energy efficiency.

COP28 recognises crucial role of nature, ecosystems in climate action

Nature-based solutions were included in a COP cover decision for the first time

In a pivotal development at the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28), the Global Stocktake on December 13 emphasized the critical role of nature and ecosystems in the global strategy against climate change. This landmark decision has been a significant turning point in the inclusion of biodiversity and natural environments in climate action discussions.

The decision marks a pivotal moment, solidifying a global consensus on the integral role of nature in climate action. It underscores the need to harness the inherent power of ecosystems, such as forests, oceans, mountains, and the cryosphere, in mitigating climate impacts and enhancing resilience. This approach aligns with the concept of 'living in harmony with nature', a principle deeply rooted in the practices and beliefs of Indigenous Peoples and local communities worldwide.



Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak, the UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP28 emphasised, "COP28 has been instrumental in cementing the role of nature in our climate change discourse. The inclusion of nature in the outcomes of the Global Stocktake is not only a testament to our collective understanding of nature's dual role as a victim and a vital solution to climate change but also signals a major shift towards embracing and actioning nature-based solutions. By protecting, conserving, and restoring our natural ecosystems, we are taking a decisive step towards a sustainable and resilient future."

Adding to this, Grethel Aguilar, IUCN's Director General, stated: "IUCN welcomes the strong recognition of the contribution of nature in the formal outcomes of the Global Stocktake. We believe that alongside a rapid and just energy transition, investing in healthy ecosystems and nature-based solutions is critical to keeping the 1.5°C goal alive. Nature will deliver powerful adaptation and mitigation benefits provided we take ambitious action towards decarbonizing our economies and societies."

The Global Stocktake also referenced the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, emphasizing the importance of conserving biodiversity and ensuring social and environmental safeguards. This acknowledgment reinforces the need for enhanced support and investment in halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030, in line with the Paris Agreement and the objectives of the Kunming-Montreal Framework.

Manuel Pulgar-Vidal, former COP20 President and the Champion for the Action Agenda for Nature as part of the Convention on Biological Diversity, remarked: "The Global Stocktake's integration of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is a momentous step in recognizing the inseparable bond between biodiversity and climate health. As the former

Nations agree to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 and make a commitment to sustainably manage and conserve the high seas



COP President and Champion for the Action Agenda for Nature, I see this as a pivotal alignment in our global efforts to address the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss, driving forward a whole of society agenda that respects

and harnesses the power of nature in our climate action strategies."

The Stocktake acknowledges the urgent need to address climate change and biodiversity loss in tandem, aligning these efforts with the Sustainable Development Goals. It highlights the vital importance of nature and ecosystems in effective and sustainable climate action.

This Global Stocktake notably aligns with the COP28 Joint Statement on Nature, Climate and

*The Global Stocktake
highlights the vital
importance of nature and
ecosystems in effective and
sustainable climate action*



People, a landmark joint declaration by the United Arab Emirates, in its role as the UNFCCC COP28 Presidency, and the People's Republic of China, serving as the CBD COP15 Presidency.

This collaborative statement, signed by 18 countries, highlights the urgent need to address the intertwined challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, and land degradation. It underscores the profound risks these issues pose to ecosystems and livelihoods across the globe, reaffirming commitments to integrated approaches across key international frameworks. Focused on sustainable land and ocean management, the Statement stresses these as crucial factors in bolstering climate resilience

and promoting sustainable development. This partnership exemplifies a united front, reinforcing our global determination to enhance the effectiveness of climate action through robust partnerships and coalitions.

Further, the decision emphasizes the conservation, protection, and restoration of nature and ecosystems, including through efforts to halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation by 2030. It also recognizes the role of terrestrial and marine ecosystems as carbon sinks and reservoirs and the importance of conserving biodiversity.

In addition, the decision invites Parties to



preserve and restore oceans and coastal ecosystems and to scale up ocean-based mitigation actions where appropriate. This reflects a growing awareness of the oceans' role in climate regulation and the need to protect marine biodiversity.

This decision represents a significant step in integrating nature-based solutions into global climate action, reflecting a growing understanding of the interdependence of ecological health and climate stability.

On December 2, at the start of the COP28 World Climate Action Summit, Razan Al Mubarak announced a groundbreaking financial commitment of USD2.5 billion in Nature Conservation Finance. This funding is a testament to the global community's dedication to integrating nature conservation with climate

action strategies, focusing on the preservation and restoration of forests, mangroves, land, and ocean ecosystems. As part of this, the UAE pledged USD100 million in new finance for nature-climate projects. This pledge includes an initial USD30 million investment in Ghana's 'Resilient Ghana' plan, highlighting the UAE's commitment to championing nature-based solutions for climate resilience and biodiversity preservation.



Asia showcases rapid green transition at COP28, raises voice for developing countries

Power generation from renewable sources reached 2.33 trillion kilowatt-hours in China during the first 10 months of 2023

Major Asian economic powerhouses led by the giants – China, Japan and India – have highlighted their rapid green transition at COP28, the UN Climate Conference that recently concluded in Dubai. They have also raised strong voice for all developing countries across the world on their legitimate demands for global support for their green transition.

China's voice for developing countries

Chinese Vice-Premier Ding Xuexiang, while addressing the World Climate Action Summit at COP28, called on the developed countries to beef up financial, technological and capacity-building support to the developing nations to fight climate change.

China is ready to work closely with other developing countries to build a green and low-carbon future, Ding, who is President Xi Jinping's special representative, said in his speech at the Group of 77 and China Leaders' Summit on the



sidelines of COP28.

In recent years, China has prudently promoted the targets of peaking carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and realizing carbon neutrality before 2060, Ding stressed.

Chinese news agency *Xinhua* reported in December 2023 that China's total installed capacity of renewable energy had risen to 20.8 percent year-on-year to top 1.4 billion kilowatts at the end of October. The figure accounted for 49.9 percent of the country's total installed power generation capacity. The country's installed capacity of renewable energy was also expected to exceed 1.45 billion kilowatts at the end of 2023. Power generation from renewable sources reached 2.33 trillion kilowatt-hours in China during the first 10 months of 2023.

India champions Global South's climate cause

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while addressing a COP28 session on climate finance, championed the cause of the Global South. Climate finance and technology are essential to meet the aspirations of the Global South, Modi noted. The countries of the Global South expect the developed countries to help them as much as possible to combat climate change.

Talking at COP28, Bhupender Yadav, Indian Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, highlighted India's endeavour to decouple economic growth from greenhouse gas emissions. India has successfully reduced the emission intensity in relation to its GDP by 33 percent between 2005 and 2019, thus achieving the initial Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) target for 2030, 11 years ahead of schedule.

India has also achieved 40 percent of electric installed capacity through non-fossil fuel sources, nine years ahead of the target for 2030. Between 2017 and 2023, India has added around

100 gigawatt (GW) of installed electric capacity, of which around 80 percent is attributed to non-fossil fuel-based resources, Yadav said.

Japan's accelerated green transition

Japanese Prime Minister Kishida Fumio announced at COP28 that Japan will accelerate Green Transformation (GX) through initiatives including the implementation of the growth-



oriented carbon pricing concept and the issuance of the world's first national transition bonds with international certification, and thereby Japan will contribute to global decarbonisation.

The Prime Minister also expressed his strong determination to lead decarbonisation efforts in Asia, which currently accounts for half of the world's emissions, by fully utilizing Japan's financial and technological capabilities.

Prime Minister Kishida further announced that Japan's commitment to mobilise up to approximately USD70 billion climate finance from both public and private is also on track. Japan is ready to contribute to the expansion of

lending capacity totalling approximately USD9 billion through the provision of credit enhancements to the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, as well as to contribute to the new fund of the African Development Bank, he added.

South Korea bridges Global South and North

At COP28, South Korea played its part in bridging the gap between developed and developing nations, according to Han Wha-jin, Minister of

Following the adoption of the Paris Agreement, the Republic of Korea made a commitment to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050



Environment of Republic of Korea. Following the adoption of the Paris Agreement, the Republic of Korea made a commitment to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 and set a goal of a 40 percent emissions reduction by 2030 from 2018 levels, she said.

Korea is actively participating in various international partnerships, fulfilling its role in carbon mitigation, and leveraging the worldwide push towards net-zero, the minister explained. On the finance front, South Korea has pledged to contribute an additional USD300 million to the Green Climate Fund at the G20 Summit and committed to supporting the Adaptation Fund, she noted.

Indonesia's call for South-South cooperation

Indonesian President Joko Widodo called for strengthening South-South cooperation at COP28.

"Through the South-South cooperation framework, Indonesia has provided climate management training for Africa, South Asia, Latin America, Caribbean and Pacific regions," he said.

President Widodo stressed that developing countries should be part of the solution to climate change.



Latin America and the Caribbean boost climate change adaptation plans at COP28

C O P 2 8

Delegations representing Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) at COP28, a diverse region encompassing giants like Brazil and small island states, sent out a clear message that climate change adaptation plans must be bolstered.

The region boasts vast areas vulnerable to climate change, particularly indigenous and local communities who are already facing displacement and hardship due to the climate crisis and insufficient adaptation measures. LAC nations leveraged COP28 to demand improved accessibility and availability of resources allocated to climate funds to help communities adapt to increasingly severe challenges.

They also called for climate justice, arguing that industrialised nations must fulfil their financial commitments to ensure that the most vulnerable regions of the Global South, which contribute only 11 percent of global historical emissions, do not continue to suffer disproportionately.

One of COP28's key outcomes is the commitment to tripling installed renewable energy capacity by 2030. The LAC region stands poised to play a significant role in this endeavour.

Notably, out of the 20 countries worldwide with over 70 percent renewable energy in their energy mix, 12 are located in Latin America and the Caribbean. Paraguay, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Uruguay, El Salvador, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, Brazil, Belize, Nicaragua, and Guatemala all harness hydro, wind, and solar resources to generate electricity.

However, the region remains firm in its commitment to protecting its abundant biodiversity and natural landscapes.

These resources play a crucial role in mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and achieving the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

COP28 delivers lasting legacy for youth inclusion

Around one billion children worldwide are currently at extreme high risk from the impacts of climate change

The COP28 Presidency delivered a lasting legacy for youth inclusion in climate decision-making, with the announcement that the role of the Presidency Youth Climate Champion (YCC) will be carried forward to future COPs. Parties have agreed in the official COP28 negotiated text to institutionalise the role of the YCC within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process. This mandates all future COP Presidencies to facilitate the meaningful participation and representation of youth in future COPs.

COP28 was the first COP to appoint an official YCC, Shamma bint Suhail Faris Al Mazrouei, who was previously the youngest minister in the world at the age of 22. She now serves as the UAE's Minister of Community Development.

"The UAE has become the birthplace of the role of the first ever COP Youth Climate Champion,



carrying forward the nation's rich legacy in empowering youth to a global level," said Al Mazrouei. "COP28 has been a groundbreaking COP for youth inclusion, with unprecedented initiatives that have put children and young people at the heart of the climate action process. We have delivered transformative change that will stand as a lasting legacy for future COPs."

Around one billion children worldwide are currently at extreme high risk from the impacts of climate change. While many young people are already leading climate action across the globe, they still have limited input into climate policymaking.

COP28 featured programming and a series of notable initiatives focused on youth inclusion in the climate process. This included the Dubai Youth Dialogue Forum, the most extensive platform to date for direct discussion on climate between youth and governments, and a dedicated Youth, Children, Education and Skills Day, which brought children, youth, and educators to the centre of the COP process.

COP28 also featured the official launch of the Youth Stocktake Report by YOUNGO, the Official Children and Youth Constituency of the UNFCCC, with support from the Youth Climate Champion. It represents the first-ever comprehensive analysis of youth engagement in the UNFCCC process and provides a roadmap to enhance youth inclusion moving forward.

The COP28 Youth Climate Delegates Programme has been the largest initiative to-date to expand youth participation in the COP process, with 110 young people from around the world being empowered to drive climate action in their communities and join the COP.

The delegates received comprehensive capacity-building and full funding to participate in COP28. This enabled them to contribute to the negotiation

process and establish a pioneering model for inclusion at COP for youth from small island developing states, least-developed countries, Indigenous and conflict-affected communities, and youth with disabilities.



The UAE remains committed to supporting the formalisation of the Youth Climate Champion role throughout the year to ensure that strong support of youth inclusion is guaranteed at future COPs. The current YCC and COP28 Presidency teams are currently seeking sustainable external funding for the role to avoid any need for Party-negotiated finance.



Outputs of COP28 and “historic” deal make international headlines

“It is the first time a global climate deal has specifically called to curb the use of fossil fuels.”

- *Washington Post*

The outputs of COP28 and the “historic” deal hit the headlines across the world shortly after The UAE Consensus was announced.

Under the title 'France Calls Dubai Deal A Victory On Climate And Nuclear', *AFP (Agence France Presse)* said: “France on Wednesday said a climate agreement reached at COP28 was a victory including for its endorsement of nuclear power, of which Paris is a major advocate.”

AFP quoted the French Energy Minister Agnes Pannier-Runacher: “The COP28 agreement that has just been adopted is a victory for multilateralism and climate diplomacy”.

“COP28 President announces approval of historic climate deal”, wrote *Xinhua News Agency*, noting China's appreciation of the UAE's efforts in preparing for the climate conference.

Al Arabiya mentioned that when the COP28 President “announced the successful consensus, he was given a standing ovation as several countries cheered the deal for accomplishing

something that has never happened in decades of climate talks”.

Washington Post called the deal “a breakthrough climate agreement”.

“The deal came swiftly – with no discussion or objection – in a packed room in Dubai following two weeks of negotiations and rising contention. It is the first time a global climate deal has specifically called to curb the use of fossil fuels,” *Washington Post* said.

“The COP28 agreement that has just been adopted is a victory for multilateralism and climate diplomacy.”

- AFP, quoting the French Energy Minister



India Today's story titled “COP28 deal: All you need to know about the landmark decision at Dubai summit” said that the deal is a pivotal moment signalling the potential end of the oil age.

Euronews called the deal a significant step, adding that “Negotiators at United Nations COP28 climate talks agreed Wednesday the world must transition away from planet-warming fossil fuels, a significant step toward shifting how the world is powered.”

In the story under the title “Dubai climate talks: What did they achieve?” *Deutsche Welle*

mentioned that this year's climate conference “started off on a high”.

“Delegates from more than 190 countries officially launched a Loss and Damage Fund on the first day of the talks,” *Deutsche Welle* mentioned. The story also highlights several other initiatives that were announced or advanced during COP28, such as the pledge to double energy efficiency and triple the world's installed renewable energy capacity by 2030 and the 2021 Global Methane Pledge.



COP28 Changemakers Majlis discusses challenges and solutions to tackle food security

**Participants call on
countries to form alliances
to pursue common goals of
food system transformation**

The 15th UAE Changemakers Majlis at the 28th UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) delved into the intersection of climate change, food security, and access to water, discussing the challenges and solutions for sustainable agriculture.

Kaltham Kayaf, Director of Animal Development and Health Department at the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, kickstarted the discussion and shared some of the key focus areas of the Majlis which included, food shortages, tech solutions, waste management, and Net Zero food systems.

The discussion underpinned the need for innovative technologies to strengthen agricultural transformation and optimise supply chains, while addressing considerations on the journey toward achieving Net Zero emissions in the food sector.

Global food systems are responsible for a third of emissions, only second to the energy sector. Fast-tracking agricultural transformation is the

need of the hour and to achieve that the Majlis participants said agricultural techniques should draw on vertical farming, rainwater capture, land and soil mapping and other technologies including digital and AI solutions.

The need for international cooperation was stressed in ensuring the protection of small farmers and the participants also called for learning from indigenous practices to promote sustainable agriculture by turning to traditional wisdom and reviving some of the organic

'The agriculture sector needs more technology interventions to feed the growing global population'



techniques to prolong the shelf-life of perishable foods. The role of regenerative farming was also stressed and how such practices could build more resilience in the sector.

Policies and strategies must be cognizant of the situation on the ground and consider the needs of the farming community, including nature-based solutions to address some of the current challenges. The Majlis noted that innovation and research will help find solutions to build climate-resilient agricultural systems.

Kaltham Kayaf noted that the Agriculture

Innovation Mission for Climate, launched by the UAE in partnership with the US has committed to investing more than USD 17 billion in climate-smart agriculture and food systems to improve agriculture and food security.

The frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, shifting precipitation patterns, and rising temperatures threaten food production and water availability in many regions. Ensuring access to healthy, locally produced food is vital, and technology can play a key role in supporting sustainable food sources.



COP28 connects climate-tech ecosystem to drive innovation and inspire climate action

COP Connect brought together climate-tech start-ups, innovators, entrepreneurs, venture capitalists, accelerators, NGOs, government officials, academics and corporate leaders, to connect and collaborate

The COP28 Presidency had curated a series of 'after-hours' networking events throughout the conference to drive climate-tech innovation and bring together ecosystem players to form meaningful partnerships and inspire positive climate action.

The COP Connect series featured influential thought leaders, innovators and entrepreneurs and promoted a collective call to action by facilitating collaborations and partnerships.

In total, 600 people attended the COP Connect events, with attendees including climate-tech start-ups, entrepreneurs, venture capitalists, accelerators, NGOs, government officials, academics and corporate leaders. The cross-disciplinary nature of the events has enabled stakeholders from across the ecosystem to explore potential investment opportunities, share research based learnings, and discuss policy design and implementation.

"Inclusion underpins the COP28 Presidency

agenda. The COP Connect platform has facilitated dialogue between emerging climate start-ups who have the solutions to tackle climate issues, and the investment community that can take those solutions to the scale required,” said Adnan Amin, CEO of COP28. “We look forward to seeing this inclusive approach being taken forward at future COPs to continue driving innovation and building the climate-tech ecosystem.”

The first COP Connect was held on 2 December, under the theme of ‘Connect to Scale Climate

The COP Connect series is part of COP28’s Tech & Entrepreneurship strategic program



Solutions’ and hosted by Princeville Capital.

Emmanuel DeSousa, Co-founder & Managing Partner, Princeville Capital, said: “This event was a great opportunity to stimulate investment and strengthen communications, especially supporting the growth of climate technology innovations in the Global South.”

On 3 December, the second COP Connect event, “Connecting Changemakers - Building the World of Tomorrow,” was hosted by C3 – Companies Creating Change.

“The C3 x COP Connect Mixer was a dynamic gathering that brought together founders, investors, experts, and corporates from our diverse ecosystem,” said Medea Nocentini, Founder of C3.

“The event was an excellent platform to foster positive change through the lens of impact entrepreneurship. Together, and through the COP28 platform, we aim to continue contributing significantly to the journey towards a more socially and environmentally sustainable world, cultivating a better future for our planet.”

The third event was held on 5 December, with the theme of 'Celebrating the Climate Heroes We Need' and hosted by New Energy Nexus and the Innovate for Climate Tech coalition members, in the presence of Adnan Amin, Chief Executive Officer of COP28.

"Climate entrepreneurs both big and small, from the South and North, are going to be critical to solving some of the biggest challenges in the global clean energy transition," said Danny Kennedy, CEO at New Energy Nexus. "That's why

December, under the theme of 'Unlocking Investments for Youth-Driven Innovation Towards Climate-Smart Sustainable Food Systems' and hosted by AGRA in collaboration with the World Farmer's Organization.

Agnes Kalibata President of AGRA, said: "This networking event brought together young agripreneurs, investors, and policymakers dedicated to shaping an inclusive climate-smart future of agriculture. The event offered an arena where bright young minds in agriculture can



we need everyone from philanthropy through to the private sector to join us to deploy and scale climate tech solutions."

On 6 December, global leading data and artificial intelligence consulting company Artefact hosted the fourth event, under the theme of 'AI for Sustainability and Climate.'

Vincent Luciani, Global CEO & Cofounder of Artefact, said: "Connecting startups, corporates, NGOs and governments to create collaboration is key to promoting AI as a catalyst for sustainability across the Global North and South."

The final COP Connect event was held on 9

converge to unlock new financing streams, which is crucial for seeding the early stages of regenerative and sustainable ventures

The COP Connect series is part of COP28's Tech & Entrepreneurship strategic program, which has delivered a number of key initiatives.

These include the Innovate for Climate Tech Coalition, a climate coalition to drive global climate technology ecosystems, more than 60 hours of technology-related sessions in the Technology and Innovation Hub, the Climate Innovation Forum, and the NEX COP28 Climate Tech Startup Accelerator.



Dubai Investments highlights sustainable products and projects at COP28

C O P 2 8

Dubai Investments reiterated its commitment to sustainability and climate action at the 28th UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai with its presence at the Climate Finance Hub within the Green Zone.

As a Climate Support Sponsor, Dubai Investments highlighted its strong alignment with UAE's Vision 2031 and the Sustainable Development Goals at COP28.

The company's resolute dedication to sustainability in 2022 was highlighted through its achievements that include a commendable 32 percent decrease in total Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, an impressive 61 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions intensity, and a robust 55.3 percent recycling or reuse rate of water resources.

Dubai Investments' subsidiaries have spearheaded transformative initiatives in various sectors which involve innovation in building material companies.

The Group's building material entities have introduced innovative, green products that promote sustainable construction practices, including energy-efficient materials and solutions.

Initiatives like low-emissivity, solar-powered glass and insulation materials have been pivotal in promoting sustainable building designs and energy efficiency across UAE projects and supporting green infrastructure integration. The transition to electric vehicles by many of the Group's companies contributes to the company's efforts to reduce its carbon footprint.

Through innovative water recycling initiatives, the Group's subsidiaries have recycled and reused water, significantly conserving this critical resource. The Group's integrated mixed-use development, Dubai Investments Park completed a large-scale LED streetlight retrofit project, saving 700,000 kWh of energy annually.

‘The World Painting’ sends a human message of protection for planet Earth at COP28

The breathtaking artwork showcases human stories and conveys powerful messages aimed at protecting planet Earth from the devastating impacts of climate change

A vibrant painting, spanning four meters in length, took pride of place in the Blue Zone of the COP28 conference. This breathtaking artwork, titled "World Painting," showcases human stories and conveys powerful messages aimed at protecting planet Earth from the devastating impacts of climate change.

The painting captivated dozens of COP28 participants, showcasing harmony in its components. It merges the enchantment of art across different genres and schools into one powerful entity, serving as an appeal for tolerance, love, and peace among all Earth's peoples.

Originally crafted during Expo 2020 Dubai, the painting served as a beacon of hope and inspiration at COP28. Its diverse illustrations depict a vibrant harmony, evoking patterns and colourful lines that define the boundaries of characters, phrases, and inspiring quotes distributed across its surface. Some phrases, like "Expo 2020 Dubai brings us together", are written in Arabic, blending expression through



words and imagery in a masterful artistic design.

The painting's borders, encapsulating a common thread of "peace and love," feature an image of the UAE's Founding Father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. He stands proudly in the heart of the ancient desert, a testament to the country's commitment to promoting tolerance, goodness, and peace for all.

Furthermore, the painting is adorned with the renowned logo of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin

The unique project involved over 2,070 individuals from more than 200 countries, including 52 Emiratis



Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. His motto, "Victory, Triumph, Love", forms a central and essential element within the painting, encapsulating the noblest human meanings.

Beksultan Nurgali, the Kazakhstani artist behind the concept of the World Painting, shared details of the unique project, which involved over 2,070 individuals from more than 200 countries, including 52 Emiratis.

Nurgali explained, "The World Painting is a global social art project that unified the world through

art. It's a one-of-a-kind painting involving individuals from all corners of the Earth, including Hollywood actors, directors, prominent musicians, global sports stars, and public figures."

"The idea for the World Painting originated from cinematographer Daut Shaikhislam, within the heart of the Kazakhstan Pavilion at Expo Dubai," Nurgali revealed. "It coincided with the exhibition's commencement and was initially showcased at Al Wasl Plaza, unifying the Earth under one dome."

ICBA launches Millet Demo Farm to advance climate-smart agriculture

The purpose of the Millet Demo Farm is to promote the production and consumption of millets in the MENA and other regions through technology transfer and capacity development

The International Centre for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA) launched a Millet Demo Farm on the sidelines of COP28 to contribute to the objectives of the International Year of Millets and the goals of the climate conference related to climate action, sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition.

Established in collaboration with SELCO Foundation, the Millet Demo Farm is designed to showcase the whole value chain for millets - from seed production to consumption - and raise awareness about its benefits for climate change adaptation in agriculture.

Dr. Tarifa Alzaabi, Director-General of ICBA, said, "As we work towards more sustainable and resilient agrifood systems, we must embrace neglected and underutilised crops such as millets.

"Not only are they climate-smart but are also nutrient-dense. So, millets can be a powerful tool in our efforts to adapt agrifood systems to climate change and improve food security and



nutrition. But we must conduct applied research studies and scale up innovations to achieve a lasting impact.”

Nirmita Chandrashekar, Senior Program Manager at SELCO Foundation, said, “It is critical that we look at the entire MENA region when adopting decentralised and sustainable clean energy-driven processing at the farm gate for smallholding farmers.”

The launch was attended by over 40 delegates, including officials from the UAE Ministry of

For more than two decades, ICBA has been at the forefront of research and development on climate-resilient and nutritious crops suited to arid and salt-affected environments, having identified and introduced a range of stress-resistant crops like quinoa, sorghum, pearl millet, and Salicornia in various locations.

The centre operates a unique gene bank with over 16,000 accessions of around 300 drought-, heat- and salt-tolerant plant species, including millets, from more than 150 countries and territories.



Climate Change and Environment and FAO. Participants learned about ongoing millet trials at ICBA's research station and post-harvest processing machines and tasted a variety of millet-based dishes.

The millets and technologies presented at the Millet Demo Farm are a result of ICBA's extensive research and collaboration with different partners. The purpose is to promote the production and consumption of millets in the MENA and other regions through technology transfer and capacity development.

This collection also includes around 270 accessions of 70 wild and cultivated plant species from the UAE; about 5,000 accessions of barley, which is one of the largest in the Middle East; as well as more than 1,300 accessions of quinoa, which is the largest of its kind outside South America.

To date, the centre has distributed over 1,700 samples of millet germplasm to partners in 29 countries. The centre has also studied millet cultivation in Morocco, Togo, Tunisia, The Gambia, and Uzbekistan.

Word Scramble

NECAL ITGNEA SIULSBENAAT GAOLBL UINYT
CAABLDEN TIDE ATDSREEOINTF ERFTSSO
RWREASFEHT

60

ANSWERS: 1) Balanced diet 2) Deforestation 3) Global 4) Unity 5) Clean eating 6) Freshwater 7) Sustainable 8) Forests

Word Search

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

LUSH
PURE
FAUNA
JUNGLE
FORESTS
CLEAR
MINERALS
FIRE
RAINFOREST
AFFORESTATION
FLORA
AMAZONIAN
WILD
GREENERY
WATER
SEA
OCEAN

Crossword Puzzle



Across

3. Continuous movement of water between earth and its atmosphere
6. When organisms change their features or behaviour to camouflage into their habitat
7. Large material or artificial lake
8. The saltiness of a body of water
10. Reestablishing a forest by planting or seeding an area from which forest vegetation has been removed

Down

1. Trees that lose their leaves seasonally
2. Water found underneath the earth's surface
4. A large mass of ice moving over land
5. Animals that hunt prey
9. Areas of land that are flooded with water for part of the year

1) Deciduous 2) groundwater 3) water cycle 4) glacier 5) predators 6) adaptation 7) reservoir 8) salinity 9) wetlands 10) reforestation



WORD OF THE DAY:

SUSTAINABLE CITY

A sustainable city is one that is able to take care of its people for a long time. To do so, it needs to be able to face the challenges of the future. Can it provide food, housing, and electricity for a growing population without harming the planet? How can it adapt to the a rapidly changing climate?

How Can We Build A Sustainable City?

1. Clean Energy

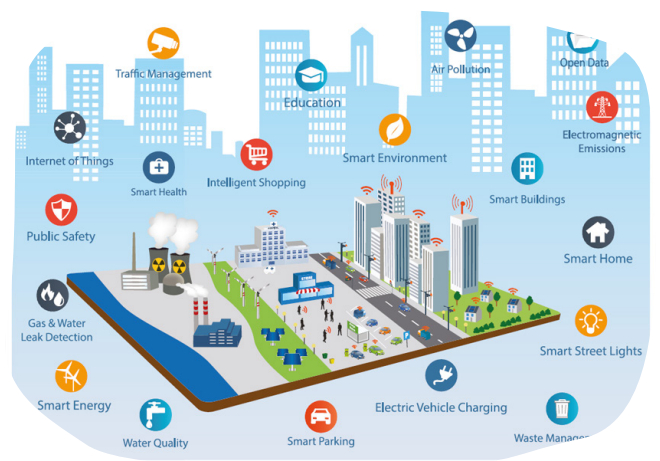
Cities use a lot of power. Today, they use almost 80% of the world's energy, most of which comes from burning fossil fuels. This is not sustainable in the long run as fossil fuels are not renewable – meaning they are a finite resource. Most importantly, they threaten the health and future of our planet by contributing to climate change. To make cities sustainable, we need to power them with clean energy such as solar and wind energy. These energy sources are renewable, which means that they will never run out.

2. Green Buildings

As the urban population grows larger, cities need more homes, facilities, and work spaces to accommodate everyone. It is important that we build them in a way that reduces their impact on the environment. One way to do so is to build them with materials that are environmentally friendly. We can also design them to be more energy-efficient. Low-flow toilets, for example, can save water, while a “cool roof” that absorbs less heat can save energy by naturally keeping the building cool.

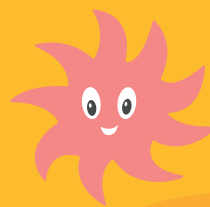
3. City Farming

You may have heard of rooftop farms and vertical farms – they are both examples of city or urban farming. A city may not have space for big farms, but it will likely have pockets of green spaces. City farming is the use of these spaces to grow produce and even raise small animals such as chickens. While we cannot rely on them to feed an entire city, tiny farms are a great source of food for small communities and neighbourhoods.



4. Waste Management

Waste management is a big problem in the world today. According to experts, we dump at least 2 billion tons of waste globally each year. Through recycling, reducing and reusing, cities can prevent waste from ending up in landfills. In San Francisco, for example, recycling and composting laws have helped the city cut 80% of its waste!



NATIONAL BIRD DAY - JAN 5

Birds have always held special place in our hearts, which is why we celebrate them on National Bird Day every January 5! While birds are amazing, they're also a massive animal group under particular threat. And the phrase “canary in the coal mine” was named after birds for a reason—they're the barometers of our planet's environmental health. The fact that so many bird species are under threat thanks to the illegal pet trade, disease, and habitat loss means it's more important than ever to raise public awareness of the needs of birds. The survival of hundreds of species depends on it!

Whether they're your backyard's star cardinal or the common pigeons that flock to and fro in the park, birds have always held a spot of fascination, love, and adoration in our hearts. There's a certain awe that can only be tapped into when watching an eagle soar.

Unfortunately, most birds are either endangered or protected, this is mostly due to

habitat loss or illegal pet trade. That's why the Avian Welfare Coalition created National Bird Day: to raise awareness of the hardships and plights of these important animals and how we can initiate the change needed to create a healthier, more sustainable relationship with them.

Birds are often considered living links to the past, being the closest-related animals to the evolution of dinosaurs. They're often keystone species in the ecosystems, signifiers of its health and vitality. For example, the holes left behind by woodpeckers are often used as homes for a large variety of other animals. That means if woodpeckers were to run out of a food source – or out of the right kinds of trees – so, too, would all the animals dependent on their pecking skills.



zebra, plains zebra, and the mountain zebra. Although the Grévy's zebra, found in the northern regions of Kenya and are extremely rare, they are an endangered variety having suffered a loss of more than 54% of its total population. The loss has occurred rapidly in the last three decades because of zebras being poached for their hides and pelts.

JAN
31

INTERNATIONAL ZEBRA DAY

International Zebra Day takes place every year on January 31 and exists for one purpose; to raise conservation efforts for these amazing, yet endangered Zebra.

With their natural environment diminishing and increasing human development, these gentle animals are in danger. When habitats are threatened, animals, too, become endangered. International Zebra Day is all about raising awareness and what you can do to help in the conservation of this animal. Zebras are mostly found on the African continent, in the semi-desert areas of Kenya and Ethiopia, and the hilly areas of Namibia, Angola, and South Africa.

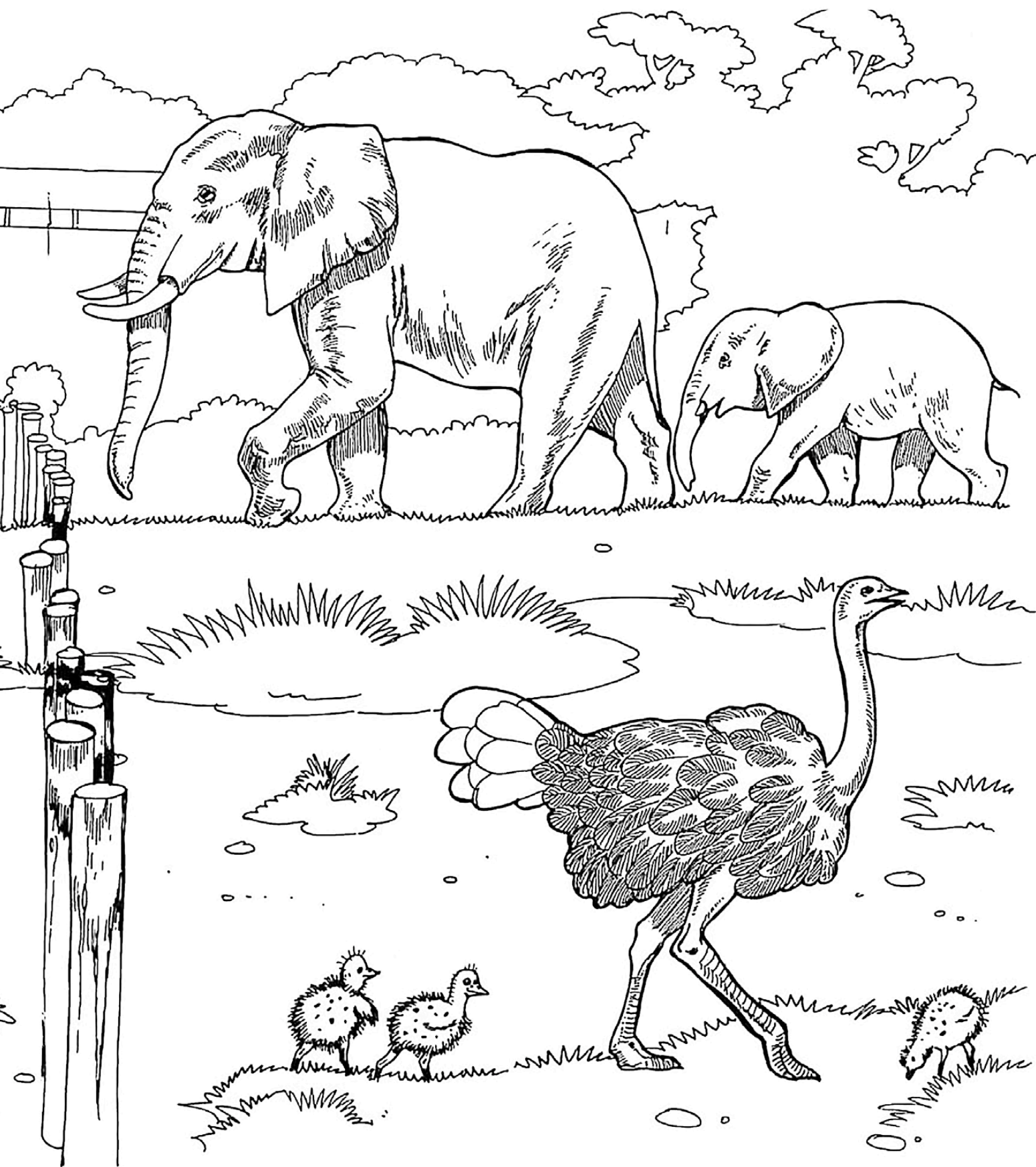
Presently, three types of zebra can be found in the wild. They are the Grévy's

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

Things to Do...

- ☒ Ride your cycle around! _ _ _ _ _
- ☒ Turn off all appliances when not in use! _ _ _ _ _
- ☒ Swap plastic water bottles with aluminium! _ _ _ _ _
- ☒ Use rechargeable batteries for your toys! _ _ _ _ _
- ☒ Ditch plastic straws! _ _ _ _ _

COLOUR ME!





Dubai Municipality announces 7 agreements, launches 10 strategic projects during COP28

C O P 2 8

Dubai Municipality concluded its participation at COP28 after signing more than seven agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs), as well as making sustainable pledges to enhance Dubai's contribution to global climate action.

Dubai Municipality was a Strategic Pathway Partner at COP28, which attracted tens of thousands of participants from 198 countries to Expo City Dubai. During the event, the municipality launched more than 10 strategic projects and showcased others to the global audience.

The municipality's sustainable pavilion, which was created in part through 3D printing, attracted more than 20 thousand visitors. The municipality also hosted and participated in more than 50 sessions and workshops.

Dawoud Al Hajri, Director-General of Dubai Municipality, said, "Dubai Municipality's participation in COP28 presented Dubai's and the UAE's leading models for international climate

cooperation, urban planning, development and sustainability. The UAE hosted the climate event based on the principle of partnerships, exchanging experiences, and achieving consensus on crucial climate pledges, including tripling renewable energy capacity by 2030."

The projects Dubai Municipality announced at COP28 encompass net-zero operations, digital twins, sustainable buildings and infrastructure, recycling, waste management, smart technology and renewable energy. They included expanding natural reserves, developing a green building classification system, implementing zero waste initiatives and the reuse of wastewater.

Dubai Municipality's activities supported the four pillars of the COP28 Presidency's action plan: fast-tracking an organised, responsible, and equitable energy transition, fixing climate finance, focusing on people, nature, lives and livelihoods, and fostering full inclusivity.



Dr. Eisa M. Abdellatif
Chief Technical Advisor
Zayed Intl. Foundation
for the Environment
Founding Chairperson
of Bi'ati Organization

Marine Biodiversity in COP28

66

GREEN FLASH

The marine environment is today being degraded by human activities that harm marine life, undermine coastal communities and negatively affect human health.

In March 2023 the UN signed a new landmark treaty to protect the ocean, tackle environmental degradation, fight climate change, and prevent biodiversity loss. This treaty called for large-scale marine protected areas on the high seas to meet the global commitment of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Agreement to protect at least 30% of the ocean by 2030. The treaty also requires assessing the impact of economic activities on high seas biodiversity.

The 'High Seas Treaty', as it is known, offers an updated framework to The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea that came into force in 1994 and is crucial for addressing the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

Designed to protect life in the high seas, which is increasingly threatened by pollution, climate change and overfishing, the pact extends environmental protection to the two-thirds of the ocean that lie beyond national jurisdictions. It will allow for the creation of marine protected areas and the use of

other "area-based management tools" to sustainably manage ocean resources.

This agreement provides, for the first time, a legal basis for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

The importance of biodiversity was a focal point in COP28 both within and outside negotiations. Several high level meetings tackled integrated implementation of national climate and biodiversity frameworks and the climate conference witnessed breakthroughs on mangrove restoration and protection and sustainable ocean management.

The treaty provides support for implementation in developing countries, including a strong capacity-building and marine technology transfer component, funded from a variety of public and private sources and by an equitable mechanism for sharing the potential benefits of marine genetic resources.

The UN should urgently implement the treaty as COP28 has stated that we must tackle the challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss simultaneously.



Zayed International Prize for the Environment



Together for a green century

THE FUTURE OF OUR WORLD
IS IN OUR HANDS.

ACT NOW!



Zayed International Foundation for the Environment