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Emirates Appreciation Award For The Environment

Together for a
green home





Chairman's Message



**Prof. Mohammed
bin Fahad**
Executive Editor

If we protect nature, nature protects us. This symbiotic relationship between mankind and nature gives us myriad benefits - from clean air and water to fertile soil, biodiversity, and healthy ecosystems, all indispensable to our well-being and survival. This year, while World Environment Day 2024 draws attention to the critical issues of Land Restoration, Desertification, and Drought Resilience, under the slogan "Our land. Our future," it also reminds us of the need to prioritize the restoration of our natural ecosystems.

Everyone has a role to play in safeguarding our planet. This includes governments, local communities, non-governmental organizations, policymakers, the business sector, and individuals. The UAE has consistently demonstrated visionary leadership and innovative approaches to environmental sustainability.

The UAE's environmental stewardship is rooted in the legacy of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, whose profound respect for nature inspires our national priorities and plans. One of the most notable milestones in the UAE's environmental efforts is the Net Zero by 2050 strategic initiative. This bold pledge underscores the nation's dedication to mitigating climate change and setting a precedent in the region. As host of COP28, the UAE demonstrated its unwavering commitment to taking on a leading role in global climate neutrality at the regional and global levels, and to reduce emissions, pioneer investments in renewable energy and sustainable infrastructure, and climate finance.

The journey toward sustainability is a collective one and for more than two decades, the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment has actively fostered collaborations and spearheaded initiatives that promote environmental conservation, sustainable development, and community engagement.

For countries in the MENA, the UAE's holistic approach to sustainability serves as an inspiring model. The nation's efforts vision, innovation, and commitment affirm that we can all create a legacy of sustainability that future generations will thank us for.

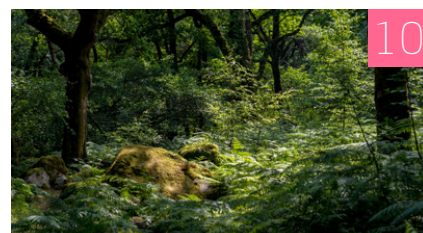
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World Environment Day: UAE President reviews innovative sustainability initiatives, environmental proposals

Sheikh Mohamed met with entrepreneurs, youth, and officials in Abu Dhabi to discuss environmental initiatives and sustainability ideas

UAE President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan reviewed a number of environmental initiatives and pioneering ideas that contribute to strengthening the UAE's efforts to promote sustainability and preserve natural resources by encouraging innovation in this area.

This came during His Highness' reception at Qasr Al Bahr in Abu Dhabi on World Environment Day, wherein His Highness received a group of entrepreneurs, youth, and officials who are working to implement innovative initiatives and ideas in the environmental conservation and sustainability fields.

His Highness listened to an explanation by the leaders of these initiatives regarding their importance, the possibilities of developing and implementing them on a large scale, and the results they have achieved.





His Highness praised the importance of such innovative solutions in raising awareness of the need to preserve environmental resources to build a more sustainable and prosperous future.

The UAE President noted that initiatives by environmental leaders, whether in the UAE or worldwide, are a source of inspiration in advancing efforts to protect the environment from the challenges it faces.

His Highness stressed that the UAE is keen to benefit from all contributions and initiatives in this regard while fostering greater understanding of the role of individuals and communities in addressing climate change.

His Highness underscored that preserving the environment and its resources is a collective responsibility, both at the community level and globally.

His Highness remarked that the UAE continues to cooperate with international partners to achieve objectives in this field and further activate the

historic UAE Consensus, which resulted from the 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28), through effective programmes and initiatives that will shape a better future for all peoples worldwide.

UAE attaches great importance to combating desertification and drought: Minister of Climate Change and Environment

Dr. Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, highlighted the importance of this year's World Environment Day (WED) theme, "Land restoration, desertification, and drought resilience", noting the far-reaching impact drought and desertification have on different sectors and aspects of life, and the urgent need to rehabilitate degraded land.

She noted the poignance of the UAE being a desert nation and discussed some of the measures the country has taken to mitigate drought risk and improve food security.

In her statement marking WED 2024, she said, "The slogan of 'Our land. Our future. We are #GenerationRestoration' for this year's World Environment Day perfectly captures the mindset that is gathering pace across governments, organisations, businesses, and communities the world over. It encapsulates both the positivity and dedication that will result in our generation being talked about as the one that changed habits, innovated, and found new, sustainable ways to drive global economies. This year's Environment Day theme of land restoration,

World Environment Day 2024 was commemorated under the overarching theme "Land restoration, desertification, and drought resilience"



desertification, and drought resilience addresses vital aspects of climate action. The effects of land degradation are felt across critical sectors, including energy, infrastructure, health, and agriculture. The UAE has experienced first-hand the impact of climate change on its environments, and we know what is to come if we don't act now."

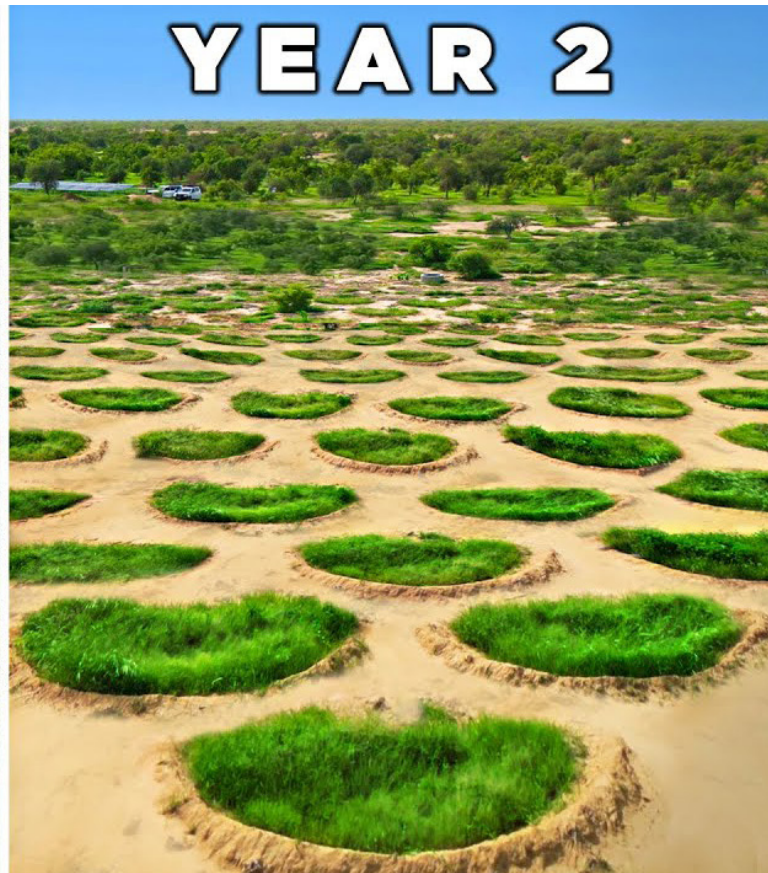
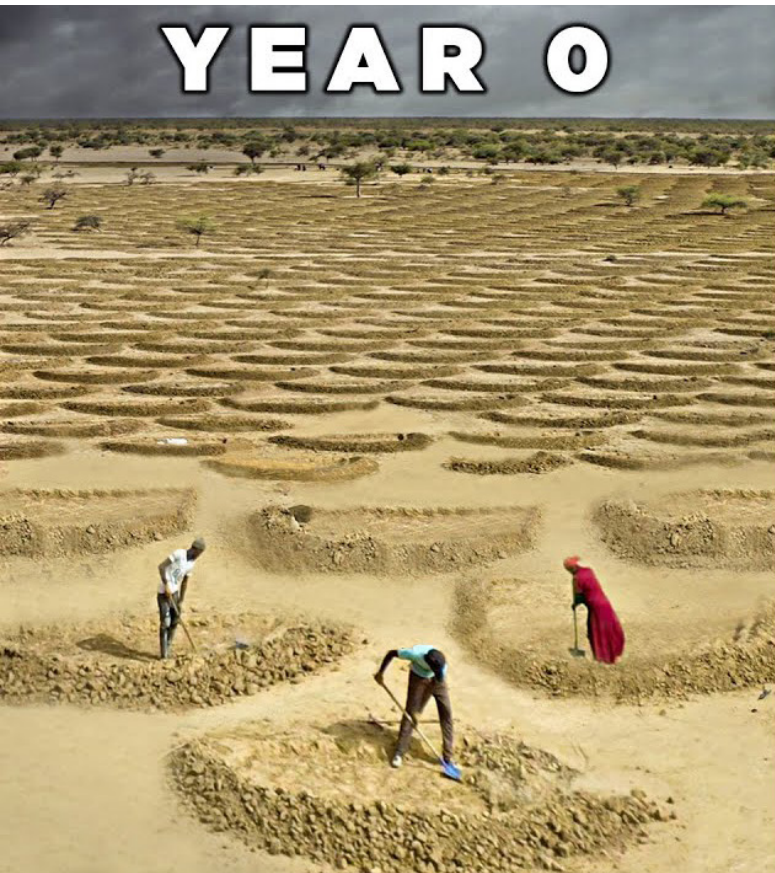
The Minister added, "In the UAE, we have implemented strategies to directly address the UN's 15th Sustainable Development Goal of Life on Land. Through our National Adaptation Plan and Biodiversity Strategy, we are working to protect our land by rehabilitating degraded areas and halting further degradation. The UAE is one of the few countries to have expanded its

mangrove cover and we are helping others to do the same. We set an ambitious target to plant an additional 100 million mangroves by 2030, and we are well on course to achieve that target. At COP27, we partnered with Indonesia to launch the Mangrove Alliance for Climate (MAC). Work has already begun on a new mangrove research center in Bali, Indonesia, backed by USD10 million of UAE investment."

"In December 2023, at COP28, we built on existing relationships and led global efforts to tackle climate change, championing collaboration as the key to success. We announced a formal partnership between MAC and the Mangrove Breakthrough to halt mangrove destruction by 2030. The new partnership represents 49



The effects of land degradation are felt across critical sectors, including energy, infrastructure, health, and agriculture



governments, around 60% of the world's mangroves, and over 50 non-state actors. The initiative is committed to investing USD17 billion in climate-smart agriculture and food systems through our AIM for Climate global initiative with the US. These partnerships are turning the tide on poor land conditions and desertification in regions most vulnerable to climate change."

Dr. Amna Al Dahak continued, "As a desert nation, in the UAE we recognize water as the precious resource that it is. Earlier this year, President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan,

launched the Mohamed bin Zayed Water initiative to confront the urgent challenge of water scarcity around the world. Through the initiative, we will accelerate the pace of technological innovation to protect countries like ours against the threat of drought. The initiative will also drive investment for the benefit of current and future generations."

She concluded, "By pooling resources and expertise to protect and restore land, we can begin to transform our economies and drive growth through sustainable practices."



Break free from pollution, climate chaos and 'biodiversity decimation', UN chief urges

'Every dollar invested in ecosystem restoration creates up to thirty dollars in economic benefits'

The UN Secretary-General has called for safeguarding Earth's vital ecosystems from rampant pollution, worsening climate impacts and "biodiversity decimation".

In a message marking World Environment Day on June 5, António Guterres emphasised that countries "must deliver" on all their commitments to restore degraded ecosystems and land, and on Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework, the global agreement to protect biodiversity.

"They must use their new national climate action plans to set out how they will halt and reverse deforestation by 2030. And we must drastically scale up finance to support developing countries to adapt to violent weather, protect nature, and support sustainable development."

The UN chief further highlighted that prompt and effective action makes economic sense. "Every dollar invested in ecosystem restoration creates up to thirty dollars in economic benefits," he said. "It's time to break free."

Failure to curb runaway pollution, climate chaos and biodiversity destruction is clear for all to see. Healthy, fertile lands are transforming into deserts, thriving ecosystems into dead zones and rising carbon dioxide emissions.

“That means crops failing, water sources vanishing, economies weakened, and communities endangered – with the poorest hit hardest,” the UN chief said. “We are Generation Restoration. Together, let us build a sustainable future for land, and for humanity,” he added.

those words into action. “By restoring ecosystems, we can slow the triple planetary crisis: the crisis of climate change, the crisis of nature and biodiversity loss, including desertification, and the crisis of pollution and waste.”

In addition, by doing so, the world can get closer to limiting global temperature rise in line with the 2015 Paris Agreement by increasing carbon storage, and reduce poverty and hunger, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), she added.



Celebrated by millions around the world, World Environment Day has been held annually since 1973 and has grown to be the largest global platform for environmental outreach ever. This year, it is being commemorated under the overarching theme “land restoration, desertification and drought resilience”.

Address ‘triple planetary crisis’

Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), called on everyone to join the global movement on putting

“Land restoration can be a golden thread that ties these together, ties together action and ambition across all these three important gatherings.”

Commemorative events

Kicking off the commemorations in Asia and the Pacific, the UN’s regional development arm alongside UNEP brought together key stakeholders to identify priority actions and discuss circular water resource use, sustainable food production and resilient urban development.



UAE President honours global dignitaries for contributions to success of COP28

The conference led to the historic UAE Consensus for climate action worldwide

UAE President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan bestowed the First Class Order of Zayed II on several global dignitaries in recognition of their contributions to the success of the 28th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) hosted by the UAE late last year.

During the ceremony held in Abu Dhabi, His Highness expressed his gratitude to all recipients for their sincere efforts that contributed to the success of COP28 and resulted in the historic UAE Consensus that has become a key framework for global climate action and sustainability.

HH emphasised that the legacy of sustainability established by the UAE's Founding Father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, is a cornerstone of the UAE's efforts to support sustainability, promote effective climate action, and ensure equitable economic and social development for a better future for humanity.

He praised the spirit of cooperation demonstrated by the world during COP28 and the unity of nations in addressing one of the most pressing global challenges. His Highness reiterated the UAE's commitment to enhancing international cooperation and its constructive role in advancing climate action to find practical solutions to climate challenges by leveraging the achievements of COP28.

which contributed to consultations with Negotiating Groups and Parties.

Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, Egypt, was a vocal advocate of the UAE and COP28 Presidency, as well as part of the finance ministerial pair, which contributed to consultations with Negotiating Groups and Parties.



The ceremony was attended by H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan; Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad bin Tahnoun Al Nahyan, Adviser for Special Affairs at the Presidential Court; Dr. Sultan bin Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and COP28 President; Sheikh Abdulla bin Mohammed Al Hamed, Chairman of the National Media Office (NMO), and several officials.

The honourees of the First Class Order of Zayed II were:

Dan Jørgensen, Minister for Development Cooperation and Global Climate Policy, Denmark, was part of the Global Stocktake ministerial pair,

Dr. Muawieh Radaideh, Minister of Environment, Jordan, was a respected COP28 Presidency Advisory Committee member who advocated for COP28 among parties.

Alioune Ndoye, Former Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development, and Ecology Transition, Senegal, and Chair of the Least Developed Countries Negotiating Group, supported in garnering inputs and support among the most climate-vulnerable countries on the UAE Consensus outcomes.

Ruslan Edelgeriev, Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, Russia, provided key support in



driving consensus on the Global Stocktake and negotiated outcomes.

Ambassador Pedro Luis Pedrosa Cuesta, former Chairman of G77 and China, Cuba, was a strong supporter of COP28 and played a critical role in unifying the G77 and China around COP28 draft negotiated outcomes, especially the Global Stocktake.

Ambassador Fatumanava-o-Upolu III Dr. Pa'olelei Luteru, Permanent Representative to UN, Samoa, and Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States, helped to ensure small island developing states' input and support in the final decisions, particularly on mitigation and Loss and Damage.

Mark Carney, UN Special Envoy for Climate Action, was a supportive partner to the UAE, particularly concerning the delivery of key Presidential Action Agenda outcomes across

climate finance and energy.

Jennifer Jordan-Saifi, CEO, Sustainable Markets Initiative, facilitated the engagement of senior government leaders.

Kate Hampton, CEO, Children's Investment Fund Foundation, was a COP28 Presidency Advisory Committee member who provided valuable advice in the lead-up to and during COP28.

Badr Jafar, CEO, Crescent Enterprises, was a dedicated COP28 Presidency Advisory Committee member and Special Representative for Business and Philanthropy who mobilised multistakeholder engagement at the Business & Philanthropy Climate Forum to advance net zero and nature-positive goals.

Ajay Banga, President of the World Bank Group, was a firm advocate for the UAE in the lead-up to

The UAE Consensus has at its heart, the first Global Stocktake (GST), setting out the ambitious actions needed to keep 1.5°C within reach



the climate conference, especially on advancing climate finance outcomes and reform of the international financial system.

Larry Fink, Co-founder, Chairman and CEO of BlackRock, was a valued COP28 Presidency Advisory Committee member who provided counsel to COP28 in the run-up to the conference and beyond, as well as engagement with private sector leaders.

Dr. Vera Songwe, Chair and Founder of the Liquidity and Sustainability Facility, as a leading figure in macroeconomics and debt issues was instrumental in helping COP28 deliver the Global Climate Finance Framework and climate finance outcomes.

Hindou Ibrahim, President of the Association for Indigenous Women and Peoples of Chad, was a committed member of the COP28 Presidency Advisory Committee who consistently represented and conveyed the views and priorities of indigenous peoples and local communities in the climate process.

Prof. Carlos Lopes, Chair of the African Climate Foundation Board, was a valued member of the COP28 Presidency Advisory Committee who lent his esteemed support and guidance to COP28.

Dr. Agnes Kalibata, President of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, provided her valuable expertise on food systems transformation and supported the delivery of the



COP28 UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems and Climate Action.

Fatih Birol, Executive Director of the International Energy Agency, was a supportive partner to COP28 and mobilised global cooperation and co-convened four high-level energy dialogues in the lead-up to COP28.

Prof. Saleemul Huq, a member of the COP28 Presidency Advisory Committee, was posthumously honoured. He passed away at 71 in October 2023. The UAE President presented the award to Prof. Huq's wife, son, and daughter in recognition of his distinguished efforts and contributions to operationalising the Loss and Damage Fund. Prof. Huq's work in promoting equitable climate action, particularly for developing and low-income countries most

affected by climate change, was also recognised. As founding director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development in Bangladesh, Prof. Huq became a leading voice from the developing world on the climate crisis. His advocacy contributed to the operationalisation of the Loss and Damage Fund at COP28. Prof. Huq played a crucial role in UN climate talks and advised governments on adaptation and climate finance for the LDC Group.

Olafur Ragnar Grimsson, former President of Iceland, provided political guidance and counsel as a COP28 Presidency Advisory Committee Member.

John Kerry, former US Presidential Climate Envoy, was an active and loyal partner to the UAE in the lead-up to and during COP28 by enhancing global cooperation and advocating for COP28.



Dubai approves second phase of heritage architecture preservation project

UAE NEWS

H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai, has approved the second phase of the project dedicated to preserving Dubai's heritage architecture.

Part of a larger initiative aimed at protecting the emirate's cultural and architectural heritage, the project aims to safeguard areas, sites, and buildings, which hold significant historical relevance and tell the story of Dubai's past. The structures covered by this project reflect the emirate's journey through the years.

The second phase focuses on the preservation of 35 areas, sites, and buildings dating from the 1960s to the 1990s. The first phase covered buildings from Dubai's earlier history. This brings the total number of sites covered by both phases to 807. The initial phase covered 17 archaeological sites, 14 historical areas, and 741 buildings.

In the second phase, sites and buildings dating from the 1960s to the 1990s that reflect Dubai's more recent architectural history and narrate the story of the historical, cultural, social, and economic transformations that Dubai has experienced, will be preserved.

Some of the popular structures included in the second phase are: Clock Tower, Dubai Petroleum Building, Terminal 1 at Dubai International Airport, Dubai Municipality Main Building, Dubai Television Building, Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Palace - Za'abeel, Fish Roundabout, Dubai Courts Building, Diwan Building, Naif Police Station, the Flame Monument, Emirates Post Building - Al Karama, Al Nasr Leisureland, and Jumeirah Zoo.

Buildings, sites and areas covered in the first phase of the project included the Al Shindagha Heritage District, the Naif area, and Al Fahidi Historical Neighbourhood, among others.



Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed announces new 'Dubai Quality of Life Strategy' 2033

The project aims at turning Dubai into a pedestrian-, environment- and family-friendly city

H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai, has approved the "Dubai Quality of Life Strategy 2033", a visionary strategy aimed at turning Dubai into the world's best city to live in.

Dedicated to ensuring the comprehensive well-being of all segments of the community including nationals, residents and visitors, the strategy includes 200 projects and initiatives, which ensure that residents can access essential services within 20 minutes. The project aims at turning Dubai into a pedestrian-, environment- and family-friendly city. Encompassing a holistic and integrated approach to well-being, the strategy also aims to establish Dubai as a global leader in quality of life and enhance its status as the world's preferred destination to live, work and visit.

Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed stressed that caring for people remains the cornerstone of Dubai's sustainable development strategies.

"We have today approved the Dubai Quality of Life Strategy 2033 as part of our efforts to raise our global standing in the economy, as well as in the areas of innovation and wellbeing. The vibrancy and cultural diversity of our society are key to our development journey," said Sheikh Hamdan.

Upgrading amenities

In regard to public amenities like parks and beaches, the strategy will incorporate the

To be carried out in three phases from 2024 to 2033, new strategy features more than 200 projects and initiatives



development of over 200 parks, expanding cycling tracks on beaches by 300 per cent, extending the length of night swimming beaches by 60 per cent, designating new beaches exclusively for women, and comprehensive plans for developing Dubai's outlying areas.

Sheikh Hamdan reviewed the new vision for designing model neighbourhoods covering three districts across Dubai: Al Mizhar 1, Al Khawaneej 2, and Al Barsha 2. This new vision aims to enhance the infrastructure of these existing neighbourhoods by upgrading social amenities

and services, promoting soft mobility options for healthier living environments, and improving connections between community hubs such as parks, mosques, and shops.

More than 115 km of pedestrian and cycling tracks will be constructed, more than 3,000 trees and plants will be planted, and more than 20 investment opportunities will be created during Phase 1 of the strategy for the residents of Al Khawaneej 2 and Al Barsha 2. The redevelopment plans include upgrading the existing collector streets and constructing shaded canopies, lanes



for bikes and e-scooters, pedestrian walkways, restrooms, and family recreational spaces.

The vision also involves landscaping, constructing distinctive architectural gateways for each residential community, giving a unique character to every neighbourhood, and improving alleyways and street intersections to boost safety and provide pedestrian lanes.

'20-minute city' concept

Furthermore, it offers investment opportunities for locals, enhances public services, and delivers the '20-minute city' concept, which aims to ensure residents can access 80 per cent of essential services within a 20-minute journey aboard soft and sustainable mobility options.

The Crown Prince also reviewed the designs of the next generation of parks in Dubai, featuring

new and innovative design elements that cater to the diverse needs of the community, reflect the unique character of each district, and incorporate sustainable activities to foster wellbeing. More than 30 parks with the new designs will be developed across the emirate within three years.

Environmental sustainability

The strategy includes a series of projects and initiatives aimed at enhancing wellbeing while maintaining environmental sustainability.

Key components include 376 stations and sites dedicated to monitoring aquatic environments and air pollutants, and the world's largest waste-to-energy conversion project, whose first phase has already been completed. The strategy seeks to provide eight natural wildlife reserves spanning an area of 1,266 sq kms, and marine reserves covering 32 sq kms.

The strategy's objectives include a 300 percent increase in the length of beach cycling tracks



The strategy also aims to preserve Dubai's rich biological diversity. The emirate is home to 1,524 species of living organisms, including 342 species of birds, 46 species of mammals, 51 species of reptiles, 315 species of plants, 188 species of fish, and 582 species of invertebrates.

Key initiatives include expanding electricity charging stations across Dubai and developing the Mohammed bin Rashid Solar Park, the world's largest single-site solar energy park.

Integrated development

This plan to improve Dubai's beachfront areas entails various development projects including upgrading Jebel Ali Beach, Jebel Ali Caravans Camp Beach, as well as Jumeirah, Umm Suqeim,

and Al Mamzar Beaches. Key targets include a 300 per cent increase in public services provision by 2025, ensuring 100 per cent accessibility for people of determination and senior citizens, expanding cycling tracks on beaches by 300 per cent, extending the length of night swimming beaches by 60 per cent, and designating new beaches exclusively for women.

These initiatives are aligned with the objectives of the Dubai 2040 Urban Master Plan, which aims to increase the length of public beaches by 400 per cent.

Exceptional experience

To ensure an exceptional tourist experience, the strategy will include enhancing the tourism



appeal of areas like Hatta, Lehabab, Al Marmoom, Al Lisaili, Al Faqa' Nizwa, Al Awir, and Margham. It involves several initiatives to create investment opportunities for families, support farmers and local products, and conserve natural reserves and archaeological sites.

The strategy's initiatives include a 162 per cent increase in services like health, schools, parks, and mosques. The strategy also entails meeting the housing needs of nationals in outlying areas, development of the Saih Al Salam Path with events and investment opportunities, and several enhancements in Hatta such as hiking, hospital and educational facility upgrades, and housing projects for nationals.

Greening the city

The strategy recognises that green spaces, apart from having aesthetic value, have considerable

environmental significance, since they play a key role in reducing carbon emissions, improving air quality, and lowering temperatures.

The strategy seeks to increase the planting of trees and flowers in the streets, public roads, squares and parks, in line with Dubai's sustainability standards, as well as implement sustainable irrigation projects.

Greenery is one of the main elements supporting the strategy, with a portfolio of projects aimed at increasing the total green area in the emirate through the implementation of several major initiatives by 2033.

This includes expanding the area of public parks from 23 to 64 sq km and developing over 200 parks and squares in Dubai.

MoEI, Etihad WE form joint venture to supercharge EV infrastructure

The UAE Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure (MoEI) and Etihad Water and Electricity (Etihad WE) have unveiled a pioneering joint venture, UAEV, to provide and promote fast and accessible electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure across the UAE. UAEV is the first EV charging network fully owned by the government.

Globally, the transition to EV is gathering pace: electric car sales reached 10 million units in 2022 - five times higher than sales in 2019. The new partnership between MoEI and Etihad WE will ensure the UAE can meet the current demand for EV infrastructure and make it easier for UAE residents to go green.

Suhail bin Mohammed Al Mazrouei, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, said, "UAEV embodies the power of partnership between government and industry, and aims to provide vital electric vehicle infrastructure to boost adoption of EVs, energise communities, and unleash the economic

potential of the UAE. We hope that this partnership will further accelerate the transition to cleaner transportation and significantly reduce emissions from the transportation sector, thereby helping to bring our Net Zero 2050 Strategy within reach."

EV charging infrastructure (EVCI) is essential to EV adoption. UAEV is contributing to the advancement of the nation's electric mobility journey and responding to consumer demand. It is also consistent with the vision of the UAE's wise leadership and their understanding that sustainability and growth, can and should go hand in hand.

The deployment of EV infrastructure presents significant economic opportunities, including job creation. Similarly, the kind of electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure envisaged by UAEV will play an important role in supporting the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

COP28 UAE hosts first Board Meeting of Global Climate Fund for Loss and Damage

A total of USD 792 million has been pledged for loss and damage funding arrangements - of which USD 662 million is for the Fund - including USD100 million from the UAE

The historic first board meeting of the Global Climate Fund for Loss and Damage convened from 30 April to 2 May in Abu Dhabi, UAE, and successfully set the ball rolling on the process to operationalise the much-awaited Fund, amid ever-increasing needs faced by developing countries.

The Fund was a landmark win at the 27th meeting of the UNFCCC's Conference of Parties (COP27) in 2022 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, when Parties decided to establish it and a year later operationalise it at COP28 in 2023 in Dubai, UAE.

In his opening address to the Board, COP28 President Dr. Sultan Al Jaber highlighted that the agreement to operationalise the Fund marked a "moment in history" recalling that it "did not come easy" given the make-or-break, final negotiations of the transitional committee in Abu Dhabi that eventually secured the deal and



propelled the adoption of the decision at COP28.

The decision included the Governing Instrument of the Fund which mandates the 26-member Board to govern and supervise it as the decision-making body with responsibility for setting the strategic direction of the Fund and its governance and operational modalities, policies and frameworks, including relevant funding decisions.

Dr. Jaber particularly emphasised on the need for “ambitious and concrete commitments” to scaling up the Fund to ensure it delivers on its mandate, quoting USD 792 million as initial pledges, including USD 100 million from the UAE.

During his speech at the preliminary events, Abdullah Balalaa, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Energy and Sustainability Affairs and UAE representative in the fund's board, highlighted the board's crucial role in ambitiously implementing this commitment reflecting the UAE's leading and steadfast efforts in creating a sustainable future for all.

The UAE's hosting of the first meeting on the Global Climate Fund for Loss and Damage, following the historic outcomes of COP28, which included the activation of the fund and its financial arrangements, follows the efforts of the COP28 Presidency and the negotiating team's constructive cooperation with all parties. It is the result of global cooperation towards supporting the most vulnerable developing countries from climate-related impacts.

The negotiators will continue to call on all parties to fulfill existing undertakings and expanding them with additional pledges beyond what was initially announced during COP28, by building on the momentum achieved and ensuring the fund's readiness for action by COP29.

The fund represents a crucial step towards enhancing international solidarity to face the climate crisis and its increasing repercussions,

Board members of the Fund represent a diverse range of nations, including developed countries, Asian-Pacific, African, Latin American, small island developing states, and least-developed countries



where several regions across the world suffer from storms, floods, wildfires, rising sea levels, severe weather phenomena, droughts, and other negative impacts of climate change. However, the most susceptible countries such as island states and developing nations are the least responsible for the harmful emissions causing global warming



yet face existential threats due to the negative effects of these emissions on the environment and climate.

At the meeting, decisions were taken on: (i) the selection of the host country of the Board; (ii) matters relating to the operationalisation of the Fund as a World Bank-hosted financial intermediary fund (FIF); (iii) selection of the Executive Director for the Fund; (iv) work plan of the Board for 2024; (v) status of resources; (vi) additional rules of procedure for the Board; (vii) arrangements for observer participation; (viii) the administrative budget of the interim secretariat and of the Board; and (ix) dates and venues of upcoming meetings.

For more than 30 years, developing countries faced strong opposition from wealthy countries, who feared being compelled to pay compensation for their emissions. At COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, leaders agreed to establish a fund to support developing countries, especially in the Global South, to deal with the devastating impacts of climate change, yet observers believed that turning this agreement into practical and tangible action might take a long time. Therefore, the activation of the fund and the start of its financing at the outset of COP28 was a pleasant surprise to the world, and a testimony of the UAE's seriousness and the efficiency of the conference's presidency, and a reflection of the strength of its results that exceeded expectations.

These outcomes were achieved on account of the

diligent efforts of the COP28 Presidency, and the UAE's contribution of USD 100 million to the fund, which encouraged the European Union, the United States, the United Kingdom, and other parties to present rapid pledges and contributions reaching approximately USD 400 million. Additionally, 19 countries have pledged commitments reaching a total of USD 792 million, including USD 662 million for financing.

However, there remains a pressing need for increased support to fulfill the needs of developing countries. Therefore, the COP28 Presidency continues calling for capable countries and entities to contribute towards financing the fund.

Notably, the agreement stipulates that the World Bank should host the fund for an initial period of four years, whereby the fund will distribute resources based on available evidence, with a specific percentage allocated to support the least developed countries and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

The tasks of managing the fund include administering its resources fairly, developing effective mechanisms to ensure the implementation of projects and monitoring their results. Achieving these goals necessitates a concerted international effort to confront the increasing severity and frequency of natural disasters associated with climate change, and developing flexible mechanisms to meet the evolving needs of countries and keep up with the rapid developments in the field of climate change.



Majlis Mohamed bin Zayed lecture highlights role of tech in boosting agriculture

UAE NEWS

H.H. Sheikh Theyab bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Chairman of the Presidential Court for Development and Fallen Heroes' Affairs, attended the latest Majlis Mohamed bin Zayed lecture titled 'Sustainable Agriculture at Scale'.

The lecture, which took place at the Majlis venue in Abu Dhabi's Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, was delivered by Sebastien Boyer, Co-founder and Chairman of the agritech firm, FarmWise.

Boyer discussed the challenges faced by farmers today and how technological innovation will be vital to help the agricultural sector evolve and become more sustainable to feed the world's growing population.

Boyer, whose company builds precise farming machinery that leverages AI and robotics to increase productivity and profitability, explained how agriculture hinges on the use and availability of four key resources: land, water, labour, and industrially produced fertilisers.

He then discussed the work of a number of startups employing cutting-edge technology to reduce reliance on these resources, including companies producing self-driving electric tractors and lab-grown chicken meat.

The UAE continues to prioritise efforts to transform its agricultural sector as it aims to boost its food security while ensuring a sustainable and resilient future. The country is now home to a growing number of agritech companies using innovative technology to produce locally grown food.

The lecture was moderated by Laila Abdullatif, Director-General, Emirates Nature-WWF, and featured pre-recorded contributions from Khaled Al Blooshi, Plant Development Lead Engineer, ADAFSA; Maitha Al Hameli, Section Head, Marine Assessment and Conservation, Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi; and Sky Kurtz, Co-founder and CEO, Pure Harvest Smart Farms.

77th World Health Assembly cements COP28 legacy on climate action and health

World Health Assembly 2024 passes the Climate Change and Health Resolution, marking a significant milestone as climate becomes a top priority within the World Health Organization's (WHO) program for the first time

Under the theme 'All for Health, Health for All' this year's World Health Assembly in Geneva built on the momentum of COP28 by adopting a resolution that recognizes the impact of climate change on health.

The Climate Change and Health Resolution, co-sponsored by the UAE, was successfully adopted at the 77th World Health Assembly. This resolution, which refers to the COP28 UAE Declaration on Climate and Health, aims to integrate climate considerations into the programs and policies of the World Health Organization (WHO). This marks the first time that climate change has been made a priority by the WHO and its member states.

The resolution was proposed by the Netherlands and Peru, with support from a core group of co-sponsor countries including Barbados, Chile, Fiji, Kenya, Monaco, the United Kingdom as well as the UAE.



COP28 elevated the political profile of the climate-health nexus and contributed to integrating health into the global climate change agenda. Following the success of the climate and health agenda at COP28, and widespread support for the COP28 UAE Declaration on Climate and Health, the strong focus on climate change at this year's World Health Assembly demonstrates a growing synergy between global climate and global health diplomacy.

"I welcome the Climate Change and Health resolution, which was adopted unanimously at the World Health Assembly," said Adnan Amin, the CEO of COP28. "The UAE was in the core group of co-sponsoring countries for the resolution, which builds on the COP28 Declaration on Climate and Health that has now been endorsed by 150 countries and represents a new wave of action and a strong commitment to address the growing impacts of climate change on human health. Countries must continue to raise ambition on the climate and health nexus, including in the delivery of NAPs and the next round of NDCs. I look forward to continuing the strong partnership between the COP28, COP29 and COP30 presidencies in the area of health."

In a statement the Government of the Netherlands said: "This resolution has enormous potential to influence how the WHO and the global health community respond to the challenges of climate change, including through equitable action and working more closely with the UNFCCC."

In a statement, the Ministry of Health of India also expressed its support, the statement said: "India recognizes the growing impact of climate change, pollution, and environmental degradation. We need to address these challenges through national policies ... and building support beyond borders."

At the Assembly, the COP28 UAE Presidency made a significant announcement, revealing that

The total number of countries committed to addressing the pressing health impacts of climate change by endorsing the COP28 UAE Declaration on Climate and Health, rises to 150



27 more countries have endorsed the COP28 UAE Declaration on Climate and Health. This endorsement brings the total number of countries committed to addressing the pressing health impacts of climate change to 150. Initially introduced during COP28 in December, the declaration was signed by 123 countries and was launched just ahead of the historic Health Day, marking a crucial step in global health and climate discussions.

The COP28 UAE Declaration on Climate and Health signifies a global commitment to address climate-related health impacts and covers a range of action areas at the nexus of climate and

health, including building more climate-resilient health systems, strengthening cross-sectoral collaboration to reduce emissions and maximizing the health benefits of climate action.

It is crucial for these political commitments to be backed by much-needed financial commitments. At the World Health Assembly, COP28 also announced that six new entities have signed the Guiding Principles on Financing Climate and Health Solutions, joining the 41 organizations that endorsed them during COP28. These

COP28 elevated the political profile of the climate-health nexus and contributed to integrating health into the global climate change agenda



principles respond directly to the urgent calls from low- and middle-income countries to mobilize finance to mitigate current and future health risks posed by climate change.

The second WHO strategic dialogue on climate and health was also held at the World Health Assembly. This dialogue sought to strengthen international collaboration for implementing COP28 commitments and laying the groundwork for future COP sessions. It showcased the growing collaboration on climate and health between the UAE, Azerbaijan and Brazil, as the COP presidencies of COP28, COP29, and COP30 respectively.

Alexandre Ghisleni, Ambassador for International

Affairs at the Ministry of Health of Brazil, said: “The impact of climate change on health is no longer theoretical for us. We are facing a climate disaster in the region, an area of 30,000 square kilometers is under water in the South of the country. Hospitals are destroyed, people have died, and the economic consequences are severe.”

Brazil has announced it will host a dedicated Health Day at COP30 in 2025. “This will help us build on the legacy of COP28 and bring more attention to this issue and hopefully make more progress,” Ghisleni said.

‘Protecting Lives and Livelihoods’ is one of four central pillars in the COP28 Presidency’s Action Agenda which focuses on people, nature, lives, and livelihoods. At COP28, stakeholders expressed grave concerns about the adverse effects of climate change on health and emphasized the need to address the intricate relationship between climate change and human health within the framework of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.



الإحاطة الإعلامية
لحكومة الإمارات

Enhancing biodiversity is a paramount priority for the UAE: Amna Al Dahak

UAE NEWS

Dr. Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, underscored the pivotal role of enhancing biodiversity in the restoration of Mother Nature and the natural ecosystems of the planet.

In a statement marking the International Day for Biological Diversity on May 22, Al Dahak said that this year's theme 'Be Part of the Plan,' resonates with the UAE's approach of involving all relevant entities, including the private sector, in exerting concerted efforts and empowering every member of society to become a part of the action. This further strengthens the role of the UAE's initiatives in combating climate change through nature-based solutions, environmental conservation, and fostering sustainable development across all sectors.

She emphasised, "Nature stands as the primary defense line for achieving economic and social development in the UAE and globally. Its profound significance lies in preserving natural resources,

maintaining environmental equilibrium, and addressing the impacts of climate change. Biodiversity loss poses a genuine threat to humanity and our planet."

The minister stated that the world has witnessed a staggering 69% decline in wildlife populations over the past 50 years, primarily due to deforestation and desertification. Human activities have altered more than 70% of non-ice-covered land on Earth, endangering further loss of wildlife and pushing more species towards extinction.

She elaborated that promoting biodiversity is a paramount priority for the UAE, with the nation embracing 49 protected areas, teeming with biodiversity and endangered species. Moreover, the UAE places special emphasis on expanding mangrove forests for their crucial role as natural carbon reservoirs and their contribution to safeguarding coastal ecosystems.

Abu Dhabi ban on some Styrofoam products comes into effect

Among the banned products are cups, lids, plates, and beverage containers (including caps and lids) made of expanded polystyrene

The Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD) has announced that the ban on some Styrofoam products came into effect on 1st June. Introduced by the Agency, the ban is part of the larger Abu Dhabi Single-Use Plastic Policy, which aims to reduce the reliance on single-use products that are harmful to the environment.

The list of banned products includes cups, lids, plates, and beverage containers made of expanded polystyrene. Similarly, food container vessels for products that are intended for immediate consumption, either on the spot or for takeaway, and containers that have a product that is typically consumed from the receptacle and is ready to be consumed without any further preparation such as cooking, boiling, or heating, will also be prohibited.

The products exempt from the ban include those not designed for single-consumer use, such as



large storage boxes and coolers, and trays used for meat, fruit, ready-made dairy products, and other food items for retail sale. Additionally, all other products designed for medical uses are also exempted.

Dr. Shaikha Salem Al Dhaheri, Secretary General of EAD, stated, “Inspired by the success of the ban on single-use plastic bags, we expect to see emirate-wide compliance and collaboration from our stakeholders in the government and private sector, as we know that by working together we will witness the best results. I also expect the community to play a critical role in ensuring the ban succeeds.”

She elaborated, “Our greater goal is to reduce harmful microplastics from entering the food chain, which can have detrimental effects on human health, biodiversity, and our natural ecosystems. We want the future generations to inherit a bountiful environment filled with all types of species so that they can live in proximity to nature as part of a fruitful lifestyle.”

She added, “We have been very selective in choosing which Styrofoam products will be banned to facilitate business continuity and comfort for consumers. All the products that are prohibited have accessible alternatives.”

ADDED has shared the circular on the Styrofoam ban with more than 50,000 commercial establishments and 80 industrial facilities involved in plastic manufacturing. ADDED is set to conduct field inspection campaigns on sales outlets and industrial establishments to ensure the ban’s implementation across Abu Dhabi according to a specified timetable.

The Agency announced the Abu Dhabi Single-Use Plastic Policy in 2020 and, in 2022, issued a ban on single-use plastic bags in partnership with retailers. In 2023, EAD, in collaboration with the government and private sector, introduced

Styrofoam breaks easily into microplastics that can enter the food chain and is harmful to human health and biodiversity



Reverse Vending Machines for single-use plastic bottles to nurture a culture of recycling. The Agency also worked closely with Abu Dhabi Government Entities to establish a government that is free of single-use plastic items.



MBZUAI researchers investigate AI- powered solutions to tackle extreme weather

The model is currently in its early stages and relies on AI models and free, publicly available data, including Sentinel-2 imagery at 10-meter resolution and OpenStreetMap

Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (MBZUAI) is investigating how artificial intelligence (AI) can provide solutions for urban planning globally to help tackle the increase in extreme weather events due to climate change.

Following the recent record-breaking weather system experienced across the Gulf region, a team of MBZUAI researchers and students led by Associate Professor of Computer Vision, Dr. Salman Khan, have combined AI and computer vision techniques to create an automated satellite data analysis prototype for flood assessment.

Using three localized case studies for the Palm in Dubai, the Musaffah area in Abu Dhabi, and Al Buraimi region in Oman, the researchers have utilized available spatial satellite data to compare remotely sensed imagery before and after the storm. The analysis aims to provide a useful change detection tool for local municipalities and authorities in rapidly

assessing the impact of heavy rains.

The analysis tool can precisely locate which roads are heavily impacted by water accumulation following extreme rain events and pinpoint affected critical infrastructure such as hospitals, schools, malls, residential areas, and population clusters which may be most in danger.

Currently, the model is in its early stages and relies on AI models and free, publicly available data including Sentinel-2 imagery at 10-meter

and analyze the recovery process over time. For example, our analysis pinpoints 460 affected cafes, 75 pharmacies/clinics, four malls, and 11 educational institutions: vital information for rescue, recovery, and future planning.”

Combined with more frequent, higher resolution satellite imagery, an early warning system may be obtainable for specific areas. Such foundation AI models for land-use mapping and change detection can be used for other applications, with MBZUAI and IBM currently working on AI-enabled



resolution and OpenStreetMap where volunteers worldwide contribute geographic information to ensure data authenticity.

“From our analysis of the Dubai case study area, we found that 140 kms was impacted by rain, including primary, residential, service, and highways,” Dr. Khan said. “The imagery also enables us to estimate the depth of the water. Such automated tools and analysis can help local authorities assess the critical locations that need more attention after extreme weather events

solutions to detect urban heat islands by identifying areas with excessive heat and correlating factors that contribute. The solution will help city planners, municipalities, and residents to mitigate the worst effects of heat islands, making cities more livable amid unpredictable weather patterns.

The University plans to connect with UAE government authorities, municipalities, local developers and the UAE flood assessment committee to demonstrate their findings.



UAE breaks ground on Bali mangrove centre

The UAE has pledged AED 36.7 million for the opening of the Mohamed bin Zayed-Joko Widodo International Mangrove Research Centre in Indonesia, to nurture mangrove ecosystems and tackle global climate change

The UAE has achieved a significant milestone in climate action with the groundbreaking of the Mohamed bin Zayed-Joko Widodo International Mangrove Research Centre on the island of Bali, in collaboration with the Republic of Indonesia.

This initiative, made possible with a USD10 million commitment from the UAE, will bolster international efforts in nurturing mangrove ecosystems, recognised as a critically important nature-based solution in combating climate change and preserving coastal ecosystems.

The groundbreaking was held in the presence of ministers from Indonesia and the UAE including Suhail Mohamed Al Mazrouei, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, and Dr. Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak, Minister of Climate Change and Environment. The MBZ-Joko Widodo IMRC stands as a pinnacle of the UAE's commitment to fostering global environmental sustainability while safeguarding the planet against the impacts of climate change.

Suhail Mohamed Al Mazrouei stressed that "the Mohamed bin Zayed-Joko Widodo Center reflects the UAE's commitment to protecting critical ecosystems, such as mangroves. It aligns with our climate mitigation efforts and will contribute to developing effective strategies to safeguard the environment."

Dr. Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak affirmed that the initiative is aimed at advancing nature-based solutions to mitigate the impacts of climate change on both national and global scales.

mangroves, through initiatives such as the Mangrove Alliance for Climate (MAC), launched by the UAE in collaboration with Indonesia and involving 41 countries from around the world.

The Mohamed bin Zayed-Joko Widodo International Mangrove Research Centre will be built on 2.5 hectares of land within the Ngurah Rai Forest Park in Bali. Already home to a wealth of biodiversity, the Ngurah Rai Forest Park covers 1,158.44 hectares of mangrove ecosystems around the Benoa Bay.



"Mangroves, being natural carbon sinks, complement technological solutions aimed at curbing carbon emissions," she said, adding that the centre will bolster efforts to plant and preserve more mangrove forests worldwide, particularly in the UAE, which has pledged to grow 100 million mangroves by 2030, and Indonesia, which is home to the largest and most diverse mangrove ecosystems globally.

Dr. Al Dahak said that the centre will complement global efforts to increase the spread of

The Centre will conduct research to cultivate mangroves, enhancing their role in addressing climate change, improving coastal habitats, and promoting biodiversity. Mangrove forests are among the most productive and ecologically important ecosystems on earth. They can store carbon more than 400 percent faster than land-based tropical rainforests, absorbing emissions and protecting the coastal environment. About 80 percent of the global fish population depends on healthy mangrove ecosystems.

Food Innovation Conference 2024 stresses importance of collective action to develop global sustainable food systems

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI), in collaboration with the World Economic Forum (WEF), concluded the Food Innovation Conference 2024, hosted in the Museum of the Future and the Emirates Towers, Dubai between 13 and 15 May under the theme 'Reimagining Future Food Systems'.

Bringing together 150 global experts, academics as well as local, regional, and international private sector businesses, the event showcased national models of innovative food systems and the world's latest advanced food techs. It also addressed the need to foster efforts of knowledge sharing and capacity building through the Food Innovation Hub's Global Initiatives and to facilitate partnerships and collaborations between entrepreneurs, investors, and leaders of the public and private sectors.

The 3-day event focused on advancing



cooperation and the sharing of expertise to help take vital action in developing inclusive, sustainable food systems through the joint efforts of all food system stakeholders.

A shared global vision

Mohammad Al Gergawi, Secretary General of Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI) said hosting the Food Innovation Conference in Dubai reflects the visions of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, for the need to consolidate efforts, drive partnerships and cooperation between the public and private sectors as well as regional and international organizations, to develop a shared global vision for food system sustainability.

“The conference is a practical example of one of MBRGI’s key principles, namely, being open to creative ideas and investing in R&D, while fostering all efforts and technologies aimed at creating a balance between food system sustainability and protection of our planet.

“Such efforts help alleviate the effects of hunger and malnutrition, as well as protect the environment from the impact of climate change caused by food systems, which cause one-third of the world’s greenhouse gas emissions,” he said.

Klaus Schwab, Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum (WEF), said “The World Economic Forum is proud of this longstanding partnership with the Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum Global Initiatives and the United Arab Emirates on the vital topic of food innovation.

He added, “Innovative technologies and strong partnerships have the power to transform our food systems to address global challenges such as malnutrition, climate change, and food waste. Partners in the UAE are showing extraordinary leadership in innovation and the collaboration

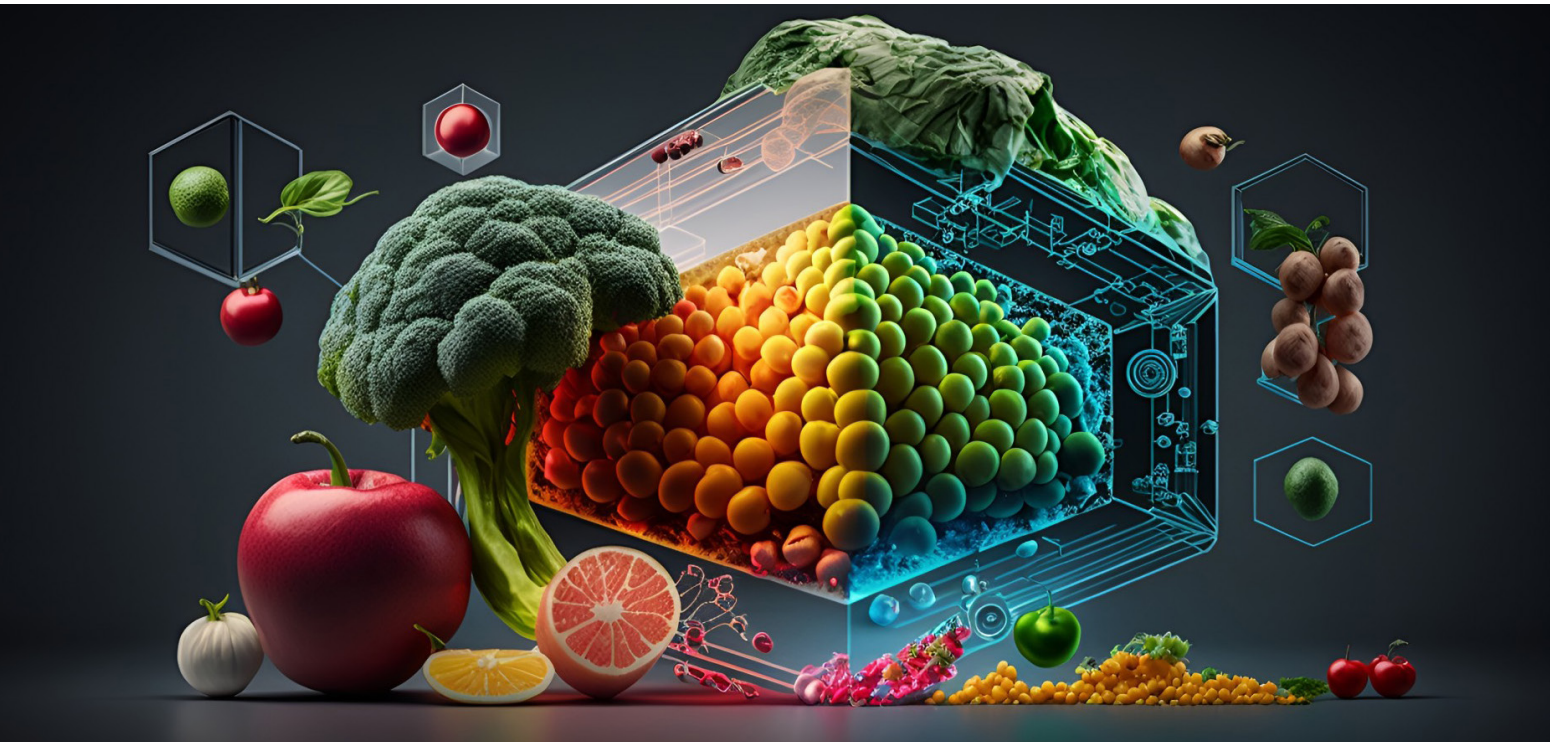
Through the Food Innovation Hub UAE, MBRGI aims to develop effective solutions to challenges hindering future food sustainability, as well as global food and agriculture challenges



required to secure a positive food future for all.”

Long-standing cooperation

The Food Innovation Conference 2024 kicked off with a dinner at the Museum of the Future on 13 May, where Dr. Amna Al Dahak, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, addressed the gathering and said the event embodies the UAE’s future foresight philosophy and embodies the country’s commitment to supporting international



efforts in addressing food security as one of the major challenges facing humanity.

Saeed Al Eter, Assistant Secretary General of Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI), applauded the long-standing cooperation between MBRGI and the World Economic Forum to create innovative food system solutions, while Tania Strauss, Head of Food and Water at WEF, stressed the importance of collaboration with the UAE on this major event, which advances collective action across all sectors to harness the power of innovation for inclusive and people-centered solutions.

On the first day of the conference, participants were introduced to environment-friendly food products, innovative concepts related to food production, local ingredients, and low-waste food alternatives.

Interactive platform

A two-day side showcase, the Boulevard exhibition, was held on the sidelines of the Food Innovation Conference 2024, drawing wide participation from national and global companies specialized in food and agricultural products and tech designed to accelerate the adoption of innovation and provide effective solutions in the face of challenges that hinder the sustainability of global food supplies, while boosting resilience in food production.

While providing an optimal opportunity for specialized companies to exchange expertise and knowledge and discuss the latest trends in food sustainability, the showcase also acted as an interactive platform to educate on the most disruptive technologies and initiatives that are shaping the future of food systems.

A two-day side showcase, the Boulevard exhibition, served to educate visitors on the most disruptive technologies and initiatives that are shaping the future of food systems



‘Food Tech Valley’, a project launched in 2021 by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, with aims to triple the UAE’s food production, introduced its latest achievements, while agricultural investment company Elite Agro highlighted the role of drones in advancing the agricultural sector through aerial surveys of agricultural areas to capture detailed data and information.

The showcase offered visitors an immersive VR experience to explore the latest smart farming technologies and automated agricultural systems such as irrigation, pest control, soil and crop monitoring, as well as best practices in vertical and hydroponic farming.

Impactful collaboration

Day 2 of the Food Innovation Conference 2024 addressed the role of innovation in food systems and focused on designing ecosystems. The day also focused on enabling knowledge exchange and dwelling deep into impactful collaborations that can foster food system innovation.

The session titled ‘Reimagining Future Food Systems’ session, in which Dr. Amna Al Dahak, Minister of Climate Change and the Environment, participated alongside experts and executives, introduced various current and future scenarios exploring strategies for launching effective food innovation markets within the UAE, regionally, and globally. They offered insights on the



concrete investment in food innovation. The session also highlighted the latest methods applied in climate-smart farming, healthy and sustainable consumption, and effective marketing strategies.

Dr. Abdulkareem Al Olama, CEO of Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI), delivered the keynote speech at the session entitled 'Purpose-Driven Innovation for a Positive Food Future', which explored ways to design and manage effective collaboration models that enhance innovation, as well as forging paths to new investments and improved governance frameworks. The session also presented viewpoints from various stakeholders and sectors about the emerging primary needs of the food innovation system.

The conference concluded on the third day

following field trips that took participants around several factories and farms specialized in food production. The visits showcased the latest technologies and research in food production within the UAE, highlighted innovative practices in sustainable agriculture, and offered insights into food production practices that prioritize sustainability and carbon footprint reduction.

The Food Innovation Conference 2024 is powered by the Food Innovation Hubs Global Initiative, launched by the World Economic Forum in collaboration with MBRGI, UAE, the Government of the Netherlands, and other public, private, and civil society partners.

The initiative leverages multi-stakeholder and market-based partnerships to scale fit-for-purpose innovations in food systems.



Dubai Municipality partners with Imdaad for sustainable waste management project in Hatta

UAE NEWS

Dubai Municipality has launched a strategic sustainable waste management project in the Hatta region in collaboration with Imdaad. The project – “Outsourcing Waste Collection, Transportation, and Recycling Services” – seeks to bolster the municipality’s operations through stronger partnerships with the private sector while advancing the goals of the ‘Zero Waste in Hatta’ campaign.

The primary goal of the project is to effectively divert various kinds of waste from landfills, thereby enhancing sustainable waste management services in Hatta. This objective will be accomplished by implementing effective waste management practices that boost Dubai’s position as a sustainable city.

As part of the programme, Dubai Municipality has transformed the Hatta landfill into an advanced facility from where segregated waste can be transferred to treatment sites in Dubai. The facility, spanning 60,043 sqm, comprises an

administrative office and a waste disposal zone. Some 20 tonnes of municipal solid waste is generated on average daily in Hatta and, in effect, this trash is diverted from landfills.

Additionally, the project will also take care of 27 tonnes of agricultural waste from across the region daily, ensuring it is sent out in a suitable form to the Warsan waste-to-energy plant.

The Hatta waste management project is expected to benefit a total of 1,147 residential units. The municipality has distributed over 2,500 new waste storage and collection containers to help with waste segregation and to raise public awareness about the significance of correctly segregating waste at source.

Under the contract, Dubai Municipality has assigned an integrated field team that is equipped with all the necessary tools, vehicles, and systems to collect, store and transport waste on a regular basis from all over Hatta.



GOTHENBURG: Idyllic Nordic city is the world's most sustainable

This Swedish city is setting an example through its sustainable initiatives and eco-friendly way of life

It is a well-known fact that Scandinavian countries have been leading the pack in sustainable practices – a success greatly attributed to consistent governmental efforts and positive cooperation among different sectors. With regard to sustainability thinking, Sweden was undoubtedly a trailblazer. As early as the 1990s, the government began pushing for sustainable development.

Sustainability work in Gothenburg, a city with a population of just a little over 500,000 people, has advanced in its efforts to promote sustainability. For seven years in a row, Gothenburg has been placed at the top of the Global Destination Sustainability Index (GDSI).

With a firm vision of achieving carbon neutrality by 2030, Gothenburg is progressively seeking more sustainable alternative practices. A “Green

Surrounded by thick forests of linden and beech, the city offers a hefty 274 sq m of green space per citizen



Gothenburg Green City Zone

To achieve an emission-free transport system by 2030, the initiative Gothenburg Green City Zone has been created. It is a zone where new technology and solutions for vehicles and infrastructure are being tested and developed. The initiative inspires new ways of thinking and collaborating, with a future-focused mindset.

The zone can be likened to a vast testbed and demonstration area where companies, social stakeholders, academia, and institutions can collaborate on testing new technologies and scaling up their operations, products, and services in transportation, infrastructure, energy and other areas related to the environment.

The goal is for all vehicles travelling in or from Gothenburg Green City Zone to run with zero emissions by 2030, in a functioning infrastructure that enables climate-neutral transportation choices and facilitates everyday life for

Zone” is being developed in the city, where the innovations and testing of fully emissions-free and climate-neutral transportation systems will take place, marking the city’s rise to the forefront of green mobility and infrastructure evolution.

Thorough electrification of transportation and construction has been the focus of Gothenburg’s green urban development. An ElectriCity green city transport project, a collaborative venture that unites business, research, and society to create and test answers for the next generation of green public transport services, was introduced. In regards to the electrification of last-mile deliveries, garbage disposal, and public transportation, the city has already achieved substantial strides.





businesses as well as residents and visitors, in an attractive urban environment.

To achieve higher city-wide energy efficiency, Gothenburg also implemented a district cooling system. Powered by the cool flows from Göta älv, the system combines surplus heat and river water to provide residents with an energy-efficient, cost-competitive alternative to conventional air conditioning. The CO₂ emissions generated by this system are substantially lower in comparison to conventional cooling methods.

Sustainable Transport

Fossil-based transport is a major contributor to cities' CO₂ emissions, as well as adding to noise and air pollution. By enabling all forms of transport to run on electricity, electromobility is key to making cities greener, cleaner and more pleasant to live in.

Gothenburg is home to several leading projects within 'electromobility', which refers to various types of electrically powered transport. The city has already made significant progress in electrifying its public transport, last-mile deliveries and waste transport. The goal now is for the entire transport system to be electrified and fossil-free by 2030.

A new public transport model has started in the Swedish city of Gothenburg thanks to its renewed bus fleet. From now on, 157 electric buses, manufactured by Volvo, will be the backbone of the sustainable public transport of this city.

Elvy is Gothenburg's first electric hybrid ferry, with capacity for up to 300 passengers and 90 bicycles on its route across the River Göta. Elvy's battery-powered drivetrain cuts emissions of CO₂, nitrogen oxides and particles by a third. The

Seven times in a row, Gothenburg has ranked as the world's most sustainable destination, according to the Global Destination Sustainability Index



new technology will mean fuel savings of up to 45 percent compared with similar ferries powered by combustion engines.

Social Sustainability and Inclusion

Social sustainability factors including social equity, affordable housing, low unemployment rate and inclusiveness are also crucial pillars of sustainable cities. Being the city where Green Bonds were first issued to accelerate investments in climate-oriented solutions, Gothenburg has its cutting-edge perspective on social sustainability.

With a specific emphasis on inclusivity, the social project “River City” was initiated with the objectives of fostering social cohesion, reducing negative impacts on the environment, adapting

to climate change, and promoting diverse economic development. The vision of the project is inextricably aligned with Sustainable Development Goal #11: Sustainable Cities and Communities. Gothenburg’s vulnerability to the climate crisis can be considerably reduced over time by proactively revitalising the riverfront with housing, businesses, and public spaces.

Remarkable outcomes have been attained under the city’s consistent efforts. Housing solutions to the nationwide housing crisis have brought apparent benefits to the city, leading to the expected increase of 105,000 new homes by the end of 2035. Today’s housing prices in Gothenburg remain moderate compared to the rest of Sweden.

10GW wind farm in Egypt takes major step towards construction

Masdar, Infinity Power, Hassan Allam Utilities sign Land Access Agreement for 10GW mega wind project with Egyptian Government

Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company PJSC – Masdar, the UAE’s clean energy powerhouse, along with Infinity Power, the largest African renewable energy developer, and Hassan Allam Utilities, a sustainable infrastructure focused development and investment platform, have signed a Land Access Agreement with the Egyptian Government for the consortium’s 10GW capacity onshore wind farm in Egypt, set to be one of the largest in the world, with a project value exceeding US\$10 billion.

The agreement gives the Consortium access to a 3025 km² area of land located in West Suhag and will allow the consortium to conduct the necessary development studies to progress the project. This will include resource measurement campaigns, geotechnical and topographic surveys, in addition to the environmental studies to ensure minimal environmental impact.



These studies represent an important step forward in the project development, and the findings will be vital in progressing towards construction. Once under construction the wind farm will deliver significant benefits to local communities, including job creation with commitments to hire locally, community support initiatives, and the protection and support of the natural environment.

The landmark wind project will produce 47,790 GWh of clean energy per year and cut around 9 percent of Egypt's annual carbon emissions by displacing 23.8 million tonnes of carbon dioxide annually. The wind farm will also help Egypt meet its strategic objective of sourcing 42 percent of its energy from renewables by 2030. The 10 GW wind farm will save the country an estimated USD 5 billion in natural gas costs per year.

Witnessed by the Prime Minister of Egypt Moustafa Madbouly, and Dr. Mohamed Shaker, Minister of Electricity and Renewable Energy of Egypt, the agreement was signed by Mohamed Ismail Mansour, Chairman of Infinity Power; Karim Hefzy, Chief Operating Officer at Hassan Allam Utilities; and Dr. Mohamed Asaad Taher, Senior Manager, Business Development and Investment at Masdar.

Masdar's CEO Mohamed Jameel Al Ramahi said, "Masdar, its joint venture Infinity Power, and our partner Hassan Allam Utilities, are supporting Egypt to deliver its ambitious renewable energy targets. Set to be one of the largest wind farms on the planet at 10GW, this landmark project is pushing the limits of innovation and scale as we work to help unlock Africa's clean energy potential, and further advance its energy transition."

Amr Allam, Co-CEO of Hassan Allam Holding, commented, "This initiative underscores our commitment to clean energy and environmental responsibility, and we are proud to be part of this

The project, set to be one of the largest in the world, will cut carbon emissions by 23.8 million tonnes a year – equivalent to 9 percent of Egypt's current carbon footprint



transformative project that will have a positive impact on our nation's energy landscape and beyond."

The initial project agreement to develop the 10 GW wind farm was signed between the Consortium and the Egyptian Electricity Transmission company and witnessed by the Presidents of the UAE and Egypt on the sidelines of the 27th UN Climate Change Conference in late 2022.



Strong turnout at 3rd Electric Vehicle Innovation Summit signals growth in electric mobility

This exhibition and summit, featuring over 150 global exhibitors, showcases the evolution of the electric mobility sector

Under the patronage of the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure (MoEI), the third edition of the Electric Vehicle Innovation Summit (EVIS 2024) was inaugurated by Sharif Al Olama, Under-Secretary for Energy and Petroleum Affairs at MoEI. The event, held at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC), marks a significant milestone in the MENA region's journey towards sustainable transportation.

Delivering the opening speech, Sharif Al Olama reiterated the UAE's commitment to building a sustainable transport system. He said, "The Summit comes at a critical time, as the world strives to reach net-zero emissions by 2050 in line with the objectives of the Paris Agreement. An all-inclusive decarbonisation drive is a must to reach our collective goal."

"This raises an urgent need to promote green mobility and accelerate the reduction of CO2 emissions coming from the transport sector, one of the biggest emitters of greenhouse gases."

He added, “To achieve this target, the National Demand Side Management Program has launched a host of initiatives targeting a greener mobility system. One of the main initiatives is promoting the shift to electric vehicles as a sustainable transport option. Today, electric and hybrid vehicles account for 3 percent of all vehicles on our roads in the UAE. We can see a growing appetite for EVs in the local market. People are displaying a stronger sense of responsibility towards the environment and want to make eco-friendly choices.”

charging network through various financing mechanisms that serve all concerned parties.

“Our aim is to increase the scale and pace of the shift to green mobility through raising the share of EVs to 50 percent of all vehicles on our roads by 2050. This comes in line with the UAE’s commitment to becoming carbon-neutral in fewer than three decades.”

Al Olama added, “Regionally, we are developing an EV Gulf Corridor, where the Kingdom of Saudi



The Under-Secretary noted that according to a report by the International Energy Agency, the UAE ranked second in the Middle East for the sales of EVs. In 2023, 13 percent of total car sales were electric vehicles.

He said, “As a government, we play an active part in increasing the penetration of EVs by building an integrated charging station network linking all emirates. In this regard, we are collaborating with stakeholders from the private sector to increase investment in the infrastructure of the electric

Arabia and the Sultanate of Oman will be linked with the UAE by installing charging stations at our borders with the two countries to help ease the movement of electric vehicles.”

The 2024 summit offered attendees the opportunity to experience the latest in electric vehicle technology, including test drives of the newest vehicles that showcase the rapid acceleration and silent operation that define modern electric vehicles.



Accelerating the Future of Global Healthcare



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LAUNCH

Abu Dhabi launches HealthX to advance emirate as global biotech, life sciences hub

The startup program will help onboarding 30 global life science startups into the UAE's healthcare ecosystem over the next 2 years

StartAD, the Abu Dhabi-based startup accelerator, which is part of Tamkeen and based at NYU Abu Dhabi (NYUAD), and the Department of Health – Abu Dhabi (DoH), have signed an agreement to launch HealthX, a startup programme that seeks to advance Abu Dhabi as a hub in the biotech and life science industry.

HealthX will advance 30 global cutting-edge life science startups into the UAE's healthcare ecosystem over two years.

The agreement was signed by Dr. Asma Ibrahim Al Mannaei, Executive Director of Research and Innovation Centre at DoH, and Ramesh Jagannathan, Managing Director of startAD, during the Abu Dhabi Global Healthcare Week.

Applications are now open for the inaugural cohort on generative AI in healthcare and life sciences. Subsequent cohorts will focus on neurodegenerative disease, genomics and precision medicine, advanced therapeutics, drug discovery, mental health, and assistive technology for People of Determination.

The incubator offers six weeks of intensive training, personalised support, and the potential to secure customers in the UAE. It assists global and local entrants to develop a highly customised pilot proposal and a deep understanding of the UAE market. Successful applicants will benefit from access to the DoH regulatory sandbox and UAE de-identified data to help refine their product, along with admittance to labs and opportunities to collaborate on cutting-edge



research at leading academic institutes.

The business support clinic includes finance, legal, licensing, IP support, ongoing mentorship, and introduction to venture capitalists. Networking prospects include pilot discussions with healthcare partners, licensing opportunities from the DoH, along with an interconnected ecosystem with key players such as DoH, NMC Healthcare, Burjeel Holdings and Harley Street

Medical Centre, and onboarding to the startAD alumni programme.

Dr Asma Ibrahim Al Mannaie, Executive Director of Research and Innovation Centre at DoH, said: "As the regulator of the healthcare sector in the emirate, DoH continues to spearhead borderless collaborations, research and innovation to enable a healthier future for all, positioning Abu Dhabi as a leading destination for healthcare and life sciences on the global stage. We are delighted to collaborate with startAD, a partnership poised to tackle global healthcare challenges through supporting start-ups and enabling innovation, which is a key topic of this year's event."

Ramesh Jagannathan, Managing Director of startAD, said: "The future of health holds immense possibilities, and Abu Dhabi aims to be a global leader in the field. In partnership with the Department of Health, we are leading the charge to transform the industry and co-create a sustainable operating environment for global healthcare life sciences startups. Our focus is on attracting innovators dedicated to propelling the UAE to the forefront of healthcare, life-science research, and innovation. With top-quality services and a commitment to excel in healthtech and biotech, I believe we are setting the stage for something extraordinary."

The initiative is open to global and local pre-seed to series B startups developing innovative technologies with a clear use case for the Abu Dhabi healthcare industry. A strong team will include at least two members with relevant experience, demonstrated traction through existing pilots and customers, and a willingness to expand into the UAE, if not already established in the country. Startups with a product or minimum viable product (MVP) ready to test and implement with corporate customers and a clear roadmap showcasing scalability potential are encouraged to apply.



EAD starts first reintroduction phase of Dama Gazelles in Chad

In a significant move for wildlife conservation, the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) has released six Dama Gazelles into the Ouadi Rimé – Ouadi Achim Wildlife Reserve (OROAWF) in Chad

As part of one of the largest large mammal reintroduction programmes in the world, the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) released for the first time six Dama Gazelles into the Ouadi Rimé – Ouadi Achim Wildlife Reserve (OROAWF) in Chad. One of the three most endangered gazelle species, this latest release is part of an ambitious initiative to increase Dama Gazelle numbers in the wild.

Classified on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species as 'Critically Endangered' (extreme risk of extinction), with only about 100 Dama Gazelles remaining in the wild in Chad and Niger, the species is on the verge of extinction, and efforts are underway to both preserve and increase wild herd numbers in its natural habitats.

"The project began in 2019 for this species with a captive breeding programme, when the team succeeded in capturing a group of five wild gazelles in the Manga region and other areas of Ouadi Rimé - Ouadi Achim in Chad," said Ahmed

Al Hashemi, Executive Director of the Terrestrial and Marine Biodiversity Sector at EAD. "They were then transported to enclosures for breeding, where they were kept with other Dama Gazelles located from EAD's wildlife conservation centres in Abu Dhabi to Chad. The numbers have multiplied since then to a total of 29 animals."

He added, "The animals released by EAD are from two groups: one wild and the other captive-bred. Three animals were equipped with satellite tracking devices by a joint team from EAD, Sahara

animals," Al Hashemi added. "Identifying factors that limit their reproduction will be critical to supporting this gazelle species in the long term.

"It will also contribute to increasing the reserve's Dama Gazelle herd, and provide basic information for future releases, such as the best tracking devices to use and establishing the most effective wild herd monitoring practices."

The reintroduction of the Dama Gazelle follows the successful reintroduction programmes for



Conservation, the Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute, and the Zoological Society of London, to follow their movements and monitor their progress in the reserve, which is home to about 50 Dama Gazelle. This is also the first time that the captive-bred gazelles at the OROAWF reserve are being monitored using satellite collars."

"The post-release monitoring of gazelles will help us provide detailed information about the reproduction and mortality rates of these

the Scimitar-horned Oryx (SHO) and the Addax in Chad, which are part of an ambitious initiative that aims to establish a healthy and self-sustainable herd in an isolated, 77,950-square kilometre natural protected area within the Ouadi Rimé - Ouadi Achim reserve.

Launched in 2014, the first group of SHO were released into their natural habitat in 2016. Today, there are over 630 SHO flourishing in the reserve, with 160 healthy Addax.

Word Scramble

OCPLIV IMTLCAE
UNSA SIT
 TCSDRNOUETI
 RXEMETE
LAS PITC
 IWLFEILD
 URESE

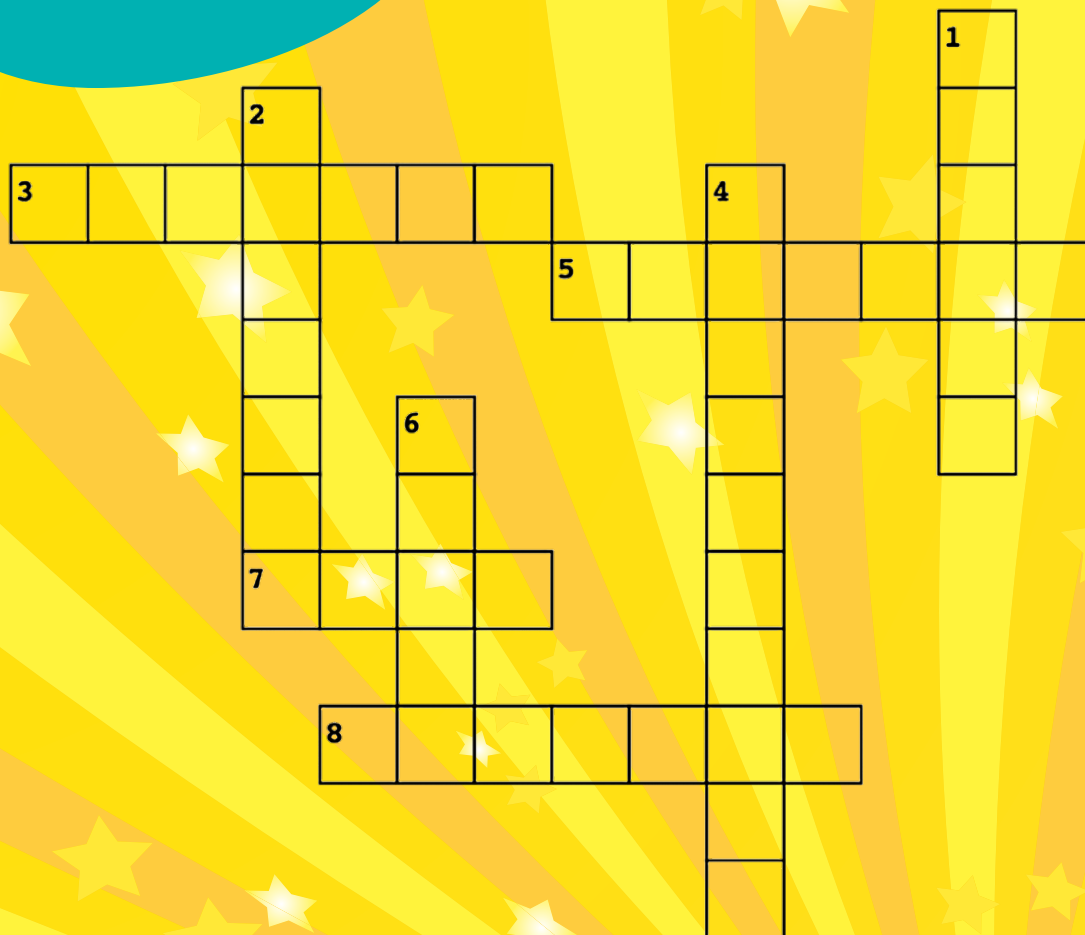
ANSWERS: 1) Sustain 2) Plastic 3) Climate 4) Reuse 5) Destruction 6) Extreme 7) Wildlife 8) Policy

Word Search

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

- LIFESTYLE
- WILDLIFE
- POLICY
- GOVERNMENT
- HORTICULTURE
- QUALITY
- GREENERY
- CONTROL
- PANDEMIC
- WETLANDS
- PLASTICS

Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 3. Water related
- 5. Earth substance
- 7. Rife with vegetation
- 8. Wreck completely

Down

- 1. Study of plants
- 2. Not artificial
- 4. Native to the soil
- 6. Unwanted material

ANSWERS: 1) Botany 2) Natural 3) Aquatic 4) Indigenous 5) Mineral 6) Waste 7) Lush 8) Destroy



WORD OF THE DAY:

ECOSYSTEM

An ecosystem is the term used to describe how a community of living things interact with each other and their environment. An ecosystem is made up of the interaction of all living organisms (like animals, plants, and bugs) in an area with all of the non-living organisms (like water, dirt, rocks, and the sun).

Each living thing in an ecosystem has a role to play—as a producer, a consumer, or a decomposer. Green plants are producers. They make their own food through a process called photosynthesis. Animals, including humans, are consumers. They eat, or consume, plants or other animals. Bacteria and other living things that cause decay are decomposers.

Decomposers break down the waste products and dead tissue of plants and animals. They return nutrients to the soil, where new plants grow. The way that producers, consumers, and decomposers provide nutrients for one another is called a food chain.

A food chain describes the order in which matter and energy move through the feeding levels of an ecosystem. The levels of a food chain are essentially the same across all ecosystems. The first level is the producers. After that is the consumers. Sometimes consumers are further divided into primary consumers, secondary consumers, and tertiary consumers. The final link in all food chains is the decomposers, which break down dead organisms and natural waste. The consumers at the top feeding level of a food chain are called top predators. They have no predators. Instead, their population size is controlled through competition.

An ecosystem's health depends on a delicate balance among all its members and the environment. If something disturbs the balance, like a changing climate or natural disasters, the ecosystem and all its members may suffer. Human activities that can disturb ecosystems include polluting and clearing land for farms or buildings.



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY - JUNE 5

World Environment Day, held annually on 5 June, brings together millions of people from across the globe, engaging them in the effort to protect and restore the Earth.

World Environment Day is a global platform for inspiring positive change. People from more than 150 countries participate in this United Nations international day, which celebrates environmental action and the power of governments, businesses and individuals to create a more sustainable world.

World Environment Day puts a global spotlight on the pressing environmental challenges of our times. This UN international day has become the largest global platform for environmental outreach, with millions of people from across the world engaging to protect the planet.

The event has been led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) since its inception in 1973. In 2024, World Environment

Day is being hosted by Saudi Arabia, with a focus on land restoration, desertification, and drought resilience.

This year's World Environment Day campaign focuses on land restoration, desertification and drought resilience under the slogan "Our land. Our future. We are #GenerationRestoration."

JUNE 8 WORLD OCEAN DAY

World Ocean Day catalyzes collective action for a healthy ocean and a stable climate, working in collaboration with youth leaders and a wide range of organizations. World Ocean Day belongs to all groups and individuals, collectively, everywhere. It's about how we can create a better future with an abundant ocean and a stable climate, by working together.

World Ocean Day was first declared as 8 June, 1992 in Rio de Janeiro at the Global Forum, a parallel event at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) which provided an opportunity for non-government organizations (NGOs) and civil society to express their views on environmental issues.

The Declaration was inspired by an event organized on that day by the Oceans Institute of Canada and supported by the Canadian Government: "Oceans Day at Global Forum – The Blue Planet". The programme featured international experts, opinion leaders and those in a position to speak for the oceans' contributions to sustaining the Blue Planet.



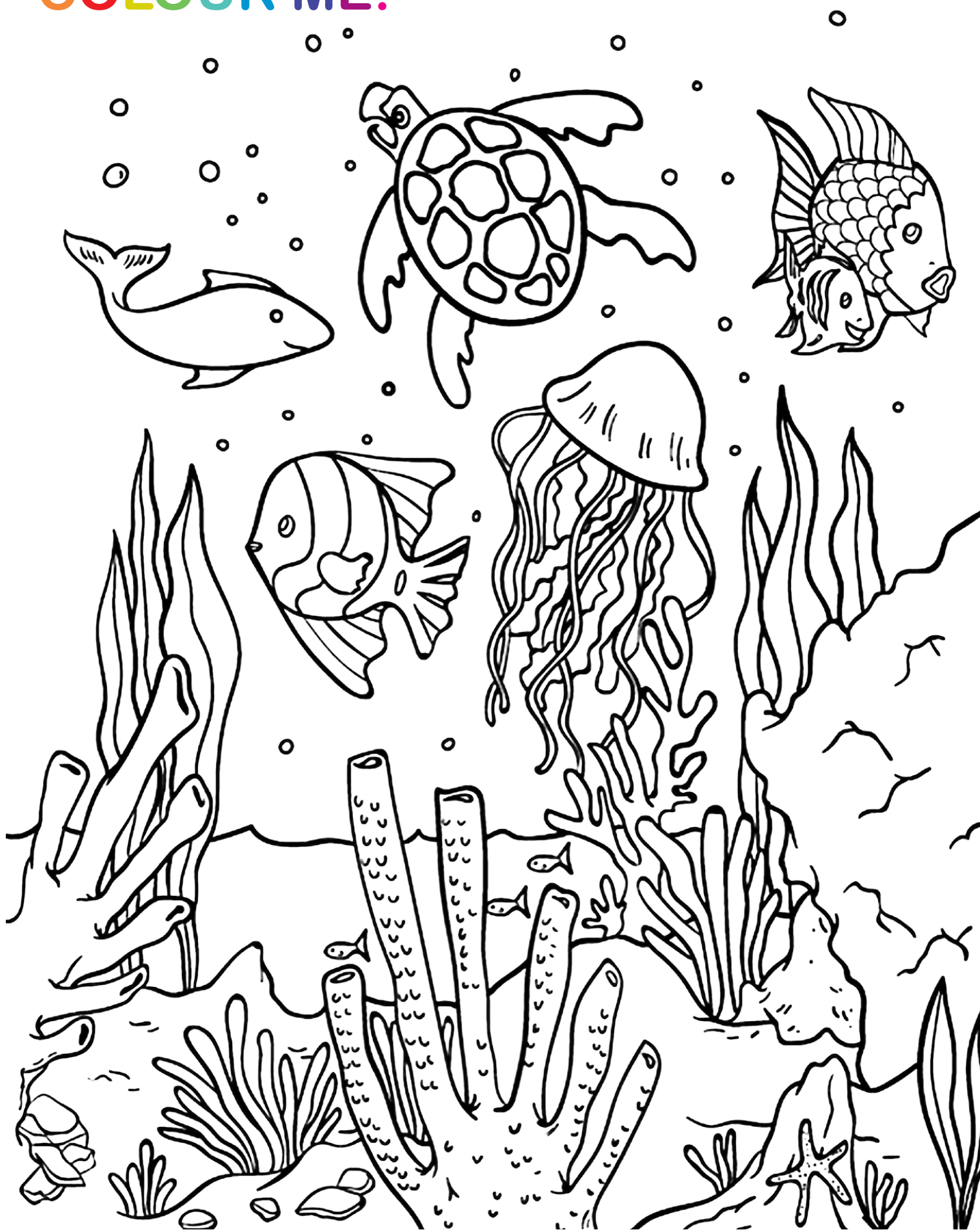
"Awaken New Depths" is the theme for World Ocean Day 2024. The UN is joining forces with decision-makers, indigenous leaders, scientists, private sector executives, civil society, celebrities, and youth activists to showcase how our relationship with the ocean needs to urgently change since our efforts to date have only skimmed the surface. To motivate widespread momentum for the ocean, we need to awaken new depths.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

Things to Do...

- ☒ Use public transport! _____
- ☒ Carry a water bottle! _____
- ☒ Switch off all lights when not in use _____
- ☒ Do not waste food _____
- ☒ Don't waste paper! _____

COLOUR ME!





Tadweer to build 1.3m-tonne Material Recovery Facility

UAE NEWS

Tadweer Group has announced the closed bidding for the planned development of Abu Dhabi's first greenfield Material Recovery Facility (MRF).

The state-of-the-art facility will recover recyclable materials from municipal solid waste and maximise the diversion of waste from landfills through recycling and preparing feedstock for the Abu Dhabi Waste to Energy facility. This will increase recycling, promote a circular economy and support Tadweer Group's wider ambition of diverting 80 percent of Abu Dhabi's waste away from landfill by 2030.

The MRF will be developed as part of the organisation's circular cluster, a series of facilities, which will contribute to the circular economy and ensure that minimal waste ends up in landfills. The long-term objectives for the facility include providing feedstock for other waste conversion processes and products, such as waste to Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF).

Ali Al Dhaheeri, MD and CEO, Tadweer Group, said, "A key part of our circular cluster, the development of the greenfield Material Recovery Facility is clear progress for the Emirate. This aligns with our strategic vision to harness technology to extend the lifetime of recyclable materials for a sustainable future. The facility will also directly contribute to our long-term ambitions of waste conversion, as we take steps forward to achieve a circular economy, echoing the pillars of the UAE's net-zero agenda."

The facility will also serve to promote local and foreign private sector investment and create employment and training opportunities for UAE nationals. The expected capacity will be 1.3 million metric tonnes per year.

Additionally, the facility will cover an area of over 90,000 sq m, making it one of the largest MRFs in the region, and will be located within the Al Mafraq Industrial area, 36 kms from Abu Dhabi.



‘Resilience, a necessity for enhancing economic development in cities’: WGS Report

The “Time to Thrive: Urban Resilience Shifts from Trend to Necessity” report highlights significant progress in GCC cities using an evidence-based framework to assess urban resilience

A strategic report, issued by the World Governments Summit, has focused on the main role of the world’s cities in the economic development process, as they attract 55 percent of the population, expected to rise to 68 percent by 2050, in addition to their contribution with around 80 percent of the GDP.

The “Time to Thrive: Urban Resilience Shifts from Trend to Necessity” report, prepared in partnership with Strategy& Middle East, PwC, revealed remarkable progress in a number of GCC cities in the evidence-based urban resilience framework that enables cities to assess their exposure to hazards, vulnerabilities, institutional capacities to respond, recover, and transform while dealing with challenges.

The pandemic exposed the urgent need for cities worldwide to become more resilient to face the wide range of threats, both natural and human-caused. To enhance their future readiness, cities must enhance their resilience to respond, recover, and transform in the face of shocks.

Notable development in the GCC cities

The report stated that the GCC cities have achieved the most notable increase in their overall resilience since the pandemic.

It highlighted that Abu Dhabi and Dubai reached top ranks among Gulf cities and are among the top 20 cities worldwide. It further showcased Dubai's efforts in launching initiatives that prioritise people's wellbeing, prosperity and

Population in cities globally are expected to rise to 68 percent by 2050



stability, including their ambitious plans to develop urban areas, increase green landscape, and diversify the economy.

It pinpointed Doha's enhanced urban resilience through large-scale initiatives and sustainable urban plans that were implemented before the 2022 FIFA World Cup, and the projects developed and implemented by Riyadh to diversify its economy.

The report is based on a comprehensive assessment online framework that enables cities to explore and evaluate their resilience. The

framework is supported by 131 key performance indicators (KPIs) and a detailed qualitative checklist to assess institutional capacities.

The framework was used to assess the urban resilience in 50 cities, 12 of which are in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, including: Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Amman, Kuwait, Muscat, Riyadh, Jeddah, Casablanca, and Cairo. Cities were chosen based on their urbanisation level, population growth, economic contribution, commercial and tourist attractiveness. The other 38 cities include New York, Toronto, London,



Paris, Zurich, Seoul, Singapore, Sydney, Tokyo, Cape Town, and São Paulo, providing a comprehensive global viewpoint.

Mohamed Al Sharhan, Managing Director of the World Governments Summit (WGS) Organisation, stressed that resilience is a main pillar in the work methodology of any government or institution that seeks to keep pace with rapid developments, anticipate future challenges, and contribute effectively to shaping the future."

"Incidents in the past five years, including the "COVID-19" pandemic, demonstrated the significance of resilience and innovation in facing challenges, accelerating recovery, and bringing about transformation. Cities will face greater challenges in the future in various fields, driven by the accelerating pace of development of industries and economies catalysed by the development of AI and the impact of demographic shifts on healthcare, urban planning, and labor markets," he added.

"To develop resilience, decision makers must understand their city's exposure to natural and human-caused threats," said Dima Sayess, partner at Strategy& and the leader of the firm's Ideation Center in the Middle East. "They must then

eliminate any structural vulnerabilities that might intensify the impact of a disaster in terms of basic, social, economic, and urban environment needs, through developing all required institutional capacities," she added.

Melissa Rizk, Foresight Director at the Ideation Center, further stated, "When you think about resilience, the prevailing narrative is one of stability and permanence. In the world of fast-paced change, innovation and agility are the real determinants of who wins and who loses. Cities that are open to new approaches and solutions will be the next trendsetters."

Resilient cities have eight main characteristics, including proactive action, future foresight, wisdom to secure and diversify resources including emergency financing, intelligence and adaptability, inclusion and public-private cooperation, providing people's requirements, developing innovative plans to help cities recover, and adopting a comprehensive approach to provide effective solutions.

The report highlighted that cities can make great strides within years, transforming from weak to resilient cities, and ultimately showing significant resilience. Cities in the MENA region, such as Riyadh, Muscat and Doha, have made remarkable





progress through innovation, investments and enhancing institutional capacities, which in turn represents a clear sign that the region is capable of transforming its cities into global role models.

Meeting basic needs, such as water and food security, housing, and safety, are the basic pillars for a city to become resilient. Therefore, decision-makers can focus on long-term capabilities such as public finances, education, and business, which helps them plan responses to manage crises.

Innovation should be among the top priorities, as the analysis revealed that it is a main capability and the key to reaching resilience.

The goal is not to create something new, but to constantly adapt to change, transform challenges into opportunities, and be ready to change direction whenever necessary. This is how cities thrive, even in times of turbulence.

With appropriate investment and enhanced institutional capacities - especially in the field of innovation - cities can enhance their readiness to face future challenges and boost their resilience to respond, recover, and transform.

The World Governments Summit signed 9 agreements with the most prominent global consulting companies and research institutions to issue a series of reports and tools that present key trends and opportunities for governments to focus on and leverage in enhancing their readiness for the future in the post-pandemic world.

The reports focus on shaping the future of governments, studying global transformations and challenges, identifying the priorities and requirements of the coming phase, and developing new work mechanisms to empower the next generation of governments.



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Zayed Intl. Foundation
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Founding Chairperson
of Bi'ati Organization

Desertification and land degradation: An urgent call to action

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GREEN FLASH

World Environment Day 2024 was a milestone in the global environmental movement, particularly in Africa where the impact of desertification and land degradation are acutely felt. The day served as a potent reminder of the spiraling climate threats we face worldwide.

Regions like North Africa that are on the frontlines of climate change are experiencing rising temperatures, reduced rainfall, and more frequent extreme weather events. These climatic changes exacerbate desertification and land degradation, creating a vicious cycle that threatens the livelihoods of millions.

Today, more than 35% of the world's population lives in dryland ecosystems, and these landscapes must be carefully managed if they are to sustain human life. The Sahara Desert's encroachment is a stark reminder of the fragile balance between human activity and nature.

Restoring landscapes – a process that includes everything from planting trees to curbing pollution – can help end land degradation, which affects more than 3 billion people worldwide.

Governments are beginning to implement policies that support sustainable land use and conservation efforts. For instance, Morocco's High Atlas Reforestation Project aims to restore degraded lands, combat

desertification and preserve biodiversity. In Sudan and South Sudan, land degradation is threatening the prospects of the two nations for long-term food security, sustainable development, and peace.

Built to halt the progress of the Sahara desert, the Great Green Wall has transformed millions of lives in the Sahel, but there is still much work to be done to accelerate progress. Restoring degraded land requires a well-orchestrated approach as multiple stakeholders at national and local levels should come together to create or pursue shared strategies that meet desired benefits.

One such example is the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100), a partnership of 34 member countries in Africa, all of which work together to restore 100 million hectares of land around Africa by 2030. AFR100 also contributes to the Bonn Challenge, a global restoration movement.

Avoiding, reducing, and reversing land degradation is essential for the food security of current and future generations, for the conservation of biodiversity, and for the achievement of climate targets. By engaging young people in restoration activities, such as tree planting and soil conservation, we can ensure that the momentum built on World Environment Day translates into sustained action and lasting change.



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