



SEPTEMBER  
2023  
ISSUE 223

# Society & Environment

creating green communities for a better tomorrow

A monthly publication issued by Zayed International Foundation for the Environment



36

COP28 announces innovative  
thematic programme  
to progress action on its goals

Lucid Air Sapphire:  
The Pinnacle of Electric Performance

08





Emirates Appreciation Award for the Environment

Together for a green home



## Chairman's Message

As the world grapples with the urgent need for climate action, the UAE is emerging as a beacon of leadership and innovation in the fight against climate change. As the nation gears up to host the most inclusive COP to date, the importance of the UAE's leadership on climate action cannot be overstated.

The nation's commitment to sustainability is evident in its ambitious climate goals, which align with the Paris Agreement's targets. Under the visionary leadership of UAE President HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the UAE has announced a comprehensive roadmap to achieving 40 percent emission reduction by 2030 and increasing the share of clean energy in its total energy mix to 50%. These goals are not just aspirations but actionable commitments that inspire the world.

The nation is also home to the world's largest single-site solar park, the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park, and has invested significantly in nuclear energy through the Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant, to provide clean, reliable power for decades while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.



**Prof. Mohammed  
bin Fahad**  
Executive Editor

As COP 28 approaches, the UAE is actively working to ensure that voices from all corners of the globe, especially those most affected by climate change, are heard and considered in the negotiations. The UAE's emphasis on innovation is another crucial aspect of its climate leadership.

The nation recognizes that addressing climate change requires groundbreaking technologies and approaches. Initiatives like the UAE Research Program for Rain Enhancement Science and the Mars Science City project showcase the nation's determination to push the boundaries of science and technology to address climate-related challenges.

As the UAE continues to demonstrate its holistic approach to climate action, under its leadership, COP 28 has the potential to be a turning point in the accelerating climate action and shaping a sustainable future for all.

# Contents



06

## ZAYED FOUNDATION

Zayed International Foundation for the Environment and Century Financial Discuss Partnership Ahead of COP 28

08

## COVER STORY

COP28 announces innovative thematic programme to progress action on its goals



16

**COP28:** COP28 UAE Presidency announces priorities to drive water up the climate agenda

22

## INNOVATION

BEEAH enhances city cleaning, waste management with region's first AI vision cameras

24



**WORKSHOP:** UAE hosts second national workshop to update National Biodiversity Strategy

32

## EXHIBITION

Blueprint for preserving and restoring raptors and their habitats spotlighted at ADIHEX



36

## ELECTRIC MOBILITY

Lucid Air Sapphire: The Pinnacle of Electric Performance

## INITIATIVE

Zayed Sustainability Prize's Beyond2020 initiative secures clean water for 9,000 rural Ethiopians



40

## PUBLISHED BY



## Executive Director

Prof. Mohammed Bin Fahad

## Advisors

Dr. Hamdan K. Al Shaer  
Dr. Eisa M. Abdellatif

## Marketing

marketing@zayedprize.org.ae

## Editor

Sangeetha K  
editor@zayedprize.org.ae  
mail@zayedprize.org.ae

## Design Director

Nash - Intoto Marketing  
Communications  
editor@zayedprize.org.ae





**GREEN CITY:** Seoul, South Korea: Megacity with Focus on Sustainability

48

**CLIMATE FINANCE**  
COP28 President-Designate calls on international community to increase climate finance to African countries



**WORLD WATER WEEK:** World Water Week 2023 urges collective action for better water outcomes



## Upcoming events

### Africa Climate Week & Summit (ACW) 2023

**Date:** September 4 - 8

**Location:** Nairobi, Kenya

This annual event brings together leaders from governments, businesses, international organizations and civil society to explore ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while adapting to the mounting fallout from the climate crisis."

ACW 2023 will be organized into four systems-based tracks, each focusing on specific themes: Energy systems and industry; Cities, urban and rural settlements, infrastructure and transport; Land, ocean, food and water; and Societies, health, livelihoods, and economies

### Behavior Change: A Toolkit for Ecosystem Restoration

**Date:** September 6

**Webinar**

Hosted in partnership with the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the online session empowers participants with a blend of knowledge, insight, and motivation, focusing on behavior-centered design (BCD) and behavioral sciences to enhance ecosystem restoration aligned with the UN Decade's mission. Essential concepts from behavioral and social sciences will be combined with design thinking principles to offer a fresh approach to environmental challenges. Conservationists, restoration experts, and policy shapers can engage in interactive activities to apply relevant strategies.

### Green Jobs for the Future

**Date:** September 14-15

**Location:** Hybrid/Bangkok, Thailand

Current global consumption and production of materials is one of the root causes to the triple planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste. This has major impacts on work, where 40% of all jobs depend on ecosystem services and climate change induced heat stress threatens productivity losses equivalent to 80 million full-time jobs. A systemic transition to a circular economy can address the triple planetary crises while providing opportunities for green jobs.

This two-day workshop will increase awareness of the required skills for circularity and seek for solutions to overcome the skills gap required while also focusing on ongoing developments to increase sustainable consumption and production patterns.

# Zayed International Foundation For The Environment and Century Financial Discuss Partnership Ahead Of COP 28

In a significant move towards promoting sustainability and corporate social responsibility (CSR), Zayed International Foundation for the Environment and Century Financial recently held discussions to collaborate and execute future events in these domains.

The discussions were led by Prof. Dr. Mohamed Ahmed Bin Fahad, Chairman of the Higher



Committee, and Ali AbdulKareem, Senior Executive Director, Century Financial, in the presence of key representatives from both organizations.

The discussions between the Zayed Foundation and Century Financial focused on the shared commitment of the two organisations to environmental preservation and responsible corporate practices. Representatives from both organizations discussed innovative strategies and potential joint ventures where events would be planned by the Corporate Affairs and Sustainability department at Century Financial.

Representatives from the Zayed Foundation at the meeting included Dr. Hamdan K. Al Shaer, Member of the Higher Committee, and Salma Moustaid, Technical Executive Officer. Among the other attendees were Nadeem Khan,

Executive Director at Century Financial, and Dr. Sameera Fernandes, Director of Corporate Affairs & Sustainability at Century Financial.

The meeting also witnessed a noteworthy exchange of knowledge and resources. The Zayed Foundation presented the latest additions of its research-led environmental publications to the Century Financial team. These books, authored by leading environmental experts, provide valuable insights into contemporary environmental issues and sustainable solutions. Society & Environment, Zayed Foundation's monthly magazine dedicated to environmental topics, was also presented. The magazine serves as an informative platform for disseminating knowledge on pressing environmental concerns, initiatives, and best practices.





## Glimpses From Second Climate Talk Series Hosted Jointly By Zayed International Foundation For The Environment And SEE Institute

In a first-of-its-kind collaboration, the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment partnered with the SEE Institute, a hub for sustainability education, research and business incubation in Dubai, for the Second Climate Talk Series titled "Green Finance and ESG: Driving Sustainable Solutions for a Resilient Future". The event was marked by insightful discussions and expert presentations and engaged industry stakeholders in the dialogue on developing competencies for tackling climate change.



Dr. Hamdan Al Shaer, Member of the Higher Committee of the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, delivered an engaging keynote address in which he highlighted the role of sustainable finance solutions in enhancing the resilience of the UAE's

infrastructure and economy.

The event was attended by sustainability enthusiasts, investors, financial advisors, investment managers, and ESG practitioners, amongst others.

## COP28 Announces Innovative Thematic Programme To Progress Action On Its Goals

The COP28 UAE Presidency has announced an ambitious and inclusive two-week thematic programme for the Conference of the Parties to deliver on four key goals alongside the negotiations process and as part of the critical Global Stocktake response.

Taking place at Expo City Dubai from 30th November to 12th December, COP28 UAE will



COP28's two-week thematic programme includes a special day dedicated to exploring climate action across food, agriculture, and water

focus on fast-tracking a just, orderly and equitable energy transition; fixing climate finance; putting nature, lives and livelihoods at the heart of climate action; and mobilising for the most inclusive COP.

Designed to drive action and implement policy, finance, and technology solutions across these priorities, the innovative two-week thematic programme was developed in consultation with stakeholders including civil society, NGOs, youth, and Indigenous Peoples.

A six-week open consultation on the thematic areas and sequencing was held in which stakeholders were invited to submit feedback – the first such approach taken by a COP Presidency.

Kicking off with a two-day World Climate Action



# *COP28 programme to include first-ever days dedicated to Health/Relief, Recovery, and Peace, as well as Trade and Multilevel Action/Urbanization*



Summit, during which the first-ever Global Stocktake response will be presented to world leaders with the COP Presidency seeking commitments and accountability, the programme also features new individual thematic days that respond to global challenges.

For the first time at a COP forum, COP28 will dedicate a day to Health, Relief, Recovery, and Peace, with a high level climate health ministerial, among other thematic activities. COP28 will also be the first to focus on the role of trade in tandem with finance and it will be the COP that brings leaders together from across all levels of government and society – from the local mayors to global leaders– to work towards cleaner, greener, safer cities for current and future generations.

All thematic days throughout the two weeks will

be underpinned with an inclusive approach that prioritises frontline communities and focuses on how finance, technology and innovation can drive solutions.

Below are the key themes and events for each day:

- **November 30:** COP28 UAE opens to the world at Expo City, Dubai.

- **December 1 -2:** World Climate Action Summit – These two days will see heads of state and world leaders come together to tackle the most pressing climate issues in dialogue with leaders from civil society, business, youth, Indigenous Peoples' organisations and others. Typically, the summit helps to firm up the ambition for the remainder of the COP. For COP28, it will go further; it is where the first-ever Global Stocktake



response and the urgency of the situation faced will be presented, and the COP Presidency will seek accountability from the highest levels of global governance on a way forward.

• **December 3:** Health/Relief, Recovery, and Peace – Climate change is already impacting human health across the planet, from the quality of the air we breathe to the water we drink and the places that provide us with shelter. It is also a major cause for displacement of vulnerable communities, leading to increased fragility which can compromise peace. This day, a first for COPs, will explore ways to provide relief to those affected while strengthening resilience and recovery leading to increased stability.

• **December 4:** Finance/Trade/Gender Equality/Accountability – No global financial systems that control and impact access and affordability of

climate finance or international trade networks are working effectively and equitably. It is widely acknowledged that leaders of the global institutions and countries that govern these systems must accelerate and be accountable for an overhaul.

An example of this is freeing up access to international finance and trade to support the implementation of adaptation and mitigation solutions without restrictions of high interest rates that the poorest countries cannot afford.

This is necessary to create fairer and more equal conditions for the world – and especially the most climate vulnerable countries from the Global South – to meet collective climate targets. This day will focus on moving this work forward while championing the importance of gender equality across the full climate spectrum.



*Official programme designed  
following COP28 President-  
Designate's global listening and  
engagement tour*



• **December 5:** Energy and Industry/Just Transition/Indigenous Peoples – The world needs to decarbonise rapidly while continuing to progress economically. It is critical that this development happens sustainably and inclusively to support lives and livelihoods while protecting the planet. This day will focus on how the world can accelerate the energy transition while ensuring it is just.

The energy needed for day-to-day life must remain affordable but become cleaner, and jobs must be retained but expand as green technologies emerge and provide increased and equitable access to opportunities. The day will look at the broad spectrum of solutions from deploying renewable energy at scale and how hydrogen can support this, to decarbonising the energy of today through carbon capture technologies and rapidly reducing methane

emissions from oil and gas. It will also focus on heavy-emitting industry including steel, cement, and aluminium.

Indigenous Peoples are stewards of 80 per cent of our planet's biodiversity and Indigenous Peoples Day will recognise the importance of their intergenerational knowledge, practices, and leadership in climate action. The day will also strengthen their role in the just transition, reinforcing the urgency of a fully inclusive, all-of-society approach.

• **December 6:** Multilevel Action, Urbanisation, and Built Environment/Transport – It is not often that leaders representing all levels of governance, from the local to the global, come together. This day will provide a rare opportunity for mayors and governors, ministers and parliamentarians, and global business and civil society leaders to





In addition, this day will showcase how all these solutions contribute to safer, healthier and greener cities for current and future generations.

- **December 8:** Youth, Children, Education, and Skills – Children and youth are facing disproportionate risks and impacts from climate change as the generation who will inherit a planet with tougher conditions in which to live and

- **December 9:** Nature, Land Use, and Oceans – Our world’s climate and its biodiversity are inextricably interconnected, one cannot exist without the other. Mitigating both crises must therefore be integrated.

In a landmark win for nature, a 30 x 30 biodiversity goal was adopted by world leaders at the CBD COP15 – to protect at least 30 percent of the planet's land and water by 2030. Contributing to the goal, this day will focus on delivering climate and nature co-benefits.



*Indigenous Peoples Day will recognise the importance of their intergenerational knowledge, practices, and leadership in climate action*



This includes co-designing approaches to land use and oceans conservation with local and Indigenous Peoples to protect and manage biodiversity hotspots and natural carbon sinks.

• **December 10:** Food, Agriculture, and Water – Climate change is creating severe pressure and risks for the food, agricultural and water systems that ensure human wellbeing. At the same time, these systems are also key contributors to climate change: one third of all human-made GHG emissions derive from agri-food systems, and 70 percent of fresh water consumed worldwide is used for agricultural production.

This day will focus on how to fix this, from scaling up regenerative agriculture and water-food systems that support habitat restoration and conservation and increase food security, to implementing stronger, fairer integrated

governance between states and corporations, farmers and producers.

• **December 11 - 12:** Final Negotiations – On the final two days of COP28, there will be no thematic days to avoid extensive programming when the negotiation text is often being closed.



## 'UAE To Lead COP28 In Protecting Planet, Safeguarding Future Generations'

UAE President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan received at Qasr Al Bahr Majlis the team tasked with overseeing the 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28).

During the meeting, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed affirmed that sustainability



UAE President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan meets with members of National Higher Committee to discuss preparations to host COP28 in the UAE

remains at the heart of the UAE's support for global climate action. His Highness also emphasised the need to enhance international solidarity and cooperation in pursuit of practical solutions to climate challenges.

The meeting was attended by members of the National Higher Committee tasked with the delivery of the climate summit.

His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed was briefed by the COP28 team about the conference preparations and the four pillars of the COP28 Action Agenda, including fast-tracking a just and orderly energy transition; fixing climate finance; putting nature, lives, and livelihoods at the centre of climate action; and enhancing inclusivity in national climate action.

The President affirmed that by hosting COP28,



## *UAE President says climate talks must serve all of humanity*



the UAE is building upon its enduring legacy of environmental stewardship first championed under the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Founding Father of the UAE, while empowering youth, women, and civil society to contribute to mobilising international efforts to combat climate change. Moreover, His Highness noted, the UAE is fostering cooperation and joint action to achieve outcomes that benefit the global community. His Highness underscored that the COP28 team's endeavours to accelerate effective climate action serve all of humanity in light of the climate crisis.

His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed affirmed that the UAE will leverage its diverse international partnerships in efforts to pursue inclusive dialogue and cooperation while focusing on practical climate solutions and fostering sustainable social and economic development.

Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed underscored the importance of preparations to host COP28, emphasising that the UAE possesses essential capabilities such as modern infrastructure, a commendable track record in sustainability and environmental conservation, recognition as a successful convener of global events, and deep-rooted relations with other countries. His Highness commended the efforts of the COP28 team in overseeing the conference and striving to achieve its objectives.

The Higher Committee is led by Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed, Minister of Foreign Affairs and chairman of the Higher Committee, and Dr Sultan Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology, UAE Special Envoy for Climate Change, and vice chairman of the Cop28 UAE Higher Committee.

## COP28 UAE Presidency Announces Priorities To Drive Water Up The Climate Agenda

The COP28 UAE Presidency has launched its Water Agenda during World Water Week in Stockholm, which took place from August 20 to 24.

COP28 announced its top priority areas, which include conserving and restoring freshwater ecosystems, enhancing urban water resilience, and bolstering water-resilient food systems.



The COP28 Water Agenda identifies three priority areas for programming: conserving and restoring freshwater ecosystems, enhancing urban water resilience, and bolstering water-resilient food systems

Furthermore, the COP28 Presidency announced a partnership with the Netherlands and Tajikistan to serve as COP28 Water Champions. This partnership aims to build upon outcomes and momentum from the UN 2023 Water Conference held in March, which was co-hosted by the Netherlands and Tajikistan, and resulted in the Water Action Agenda.

COP28 aims to give unprecedented attention to water risks and opportunities across the agenda, from agriculture to disaster prevention. This partnership unites the COP28 Presidency, Tajikistan, and the Netherlands to deliver water policy, technology, and financing results at COP28. Support from the Netherlands and Tajikistan is essential to ensuring progress and commitments from the UN Water Conference are driven forward.

Her Excellency Razan Al Mubarak, UN Climate



# *COP28 will elevate water on the climate agenda and seek to drive forward progress and raise ambition*



Change High-Level Champion for COP28, spoke on the launch of the Water Agenda and partnership, saying, "Climate change profoundly affects water through flooding, droughts, and sea level rises, impacting homes, ecosystems, and livelihoods. Yet water is not only essential for human survival, health, and food systems, but it's also fundamental to nature's balance and the flourishing of biodiversity. With the COP28 Water Agenda, we seek to bridge the insights from the UN Water Conference with the climate community, amplifying our adaptation and mitigation efforts."

Tajik Minister of Economic Development and Trade, His Excellency Zavqi Zavqizoda, welcomed the partnership and expressed his commitment to co-lead COP28's Water Agenda.

René van Hell, Ambassador for Sustainable Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

Kingdom of the Netherlands, stated, "As co-host of the UN 2023 Water Conference, we firmly believe that the Water Action Agenda commitments, the pathways of change of the Global Commission on the Economics of Water, and other initiatives are the backbone for the realization of our goals. Our cooperation will support that, from New York to Dubai, and from Dubai to the world. Tangible outcomes on water and climate at COP28 are essential. There's no time to waste. We have to act, all together, from public to private sector leaders. And we will."

This collaboration will help put nature, people, lives and livelihoods at the heart of climate action.

Stuart Orr, Freshwater Practice Leader, WWF International, said, "We welcome the partnership with the COP28 Presidency to restore 30 percent of degraded freshwater ecosystems by 2030, leveraging the Freshwater Challenge. Rivers and



wetlands are among our greatest allies in adapting to the climate crisis and need urgent attention and investment that benefits not only nature but also people across the world.”

The UAE and Brazil will also co-host the first UNFCCC high-level dialogue on building water resilience in food systems at COP28, bringing together ministers, the private sector, international organizations, and civil society to assess water and food resilience within National Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Action Plans (NAPs).

The first day of its kind, it will focus on innovation investment, regenerative agriculture, and national transformation pathways, underpinned by financing mechanisms. Water programming will look at freshwater restoration and conservation, infrastructure for urban water resilience, and integrated governance and

management of water-food systems.

Billions of people worldwide are now facing severe droughts, floods, and water contamination due to climate change, further undermining food security, community cohesion, and economic development. These climate impacts worsen existing challenges around clean drinking water access and sanitation.





# UN Declares IRENA's Founding Date As International Day For Clean Energy

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has adopted a resolution proclaiming the January 26 as the International Day of Clean Energy, the anniversary day of the founding of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) in 2009.

By selecting January 26, the 193 Member States

UAE NEWS



of the UNGA acknowledge IRENA's leading role in accelerating the global, renewables-based energy transition.

Welcoming the UN resolution, IRENA Director-General Francesco La Camera said: "I applaud the UN and its Member States, including the UAE and Panama as co-facilitators of the resolution, on their decision to create an International Day of Clean Energy.

"It is proof, that since the foundation of IRENA on the 26th of January 2009, the energy transition has taken centre-stage to fight climate change, enhance human welfare and drive an urgent and systemic shift for increased energy access, reduced inequalities, improved energy security, and prosperous and resilient economies and societies."

By creating a day focused on clean energy, the UN

underscores the importance of inclusivity and offers a dedicated day for both traditional and non-traditional actors to showcase their contributions to more affordable, reliable, and sustainable modern energy systems that ultimately help accelerate progress towards the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

With COP28 in Dubai approaching, this UN decision highlights the need for a unified global approach to energy issues. In line with IRENA's 1.5°C scenario and the COP28 agenda, the UN resolution emphasises the need to increase the share of renewables and clean energy by 2030 for a just and sustainable energy transition. IRENA's World Energy Transitions Outlook calls for a tripling of annual renewable power capacity additions from around 300 gigawatts (GW) to 1000 GW on average until 2030 globally.

## UAE Stands Ready To Host COP28: Mariam Almheiri

Mariam bint Mohammed Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and the Environment, has affirmed the UAE's readiness to host the upcoming Conference of the Parties (COP28) this November, in collaboration with all associated partners and entities.

She underscored the UAE's pivotal role in advancing global climate initiatives,



Minister of Climate Change and the Environment highlights UAE's role in enhancing global climate action and conservation

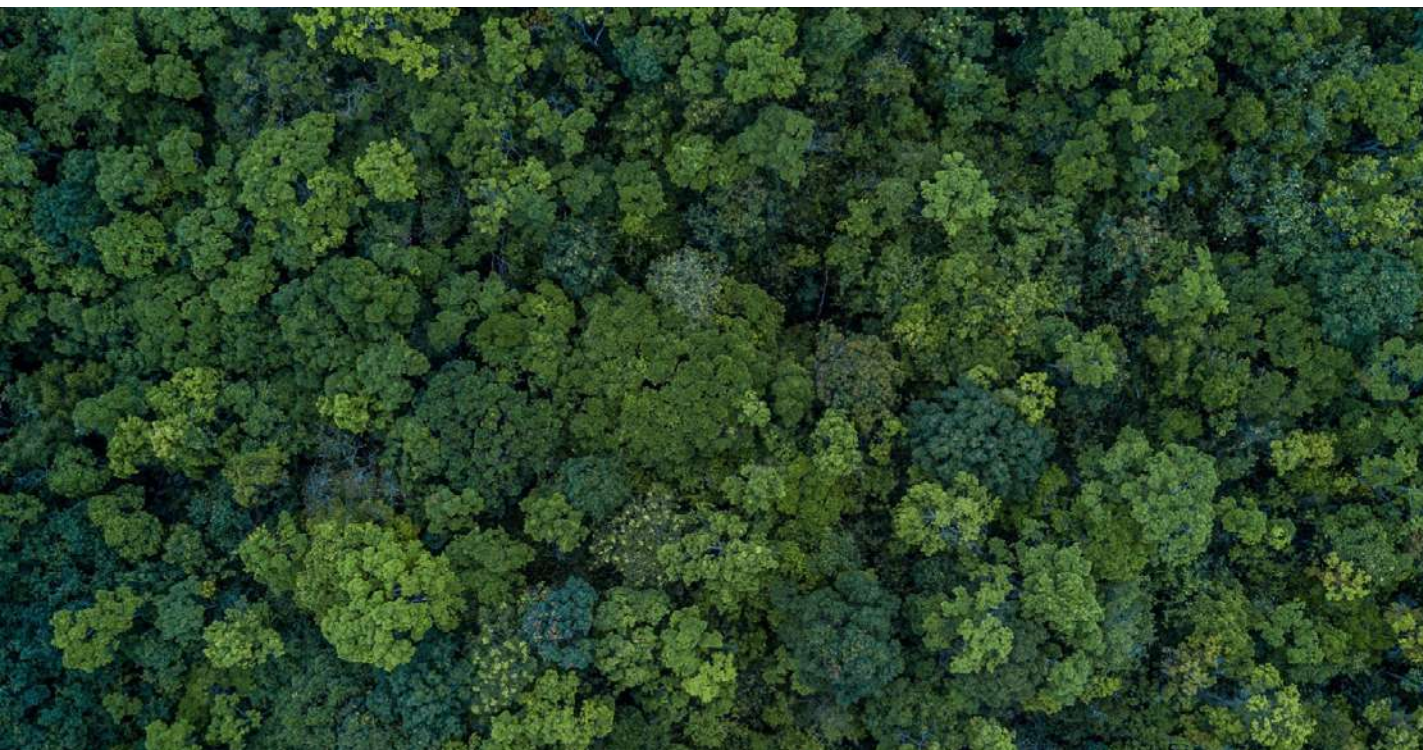
safeguarding our natural environment and Earth, and paving the way for a brighter future for subsequent generations.

Minister Almheiri said, "The start of a 100-day countdown to the Conference of the Parties events in the UAE is a moment we have been looking forward to, as it highlights the UAE's efforts in tackling climate change on both a national and international scale. We see COP28 in the UAE as a living testament to our achievements and a hopeful glimpse into the future. It represents a crucial juncture in our commitment to assist humanity in confronting one of its most profound challenges."

She added, "The UAE's approach to climate action hinges on inclusivity and synchronised efforts across a spectrum of stakeholders, encompassing federal and local government



*"We see COP28 in the UAE as a living testament to our achievements and a hopeful glimpse into the future"*



bodies, the private sector, and community members from diverse backgrounds."

Almheiri continued, "As we gear up for COP28, our focus remains on forging a resilient climate and ecological future, collaborating closely with all stakeholders to amplify our conference's global goals. Recent times have showcased the UAE's unwavering commitment to its climate pledges, especially with the update of our Nationally Determined Contributions and the bold target of cutting emissions by 40 percent by 2030. Additionally, there has been a surge in collaborative endeavours with the local community and the private sector, all aimed at bolstering the UAE's environmental initiatives, from emission reduction and sustainable food security to biodiversity conservation, nature preservation, sustainable financing, the circular economy, and more."

She stated, "In the context of the UAE's 'Year of Sustainability' in 2023, the 100 days before COP28 will see a myriad of initiatives unveiled by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, along with other pertinent governmental and private entities in the UAE. These endeavours will further our environmental and climate objectives."

"Collaboration and inclusivity stand at the heart of our endeavours, and we will engage in thoughtful discussions, share expert perspectives, and collectively navigate sustainable solutions for the betterment of our environment. We will transform climate change challenges into opportunities and ensure that COP28 becomes a defining moment in the UAE's and humanity's pursuit of a sustainable future marked by prosperity, development, and global advancement," the Minister concluded.

## Region's First AI Vision Cameras Enhance City Cleaning, Waste Management

**B**EAAH Tandeef, the waste collection and city cleaning vertical of BEEAH Group, announced a monumental step towards cleaner urban environments with AI City Vision.

This groundbreaking AI 360 Camera system for waste collection vehicles, the first of its kind in the region, is set to revolutionise how cities are maintained and waste is managed.



Ground-breaking AI 360-degree camera system to simplify waste collection by identifying litter and waste hotspots and managing routes intelligently, optimizing efficiency and reducing environmental impact

A standout innovation, AI City Vision processes images and videos captured by 360-degree external cameras with exceptional accuracy. By recognising conditions such as waste bin status, overflowing waste, and road cleanliness, this AI-driven technology streamlines waste management, leading to significant time savings and smarter asset management. Overflowing bins are logged into a portal, optimising waste collection and cleansing routes.

Focusing on the beautification and upkeep of the city, the AI City Vision system aligns perfectly with BEEAH Tandeef's dedication to a cleaner and more sustainable future in the UAE and beyond.

This integration with existing waste management systems demonstrates a significant stride towards cleaner cities, fostering a sustainable and circular economy.



*The AI cameras provide real-time data, enabling civic officials to make informed decisions and deploy resources precisely where needed*



Alongside the groundbreaking AI City Vision system, BEEAH Tandeef also introduced additional innovative solutions. With a Facial Recognition Bus Attendance system, BEEAH Tandeef's workforce transportation buses are transforming labour management within the industry. This system ensures seamless, accurate and timely attendance records while reducing administrative burdens.

Further building on its innovative legacy, BEEAH Tandeef continues to find success with the Smart Bracelet designed for its dedicated labourers. Equipped with real-time tracking and safety assurance mechanisms, this IoT-enabled device underscores BEEAH Tandeef's commitment to the safety and welfare of its workforce.

Rafael Lopez, Chief Executive Officer of BEEAH Tandeef, said, "These innovative technologies

epitomise BEEAH Tandeef's dedication to fostering a sustainable quality of life, within our workforce and our cities of operation, while also contributing to a healthy environment and economic prosperity in the UAE. By integrating AI technology in waste management, BEEAH Tandeef contributes to the nation's goal of becoming a global leader in technological advancement and sustainable development."

BEEAH's commitment to innovation is evident in its extensive investment in pioneering AI technologies across its diverse business verticals. Through state-of-the-art waste sorting and recycling technologies, intelligent equipment like smart bins and used cooking oil machines, and advanced fleet management systems such as WastePro+, BEEAH Tandeef constantly explores new frontiers in waste management.

## UAE Concludes Workshop To Update National Biodiversity Strategy 2031

The UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MoCCA) has concluded the second national workshop to update the National Biodiversity Strategy 2031. The three-day workshop was held at the Habtoor Polo Resort in Dubai.

The second national workshop aims to develop a national strategy and action plan that meets



The second national workshop aims to develop a national strategy and action plan that meets international commitments towards biodiversity

international commitments towards biodiversity and aligns with the leadership directions and national policies to achieve the UAE's centennial goals. This is done by staying updated with the latest developments, discussing the outputs of the working groups regarding the update of the National Biodiversity Strategy, and exploring the best environmental practices related to the development and enhancement of this vital sector in the country, ensuring its sustainability.

The workshop was attended by Dr. Mohammed Salman Alhammadi, Assistant Under-Secretary for the Biodiversity and Marine Life Sector at the Ministry of Climate Change and the Environment, Geetha Nayak the Regional Coordinator for Biodiversity and Ecosystems at the United Nations Environment Programme West Asia Office, and representatives from several ministries as well as various local



*The workshop consolidated efforts to achieve national targets and international directions in line with the global biodiversity framework*



government entities, the academic sector, public benefit associations, and the private sector.

During the workshop, Dr. Mohamed Salman Alhammadi emphasised the UAE's significant commitment to enhancing biodiversity, conserving endangered animal and plant species, and preserving crucial ecosystems that offer unique services such as carbon dioxide storage, air purification, natural disaster mitigation, food and medicine provision, among others. He highlighted the UAE's efforts to shape a pioneering global model in this vital field, and formulating an ambitious national biodiversity strategy.

The workshop was an opportunity to gather various sectors in the country, including government, academia, private, public benefit organisations, and related international

organisations, to consolidate efforts to achieve national targets and international directions in line with the global biodiversity framework.

He added, "The issue of biodiversity and related wildlife conservation and development is of paramount importance in the UAE, starting with the efforts made by the UAE's leadership in this field, including enacting legislation, monitoring its implementation, establishing protected areas, expanding them, and conserving endangered species."

Workshop participants worked in groups to align national and international objectives, programmes, and initiatives with the goals and initiatives of the National Biodiversity Strategy, contributing to the development of a comprehensive national strategy. The workshop also aimed to address the underlying causes of



biodiversity loss and confront and overcome challenges by integrating biodiversity values across all state sectors, reducing direct pressures on biodiversity, promoting sustainable use, and ensuring the sustainability of ecosystem services.

During the national workshop, the outcomes of the first preparatory workshop for updating the National Biodiversity Strategy, which was held at the beginning of last June, were reviewed.

The Ministry of Climate Change and the Environment presented an explanatory presentation about the efforts of the UAE, the state of biodiversity in the country, and the progress made in implementing the national strategy.

The guiding manual for developing national

strategies by the Ministry of Cabinet Affairs was also reviewed, in addition to getting acquainted with the efforts and experiences of some entities related to biodiversity in the country.

Several initiatives and projects related to biodiversity conservation were presented during the workshop by the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi, Dubai Municipality, the Environment Authority - Fujairah, Dibba Al Fujairah Municipality, and the UAE Environment Working Group.

The workshop also introduced the experiences of several international organisations and their efforts in this field, including the United Nations Environment Programme - West Asia Office, in addition to discussing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in terms of objectives and indicator analysis.



# Panel Discussion Highlights Impact Of The Human Population On Biodiversity

A panel discussion organised by the Emirates Environmental Group, in association with Arabia CSR Network, roped in key industry experts to help direct the conversation that drives sustainable change to tackle the biodiversity crisis.

Supported by EmiratesGBC, Clean Energy Business Council and the Swiss Business Council,

UAE NEWS



the discussion addressed several important topics, including the causes of decreasing wildlife population; accelerating SDG-related biodiversity preservation; educating masses about the importance and challenges pertaining to wildlife and biodiversity loss; and addressing the consequences of unsustainable anthropogenic activities and increasing population.

Habiba Al Mar'ashi, Co-founder and Chairperson of EEG, stated, "This world, as we know it, has changed. In the past 50 years, the land, the oceans, the atmosphere, and all other hidden aspects of this biosphere have transformed. While natural shifts can induce such a transformation, it is often gradual, which ideally would not be seen in a human being's lifetime. Yet here we are watching every day the environmental changes unfolding before us and the species that thrive on this planet struggling to adapt to the

ecological shifts. These are due to human mistakes and irresponsible behaviour."

She further added: "In the name of growth, modernism, expansionism, and capitalism, we have blatantly taken our resources without any regard for wildlife."

The distinguished panel of speakers comprised Andreas Feil, First Secretary for Climate, Energy, and Environment at the German Embassy in Abu Dhabi; Maitha Almheiri, Biologist, Ministry of Climate Change and Environment; Maitha Mohamed Al Hameli, Head of the Marine Biodiversity Assessment and Conservation, Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi; Dr. Amol Patwardhan, Assistant Professor, K J Somaiya College of Science and Commerce, India; and Mohammed Yousef Al Faqeer, Acting General Curator, Al Ain Zoo.

## WETEX And Dubai Solar Show: Advancing The Circular Economy

The upcoming Water, Energy, Technology, and Environment Exhibition (WETEX) and Dubai Solar Show (DSS) will shed light on the sustainable circular economy in the UAE, and encourage global partnerships and investments to support innovation and adopt sustainable solutions and technologies in this vital field.

Promoting circular economy adoption will

28

CIRCULAR ECONOMY



Accenture research forecasts the potential generation of an additional USD4.5 trillion in economic output by 2030 through the circular economy

reduce risks, greenhouse gas emissions and costs. It also creates promising opportunities, new sources of revenue, and constructive business models to improve resource efficiency and effectiveness. It further promotes competitiveness and sustainable economic growth in the UAE and worldwide, while preserving the environment and encouraging sustainable practices.

According to Accenture research, the circular economy could generate USD 4.5 trillion of additional economic output by 2030. The International Labour Organisation estimates that the transition to a circular economy could create six million jobs worldwide.

Abdullah bin Touq Al Marri, Minister of Economy, said, "The circular economy and renewable energy sources will be a cornerstone of our



*The International Labour Organization  
envisioned the creation of six million  
jobs globally via the transition to a  
circular economy*



economy in the next 50 years. As we prepare to host COP 28, the UAE is stepping up its ambition to fulfil its commitment under the Paris Agreement of reaching net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and the circular economy policy will make a critical contribution towards this national objective."

"In line with the mandate to support the national efforts to implement the circular economy policy, such as evaluating the challenges facing the implementation of the circular economy, proposing appropriate policies, and accelerating the transition towards an improved economic model, the Circular Economy Council and its Policies Committee have made and continue to make, important progress towards the implementation of the policies in collaboration with our partners in the private sector and civil society," Bin Touq added.

“WETEX and DSS support the UAE’s endeavours to achieve sustainability through effective use of natural resources. It provides a platform for positive changes and aims to attract local and foreign investments, and develop the circular economy system in all vital sectors,” said Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, MD and CEO of DEWA, Founder and Chairman of WETEX and DSS.

He added: “These include green infrastructure, sustainable transportation, sustainable manufacturing, sustainable food production and consumption. The sessions at the exhibition also focus on the importance of integrating its principles into various aspects of the economic value chain, in addition to ways to design our current systems worldwide to ensure a comprehensive and smooth transition from the traditional linear to the circular economy model.”

## Mubadala Energy Focuses on Decarbonisation Efforts In Sustainability Report

Mubadala Energy, the Abu Dhabi-based international energy company, has released its latest Sustainability Report.

In a pivotal year for the company in which it launched a new strategy focused on expanding its business in low-carbon solutions supporting the energy transition, and unveiled a new name and brand, the company recorded substantial



Mubadala Energy's 2022 Sustainability Report was prepared in accordance with Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Standards and examines several key performance indicators across areas such as operational and environmental impact, social contribution, human capital, and governance

progress on key ESG priorities, guided by its sustainability strategy.

Mubadala Energy's focus on embedding sustainability across its business resulted in its enhanced performance across several of its material ESG indicators. On environmental benchmarks, the company reported a 41 percent decrease in Scope 1 GHG emissions intensity between 2021 and 2022, coupled with a 20 percent decrease in its overall energy intensity, resulting mainly from the expansion of the company's gas-focus as a lower carbon fuel source. In 2022 the company also hit production milestone of 500,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day production, of which almost 70 percent is natural gas.

On social measures, Mubadala Energy maintains its world-class track record on safety



*The company reported a 41 percent decrease in Scope 1 GHG emissions intensity between 2021 and 2022, in addition to a 20 percent decrease in its overall energy intensity*



performance, with a total of 6 safety-related awards being received in 2022 from regulatory and governmental bodies in areas of operations.

In terms of diversity metrics, the company maintains above-industry performance on female participation, with around 31 percent of the total workforce represented by women.

Over AED4 million was also invested by the company last year in community investment projects, impacting over 120,000 beneficiaries through a wide range of projects focused on education, environment, community development and employee engagement. In line with the UAE's focus on mangroves as an important decarbonisation tool, in 2022, through its partnership with Azraq, the UAE based marine conservation NGO, the company planted mangrove trees in Al Zorah Natural Reserve in

Ajman. These trees are expected to contribute towards the removal of 308,000kg of CO<sub>2</sub> over their lifetime, which is estimated to be 25 years.

Mansoor Mohamed Al Hamed, CEO, Mubadala Energy, commented: "2022 was the year we set the business on a path to play an even more proactive role in the energy transition through our expanding gas portfolio, by exploring new energy sectors and by driving decarbonization across our operations."

He added, "In the UAE's Year of Sustainability, and with the Emirates hosting the critical dialogues on climate as part of COP28 later this year, I am pleased that we are making significant progress on key environmental benchmarks, including the improvements we have recorded on our emissions intensity position."

## ADIHEX Provides Blueprint For Preserving And Restoring Raptors And Their Habitats

As part of its participation at the Abu Dhabi International Hunting and Equestrian Exhibition (ADIHEX) running until September 8 at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Center, the Mohamed bin Zayed Raptor Conservation Fund is highlighting its impactful global initiatives in Mongolia and Bulgaria. These initiatives are guided by a philosophy that emphasises the promotion of

32

CONSERVATION



Mohamed Bin Zayed Raptor Conservation Fund showcases its transformative initiatives at the Abu Dhabi International Hunting and Equestrian Exhibition

development without compromising wildlife and highlight the possibility of designing or modifying essential utilities, such as electricity, in ways that are safe for raptors.

The Fund is also showcasing the successful efforts in Mongolia to prevent raptor electrocutions using the endangered Saker Falcon as an umbrella species for conservation.

As the global demand for energy increases, the need to ensure nature positive investments has never been greater. Many regions around the world are home to large populations of raptors and these regions are rapidly expanding their networks of power lines and infrastructure to facilitate societal growth and attain economic and social development goals.

The international projects undertaken by the



*The Fund's international projects focus on a pressing issue—the electrocution of millions of birds each year on low-voltage electricity distribution lines*



Fund for the conservation of raptor birds are focused on addressing a pressing issue—the electrocution of millions of birds each year on low-voltage electricity distribution lines. These incidents not only result in the loss of a substantial number of birds, but also lead to power disruptions, equipment damage, and the potential risk of fires, as well as substantial financial losses and environmental harm.

Since 2019, the Fund has insulated 27,000 poles, rendering them safe for raptors and other large birds throughout the Mongolia steppes. This Abu Dhabi-led initiative is the largest single line electrocution mitigation effort across the globe that has helped save approximately 18,000 raptors (including 4,000 Saker Falcons) annually from being electrocuted.

collaborative project with their partner, Green Balkans in Bulgaria. The focus there is to use captive breeding and release of Saker Falcons to establish a self-sustaining breeding population to ensure genetic connectivity between populations in Central and Eastern Europe, Turkey, and Central Asia.

Various human-induced threats such as habitat loss, hunting, electrocution, and poisoning have led to regional extinction of the Saker Falcon in the southern Balkans. What was once a thriving, interconnected population of Saker Falcons spanning from Central Europe to Asia has become fragmented, especially in the Western regions. Today there are three isolated and significantly reduced populations in Central Europe, Eastern Europe, and Türkiye.

The Fund's pavilion also displayed its

Bulgaria, situated in the southern Balkans, is an



ideal location to bridge these fragmented groups, facilitating gene flow and reducing the risk of regional extinction.

### **EAD sheds light on climate change at ADHIEX 2023**

The Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) has reflected on its the journey of fusing science and nature to address climate change at ADIHEX.

The immersive Virtual Reality (VR) experience offered a powerful climate impact video, highlighting the agency's efforts to mitigate climate change. The experience culminates in a breathtaking underwater encounter, where visitors virtually swim with dolphins along Abu Dhabi's pristine coastline.

A large LED infotainment board with engaging visuals and statistics offers visitors an overview

of EAD's impactful work in climate change mitigation and sustainable technology. With an extra focus on engaging youth, the stand's classroom-style setup hosts interactive sessions, workshops, and youth-led activities related to climate change and sustainability while a dedicated podcast corner encourages young visitors to share their insights and ideas on environmental conservation.

The Agency also presented its e-learning platform: e-Green. It highlighted the diverse range of educational courses available for citizens and the B2B sector to learn about environmental best practices, sustainability, and ways to contribute to preserving Abu Dhabi's environment. A 3D model of the Plants Genetic Resource Centre in Al Ain, also known as the Gene Bank, is the centrepiece of the stand.



## MolAT Promotes Best Practices And Investment In Recycled Plastic Food Packaging

The Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology (MolAT) hosted a workshop for food manufacturers in the UAE focusing on recycled plastic packaging.

The session aimed to raise awareness of the use of recycled plastic for food packaging, the technical and safety requirements of recycled plastic materials that come into contact with



food, and the process for obtaining conformity certification for such materials.

The workshop briefed manufacturers and suppliers to Federal Law Decree No. 20 of 2015 on food contact materials, emphasizing its importance in supporting manufacturing efforts and implementing sustainable production best practices, and introduced the updates regarding adding Recycled Polyethylene Terephthalate (rPET) to the list of products to which ECAS Food Contact Material certificate may be granted.

Participants included more than 70 representatives from food manufacturing and packaging companies, suppliers, plastic recycling companies, and members of the Circular Packaging Association. The workshop detailed the decree on food and beverage packaging which stipulates that the manufacturing facility must

provide documentation demonstrating the implementation of an effective quality system and best practices.

It also requires a report indicating that the recycled product has passed tests conducted by an accredited laboratory within the UAE to ensure health and safety compliance, including migration tests for packaging materials. Additionally, a risk assessment report is required to ensure the quality and safety of recycled raw materials intended for use in food and beverage packaging.

During Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week 2023, MolAT announced Federal law No. 105 of 2022 on the circulation of bottled drinking water in recycled plastic bottles. The decree aims to promote recycling in industry, in line with the highest public health and food safety standards.

## Lucid Air Sapphire: The Pinnacle of Electric Performance

Lucid Group, Inc., setting new standards for luxury electric experience with the Lucid Air and winner of the 2023 World Luxury Car Award, has unveiled the final production specs for the highly anticipated Lucid Air Sapphire.

As the ultimate fusion of leading-edge technology, refined design, and on-road versatility, the Air Sapphire elevates electric



The Lucid Air Sapphire achieves 0-60 mph in 1.89 seconds, 0-100 mph in 3.84 seconds, and the quarter mile in 8.95 seconds, with a top speed of 205 mph

performance to new heights — marking a monumental step forward in automotive innovation.

“With the release of the Lucid Air Sapphire, we are witnessing an unprecedented moment in time. The technology that underpins Sapphire enables an unsurpassed blend of performance, agility, and versatility,” said Peter Rawlinson, CEO and CTO, Lucid Group. “The result is an extreme performance car that offers delightful responsiveness and everyday practicality. With the Lucid Air Sapphire, we have once again raised the bar and increased the gap between Lucid and its competitors, creating the world’s most well-rounded and versatile high-performance EV.”

### Game-Changing Electric Performance

With a range that defies expectations, the Lucid Air Sapphire achieves an EPA-estimated 427



*Lucid Air Sapphire is the  
world's first luxury electric  
super-sports sedan*



miles on a single charge, setting the standard for performance EV capabilities. It houses a three-motor powertrain, all developed and manufactured in-house, which produces a total of 1,234 hp and 1,430 lb-ft of torque. Thanks to the enhanced power delivery provided by the twin rear-drive unit, the Sapphire can travel 0 to 60 mph in just 1.89 seconds and run a quarter mile in 8.95 seconds at 158 mph.

### **Sapphire Design: California Inspiration, Futuristic Sophistication**

The Lucid Air Sapphire, like all Air models, seamlessly marries form and function to transform the luxury sedan into an automotive masterpiece. Changes specific to Sapphire include an exterior that is optimized for both downforce and efficiency at high speeds, as well as an exclusive Sapphire Blue exterior paint

combined with Lucid's Stealth Look trim. The Aero Sapphire wheels wear specially designed Michelin Pilot Sport 4S tires, offering enhanced performance and increased efficiency, complemented by removable carbon-fiber aero disk wheel covers.

"The Lucid Air Sapphire stands as a remarkable brand halo for Lucid, representing a fantastic example of what our team can accomplish when we combine technology, design, and performance into an unparalleled package," said Derek Jenkins, Senior Vice President of Design and Brand, Lucid Group. "The design of the Lucid Air Sapphire showcases our commitment to automotive aesthetics while delivering a driving experience like no other. It is a testament to our dedication to crafting vehicles that not only perform exceptionally and are exhilarating to drive, but also inspire awe at first sight."



The cabin of the Lucid Air Sapphire extends the purposeful beauty of the exterior with a new interior theme called Sapphire Mojave. The stylish sports seats, designed exclusively for the Sapphire, cradle passengers with considerable support, while maintaining comfort with heating, cooling, and massage functionality.

### **A Technological Marvel with Leading-Edge Features**

The Air Sapphire introduces two specially configured modes and additional performance settings to provide a unique experience behind the wheel. Presenting a lineup of four drive modes, Smooth, Swift, Sapphire, and Track, each mode is optimized for various conditions and styles, influencing the character of the car and behavior of suspension, steering, brakes, torque vectoring, peak power and torque, and thermal controls.

Smooth mode configures the vehicle for comfortable, effortless, highly efficient driving. Moving to Swift mode, which is designed for spirited road driving, maintains comfort while providing a distinctly sporty edge. Sapphire mode ups the ante considerably, combining unmatched power and torque with incredible reflexes and agility, for the ultimate on-road driving experience. Track mode, developed solely for use on racetracks, features three additional sub-modes, Dragstrip, Hot Lap, and Endurance, to further tune and condition the powertrain and battery for optimum performance.

Air Sapphire's powertrain layout, focus on performance, and new features and drive modes position it as distinct in the Air lineup. This future classic provides a luxury experience to the discerning driver while offering an unparalleled experience on the racetrack, resulting in the



*Lucid's new halo car features three motors, four driving modes, carbon-ceramic brakes, a special aerodynamic package, sport seats, track-tuned suspension, and more*



perfect blend of sophistication and versatility.

### **Performance in perfect harmony**

Every component of Lucid Air Sapphire has been engineered to work harmoniously with the new motor configuration, harnessing its full potential and providing track-capable handling and braking as standard.

"Our aim with this, our first Sapphire model, is to complement the exceptional powertrain with sharper, more responsive driving dynamics and increased body control," said David Lickfold, Director of Chassis and Vehicle Dynamics. "At the same time, it was important to retain the exceptional ride quality for which Lucid Air has come to be known."

To that end, Lucid Air Sapphire features stiffer front and rear springs, unique damper settings,

stiffer bushings, and a unique tuning for ABS, traction, stability control, and electronic power steering (EPS).

Carbon-ceramic brakes provide exceptional stopping power and contribute to the vehicle's braking endurance during high-performance driving. The body has been widened 21 millimeters at the front and 24 millimeters at the rear to accommodate ultra-high-performance staggered Aero Sapphire wheels and specially developed Michelin PS4S tires.

These tires utilize a compound developed specifically for Lucid vehicles and are identified by an LM1 designation. These unique wheels also feature removable carbon-fiber aero disk wheel covers, which help to optimize the aerodynamic efficiency of the car.

## UAE-led Initiative Secures Clean Water For 9,000 Rural Ethiopians

**B**eyond2020, the UAE-driven humanitarian initiative launched by the Zayed Sustainability Prize and its partners, has improved access to safe drinking water for 9,000 people in the rural villages of Walesa, Holte, and Gato in Dirashe District, Ethiopia.

Six shallow wells with solar pumps have been installed in the villages, reducing the incidence



Zayed Sustainability Prize's Beyond2020 initiative has provided environmentally sustainable, locally available freshwater resources to 3 villages in Ethiopia

of waterborne diseases and improving overall health. The Beyond2020 deployment in Ethiopia was implemented by the Zayed Sustainability Prize finalist Solarkiosk Solutions, a German based company that provides rural, off-grid communities electricity, benefitting five million people to-date.

Dr. Sultan bin Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology, Director-General of the Zayed Sustainability Prize, and COP28 President-Designate, said, "As we continue to push towards a more sustainable and equitable world, access to safe water remains a fundamental human right.

"As the UAE prepares to host COP28 – a COP aimed at accelerating inclusive sustainable development, particularly in the Global South – this deployment in Ethiopia is a perfect example



## *Retrofitting shallow hand-pump wells with solar pumps has facilitated the supply of 20,000-25,000 litres of clean drinking water every day*



of how we can create meaningful change and address the urgent issues posed by climate change when we come together.”

The people of Dirashe District are primarily farmers who practice sustainable agriculture, a type of farming method that seeks to protect the environment and improve the productivity of agricultural systems. The villages of Walessa, Holte, and Gato are in the low land areas where drinking water is scarce.

A growing population, rising demand for irrigation, and climate change – which is causing increasing levels of algae in the local rivers, making the water turbid and unsafe to drink – are increasing the pressure on the area’s limited water resources. Community members in all three villages were dependent on unsafe water sources, including surface water harvested from rain and

nearby open rivers to meet their drinking, cleaning and cooking needs, which led to high rates of waterborne diseases.

To address the water shortage issue, several shallow hand-pump wells were drilled in the villages in 2014. Due to the mechanical operation of the hand pumps, however, the pumps were maintenance intensive, and the wells frequently became inoperable, leaving the community once again without any access to safe drinking water.

Now, those water wells have been retrofitted with solar pumps, with each well supplying 20,000-25,000 litres of clean drinking water every day, which is enough to meet the village’s drinking, sanitation, and agricultural needs.

Habtamu Itefa Geleta, Minister of the Ministry of Water and Energy of Ethiopia, said, “We would



like to thank the Beyond2020 initiative, its partners, and the UAE government for supporting the efficient installation of a clean water source to improve the lives of thousands of people. Providing communities with their own local clean water source is key to improving health and wellbeing, as it reduces the risk of waterborne diseases, reduces the time and physical effort required to collect water, and supports good hygiene practices.”

The Beyond2020 deployment in the Dirashe District of Ethiopia has significantly reduced the burden of traveling long distances to fetch water – a burden which fell primarily on women and children, who spent several hours each day traveling as far as five kilometres to collect water from open rivers and ponds. This was a time-consuming and demanding task, which exposed the women and children to risks, including

diseases and physical danger. Now, women and children can fetch water for their families in under ten minutes, allowing them time to pursue education, income-generating activities, and other productive activities.

Beyond2020 brings together a leading number of partners, which include Abu Dhabi Fund for Development, Mubadala Energy and Masdar.

As part of the Beyond2020’s impact to-date, a total of 15 deployments have been rolled out, including energy, health, water and food-related solutions in Nepal, Tanzania, Uganda, Jordan, Egypt, Cambodia, Madagascar, Indonesia, Bangladesh, the Philippines, Rwanda, Peru, Lebanon and Sudan. In addition to Ethiopia, another five countries have been identified as deployment grounds going forward.



## President Of Arab Parliament Hails UAE's Role In Climate Action

Adel bin Abdul Rahman Al Asoomi, President of the Arab Parliament, has noted that the hosting of the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is a testament to the world's recognition of its role, global leadership and relentless efforts to preserve a safe and sound international environment and work towards

UAE NEWS



climate sustainability, under the leadership of President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

In a media statement, Al Asoomi stated that the UAE's hosting of COP28 fills all Arabs with pride and bolsters its standing among advanced nations.

The UAE is a model of combatting climate change and supporting clean energy projects, he added, noting that it joined the United Nations Convention in 1995, the Kyoto Protocol in 2004, and the Paris Agreement in 2015, becoming the first Arab country to do so.

The UAE also invested USD 50 billion in renewable energy projects in 70 countries and launched many exceptional projects that support climate action and reduce carbon emissions, he further added.

Al Asoomi affirmed that COP28 will be a significant milestone towards enhancing the leading role of Arab countries in international climate action, contributing to effective solutions to climate challenges that now threaten global security due to the risk they pose to humanity, which resulted in changes that negatively impact food security and global energy security.

The consecutive hosting of this international event by two Arab countries, with Egypt handing over the presidency to the UAE, who chaired the previous conference, shows the key strategic role played by Arab countries in advancing towards a more sustainable future, he explained.

He then expressed his confidence that the conference will yield important and fruitful outcomes for humanity, especially concerning issues and challenges that are yet to be resolved.

## Seoul, South Korea: Megacity with Focus on Sustainability

Seoul, situated just 35 miles south of the Korean border, boasts a population of approximately 25 million people, constituting nearly half of the country's total population.

The South Korean economy ranks as the 13th largest globally in terms of GDP, positioning it favorably for pursuing greater sustainability



The Seoul Greenbelt" is a significant natural and recreational area surrounding the city of Seoul that covers an area of approximately 78,000 acres

initiatives. The city of Seoul has witnessed rapid development since the armistice of the Korean War in 1953, albeit at the expense of its environment. The unchecked expansion of the city, coupled with a significant increase in emissions since the 1990s, has resulted in substantial air and water pollution challenges that the city is only now addressing.

South Korea's urbanization surged from 35.8 per cent in 1960 to an astounding 85 per cent by 1995, with a substantial portion of the population gravitating towards the nation's capital. Consequently, Seoul experienced nearly unbridled expansion. As expected, emissions rose to levels comparable to those observed in many larger industrial cities in Western Europe.

Nevertheless, recent years have seen a notable shift in this trajectory, as Seoul has embarked on



*The Seoul Greenbelt is home to historical and cultural sites, including temples, fortresses, and traditional villages*



### **Seoul's Greenbelt**

Seoul's Greenbelt, known as the "Seoul Greenbelt" or "Bukhansan Greenbelt," is a significant natural and recreational area surrounding the city of Seoul, South Korea. The Seoul Greenbelt is located on the outskirts of Seoul, surrounding the city in a semicircular shape. It covers an area of approximately 78,000 acres.

The primary purpose of the Seoul Greenbelt is to preserve the natural environment, protect against urban sprawl, and provide residents with recreational opportunities. It serves as a buffer zone to prevent the city from expanding into valuable green spaces. The Greenbelt is characterized by lush forests, rolling hills, rivers, and scenic landscapes. It features several mountains, with Bukhansan Mountain being one of the most prominent. The natural beauty of the area makes it a popular destination for hikers, nature enthusiasts, and picnickers.

a more environmentally conscious and sustainable path for its future.

South Korea envisions its capital city relying heavily on technology to achieve these goals. The objectives include enhancing the accessibility and convenience of public transportation, promoting the adoption of electric vehicles through widespread charging infrastructure across the city, and enabling remote control of various aspects of households through smartphone applications.

This vision aligns with the 'Ubiquitous City' concept where information that fosters environmentally conscious mindsets and eco-friendly lifestyles is readily available to residents anytime and anywhere. Seoul is home to tech giants and leveraging technology to enhance sustainability is a logical and promising approach.





Within the Greenbelt, there are numerous hiking trails, parks, and recreational facilities. It's a haven for outdoor activities such as hiking, rock climbing, cycling, and birdwatching. Many Seoul residents visit the Greenbelt on weekends to escape the urban hustle and bustle. The Greenbelt is not only a recreational area but also an essential ecological zone. It provides habitats for various plant and animal species, contributing to biodiversity conservation in the region.

Efforts have been made to protect and restore the natural ecosystems within the Greenbelt which is subject to strict land-use regulations to limit development. These regulations are intended to prevent urban sprawl and maintain the area's ecological balance.

In addition to its natural beauty, the Greenbelt is home to historical and cultural sites, including

temples, fortresses, and traditional villages. These sites offer insights into South Korea's rich cultural heritage. Over the years, there have been ongoing efforts to protect and enhance the Seoul Greenbelt through reforestation, trail maintenance, and environmental education programs.

The Greenbelt also serves as a reminder of the importance of balancing urban development with environmental preservation. It underscores the commitment of Seoul and its residents to maintaining green spaces in the city. Seoul's Greenbelt is a valuable asset for the city, offering a balance between urban life and nature, and it plays a crucial role in maintaining the ecological health and quality of life in the metropolitan area.

### **Green Transportation**

Addressing air pollution is a priority for Seoul. The city has implemented measures to reduce



*The city's "Ddareungi" bike-sharing program provides residents and visitors with easy access to bicycles for short trips*



emissions from vehicles, industries, and construction sites. These efforts include stricter emissions standards, promoting public transportation, and providing real-time air quality information to residents.

In doing so, the city of Seoul has made significant strides in promoting green transportation options to reduce traffic congestion, air pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions.

Seoul boasts an extensive and efficient public transportation system, including buses, subways, and commuter trains. The city has consistently expanded and improved these services to encourage residents to use public transport instead of private cars.

Seoul's subway system is one of the most extensive and advanced in the world. It covers a wide area of the city and is known for its

cleanliness, safety, and reliability. The subway system is electrified and operates on clean energy sources.

The city has been actively incorporating electric buses into its public transportation fleet. These buses help reduce emissions and noise pollution in the city. It has also introduced hydrogen fuel cell buses as part of its eco-friendly transportation efforts. Seoul has also invested in expanding its network of dedicated bicycle lanes and bike-sharing programs.

The city's "Ddareungi" bike-sharing program provides residents and visitors with easy access to bicycles for short trips. The city promotes cycling by providing bike repair stations, installing bike racks on public transportation, and offering safety education programs for cyclists.

## COP28 President-Designate Calls On International Community To Increase Climate Finance To African Countries

48

COP28



COP28 President-Designate Dr. Sultan Al Jaber addresses the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) in Ethiopia, in which he recognised the African continent's performance and potential as a leading force in the energy transition and the need for increased finance

**D**r. Sultan bin Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and COP 28 President-Designate, recently visited Ethiopia to speak at the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), during which he emphasised the urgent need to increase climate finance to African countries to allow them to seize the opportunity of a zero-carbon, climate resilient future.

He also highlighted his four-point Action Plan for COP28 to fast track the energy transition, fix international climate finance, focus on people's lives and livelihoods and underpin everything with full inclusivity.

ACMEN is a meeting of environment ministers from across Africa. It is a key forum for the African Union's policymaking on climate change,



*Dr. Sultan Al Jaber mobilises African leaders ahead of COP28, and prepares the ground for strong outcomes on finance, adaptation, and loss and damage*



providing political guidance and coordinating common African positions for regional and global summits, such as COP28. Dr. Al Jaber's participation in the AMCEN summit was an important moment to mobilise African leaders ahead of COP28, and prepare the ground for strong outcomes on finance, adaptation, and loss and damage.

Dr. Al Jaber began by noting that urgent action was needed to put the world back on track to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement and keeping the ambition of 1.5 within reach.

"With just over 100 days before the world gathers in Dubai for COP28, both the science and common sense are telling us that our collective response to climate change is nowhere near good enough."

In his remarks, Dr. Al Jaber emphasised Africa's

position as one of the hardest hit regions by climate-related extreme weather events, from the Horn of Africa to Lake Chad and beyond. He said, "From Pakistan to Hawaii, we have seen too many lives and livelihoods devastated. Yet, Africa has been facing extreme climate conditions with greater impacts for longer than most."

"Here in the Horn of Africa, rains have not fallen for over four seasons, with 23 million people now facing severe hunger across Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. Lake Chad, once the lifeblood for millions of people in Nigeria, Niger, Chad, and Cameroon, has shrunk to one tenth of its size. And continuous flooding has ruined crops and spread vector borne diseases across Malawi, Mozambique, Madagascar, Zambia and Rwanda."

In recognising African governments' climate initiatives, Dr. Al Jaber highlighted the efforts of





the meeting's host, Ethiopia, to address climate change. On mitigation, he noted, "Here in Ethiopia, almost 100 per cent of the country's energy comes from renewable hydro power." On adaptation, he continued, "Ethiopia is just one country that is leading the way with its Green Legacy Initiative (GLI). Since 2019 the GLI has planted over 25 billion seedlings, enhanced sustainable agriculture, strengthened food security, exported healthy food to foreign markets and created almost 1 million new green jobs along the way."

However, Dr. Sultan noted that the "chronic lack of available, accessible and affordable climate finance" is a "major obstacle" standing in the way of further progress on climate action.

He continued "Currently, barely one tenth of global climate finance finds its way to Africa.

According to the African Development Bank, almost 250 billion dollars annually is needed to meet Africa's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) commitments through 2030. Yet, this continent of 54 countries that contributes less than 5 per cent of global emissions, receives less than 30 billion a year. And private finance flows to Africa are a fraction of what is disbursed to the rest of the world. These are the realities. They need to be fixed. And they need to be fixed now."

During his remarks, Dr. Al Jaber reiterated the COP28 Presidency's call for the international community to deliver on historic pledges. This included the developed world's commitment of USD 100 billion in annual climate financing for the developing world, the doubling of adaptation finance by 2050, and the replenishment of the Green Climate fund. He also stressed the need for the operationalisation of the Loss and Damage



## *COP28 President-Designate held bilateral meetings with African leaders to discuss the COP28 climate finance and energy transition agenda*



fund and funding arrangements and early commitment of pledges.

Dr. Al Jaber also reiterated the need to “address the huge disparity between mitigation and adaptation finance. Today, for every nine dollars that goes towards mitigation, only one dollar is available for adaptation.”

He highlighted the COP28 Presidency’s Action Agenda and its plan to “put nature, people and health at the core of the climate agenda, and firmly link climate action with socio-economic development.” Dr. Al Jaber emphasised the need to “prioritize the transformation of food systems, promote responsible land use and target food insecurity. No home in the world should face hunger, including the 140 million Africans facing food insecurity today. And by leveraging agri-tech and sustainable farming methods, we can

reduce food insecurity, as well as the carbon emissions that come from food production.”

During the summit, Dr. Al Jaber met with several African leaders in a series of bilateral meetings. This included meetings with Alioune Ndoye, Minister of Environment, Development and Ecological Transition for Senegal, Barbra Creecy, Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and Environmental Affairs for South Africa, Roselinda Soipan Tuya, Minister of Environment Climate Change and Forestry for Kenya, and Collins Nzovu, Minister of Green Economy and Environment for Zambia.

Dr. Al Jaber also met with youth representatives and a delegate from the International Youth Climate Programme to discuss priorities ahead of COP28 such as adaptation, climate finance, and addressing loss and damage.

## World Water Week 2023 Urges Collective Action For Better Water Outcomes

World Water Week, the leading global water conference, concluded on 24 August, after five intense days dedicated to the theme, 'Seeds of Change: Innovative Solutions for a Water-Wise World'.

Organised by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), the 2023 edition of the event explored the ideas and innovations that will be



With a record number of participants from almost every country on Earth, World Water Week 2023 will have a lasting influence

needed in a more unstable, water-scarce world. Experts from around the world also discussed how water can be a tool to address problems like climate change, poverty, and biodiversity loss.

Amongst the six trends that stood out at World Water Week 2023 are:

**Interconnectivity is crucial:** With the theme Seeds of Change, many speakers emphasized the need to talk more about how to make transformations happen, rather than just listing problems. There was a strong focus on intergenerational dialogues and learning from each other. The critical role of trust and inclusion was also frequently mentioned.

**Time to rethink innovation:** Some eyebrows were raised when the theme was first presented last year since many people still primarily



*Stockholm Junior Water Prize is a competition for students aged 15 to 20 who have developed research projects that can help solve major water challenges.*



associate innovation with technology. But, as pointed out by SIWI's Acting Executive Director Karin Gardes, innovation is a much broader concept and World Water Week showcased innovation also in governance, finance, values, and culture. It also became clear how essential it is to apply a gender lens.

**Learning from Indigenous Peoples:** For the first time, World Water Week had a special focus on Indigenous Peoples' knowledge, with representatives from some 20 groups present to share their views and experiences. The keynote address by Dr. Milika Sobey focused on the role of Indigenous Peoples' knowledge for innovation, and the importance of values such as reciprocity, respect, and relations. But an essential takeaway was also not to generalize about Indigenous peoples – a frequent phrase was “If you know one tribe, you only know one tribe”.

**Oceans are making waves:** An interesting trend this year was that all the three winning teams of the Stockholm Junior Water Prize had an ocean focus. To young scientists it's clear that it doesn't make sense to treat freshwater, coasts and oceans as separate entities. The source-to-sea approach is increasingly becoming the new norm.

**New approaches to water governance:** The future of water governance was discussed throughout the week. The closing session, 'What's Next', also featured Professor Johan Rockström who is one of the Co-Chairs of the Global Commission on the Economics of Water which will present a report on how we need to change incentives and governance related to water. Why that is needed became very evident when Professor Rockström shared new research on the pressure we are currently putting on the global water cycle and what the consequences are.



**Linking international processes:** A growing number of convenors use World Water Week to create sessions that prepare for international processes, for example the upcoming SDG Summit in September and the COP28 climate talks in November. The Week also followed up on the UN 2023 Water Conference in March and analyzed progress so far on the Water Action Agenda.

### **Naomi Park from USA wins Stockholm Junior Water Prize 2023**

Naomi Park from USA was named winner of the prestigious Stockholm Junior Water Prize 2023 for her research on the removal of carbon dioxide and oil products from the ocean.

The international competition targets students between the ages of 15 and 20 to present solutions to major water challenges.

The ocean absorbs nearly a third of airborne carbon dioxide emissions, and 1.3 million gallons of crude oil are spilled into oceans every year.

Both issues continue to detrimentally affect marine biodiversity, and human health. In her research, Naomi Park has developed a method to simultaneously remove these contaminants.

The Jury noted that “the winner is taking a troublesome waste product and using it to help solve a number of the most pressing issues we face in the modern world.

“By using Styrofoam and creating a ‘sponge’ that absorbs both carbon dioxide and oil products from the ocean, this student built a model and tested it – in multiple conditions, even simulating ocean waves – with impressive results.”



# UN Issues New Guidance On Children's Rights To A Clean, Healthy And Sustainable Environment

The UN Child Rights Committee has published authoritative guidance on children's rights and the environment with a special focus on climate change.

The guidance specifies the legislative and administrative measures countries should urgently implement to address the adverse effects of environmental degradation and

UAE NEWS



climate change on the enjoyment of children's rights, and to ensure a clean, healthy, and sustainable world now and to preserve it for future generations.

The Committee has adopted its guidance, formally known as General Comment No. 26, after two rounds of consultation with countries, national human rights institutions, international organisations, civil society, thematic experts and children. The Committee received 16,331 contributions from children in 121 countries. Children shared and reported on the negative effects of environmental degradation and climate change on their lives and communities and asserted their right to live in a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

"Children are architects, leaders, thinkers and changemakers of today's world. Our voices

matter, and they deserve to be listened to," said 17-year-old Kartik, a climate and child rights activist from India and one of the Committee's child advisers.

The general comment clarifies how children's rights apply to environmental protection and underscores that children have the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. It further asserts that countries shall protect children against environmental damage from commercial activities.

It specifies that countries are obliged to provide legislative, regulative and enforcement frameworks to ensure that businesses respect children's rights and should require businesses to undertake due diligence regarding children's rights and the environment.

## Down The Drain Lies A Promising Climate And Nature Solution: UN

Wastewater is a growing health and environmental threat, accounting for almost as much planet warming emissions as the aviation industry.

Yet with the right policies, wastewater could provide alternative energy to half a billion people, supply over 10 times the water provided by current global desalination capacity and



When properly managed, wastewater can turn into clean water, energy, and resources, providing benefits for nature and people, says a new UN report

offset over 10 per cent of global fertilizer use. These findings appear in an analysis published by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and GRID-Arendal with the Global Wastewater Initiative (GWWI).

The report, 'Wastewater. Turning problem to solution', urges governments and businesses to treat wastewater as a circular economy opportunity, rather than a problem to be disposed of. There are multiple benefits for effectively collecting, treating, and reusing wastewater – including new jobs and revenue streams. Additional advantages stem from reducing the volume of wastewater produced.

Today, only 11 per cent of the world's treated wastewater is reused and around half of the world's untreated wastewater still enters rivers, lakes, and seas. To safely fulfill the potential of



*New report titled, 'Wastewater. Turning problem to solution', explores the potential of wastewater as a circular economy opportunity*



wastewater as a valuable resource, the report calls to: Reduce the volume of wastewater being produced; Prevent and reduce contamination; and Manage wastewater to capture the resources that can be safely reused.

“Globally, wastewater is full of potential, yet it is currently allowed instead to contaminate the ecosystems we rely on,” said Leticia Carvalho, Principal Coordinator of the Marine and Freshwater Branch of UNEP.

“We must not let the opportunity simply disappear down the drain: it’s time to realize the promise of wastewater as an alternative source of clean water, energy, and important nutrients,” he said.

The global water crisis is made worse by wastewater, which originates from kitchens, bathrooms and toilets, industrial effluent,

agricultural effluent, stormwater, and urban run-off. Chemicals and excessive nutrients in wastewater degrade ecosystems, including soil, freshwater sources and oceans, contributing to food insecurity and other social issues.

Through the release of potent greenhouse gases such as methane and nitrous oxide, wastewater accounts for about 1.57 per cent of global emissions, just below the climate harm caused by the global aviation industry.

Yet wastewater can become a climate solution: in generating biogas, heat and electricity, it can produce about five times more energy than is required for its treatment – enough to provide electricity for around half a billion people per year. By reducing water insecurity, good management of wastewater can also support countries’ efforts to adapt to climate change.



Reusing nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium from wastewater would also help reduce dependence on synthetic fertilizers, offsetting 13.4 per cent of the global agricultural nutrient demand. Proper management of wastewater also has the potential to irrigate around 40 million hectares – an area equal to almost the size of Paraguay.

There are additional resources that can be recovered from wastewater, which are already benefitting various industries, including raw material for producing paper, polymers, pesticides, rubber, paint, biodiesel, food preservatives and flavors, fireproofing and waterproofing fabrics, medical products, jewelry, and packaging of food, hygiene, and other products.

Improving water management and reuse is a

complex challenge. Yet countries worldwide have experience to build on and scale up, and solutions may be adapted for different socio-environmental contexts. The report highlights examples of successful wastewater management from both high- and low-income countries, including in the Caribbean, China, Colombia, Denmark, Egypt, Germany, India, Israel, Namibia, Senegal, Sweden, Singapore, the Solomon Islands and Tunisia.

"We need to keep the pressure up to improve some critical underlying conditions if these actions are to succeed" says Peter Harris, Director of GRID-Arendal. "For that to happen, we need more effective governance, investment, supporting innovation, strengthening data, improving capacity to implement and – critically shifting our behaviour – all of us as individuals and institutions."



# Colombia, Jamaica And Panamá Unite To Combat Urban Plastic Pollution

The Governments of Colombia, Jamaica and Panamá have launched a USD 42 million project to jointly combat plastic pollution by mainstreaming circularity at city-level.

Plastic is one of the most ubiquitous materials ever produced, used in everything from products to packaging. However, nearly one-third of all plastic is single use, 32 per cent contaminates

PLASTIC POLLUTION



soil and freshwater ecosystems and as much as 10 million tonnes are released into the ocean annually, worsening the triple planetary crisis – climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste.

Without decisive action, this is expected to triple by 2060. Circularity aims to keep materials such as plastics at their highest value throughout the value chain for as long as possible by transforming the way we design, make, use and discard products.

Exposure to mismanaged plastics can harm human health and marine species, causing entanglement and injury, ingestion, suffocation and toxic contamination. Additionally, the open burning of plastics may release toxic persistent organic pollutants – chemicals that don't break down in the environment.

Led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), with funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the project will support Colombia, Jamaica and Panamá to adopt closed-loop policies at city-level, engage the private sector to do the same.

By prioritising innovative interventions upstream and identifying products that contain chemicals of concern, policy and fiscal instruments will be used to reduce the use of unnecessary or toxic plastic products, limit and ban the open burning of plastics and develop reuse and refill systems.

A rapid shift to a circular economy can reduce the volume of plastics that pollute the ocean by over 80 per cent, reducing reliance on the creation of new plastic and saving governments over USD 70-billion in less than 20 years and creating an additional 700,000 jobs by 2040.

ERNGERYE  
CMENADPI  
GURDOTh  
INLALRAF  
LIDFWEIR  
ALCTOSA  
SVERNUIE

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

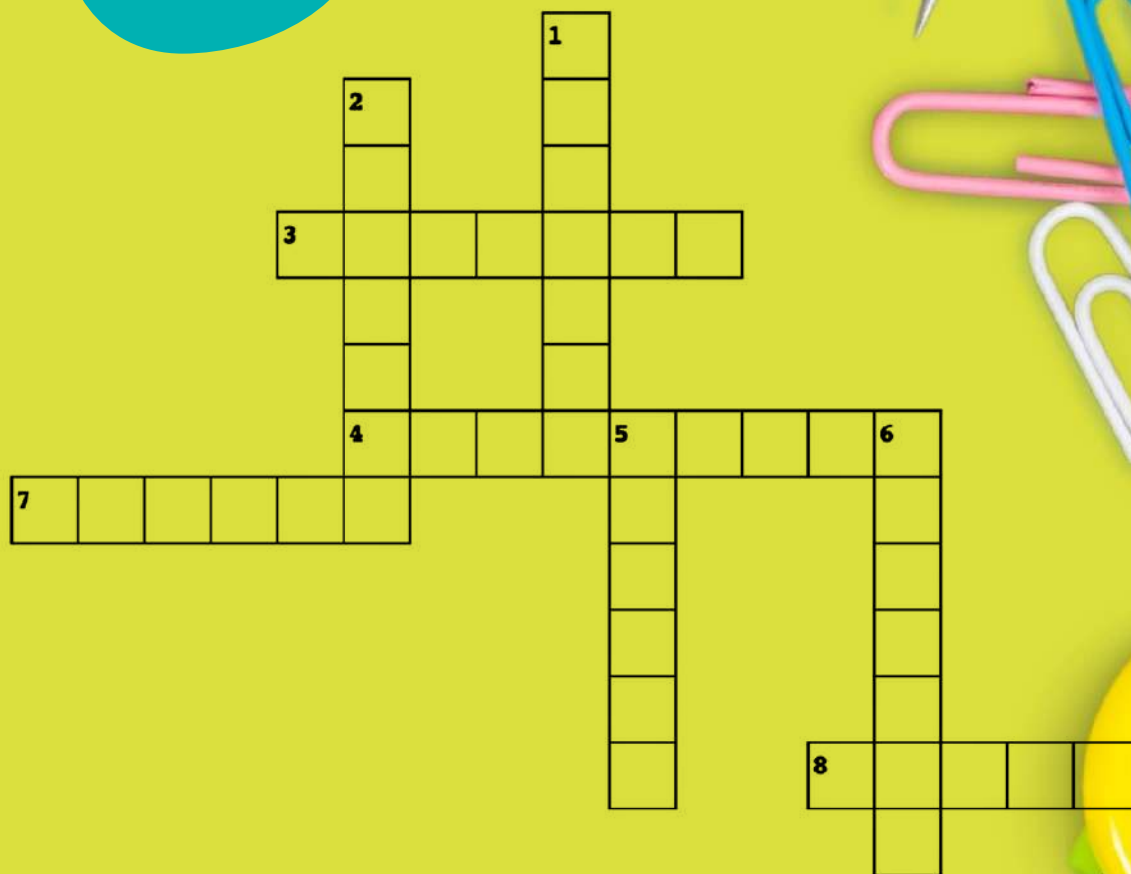
ANSWERS: 1) Drought, 2) Rainfall, 3) Pandemic, 4) Universe, 5) Coastal, 6) Lush, 7) Greenery, 8) Wildfire

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

CARBON  
CIRCLE  
CLIMATE  
ECONOMY  
ENDANGER  
GOVERNMENT  
GREEN  
HOUSEHOLD  
LIFESTYLE  
NATURE  
POLICY  
PROTECT



# Crossword Puzzle



## Across

- 3. Financial state
- 4. Way of living
- 7. Not susceptible to
- 8. Arctic or Antarctic

## Down

- 1. Settle a matter
- 2. Treat waste for reuse
- 5. Putting money aside
- 6. Imaginary global circle

ANSWERS: 1) Resolve 2) Recycle 3) Economy 4) Lifestyle 5) Saving 6) Equator 7) Immune 8) Pole

## WORD OF THE DAY:

# WATER POLLUTION

Pollution can happen in a range of different environments, such as the air and soil, but water is especially vulnerable to it. This is because the nature of water allows substances to dissolve more easily in it than any other liquid on earth. This means that harmful substances from the areas surrounding a body of water can easily enter and become part of the water, which causes water pollution.

There are many different types of water pollution:

### • Groundwater

Groundwater is one of the most important natural resources that we have for providing drinking water. Groundwater can get polluted when harmful substances, often from pesticides, fertilisers, and waste materials travel into an aquifer, which is a body of rock that holds groundwater. This water then becomes unsafe for human use, which is particularly problematic for people in rural areas who are dependent on groundwater for drinking water.

### • Surface water

Surface water is the water that is found in the oceans, lakes, rivers, and other bodies of water that cover the earth. Surface water across the world is at high risk of being contaminated, making them unfit for use, be that for drinking,



swimming in, etc. The primary source of contamination of surface water is nutrient pollution. This pollution is caused when nutrients, like nitrates and phosphates, travel into bodies of water as fertiliser run-off and farm waste.

### • Ocean water

Most ocean pollution derives from harmful substances on land. Contaminants, such as chemicals, nutrients, and heavy metals, start off on land in farms and factories etc, and make their way into streams and rivers. These bodies of water then carry the contaminating substances into the ocean. Marine litter, which is any human-created waste that has been released into the sea or ocean, can also get blown into the water by the wind, or swept in via storm drains and sewers. What's more, the ocean soaks up around a quarter of man-made carbon emissions from the air, which contributes to its pollution.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE OZONE LAYER – SEPTEMBER 16

The ozone layer, a fragile shield of gas, protects the Earth from the harmful portion of the rays of the sun, thus helping preserve life on the planet.



The phaseout of controlled uses of ozone depleting substances and the related reductions have not only helped protect the ozone layer for this and future generations, but have also contributed significantly to global efforts to address climate change; furthermore, it has protected human health and ecosystems by limiting the harmful ultraviolet radiation from reaching the Earth.

A number of commonly used chemicals have been found to be extremely damaging to the ozone layer. Halocarbons are chemicals in which one or more carbon atoms are linked to one or more halogen atoms (fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine). Halocarbons containing bromine usually have much higher ozone-depleting potential (ODP) than those containing chlorine. The man-made chemicals that have provided most of the chlorine and bromine for ozone depletion are methyl bromide, methyl chloroform, carbon tetrachloride and families of chemicals known as halons, chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs).

The scientific confirmation of the depletion of the ozone layer prompted the international community to establish a mechanism for cooperation to take action to protect the ozone layer. This was formalized in the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, which was adopted and signed by 28 countries, on 22 March 1985. In September 1987, this led to the drafting of The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

## WORLD RHINO DAY – SEPTEMBER 22

World Rhino Day is a day of awareness for all five rhino species and the work being done to save them. Since 2011, World Rhino Day has been celebrated internationally on September 22nd by rhino experts and advocates around the world. On the annual World Rhino Day, the International Rhino Foundation celebrates the five species rhinos and all those who care about them.

Rhinos once roamed across much of North America and Europe, throughout Africa and southeast Asia. Today, they only survive in pockets of protected areas in southern and eastern Africa and in a handful of Asian countries. The five remaining species are comprised of 11 subspecies. All rhino species are under threat of extinction, and one – the Sumatran

rhino – is on the verge of disappearing. Across the five species there are only about 27,000 of these marvelous creatures are left on Earth. The greatest threats to rhinos are poaching, habitat loss, and for some species, isolated small populations unable to reproduce. In total, there are only about 27,000 rhinos left in the world.

The five main rhino species are:

- Black Rhino
- Greater One Horned Rhino
- Javan Rhino
- Sumatran Rhino
- White Rhino

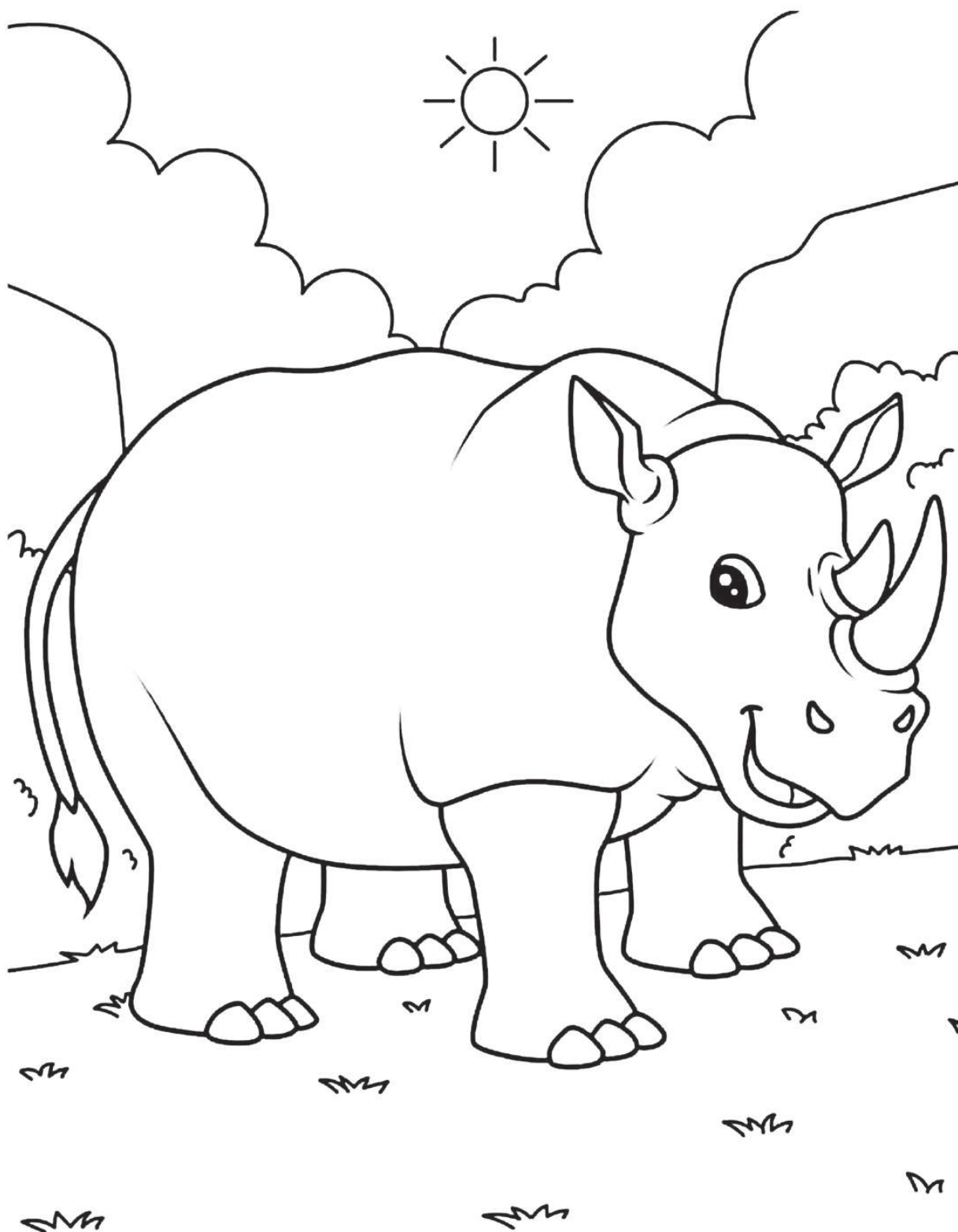


## What can you do to help?

### Things to Do...

- ☒ Reuse paper
- ☒ Switch off all plugs when not in use
- ☒ Volunteer for a clean-up drive
- ☒ Grow your own plant
- ☒ Don't waste food!

COLOUR ME!





## EPAA Confiscates 65 Lizards Of Arabian Sand Skink In Al Bataeh Area

The Environment and Protected Areas Authority (EPAA) in Sharjah has confiscated 65 lizards of the Arabian Sand Skink (*Scincus mitranus* - Sandfish) in the Al Bataeh area near Khorfakkan road.

This aligns with its goal to protect the wild environment and preserve its wealth from improper practices, aiming to provide optimal

UAE NEWS



conditions for the breeding season.

This step aligns with EPAA's keenness to apply the highest standards pursued in environmental protection through a range of procedures and diverse programmes that raise societal awareness of the importance of preserving and protecting the environment.

Hana Saif Al Suwaidi, Chairperson of the EPAA, highlighted the global attention given to environmental preservation and biodiversity. This emphasises the environment's value and the importance of measures like safeguarding the breeding seasons of animals and birds.

These efforts aim to ensure sustainability of life and biodiversity in wild areas and emphasises the need to avoid harmful activities in the desert.

Al Suwaidi explained that a sandfish is

distinguished by its ability to dive into the sand and move with little effort, hence its name "Sandfish". It is abundant in dry, sandy deserts and dunes at altitudes less than 400 metres.

It is widespread in the sands of the Arabian Peninsula, and essentially, its range extends from the farthest parts of the UAE to Oman, Yemen, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, and Bahrain.

The confiscation of 65 lizards of the sandfish species was carried out according to Clause 6 of the Executive Council of Sharjah's Resolution No. 39 of 2016, which stipulates the prohibition of reckless hunting or killing or harming wild creatures and destroying geological formations or areas that are habitats for animal, plant, or bird species or their proliferation in wild areas.

## Wars and conflicts: An interconnected web of natural and human devastation

As the world grapples with the grim reality of armed conflicts and its tragic human toll, an often overlooked issue is that of the profound and long-lasting environmental impact of war.

Scenes of bombed-out cities and scorched landscapes are a testimony to the stark reminders of the devastating toll of warfare. Hazardous materials also contaminate forests, fields and water sources, endangering aquatic ecosystems and destroying habitats. Such biodiversity loss leaves scars on the Earth that can be felt for generations to come.



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

The cost of human displacement during times of war exerts further pressure on the natural environment. Mass migration also puts a strain on available resources, leading to deforestation as trees are cut for shelter and fuel. Unchecked exploitation of natural resources – without regard for responsible management practices or sustainability – is common across most conflict zones. These activities not only harm ecosystems but also hinder post-war recovery and sustainable development.

The lack of adequate infrastructure and resources in war-torn regions has a heavy impact on healthcare and sanitation. As a result, the outbreak of epidemics becomes a grim reality and provides a fertile ground for the spread of diseases, which can have devastating consequences for both human populations and local ecosystems.

The chaos and instability of war also lead to social unrest and lawlessness, with negative consequences for the environment as illegal logging and poaching goes unchecked.

The environmental effects of war often outlast the conflict itself. Landmines, for instance, continue to pose risks for years or even decades. These hazards hinder land use, economic development, and environmental restoration efforts. In addition, with the deliberate destruction of cultural and natural heritage sites, irreplaceable ecosystems are lost forever, robbing future generations of their priceless heritage.

Addressing the environmental effects of war requires international cooperation and a commitment to environmental stewardship. Such efforts must transcend borders and ideologies, and it must gain global attention and action. It is our collective responsibility to address these challenges and strive for a world where peace and sustainability coexist.





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