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Emirates Appreciation Award For The Environment

Together for a
green home





Chairman's Message



**Prof. Mohammed
bin Fahad**
Executive Editor

The announcement of the world's largest logistics hub for trading foodstuffs in Dubai is a bold affirmation of the visionary leadership of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. It solidifies Dubai's status as a global logistics powerhouse, reinforces the UAE's food security strategy, and sets a new paradigm for sustainable development goals.

While this ambitious project reinforces Dubai's status as a pivotal nexus in the global food supply chain, it also aligns seamlessly with the emirate's broader vision to enhance its infrastructure and create new opportunities for investors.

The UAE has always placed a premium on food security, recognizing it as a fundamental pillar of national stability and prosperity. The new logistics hub is a testament to this commitment. Food security has become a pressing issue as the global population is projected to reach 9.7 billion by 2050. Despite its arid climate and limited arable land, the UAE has demonstrated remarkable foresight in addressing this challenge. The new logistics hub is a critical component of this strategy, ensuring that the nation can import, store, and distribute food efficiently, reducing dependency on any single source and enhancing resilience against potential disruptions.

By addressing key components of the UAE's National Food Security Strategy 2051, the new hub ensures a steady and reliable supply of essential foodstuffs, mitigating the risks associated with global supply chain disruptions. Moreover, it fosters innovation in agriculture and logistics, encouraging the adoption of sustainable practices that align with the UAE's environmental goals.

A beacon of innovation and resilience, the hub's state-of-the-art facilities that minimize waste and energy consumption exemplify how modern infrastructure can harmonize economic growth with ecological responsibility, leading us to a more sustainable and secure world.

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Dubai unveils world's largest logistics hub for trading foodstuffs, fruits, vegetables

The ambitious project, formalised through an agreement between Dubai Municipality and DP World, aims to solidify Dubai's position as a pivotal nexus in the global food supply chain

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE, and Ruler of Dubai, has announced the development of the Logistics Hub for Foodstuffs, Fruit and Vegetable Trade in Dubai, the largest such facility in the world. This ambitious project is set to bolster Dubai's status as a global economic powerhouse and enhance its strategic position in international trade.

This initiative aligns with Dubai's strategies to enhance investment and economic opportunities, thus contributing to the goals of the Dubai Economic Agenda D33, which aims to double the size of Dubai's economy and transform it into one of the top three economic cities globally by 2033. The project also aims to improve the quality of life for Dubai's residents and enhance the city's overall attractiveness and livability.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid said, "Today, we have launched our plan to develop the largest logistics hub in the world for the trade of foodstuffs, fruits and vegetables. This expansion

and doubling of the current market area will support our economic agenda and create larger commercial and investment opportunities. We have entrusted DP World with the management, operation, and development of the market, linking it with markets globally.”

His Highness added, “Dubai’s strategic location and advanced facilities make it a commercial and investment hub that attracts major companies. Our efforts will double in the coming period to enhance the emirate’s role in creating investment

bin Rashid Al Maktoum, First Deputy Ruler of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of the UAE, witnessed the signing of a partnership agreement between Dubai Municipality and DP World.

This agreement marks the creation and management of the ‘Foodstuffs, Fruits and Vegetables Market,’ set to be the largest of its kind globally.

The agreement was signed by Sultan Ahmed bin



opportunities for global companies and youth, integrating them into developmental projects. Dubai aims to be a leading destination for markets, export, and re-export operations across various sectors, maximising economic opportunities for investors in this field.”

In line with His Highness’s directives and under the supervision of H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai, H.H. Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed

Sulayem, Group Chairman and CEO of DP World, and Dawood Al Hajri, Director General of Dubai Municipality. Sheikh Maktoum emphasised that Dubai is advancing under the vision of Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid, aiming to showcase new successes in achieving the ambitious goals of the economic agenda to be among the top three economic cities globally by 2033.

The flexibility, efficiency, and sustainability of Dubai’s economic model enhance its global attractiveness for investment opportunities.



Sheikh Maktoum stated, "The new project will create new economic opportunities and a better investment environment in this crucial food sector, supporting Dubai's D33 economic vision."

Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, Group Chairman and CEO of DP World, noted that Dubai is a global model for generating investment opportunities and connecting regional and global markets across various sectors of trade.

He highlighted that establishing the world's largest foodstuffs, fruits and vegetables market will reinforce strong foundations of trade in this sphere across regional and global markets, particularly through novel logistical and financial solutions bound to be offered by the market.

Bin Sulayem added, "Due to its strategic location, Dubai has become a global market for food trade,

especially fruits and vegetables. This sector is witnessing increasing growth in both local markets and exports, indicating immense opportunities that can be leveraged through strategic projects that Dubai continues to develop. Establishing and expanding the Foodstuffs, Fruits and Vegetables Market and launching its pioneering solutions will maximise the benefits of this sector's growth in achieving Dubai's economic goals."

Dawood Al Hajri stated that the agreement to establish and manage the Foodstuffs, Fruit and Vegetable Market reflects the emirate's continuous efforts to enhance its competitiveness and its attractiveness as a place to invest, live, and work in.

He added that the agreement is part of Dubai's vision to develop markets, improve the quality of

The project aligns with Dubai's broader vision to enhance its infrastructure and create new opportunities for investors while supporting the UAE's food security strategy



life for the community, and establish the emirate as an international trade hub by offering innovative solutions to boost investment opportunities and unlock new business horizons.

New food trade logistics hub will boost UAE's food security: Amna Al Dahak

Dr. Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak Al Shamsi, Minister of Climate Change and the Environment, affirmed that the launch of the plan to develop the world's largest logistics hub for the trade of foodstuffs, vegetables, and fruits, and the establishment of the 'Foodstuffs, Fruits and Vegetables Market' in Dubai by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice

President, Prime Minister, and Ruler of Dubai, is a pioneering step that supports the UAE's efforts to enhance its food security and upgrade the entire food value chain both locally and globally.

In a statement, Dr. Al Dahak stated that facilitating food trade and diversifying food import sources are among the key priorities of the UAE's National Food Security Strategy 2051.

She noted that developing the world's largest logistics zone for food trade in Dubai reinforces the UAE's position as a global hub for food trade. This will attract more direct investments in the sector, and boost local food production and its flow into the domestic markets for consumption and export purposes, the minister explained. Additionally, this step accelerates efforts to transform traditional food systems into sustainable and climate-smart systems.

Dr. Al Dahak emphasised that this pioneering project is a significant step towards doubling the size of the food trade market in the UAE, while also contributing to making the country more resilient in facing international food trade challenges and supplying food at competitive prices. The initiative supports the drive to provide safe and nutritious food to the community at reasonable prices, she added.





Sheikh Hamdan approves the master plan, designs for Jebel Ali Beach Development Project

First-of-its-kind project will boast open beach in Jebel Ali Wildlife Sanctuary

H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the UAE, and Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai, has approved the Master Plan for the Jebel Ali Beach Development Project, set to transform a 6.6 km stretch of beach into a premier recreational destination.

The project emphasises environmental conservation and local wildlife protection. This initiative reflects the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, to create the world's best public beaches in the emirate.

Additionally, Sheikh Hamdan has approved the architectural designs, which seamlessly blend aesthetics with functionality to accommodate a variety of beach activities.

The project features exceptional services, facilities, and public amenities. Offering a new

eco-tourism experience, visitors to the beach can enjoy watching turtles in their natural habitat.

Various measures and regulations will be implemented to protect turtles and provide them with a safe nesting environment.

This aligns with the efforts of relevant bodies in the UAE to rescue, rehabilitate, and return turtles to their natural habitat and preserve the UAE's rich marine environment.

Extending 6.6km, the Jebel Ali Beach Development Project places a high priority on environmental preservation and the protection of local ecosystems and wildlife



Urban experiences

Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed said, "Under the directives of His Highness the Ruler of Dubai, we are committed to developing the infrastructure and services needed to offer diverse urban experiences for citizens, residents, and visitors. Our focus is on creating spaces rich in beaches, open areas, and recreational greens.

"The ultimate goal is to enhance the well-being of the people in the emirate, create a healthy

environment for all and make Dubai the world's best place to live in."

He added, "The Jebel Ali Beach Development Project is part of a broader master plan to develop public beaches in the emirate aimed at increasing the total length of beaches by 400%. This involves adding new public beaches, enhancing existing ones, and equipping them with new recreational, sports, aesthetic, and investment facilities as envisioned in the Dubai 2040 Urban Master Plan."



First project of its kind in the UAE

Mattar Al Tayer, Commissioner-General for Infrastructure, Urban Planning, and Well-Being Pillar, said, "An open beach for the public and a site of global environmental importance, the Jebel Ali Beach Development Project is the first of its kind in the UAE.

"It is located in the Jebel Ali Wildlife Sanctuary, listed under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance.

"The project aims to create a unique recreational beachfront with a strong emphasis on protecting the environment and supporting the emirate's sustainability and eco-tourism goals.

"The beach's development will ensure the preservation and enhancement of ecosystems and wildlife at the site, including enhancing turtle

habitats and planting mangrove trees, contributing to blue carbon footprint growth and providing an open beach with minimal impact on ecological and biological systems."

Unique ecosystem

Al Tayer added, "Jebel Ali Beach will be the longest public open beach in Dubai, stretching 6.6 km and covering an area of 330 hectares. The plan includes developing two areas: a 5 km sandy beach developed by Nakheel and a 1.6 km mangrove beach developed by Dubai Municipality.

"The area features a unique ecosystem due to the presence of mangrove trees, which enhance the sanctuary and provide habitats for many living organisms. The design of the area allows for optimal site utilisation, enabling the preservation of the ecosystem and enrichment of the visitor experience," he added.

The programme is part of the Dubai 2040 Master Plan's goal to develop and expand the emirate's public beaches by 400%



Three locations

The beach will be divided into three locations: the Pearl (on the right side near the entrance of Palm Jebel Ali) will be a centre for beach and recreational activities. The second site, named the Sanctuary, offers a haven for turtles and natural habitats. This area prioritises environmental conservation and houses recreational and sports activities that enhance safe environmental exploration.

The third site is the Nest (within the mangrove area), which is a recreational educational destination. It includes an environmental centre for studies and awareness of biodiversity, turtle rehabilitation and care programmes, and

opportunities for visitors to learn about and help preserve the coastal ecosystem.

Architectural styles

"The architectural design of the buildings and facilities is inspired by a mix of natural geometry, drawing from shapes found in marine nature such as coral and turtle shells, as well as the Boho Syle, which uses elements and materials available locally. The buildings resemble the natural dunescape. The project offers several investment opportunities, such as restaurants, leisure centres, and commercial kiosks, to ensure maximum comfort for beachgoers and meet their various needs," Al Tayer explained.



20th Liwa Dates Festival concludes in Abu Dhabi

Farmers, factory owners, private sector companies, and investment firms in palm-related industries participated in the festival

The 20th Liwa Dates Festival, organised by the Abu Dhabi Heritage Authority, concluded in the Al Dhafra Region on July 28. The event attracted farmers and farm owners to several competitions, including cultural and entertainment events, supporting efforts to reinforce the UAE's national identity.

The annual festival continues the journey established by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and his approach to developing the agricultural sector and adherence to the historical status of the palm tree, which is closely linked to the authentic Emirati heritage.

The festival comprised participation from farmers, factory owners, private sector companies, and investment firms in palm-related industries, supporting sustainable agricultural development and enhancing the food security ecosystem in the UAE. The event also featured date and fruit mazayna and model farm competitions, handicrafts, a children's village, and more.

His Excellency Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan visited the 20th Liwa Dates Festival and praised the event, acknowledging its role in preserving the date tree, promoting related industries, and supporting local products and farmers across the UAE.

His Excellency toured pavilions showcasing the latest technologies and innovations in palm farming and commended the efforts of the organisers and participation of public and private entities to support the preservation of the UAE's

Rich in nutritional value, dates have been a vital source of sustenance, while the versatile trunks, leaves, and various components of palm trees have been ingeniously utilised in construction, handicrafts, and toolmaking, reflecting the resourcefulness of Emirati ancestors.

A prominent cultural and heritage extravaganza, the Liwa Dates Festival attracted tourists from far and wide, offering a captivating glimpse into the pivotal role that dates continue to play in the Emirati way of life.



intangible heritage. His Excellency was briefed on festival events, including date, fruit mazayna and model farm competitions, and met members of the jury and organising committees.

The Liwa Dates Festival is an esteemed heritage event and honours a symbol deeply rooted in Emirati culture and society — the Date Palm tree. Throughout the ages, this majestic tree has played a pivotal role in sustaining the nutritional needs of desert-dwelling tribes, including those inhabiting the lands of the United Arab Emirates.

Sharjah hosts 8th edition of Al Dhaid Dates Festival

The eighth edition of the “Al Dhaid Dates Festival”, one of Sharjah's most significant economic, cultural, and social events, concluded at Expo Al Dhaid on 28th July.

Organised by the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), the festival saw extensive participation from palm owners, farmers, industrialists, and productive families engaged in



the dates industry from across the UAE, as well as a host of official bodies concerned with palm cultivation.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Abdallah Sultan Al Owais, Chairman of SCCI; Salem Ali Salem Al Muhairi, Chairman of the Sharjah Municipal Council; Sheikh Salem bin Mohammed bin Salem Al Qasimi, Director of Sharjah Commerce and Tourism Development Authority (SCTDA), and Waleed Abdul Rahman Bukhatir, Second Vice Chairman of the Sharjah Chamber, along with several board members.

Also present were Mohammed Ahmed Amin Al Awadi, Director-General of SCCI; Abdul Aziz Al Shamsi, Assistant Director-General of the Communication and Business Sector at SCCI, and Mohammad Musabah Al Tunaiji, General Coordinator of Al Dhaid Dates Festival, as well as

heads of municipal councils and numerous directors, officials, and representatives from the participating government entities.

The main competitions lined up for the participating farmers in the festival's 8th edition include "The Best Lemons", "Fig Contest", and "The Most Beautiful Home-grown Dates" (only for women), in addition to a new dates' competition for children called "Ratb Al Kharaif Beauty", making its debut in the UAE.

This year's festival attracted a large turnout of visitors, who were keen to explore the premium quality dates and palm leaf products on display.

Abdallah Sultan Al Owais emphasised that the Al Dhaid Dates Festival has gained a major foothold among important economic and cultural events in the UAE and the region. These events play a

At the Al Dhaid Dates Festival in Sharjah, farmers exchanged knowledge and expertise, showcased the various palm varieties and the superior quality for which the region's palm farms are renowned



crucial role in promoting sustainable agricultural development, supporting farmers, and preserving the palm tree, which is a fundamental aspect of the UAE's environment and heritage.

Al Owais noted that agricultural sector development is a strategic priority for the Emirate of Sharjah, as the Sharjah Chamber is committed to supporting this strategy by continuing to organise the Al Dhaid Date Festival, which stands out for its significant cultural, agricultural, and economic dimensions.

The festival aims to enhance heritage sustainability, raise awareness about modern agricultural practices, and strengthen the UAE's food security. It plays a vital role in empowering

farmers to invest in palm cultivation and related industries, encouraging them to expand and enhance their production both in quantity and quality and promoting the preservation and cultivation of date palm trees.

The festival provided a platform for farmers to exchange knowledge and expertise, showcase the various palm varieties and the superior quality for which the region's palm farms are renowned, with the aim to advance and elevate the UAE's dates-based industries.

The festival also reinforced Al Dhaid's status as a primary hub for palm cultivation in the region, highlighting the diversity and high quality of Emirati date varieties.

Brazil endorses UAE Declaration to join Global Climate Finance Framework, strengthening G20-COP28 efforts

The Global Climate Finance Framework, launched by world leaders at COP28, sets out a 10-point plan to help make climate finance more available, accessible, and affordable

At a joint G20-COP28 event on sustainable finance held on July 24, Brazil endorsed the UAE Declaration of Leaders on a Global Climate Finance Framework, launched by key world leaders at COP28, building momentum towards the Framework's goal of developing a new climate finance architecture that unlocks the investment opportunity of climate action.

The endorsement from Brazil, which will also host COP30 in 2025, provides a vital link between the agendas of the COP Presidencies and the G20, to make sustainable finance more available, accessible and affordable.

Minister of Finance Fernando Haddad announced the endorsement in Rio de Janeiro, on the sidelines of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meetings, as Brazil became the sixth G20 country to endorse the Framework alongside France, Germany, the United Kingdom, the United States, and India.



To date, 15 countries representing a significant share of global GDP have joined the Framework as signatories.

Brazil's endorsement will also ensure greater continuity in future COPs. The COP Presidencies Troika – comprising the UAE, Azerbaijan, and Brazil – has continued to enhance international cooperation to close the adaptation finance gap and raise ambition in the next round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

“To deliver on the climate ambitions set out in the UAE Consensus, we need all sources of finance – public, private and philanthropic,” Mohamed Hadi Al Hussaini, UAE Minister of State for Financial Affairs, said. “Climate investments must be recognized as an unprecedented opportunity for economic growth and shared prosperity, and the COP28 Global Climate Finance Framework places finance ministries in a leading role to drive this forward. The UAE stands ready to address the sustainable finance gap with concrete action.

“We welcome Brazil's recognition of the Framework today. This decision ensures that the progress made at COP28 will not only be upheld by Brazil through its ambitious agenda on sustainable finance during its G20 Presidency but will also be carried forward through to its role as COP30 host in 2025.”

“Our sustainable finance agenda in the G20 focuses on pushing for reforms of the global financial architecture to support just transitions in the world and is well aligned with the Global Climate Finance Framework. We see great value in reinforcing coherence between G20 and COP deliverables on sustainable finance,” said Ambassador Tatiana Rosito, Vice-minister for International Affairs at the Ministry of Finance and Coordinator of the G20 Finance Track.

“The Global Climate Finance Framework delivers a holistic, comprehensive effort to combat

The announcement by Brazil, host of COP30 in 2025, represents a significant alignment between the G20 and COP agendas on sustainable finance



climate change and unlock much-needed climate finance – a key enabler for strengthening the next cycle of NDCs, climate adaptation, and resilience,” said Majid Al Suwaidi, COP28 Director General. “As a champion of the Global South, Brazil's endorsement of the Framework will ensure greater alignment with its ambitious G20 Presidency agenda on sustainable finance, help



drive sustainable socio-economic growth, and provide continuity in climate finance from Baku to Belém and beyond.”

The Global Climate Finance Framework, which builds on the momentum of initiatives such as the Bridgetown Agenda championed by Hon. Mia Mottley, and the Africa Climate Summit championed by President Ruto, provides a robust platform to measure progress made by all key actors in climate finance across the private and public sectors, including MDBs and international financial institutions (IFIs).

The Framework provides 10 defining principles, covering all action areas on the climate finance agenda, including MDB and IFI reform, driving country platforms, and delivering on existing commitments such as mobilizing funding for developing countries and replenishment of the Green Climate Fund.

The Brazilian G20 Presidency has set an ambitious agenda on sustainable finance, well-placed in the G20 Sustainable Finance Working Group (SFWG), and the Task Force for Mobilization Against Climate Change. The SFWG is engaged in accelerating the implementation of the

Sustainable Finance Roadmap, a multi-year blueprint to inform the broader G20 agenda on climate and sustainable finance. Connected to the Roadmap, Brazil has set four solutions-based priorities for the G20 this year: 1) optimizing access to international environment and climate funds; 2) advancing robust, credible, and just transition plans; 3) implementing sustainability reporting requirements that work for all, including SMEs and EMDEs; 4) building-up a toolkit of blended finance instruments for nature-based solutions.

The event in Rio de Janeiro, titled “COP28-G20 Finance Track Event: Making Sustainable Finance Available, Accessible, and Affordable”, was also attended by Samir Sharifov, Minister of Finance of Azerbaijan, host country of COP29; Sri Mulyani, Minister of Finance of Indonesia; and ministers from Barbados and South Africa.

Senior representatives from multilateral development banks (MDBs), the private sector, and foundations also participated in the event, which was focused on building bridges between the COP28 Global Climate Finance Framework and the G20 agenda on sustainable finance.



RTA's Route 2020 wins Global Gold at Green World Awards

Source: RTA

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has won the Green World Award - Global Gold Winner category from the UK-based The Green Organisation, for the Route 2020 project. This prestigious award recognises outstanding achievements in environmental performance, effective resource use, support of sustainable development goals, and carbon reduction. Route 2020 project was honoured for its contribution in reducing 35,319 tonnes of carbon emissions and implementing best practices for conserving the environment.

RTA earned the award through tangible evidence provided by the Rail Agency, notably, RTA had already obtained the LEED Gold certificate for the seven stations of Route 2020 from the US Green Building Council under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) programme, which awards certificates to best-in-class buildings based on the strategies and practices applied. In addition, the metro incorporated energy saving technologies

including the use of the HESOP system, which aims to utilise the electrical energy generated during the braking of trains, and Automatic Train Control coasting. RTA has also undertaken green initiatives and energy and water-saving measures.

Route 2020 Project spans from Jebel Ali Station to Expo 2020 site, covering a total length of 15 km (11.8 km elevated and 3.2 km underground), connecting 7 stations (5 elevated and 2 underground). The project serves densely populated areas such as the Gardens, Discovery Gardens, Al Furjan, Jumeirah Golf Estates, Dubai Investment Park, and the Expo site, serving a population of about 270,000 people.

Environmental sustainability is a key pillar of Route 2020 project, exemplified by the energy-efficient infrastructure of Route 2020's award-winning architecture and design stations, including the prestigious Prix Versailles Architecture and Design Awards 2022.

COP28 President urges global solidarity to achieve sustainable socio-economic development

The 8th Ministerial on Climate Action (MoCA) took place in Wuhan, capital city of Hubei Province, China, on July 22-23

All stakeholders that delivered the landmark UAE Consensus must come together to implement it and advance sustainable socio-economic development, COP28 President Dr. Sultan Al Jaber announced at the eighth Ministerial on Climate Action (MoCA), held on July 22, 2024, in Wuhan, China.

Since its inception at COP28 in Dubai last December, the historic UAE Consensus has emerged as the defining point of reference for global climate ambition and sustainable development.

Solidarity was the key to achieving the UAE Consensus and Dr. Al Jaber told ministers at the event in Wuhan, China, to draw from its “spirit of solidarity” to accelerate implementation of the UAE Consensus.

“This approach to inclusivity not only helped to deliver the UAE Consensus but is now yielding



real-world results and “facts on the ground”, Dr. Al Jaber added.

PetroChina, which accounts for 3.5 percent of global oil production, has joined the Oil and Gas Decarbonization Charter (OGDC), launched at COP28 to accelerate decarbonization in the sector. PetroChina joins 52 other companies, representing roughly 40 percent of global oil production, in the OGDC – with National Oil Companies accounting for over 60 percent of signatories, the most ever to commit to a decarbonization initiative.

The OGDC calls for the industry to align around net zero by or before 2050, zero-out methane emissions by 2030, eliminate routine flaring by 2030, work towards industry best practices in emission reduction, and invest in the energy system of the future.

PetroChina joining the Charter marks a “significant moment for Chinese leadership” and “sends a powerful signal to global companies yet to sign up to do the right thing and choose the right side of history,” Dr. Al Jaber said.

The COP28 President also called on countries to submit Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) that “cover everything from decarbonization to deforestation.”

“We are pushing every country to turn its NDC into a practical plan that transforms the UAE Consensus into facts on the ground. These plans should be comprehensive and balanced across mitigation, adaptation, and means of implementation,” he said.

The COP Presidencies Troika, uniting COP28 with the Azerbaijan and Brazil COP Presidencies, has a critical role to play in maintaining “political momentum,” he added.

Every sector should make climate resilience “their guiding principle”, the COP28 President

*All stakeholders that contributed to the UAE Consensus must now take responsibility for turning agreements into action with “facts on the ground”:
Dr. Al Jaber*



said, urging industries to “adopt strategies that future-proof their business models, put people first, and protect our planet.”

Alongside decarbonizing the energy system of today, boosting investment in carbon-free energies is critical, the President said, highlighting the UAE Consensus’ goal of tripling renewable energy capacity this decade.

This represents “a bold ambition that will stretch us all,” Dr. Al Jaber acknowledged, pointing to IRENA’s latest report which found that the world needs to grow capacity by 16.4 per cent every year through 2030. Despite this, “history tells us that every time we doubt our ability to achieve



great things, we beat expectations,' Dr. Al Jaber said. "While just 1 gigawatt of solar power capacity was added globally in 2004, the world now adds twice that much to the grid every single day," he declared.

As the home to more than half of the world's combined solar capacity and producer of over 80 percent of all solar panels, China has made a critical contribution to this "extraordinary rate of progress," Dr. Al Jaber said. "In short, China is the world's renewable energy powerhouse, and we should all take a leaf out of their playbook."

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has tremendous potential to impact energy and transport and minimize emissions, yet its development will also "trigger a surge" in energy demand, said Dr. Al Jaber, "We must be smart about how we meet that demand, while leveraging the upsides of AI."

The world should look to scale up nuclear energy, speed up permitting for renewable energy projects and modernize grid infrastructure, while recognizing the "transitional role" natural gas will play in providing energy access, he said.

The COP28 President reiterated calls for reform of the international financial framework, to make climate finance more available, accessible, and affordable and incentivize private-sector investment.

"At a time when many countries are grappling with limited fiscal policy options and increasing debt burdens, this will be no easy task," he said. "The trillions we need cannot come from governments alone. Yet, the private sector will not step in if the risks are too high."

Dr. Al Jaber said new entrants such as ALTÉRR, the world's largest private investment vehicle for

Parties need to turn their NDCs into practical, comprehensive plans, “covering everything from decarbonization to deforestation”:
Dr. Sultan Al Jaber



climate change action, launched at COP28 with a USD30 billion commitment from the UAE, could help to “change the dynamic”.

While the UAE Consensus set a high bar for climate action, Parties should “take inspiration” for and set the bar “even higher” through NDCs that “lead to concrete actions,” the President concluded.

At MoCA, the COP Presidencies Troika hosted a Majlis – a form of meeting rooted in longstanding Emirati tradition – focused on the conservation, protection, and restoration of forests, sinks, and reservoirs, including through synergies between biodiversity and climate. The session is part of the Action and Ambition Majlis Series, launched

this year at the Petersberg Climate Dialogue as part of the Troika’s mission to raise ambition for the next round of NDCs.



UAE launches 'National Green Certificates Programme' to promote green infrastructure

The Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure also signed four MoUs to support the programme's objectives

The Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure (MoEI) has launched the National Green Certificates Programme, which aims to promote environmentally friendly building practices in line with the objectives of the National Demand-side Management Programme and the National Green Building Regulation.

The National Green Certificates Programme sets specific standards for building classification in regard to energy efficiency, water management, indoor air quality, and the use of sustainable building materials.

MoEI will offer technical support and consultations for participating businesses to ensure the highest level of sustainability.

Suhail Mohamed Al Mazrouei, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, said, "The Programme is a framework for classifications and requirements for enhancing sustainability and cutting down



the carbon footprint of commercial buildings through identifying unified basics that ensure the latest world-class criteria for sustainable buildings are applied. We are committed to advancing sustainable, environment-friendly practices and the Programme is another step in our journey to drive a green economy."

Sharif Al Olama, Undersecretary for Energy and Petroleum Affairs at MoEI, said that the Programme aligns with the ministry's keenness to integrate environmental sustainability and decarbonisation measures in the building sector. It will help reduce energy and water consumption and slash the sector's carbon footprint. This will contribute to the UAE's net-zero by 2050 target and will help build an infrastructure that can meet the development needs of the future.

To support the Programme, the ministry signed four MoUs. The first MoU was with First Abu Dhabi Bank, where they agreed to explore potential collaborations in green finance solutions to enhance the UAE's built environment sector. This includes participation in the National Green Certificates Programme and supporting the UAE's energy efficiency targets through innovative financing solutions.

It also includes the development and promotion of green finance products for the built environment sector and the execution of joint initiatives to promote energy-efficient practices and technologies in the industry.

The second MoU was with Aldar Properties to implement green finance solutions specifically tailored to enhance the built environment sector in the UAE. This includes Aldar Properties' participation in the Programme, discovering the potential to finance this Programme, and providing technical services. They also agreed to implement joint initiatives to promote energy-efficient practices and technologies in the built environment sector.

The criteria for the programme cover several aspects including energy efficiency, water conservation, indoor air quality, and the use of sustainable construction materials



The third was with Pact Carbon, where the company joins the Programme and supports other participants access global markets to sell carbon credits.

The fourth MoU was with Meagle Energy to establish a framework of cooperation between the parties to provide energy auditing and Measurement and Verification (M&V) services to the Ministry for the National Green Certificates Programme. Meagle Energy will conduct energy audits in accordance with the standards and guidelines set forth by MoEI.



UAE Ministry of Health collaborates with WHO on National Framework for Healthy Ageing

The Ministry of Health and Prevention (MoHAP) launched a four-day workshop in Dubai in collaboration with WHO to promote the health of the elderly and formulate a national response plan for dementia

The Ministry of Health and Prevention (MoHAP) recently organised a four-day workshop on the National Framework for Healthy Ageing in Dubai, in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO) to promote the health of the elderly and develop an effective health response plan for dementia (Alzheimer's disease).

The workshop, attended by Dr. Hussain Abdul Rahman Al Rand, Assistant Undersecretary for the Public Health Sector, brought together experts from various UAE health authorities and stakeholders. It explored avenues for enhancing collaboration and developing actionable strategies to support senior citizens and residents in the UAE.

The four-day workshop also aimed to create comprehensive strategies for healthy ageing, prepare a national response plan for dementia, strengthen cooperation between health and non-health sectors, and share best practices and innovative solutions.

WHO's Decade of Healthy Ageing

The workshop discussed essential metrics from the World Health Organisation's Decade of Healthy Ageing.

Experts focused on enhancing older individuals' access to healthcare, promoting healthy practices, fostering research and innovation in the field of ageing, ensuring social inclusion, and enhancing life quality through integrated policies and programs.

According to WHO, approximately 50 million people globally are currently living with dementia, a figure that is projected to triple by the year 2050



Age-friendly environment

Dr. Al Rand stressed that the key objective of the workshop was to develop a comprehensive national framework for healthy ageing and devise an effective response strategy for dementia, in partnership with WHO.

"Spanning from 2025 to 2030, this framework includes several initiatives aimed at fostering an age-friendly environment where older adults can lead healthy, active, and independent lives. It also ensures they can contribute meaningfully to

society, uphold their rights, and live with dignity and respect, thereby establishing the UAE as a frontrunner in promoting active and healthy ageing," he said.

National Policy for Senior Citizens

Dr. Al Rand noted that the UAE's implementation of the National Policy for Senior Emiratis ensures that seniors receive all the necessary support to lead dignified lives that match their social and health status. It includes providing therapeutic, rehabilitation, and social services to the elderly.



This policy reflects the deep-rooted values and culture of the Emirati people.

WHO defines healthy ageing as the process of developing and maintaining the functional abilities that enable well-being in older age. These abilities include physical fitness, mental health, and social engagement. According to WHO, approximately 50 million people globally are currently living with dementia, a figure that is projected to triple by the year 2050.

The WHO Decade of Healthy Ageing Plan 2020-2030 is a comprehensive 10-year strategy focused on action-driven and sustainable collaboration. It places older adults at the forefront of its agenda, aiming to enhance their lives and those of their families and communities and aligns with the goals of the UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

UAE's first LEED platinum certification for community planning and design

Aldar Properties has received the UAE's first LEED platinum certification for community planning and design at Athlon, the company's active living residential project in Dubai.

With sustainability positioned as a priority for the new community, this achievement places Athlon at the forefront of sustainable real estate in the UAE.

The US Green Building Council's LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification is a rigorous data-driven rating framework to pursue global sustainable development and resilient buildings.



Mangroves are a key resource for achieving UAE's Net Zero by 2050: Amna Al Dahak

UAE NEWS

In a statement on the International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem on July 26, Dr. Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak, Minister of Climate Change and the Environment, said that mangroves are not just critical to enhancing the biodiversity of our planet, they also act as carbon sinks and play a key role in protecting coastal ecosystems, making them an effective nature-based solution in our fight against climate change.

Mangroves are a vital component of coastal and marine ecosystems, providing breeding grounds for marine biodiversity, with an estimated 80 percent of the global fish population relying on mangrove forests, either directly or indirectly.

She added that mangroves are also natural carbon sinks. Their unique carbon sequestration system enables carbon to be stored up to 400 percent faster than land-based tropical rainforests.

The UAE's mangroves are integral to its climate

mitigation strategies and a key resource for achieving the Net Zero by 2050 goal, she highlighted, noting that these plant species are highly vulnerable and threatened by rising global sea levels, habitat destruction and pollution.

Dr. Al Dahak stressed that the mangrove ecosystems of the world need urgent protection and support. Citing the UAE's commitment to plant 100 million mangroves across the country by 2030, she said: "Our nation has long championed the conservation, protection, and planting of mangroves within the country and globally."

At COP27, the nation cemented its commitment to mangroves by launching the Mangrove Alliance for Climate (MAC) in partnership with Indonesia. The aim of the alliance was to scale up, accelerate conservation, restoration, and plantation efforts of mangrove ecosystems for the benefit of communities within the UAE as well as around the world, Dr. Al Dahak stated.



UAE lays out priorities for sustainable development at UN High-Level Political Forum

The UAE delegation to the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development has reiterated its commitment to international partnerships in support of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

A delegation from the UAE presented the country's strategic vision for renewable energy and climate action in the context of accelerating global progress towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through international partnerships, on the second day of the United Nations (UN) High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development organised in New York.

During their presentations at key sessions, representatives from the UAE highlighted the UAE's model for facilitating access to energy, eliminating poverty and hunger, and securing a more climate resilient future.

A global model in setting development priorities

Abdullah Nasser Lootah, Deputy Minister for Cabinet Affairs for Competitiveness and Knowledge Exchange, and Chair of the UAE National Committee for SDGs, said the UAE has set a global precedent in identifying development

priorities. These priorities include building sustainable healthcare systems, creating energy and climate solutions, and forging strategic partnerships with countries, governments, UN programmes, and international organisations to support progress on SDGs in line with the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

He said, "The UAE has invested heavily in healthcare, renewable energy, and climate action

Since its establishment in 2012, the High-Level Political Forum has served as the primary platform for the UN to discuss sustainable development



and began implementing global best practices in sustainable development long before the 17 SDGs were announced in 2016. Today, as we approach the 2030 deadline for achieving SDGs, the UAE continues to intensify partnerships and boost international efforts."

He added, "The UAE's participation at the forum aims to highlight these urgent priorities, especially within developing countries, and explore opportunities to enhance cooperation around SDGs, especially focusing on ending hunger and poverty, accelerating climate mitigation, and supporting peace, justice, and strong institutions."

Tripling renewable energy capacity

At a session titled "Tripling Renewable Energy Capacity and Accelerating Just Energy Transitions in the Global South", Lootah presented the country's commitment to tripling renewable energy capacity and doubling energy efficiency by 2030, a pledge made by 130 countries at COP28 in Dubai.

Climate and healthcare

In cooperation with the World Health Organisation (WHO), the UAE delegation organised a session on mitigating climate change impact and



enhancing global healthcare outcomes.

During the session, Dr. Alanoud Alhaj, Assistant Under-Secretary for Green Development and Climate Change at the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, said, “The UAE aims to fulfil goals of enabling access to healthcare, adequate and affordable food, quality education, and increased resource efficiency. The UAE is committed to ensuring food security for all in our pursuit of SDG2: Zero Hunger.

“Through strategic planning, innovative solutions, and international cooperation, we are making tangible progress towards ending hunger, enhancing food security, and promoting sustainable agriculture globally.”

She added, “As we navigate the complexities of global warming and environmental degradation,

we cannot overlook how these issues impact economic, social, and health-related outcomes. To tackle these, we need a unified strategy for sustainable development. SDG 13 calls to limit and adapt to climate change and is linked with goals that address water scarcity, hunger, health, and economic growth, among others.”



Dubai South announces successful first-stage trials of autonomous vehicle



Dubai South, the largest single-urban master development focusing on aviation, logistics, and real estate, has announced the successful completion of the first stage of the UAE's autonomous vehicle trials in partnership with Evocargo.

The trials were carried out on a set route in a closed area of the Dubai South Logistics District. During the trials, Evocargo checked and validated the hardware, software, and reliability of its unmanned electric truck, the Evocargo N1, for future service in the Logistics District.

Autonomous navigation on a predefined route was tested with special emphasis on safety in mixed traffic scenarios involving interaction with other participants like automobiles, trucks and pedestrians. The tests measured the success of the Evocargo N1 in object detection, accident prevention, collision avoidance with moving obstacles, and emergency stops.

The truck's autopilot system was tested in a full

range of manoeuvres (parking, reverse parking, turning, and reverse turning). The control centre's functionality (route management, remote monitoring, and control) was also tested. No failures or potentially hazardous incidents were reported by any parties during the series of tests.

Additionally, Evocargo prepared a comprehensive report of trial results across two stages. In the second, the Evocargo N1 platform carried out freight transportation tasks on a standard route in a closed area.

Mohsen Ahmad, CEO of the Logistics District - Dubai South, said, "We are proud of this groundbreaking milestone. Autonomous vehicles will play a pivotal role in revolutionising the industry, enhancing efficiency, and reducing the overall carbon footprint."

The testing of the UAE's first autonomous electric vehicle trials commenced following an MoU signed in December 2022.

Jordan paves the way for USD 60 million initiative to adapt to climate change

The Jordan Integrated Landscape Management Initiative will significantly mitigate the impacts of climate change and enhance the adaptive capacity of water and agriculture sectors in Jordan

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) Board has approved a significant new project in Jordan to increase adaptation efforts, supported by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

In collaboration with the Government of Jordan and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Jordan Integrated Landscape Management Initiative (JILMI) project will combat the adverse effects of climate change in one of the most water scarce and drought-prone countries in the world.

With a total budget of USD 60.5 million, the project has secured USD 44.9 million in funding from the Green Climate Fund, supplemented by USD 15.6 million from the Government of Jordan and a consortium of NGOs.

The JILMI project is designed to address multiple climate impacts, in particular, water scarcity in the northern Jordan Valley. It adopts an



integrated land and water resources management approach, targeting small-scale farming communities in three sites in the north Jordan Valley – the Yarmouk, Amman Zarqa, and Jordan Rift Valley Basins.

Through a combination of capacity building, climate-resilient agriculture, the restoration of degraded ecosystems, and improved water management, the initiative will boost water security and climate resilience for 750,000 people in the Jordan Valley. Local communities will expect to see improved food security and strengthened governance, all secured through the establishment of a Water Fund that will see industrial water users downstream pay communities upstream for sustainable land stewardship.

At a ceremonial signing event at the GCF's headquarters in Songdo, South Korea, government ministers, UN agencies, and civil society groups gathered to applaud the new initiative.

“Jordan is amongst the most water-scarce countries worldwide and the situation is exaggerated by the impacts of climate change. The Jordan Integrated Landscape Management Initiative is a crucial contribution to Jordan and the region's climate action agenda; it will help the country address the complexity of the climate crisis and meet Jordan's commitments toward Paris agreement by reducing national emissions and adapting to the impacts of climate change, and therefore achieve the agreed National Determined Contributions” said His Excellency Dr. Muawieh Khalid Radaideh, Jordan's Minister of Environment.

The initiative aims to increase the country's annual water supply by approximately 9 million cubic meters, with a potential cumulative increase of 163 million cubic meters over 25 years.

With a projected increase in temperatures of

The project is an important initiative in conserving nature and managing natural resources in Jordan through integrated ecosystem management



2–4°C by 2070, lower rainfall and evaporation rates of surface waters that already exceed 90%, extreme drought periods are expected to become increasingly frequent under future climate change scenarios.

“As many countries grapple with the compounding impacts of climate change, nature loss and desertification, integrated approaches are critical to get support flowing to the communities on the frontlines that need help now. While climate impacts intensify globally, this holistic project will not only improve the future resilience of people in Jordan, but also offer important lessons for tackling climate vulnerability in countries across the world,” said Inger Andersen, UNEP's Executive Director.



Using a holistic approach, the project will train local communities on new climate-resilient livelihoods such as vegetable gardening, beekeeping, and water-efficient agricultural practices. The project demonstrates the critical co-benefits between nature restoration, adaptation and mitigation, exemplified by the innovative establishment of a floating solar power system on the King Abdellah Canal, which aims to both reduce water loss from evaporation while simultaneously producing 1MW of renewable energy.

Henry Gonzalez, GCF Deputy Executive Director and Chief Investment Officer said: "Helping small-scale farmers and local communities respond to water scarcity and other impacts of climate change is a critical area of GCF programming, which aims to increase the climate resilience of the world's most vulnerable groups."

"This important initiative will strengthen the country's paradigm shift towards nature conservation and ecosystem management through integrated landscape management. Furthermore, the project will bolster the climate resilience of vulnerable farmers who play a fundamental role in Jordan's agricultural sector" said Grethel Aguilar, Director General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

HRH Princess Basma Bint Ali of Jordan and Founder of the Royal Botanical Garden stated: "The status of Jordan's water resources is alarming, and the agricultural sector is amongst the most affected sectors. JILMI project through Landscape management will strategically contribute towards tackling the complex issues at stake given the water shortage and the well-pronounced impacts of climate change."



AlQurm Protected Area in Khor Kalba, Sharjah, joins IOSEA Marine Turtle MoU

UAE NEWS

The Environment and Protected Areas Authority in Sharjah (EPAA) announced that the AlQurm Protected Area in Kalba City has joined the Indian Ocean's South-East Asian (IOSEA) Marine Turtle memorandum of understanding (MoU).

This makes it the second site in Sharjah after Sir Bu Nair Island Reserve to join IOSEA. The announcement was made during the UAE's participation in the ninth meeting of the signatory countries of the memorandum held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania from June 24th to 27th.

The meeting showcased EPAA's role in environmental conservation and biodiversity, emphasising its commitment to protecting various species, particularly marine turtles and highlighted the leading experience of the AlQurm Protected Area in Khor Kalba.

Hana Saif Al Suwaidi, Chairperson of the Environment and Protected Areas Authority, said

that the AlQurm Protected Area site is a comprehensive centre for research, education, and conservation initiatives.

Al Suwaidi emphasised that the AlQurm Protected Area in Khor Kalba is the sole habitat of mangrove trees on the coast of the Gulf of Oman in the UAE and is home to the oldest mangrove tree forest in the region, hosting the critically endangered Arabian Collared Kingfisher which is found only in this area of the world. It houses the largest gatherings of juveniles marine turtles on the east coast of the UAE where they can find their nourishment.

In addition, it is considered an ideal location for feeding and nesting for over 150 species of local and migratory birds, over 90 species of crustaceans, and 100 species of fish. The Khor Kalba Mangrove Centre within the reserve is also the only centre for the rehabilitation of marine turtles on the east coast of the UAE.

Freiburg: Germany's ecological capital

With over 30 years of scenario-led planning – underpinning long-term investment – Freiburg has transformed itself from being an average middle-sized European city area into one of the most dynamic, sustainable city regions globally

Freiburg is widely considered the single best city for sustainable urban development. Located in the area between the Upper Rhine and the Black Forest, this picture-perfect medieval city has an innovative design that makes it one of the world's most sustainable and liveable cities.

A successful citizen-led activism to stop the construction of the proposed Wyhl nuclear power plant in the early 1970's led Freiburg to become a breeding ground for alternative thinking and birthed a green movement. Since then, Freiburg has tackled energy and climate change, transport and land use, urban liveability and safety, and democratic issues – all using a highly integrated approach.

Important ecological institutions like the Freiburger Oeko-Institut [Institute of Ecology],

Freiburg, Europe's "solar city", has goals of achieving 100% renewable energy by 2035 and carbon neutrality for the city by 2050



sought energy sustainability through solar industrialisation, high quality of life via energy-saving spatial and transport planning, nature conservation.

Green transport

Freiburg has a strong orientation to walking, bicycling, and public transport, with car-free areas and high levels of accessibility. With 400km of bike paths and twice as many bikes as cars, Freiburg is a cyclist's paradise.

Freiburg's development of sustainable transport involves three major strategies: restricting the use of cars in the city, providing effective transport alternatives to the car, and regulating land-use (e.g. sprawl) to enable public transport, cycling and walking.

Freiburg has also preserved and expanded its light electric rail network. This was against the

the BUND [Friends of the Earth], the party Die Grünen [Greens], and today's environment and energy companies have their roots in the initial ecological conflicts in the Upper Rhine area.

In 1986, Freiburg became one of the first German cities to adopt a local concept of energy supply to protect the climate. The programme included the reduction of consumption of energy, water and resources. Further issues were the use of renewable energy sources and the application of new energy technologies.

The interconnectedness of accessibility and mobility with other issues is demonstrated in the development of Freiburg as a global first-rank model of sustainable urban life. Freiburg has





trend in many cities to remove trams to make space for cars. Freiburg has reaped benefits like better air quality, quiet transport, space efficiency, and the possibility to power its transportation with clean renewable energy.

Green urban design

In Freiburg, new development must meet strict urban design guidelines. Like most European cities Freiburg uses master plans to ensure high-quality development. Freiburg is a city of short distances largely because of spatial policy that insists on an arrangement of services that enable sustainable transport and prevent sprawl. Two-thirds of Freiburg's land area is devoted to green uses. Just 32 percent is used for urban development, including all transportation. Forests take up 42 percent, while 27 percent of land is used for agriculture, recreation, water protection, etc.

Green urban planning is paramount in Freiburg; and the city has designated green areas as a priority in land-use decisions. Almost half of the city are protected as parks, forest, or green landscaped spaces- a big reason why biking and walking remain so popular in the city. In the city district of Vauban, entire neighborhoods run on energy provided by rooftop solar panels, as well as a municipal biomass plant.

Green Building and Alternative Transit

Freiburg remains at the forefront of green building technologies, mandating that all new construction runs on a low energy output. Energy conservation is central to all new building in the city, and energy efficient retrofits are being applied to existing structures. Residential recycling programs go beyond standard measures,

Bike lanes, green spaces, and public transportation can be found everywhere throughout the city



as compost is also collected in the form of kitchen and garden waste.

Renewable Energy – Solar (and biomass) in Freiburg

Freiburg is known as Europe's "solar city", installing more solar PV than any other city in Germany, and more than many entire European countries. In Vauban, a city district in Freiburg, most homes run on solar and solar thermal energy generated on-site and is known as the most sustainable city district in the world.

In addition to using solar power as a major energy source, Freiburg uses biomass, wind, and hydroelectricity for the majority of the rest of

the city's energy needs. Freiburg also relies on biomass and turns garbage into biomass energy to power residences and businesses. Biomass plants in Freiburg rely, most significantly, on methanization; a process which turns organic matter into biogas.

Methanization-based biomass plants at the edge of the city are fed with separately collected organic waste provided by city residents (mostly farming, kitchen, and garden waste).

And with renewed targets at 50% less CO₂ emissions by 2030 and 100% energy from renewable sources by 2035, Freiburg is continuing confidently towards an even greener tomorrow.

UAE-led operation seizes illicit goods worth USD 32 million

The operation dealt a significant blow to organized crime groups by seizing 2.4 tonnes of illegal wildlife and fish catches, 37 illegal fishing equipment, 229 pieces of illegal mining equipment, and over 10,498 cubic meters of illegally harvested timber

A regional law enforcement operation named 'Green Justice', coordinated by the International Initiative of Law Enforcement for Climate (I2LEC), has uncovered vast environmental crimes in the Amazon Basin.

The operation dealt a serious blow to organised crime groups, seizing 2.4 tonnes of items related to illegal wildlife and marine catches, 37 illegal fishing equipment, 229 illegal mining equipment, and more than 10,498 cubic metres of illicitly cut wood. 25 suspects were arrested and charged with various environmental crimes. The illicit goods seized are estimated to be worth more than USD 32 million.

Operation Green Justice had the support of law enforcement agencies from Brazil, Peru, and Colombia, and the Environmental Systems Research Institute. The primary objective was to target the regional network of environmental criminal activities in the Amazon Basin.



The joint operation, carried out between 24th to 30th June 2024 and coordinated by I2LEC - one of the initiatives of the UAE Ministry of Interior, generated intelligence enabling thorough investigations into transnational environmental crime networks. Located in the heart of the Amazon Forest at the intersection of Colombia, Peru, and Brazil, the three-way border passage has been a hotspot for criminal activity, including the smuggling of illicit goods, wildlife poaching, deforestation, and illegal mining.

Operation Green Justice also resulted in the seizure of various smuggling materials used in carrying out these environmental crimes.

Lt. Colonel Dana Almarzooqi, Director-General of the International Affairs Bureau, UAE Ministry of Interior, and Coordinator of I2LEC, commented, "Since its founding in 2023, I2LEC has been bringing the desired real change in the field of environmental protection in the world. As the initiative's coordinator, I feel proud to witness the realisation of our vision on the ground, which has been embodied in a coordinated global response to environmental crimes.

"I2LEC is serious about its work to support future operations and empower law enforcement agencies around the world to protect their precious natural resources."

Fabio Mertens, Brazil's Commissioner of Federal Police and Deputy Director of International Cooperation, said, "Beyond the extraordinary repressive results of Operation Green Justice, the coordinated efforts among Brazil, Peru, Colombia, and the UAE, under the leadership of the I2LEC, represent a significant milestone in terms of environmental preservation and deterrence of illegal activities in the region. We are confident that this will mark the beginning of long-term operational activities targeting transnational environmental crimes in the Amazon Basin."

The Green Justice operation primarily targeted the network of environmental criminal activities in the Amazon region



More seizures of illicit items and arrests are expected as part of ongoing investigations and coordination between various participants of the operation. This marks the beginning of a long-term global endeavour to combat environmental crimes in some of the world's most vital ecological arteries.

The International Initiative of Law Enforcement for Climate (I2LEC), launched in 2023 and co-led by the UAE Ministry of Interior in partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), is a global platform aimed at awareness-raising, capacity-building, and research concerning crimes affecting the environment and climate change.

Global experts gather to advance monitoring of marine microplastic pollution

The IAEA's NUTEC Plastics initiative aims to stop plastic at the source with innovative recycling methods and will help countries better understand the scope and scale of the problem with precise ocean monitoring

Experts in the fight against plastic pollution met in Vienna, Austria, to develop an international network of high-tech laboratories that can monitor marine microplastics, and examine other progress made under the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) NUclear TEchnology for Controlling Plastic Pollution (NUTEC Plastics). NUTEC Plastics aims to tackle plastic pollution by applying nuclear and isotopic techniques, which can be used to understand the origin, movement, and impact of microplastics on the marine environment.

NUTEC Plastics helps countries integrate nuclear techniques when addressing the challenges of plastic pollution. It builds on a portfolio of IAEA research and technical cooperation projects around plastic recycling using radiation technology and marine monitoring of microplastics using isotopic tracing techniques.

Countries face several interrelated challenges in

monitoring the ocean environment. Data are deficient: there is a lack of comprehensive and reliable information on microplastic abundance, origin, and trends. This scientific evidence is vital for robust policy development.

There is also insufficient awareness about the scale and impact of microplastic pollution, including the potential effects on human health.

The meeting was opened by IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi, the Executive

61 countries attended the meeting to establish a network of laboratories around the world with the capacity to monitor microplastics in the ocean



Secretary of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, Jyoti Mathur-Filipp of UNEP, and the United Nations Special Envoy for the Ocean, Peter Thomson.

IAEA Director General Grossi said: "Nuclear technology can help us address the challenge of microplastics with unprecedented precision and effectiveness. The global threat posed by plastic waste requires a comprehensive global approach. It requires collaboration, partnerships, and coordinated action."

"Innovative partnerships such as the IAEA NUTEC Plastics initiative bring together the human, technological, and financial capital to help the world monitor and develop targeted solutions," said UNEP's Mathur-Filipp. "These are exactly the kind of alliances we need to stem the tide of plastic pollution as members work towards agreeing on the instrument by the end of this year."

"Once pristine shorelines and rivers are now littered with plastic debris...meanwhile, unseen to the naked eye, microplastics are making their



way into our bloodstreams, crossing placental and blood brain barriers,” explained Peter Thomson.

The 61 countries attending the meeting were participating in an interregional IAEA technical cooperation programme that aims to support - by the end of 2027 - the establishment of a network of laboratories around the world with the capacity to monitor microplastics in the ocean and to identify trends through the exchange of data, knowledge and best practices in this area.

The project also aims to develop agreed protocols for marine monitoring and build specific national capacities to report on the status and trends of plastic pollution in coastal and marine zones and to report densities and types of microplastics found on beaches and in seawater.

SEWA receives global sustainability certificate

Sharjah Electricity, Water and Gas Authority (SEWA), represented by the Services and Technical Support Department for Information and Communication Technology, received a global certificate from the international organisation “PrintReleaf Standard”, in recognition of its distinguished efforts in contributing to achieving sustainable development.

SEWA launched an initiative in cooperation with Xerox Emirates to participate in the global reforestation programme approved by the organisation. During the planting of trees in exchange for the papers that are printed, SEWA achieved outstanding results within the programme and was able to plant 115 trees from 1st January to 31st May 2024.



MBZ Fund, Global Environment Facility to empower young conservationists

UAE NEWS

The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund (MBZ Fund) has announced the launch of the Global Field Grants as part of the Fonseca Leadership Programme, supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Through a USD 1.5 million commitment over three years, this partnership aims to empower young conservationists worldwide, providing essential financial support for both current and future researchers and practitioners in the field.

The GEF is a multilateral family of funds dedicated to confronting biodiversity loss, climate change, and pollution and supporting land and ocean health. Its financing enables developing countries to address complex challenges and work towards international environmental goals.

The Fonseca Leadership Programme aims to cultivate a pipeline of young professionals in GEF countries by offering conservation fellowships, grants for biodiversity fieldwork, awards for

participation in international conservation events, and a recurring global conservation symposium for young environmental leaders.

As part of this programme, the Global Field Grants partnership with the MBZ Fund will channel USD 500,000 annually through the Fund's online application and review system to support young conservationists in developing nations. The MBZ Fund, operational in over 170 countries, has a track record of supporting more than 2,800 conservation projects globally since its inception.

"Recognising that people drive these conservation efforts, our commitment goes beyond funding. Over the past 15 years, we have supported 63% first-time recipients, representing the next generation of conservationists," said Nicolas Heard, Acting Director-General of the MBZ Fund.

The GEF is dedicated to investing in the next generation, who will play pivotal roles in environmental governance and stewardship.



Global Fund for Coral Reefs invests more than USD25 million for resilience action

Other investments include grants for the Mesoamerican region, country programs in Indonesia and the Philippines, and an initiative on Pemba Island, Zanzibar, in the Indian Ocean

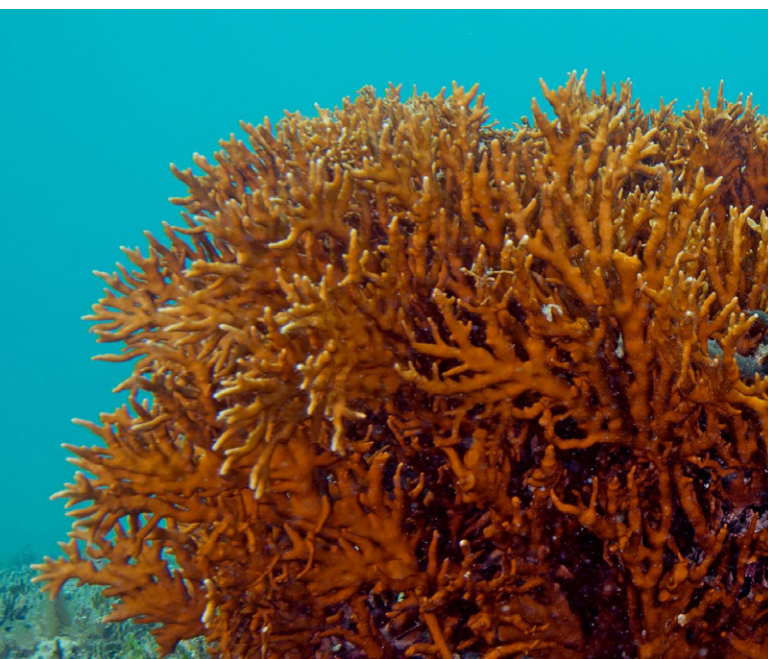
In the face of increasing threats to coral ecosystems and the recent announcement of a fourth global coral bleaching event, the Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR) Executive Board has announced over USD 25 million in additional grant funding to scale up resilience efforts across coral nations. Announcements include a new blended finance programme for Egypt's Red Sea, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

"Without collective action at pace and scale, scientists estimate that 90 per cent of remaining coral reefs may be lost by 2050, with dire consequences for the communities and economies they support. To face this crisis, the GFCR Coalition has established a robust portfolio of innovative, market-based solutions spanning 23 nations to protect critical coral reef refugia – Earth's most resilient reef ecosystems," said Peter Bryant, Builders Initiative's Program Director for Oceans, and GFCR Executive Board Member. "The new GFCR announcements, representing an increase of more than USD 25

million for resilience-based efforts, will aid the sustainable blue transition of local economies and unlock greater conservation funding flows for generations to come.”

A new GFCR programme, Egyptian Red Sea Initiative, aims to increase the protection of one of the longest-living and most resilient reef ecosystems in the world. Supported by a major funding commitment from USAID, this initiative, in partnership with the Government of Egypt and the UN Development Programme (UNDP), will

Grants will support new initiatives, including a blended finance program for Egypt's Red Sea



establish a landmark Egyptian Fund for Coral Reefs to leverage up to USD 50 million in private and public funding for sustainable blue economic transition and conservation efforts. Additional market-based solutions to be supported by a coral reef business incubator, include organic waste recycling for coastal farming, aquaculture to support ecosystem restoration, and mooring systems to avoid boat-related reef damage.

“The Egyptian Red Sea Initiative is a groundbreaking collaboration in blended finance to

conserve Egypt's coral reefs. USAID, in partnership with the Government of Egypt, international and local organisations, and private and non-profit donors and investors, is committed to safeguarding the Red Sea's vital ecosystem and the communities it supports, while promoting economic growth and sustainable development for the Egyptian people,” said Sean Jones, Mission Director, USAID Egypt.

New GFCR Executive Board announcements also include funding uplifts for the Mesoamerican



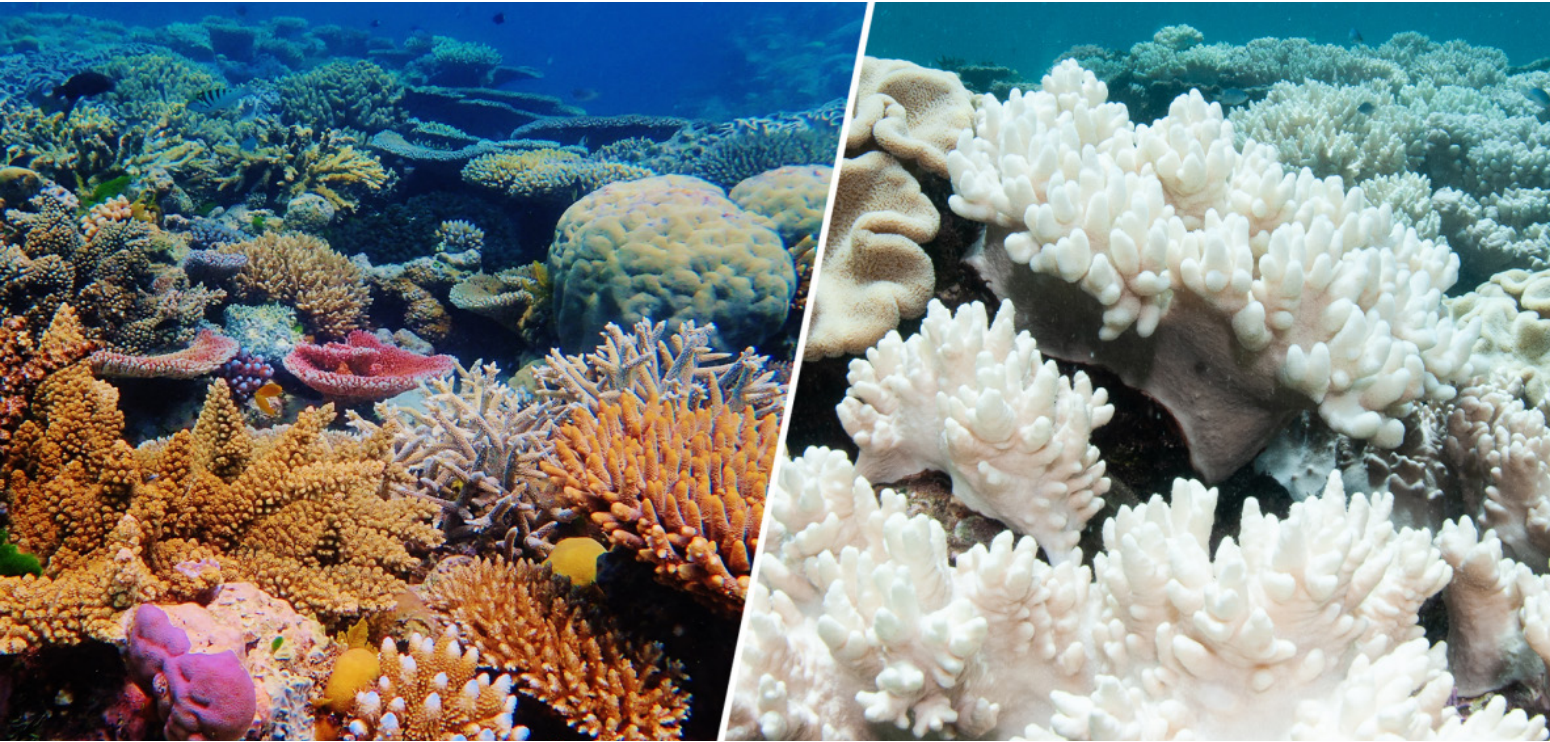
Region (MAR), country programmes in Indonesia and the Philippines, as well as an initiative on Pemba Island, Zanzibar.

In the Philippines, which hosts the world's third-largest coral reef area, the GFCR-supported programme led by Blue Alliance Marine Protected Areas has already unlocked catalytic donor and impact investor funding to operationalise a Marine Protected Area (MPA) Impact Loan Facility. New GFCR support will scale implementation to cover more than 100 MPAs hosting 80,000 hectares of significant coral refugia coverage and increase the resilience of more than two million members of coastal communities. The funding uplift will expand reef-positive business solutions spanning ecotourism, community-based aquaculture, and sustainable fisheries, incorporated in the programme's MPA finance strategy.

In Indonesia, located in the heart of the Coral Triangle, the additional support from the GFCR will help ensure sustainable long-term funding for effective MPA management and financing access for reef-positive enterprises. With an emphasis on supporting local women, the increased funding seeks to enable the growth of at least 10 additional reef-positive businesses, including community-led seaweed hatcheries and handling facilities, ecotourism ventures, and sustainable aquaculture.

New funding support was also announced for the Blue Alliance-led initiative in Pemba Island, Zanzibar, home to 50 per cent of Tanzania's coral reefs and a wealth of vulnerable marine species. The blended finance programme on the North Pemba Channel Conservation Area leverages locally led enterprises to protect coral reefs and promote inclusive prosperity. The initiative will

GFCR aims to increase the protection and resilience of at least three million hectares of coral reefs globally by 2030



enable the growth of seven reef-positive business solutions contributing to the sustainable finance and management of 27,000 hectares of marine protected areas. The programme's 2030 objectives include the regeneration of approximately 4,200 hectares of coral reefs, support for at least 15,000 fisher and coastal community member livelihoods, and a minimum of USD 15 million in funding from impact commercial investors through its blended finance impact facility.

As the leading global coral finance instrument, the GFCR aims to increase the protection and resilience of at least three million hectares of coral reefs globally by 2030 - representing 25 per cent of the Coral Reef Breakthrough target and

approximately 12 per cent of reefs remaining on Earth. With full capitalisation, the GFCR Coalition will aim to leverage up to USD 3 billion in public and private finance for the benefit of marine ecosystems, coastal communities, and economies.



Word Scramble

UAFAN
CTUSAC
YENRGERE
EASASNTLUIB
CPALDNESA
EDTESR

ISSOA
ERTSE

54

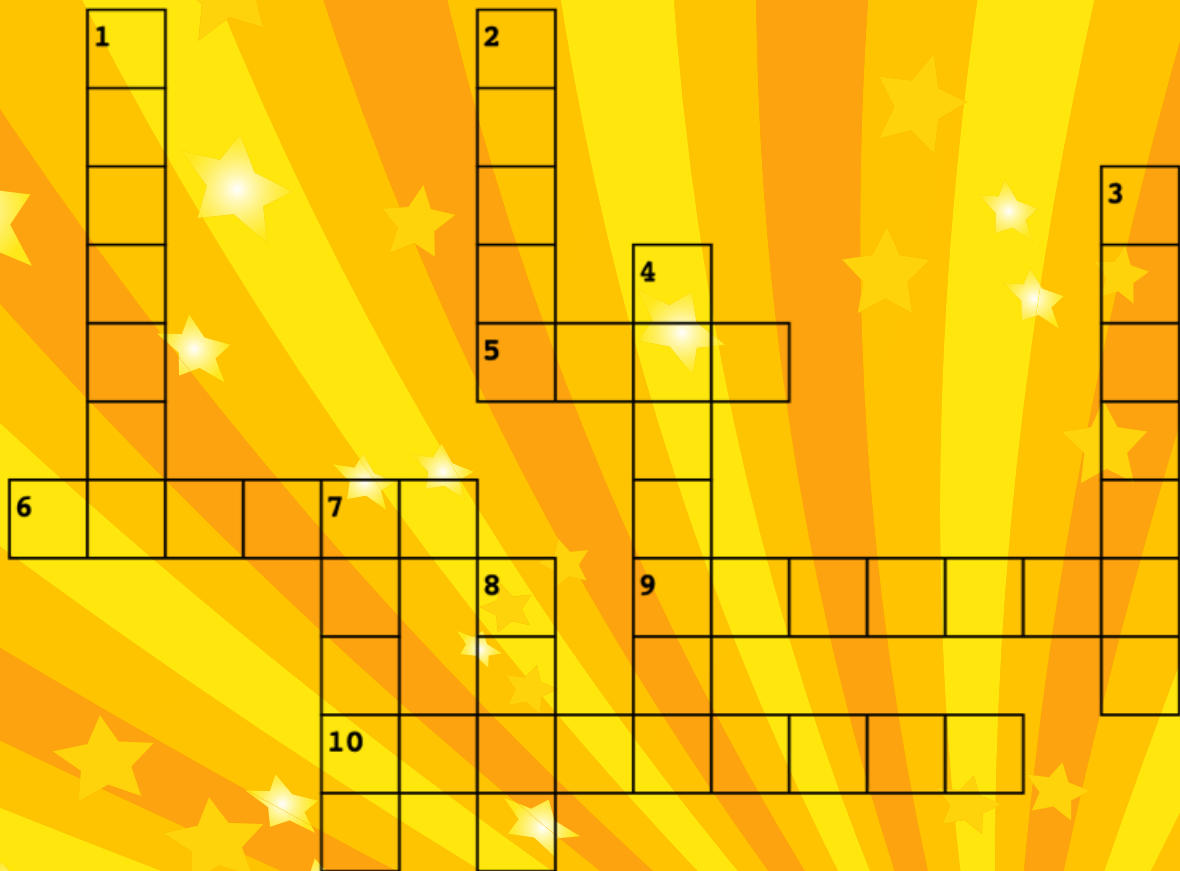
ANSWERS: 1) SUSTAINABLE 2) GREENERY 3) LANDSCAPE 4) TREES 5) CACTUS 6) OASIS 7) DESERT 8) FAUNA

Word Search

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

DESERT
SOLAR
EARTH
TURTLES
TERRAIN
CHARITY
OCEANS
GLOBE
MOUNTAIN
WEATHER
LEAVES
DUNES
WILDLIFE
STORM
ROCKS

Crossword Puzzle



Across

5. Drops of fresh water that fall as precipitation from clouds
6. Arid land with little or no vegetation
9. A fertilizer that is derived from animal or vegetable matter
10. A system formed by the interaction of a community of organisms with their physical environment

Down

1. Use again after processing
2. Of or relating to or associated with the moon
3. Shield from danger, injury, destruction, or damage
4. Science of life
7. A large natural stream of water
8. Smallest particle of an element

ANSWERS: 1) Recycle 2) Lunar 3) Protect 4) Biology 5) Rain 6) Desert 7) River 8) Atom 9) Organic 10) Ecosystem



WORD OF THE DAY:

OVERFISHING

Overfishing is when a species of fish is removed from a body of water (river, lake, stream, ocean, etc.) at a faster rate than the species can repopulate naturally. As a result, the fish species will become underpopulated in that area.

As the name suggests, overfishing is caused when fishing is extensive in certain areas. Fishing itself won't cause fish populations to decline if it's done so responsibly - it's only when great numbers of fish are caught and removed that the effects of overfishing begin to be seen.

The increased demand for fish worldwide has meant that fishing companies around the world need to provide more fish to suppliers. This alone pushes fishermen to catch more fish than is sustainably viable.

One of the biggest effects of overfishing is the threat of extinction for many marine species. If these species are unable to replenish their numbers faster than they're being fished out of the ocean, then extinction is inevitable sooner or later.

Bluefin tuna, monkfish and the Atlantic halibut fish are just some of the marine species that are heavily threatened by overfishing. Even sharks are at risk, too. Plus, the dwindling numbers of one population will affect another species, creating an imbalance in many marine ecosystems. For example, if a species of small fish is close to extinction, the predators of these small fish will also become at risk because their food source has diminished significantly. This results in the loss of even more marine species.

While the extinction of ocean species is the main threat of overfishing, many people will be affected by it too. Many people across the globe rely on fishing for their livelihood, and in these areas, fish is a staple part of their diet. If fish numbers keep lowering because of overfishing, their entire livelihoods will be at risk.



WORLD LION DAY - AUGUST 10

Launched in 2013, World Lion Day is annually observed on August 10th with an aim to raise awareness and gather support for lion conservation. The big cat is listed as an endangered species in the IUCN Red List.

World Lion Day was established by Big Cat Rescue, one of the largest accredited sanctuaries dedicated to big cats, to highlight the importance of lions to our ecosystems and cultures. The initiative aimed to create a platform that raises global awareness about the declining lion populations and the urgent need for conservation efforts. The first World Lion Day was celebrated on August 10, 2013,

and since then, it has become an annual event observed by wildlife organizations, conservationists, and animal lovers worldwide.

Lions once roamed across Africa, Asia, and Europe, but today their populations are primarily confined to sub-Saharan Africa and a small region in India. The global lion population has drastically declined over the past century due to habitat loss, human-wildlife conflict, and poaching. Currently, the lion population in the world is estimated to be around 20,000 individuals, with the numbers continuing to decline.

AUGUST 12 WORLD ELEPHANT DAY

On August 12, 2012, the inaugural World Elephant Day was launched to bring attention to the urgent plight of Asian and African elephants. The elephant is loved, revered and respected by people and cultures around the world, yet we are on the brink of seeing the last of this magnificent creature.

The goal of World Elephant Day is to create awareness of the urgent plight of African and Asian elephants, and to share knowledge and positive solutions for the better care and management of captive and wild elephants. African elephants are listed as "Vulnerable" and Asian elephants as "Endangered" on the IUCN Red List of threatened species.

The escalation of poaching, habitat loss, human-elephant conflict and mistreatment in captivity are just some of the threats to both African and Asian elephants. Working towards better protection for wild elephants, improving enforcement policies to prevent the illegal poaching and trade of ivory, conserving elephant habitats, better



treatment for captive elephants and, when appropriate, reintroducing captive elephants into natural, protected sanctuaries are the primary goals of numerous elephant conservation organizations around the world.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

Things to Do...

- ☒ Reuse plastic bags
- ☒ Carry your own bags when shopping!
- ☒ Cycle around
- ☒ Take short showers!
- ☒ Don't waste food!

COLOUR ME!





Emirates Nature-WWF launches 'Nature's Resilience' series

UAE NEWS

Emirates Nature-WWF has launched its second free summer training series named, 'Nature's Resilience', to upskill the UAE community on nature and the environment.

Organised as part of the Leaders of Change programme, the series equips nature lovers and changemakers with knowledge about environmental issues and conservation solutions to contribute towards a sustainable future.

Through 10 engaging sessions, Nature's Resilience offers a virtual exploration of the rich tapestry of life in the UAE. From the expansive desert sands and hidden oases to freshwater habitats and coastal regions, participants will get to know local nature like never before and learn about the intricate links between biodiversity, climate change and human well-being.

Through an interactive series of masterclasses and expert-led workshops, participants will gain a deep understanding of the importance of

biodiversity conservation and sustainable stewardship practices. Participants will also learn how to support environmental experts and local conservation efforts.

The series builds upon the popularity and success of last year's Climate and Nature Series, which upskilled nearly 1,000 individuals on key environmental issues and achieved an exceptional satisfaction rating of 98%. Participants took part in seven events led by experts and guests from Emirates Nature-WWF, the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi and other organisations, contributing a total of 1,224 hours for nature.

While last year's series featured sessions such as Climate Fresk, Food for Thought and the Planetary Boundaries, the focus this year will be on UAE's unique biodiversity. The series will spotlight rare and endangered species, pollinators, migratory and resident birds, and desert dwellers who play an invaluable role in keeping their respective natural ecosystems healthy and functional.



Healthy diets remain unaffordable for a third of the world's population

SOFI 2024 report highlights a cost-hunger trap plaguing some regions following the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic

More than a third of the world's population could not afford a healthy diet in 2022, and some regions have yet fully to recover from the harms wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This follows an innovative data set published in the 2024 edition of *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World*, the flagship hunger report issued in July by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and four sister United Nations agencies.

While food prices increased throughout 2022, pushing up the average cost of a healthy diet, this was largely offset by economic recovery and the ensuing positive income effects.

As a result, some 35.4 percent of the global population, equal to 2.826 billion people, were unable to afford a healthy diet in 2022. That compares to 36.4 percent and 2.823 billion in 2019. However, this recovery to pre-pandemic levels in 2022 was achieved in an uneven manner across regions.

“In 2022, the number of people unable to afford a healthy diet dropped below pre-pandemic levels in the group of upper-middle- and high-income countries. In contrast, low-income countries had the highest levels since 2017,” the first year for which FAO has published estimates, said Maximo Torero, Chief Economist of FAO.

The finding highlights “a major structural problem of our agrifood systems,” said David Laborde, Director of FAO’s Agrifood Economics and Policy Division. He noted this part of the SOFI 2024

A diet is deemed unaffordable if it costs more than 52% of a household's income



report revealed significant variation across and within regions that in turn point to where national and international attention should be prioritized.

Key findings

The share of people in Africa unable to afford a healthy diet was 64.8 percent. In Asia, the figure is 35.1 percent; in Latin America and the Caribbean, 27.7 percent; in Oceania 20.1 percent; and in Northern America and Europe, 4.8 percent.

In low-income and lower-middle-income countries,

the number of people unable to afford healthy diets grew from 2019 to 2022, an outcome that reflects how post-pandemic economic recoveries were unevenly shared and how more advanced economies were better placed to cope with supply-chain shocks and worldwide inflationary pressure on food commodity prices.

The SOFI 2024 report details the methodology used to calculate the affordability of a healthy diet, defined as comprising diversity, adequacy, moderation, and balance.



The main takeaway is that the prices, in purchasing power parity (PPP), rose significantly – a global average of 6 percent in 2020 and 11 percent in 2021 – but the impact was diluted where income growth was also robust and where food as a share of household budgets was lowest, as in higher-income countries with greater fiscal capacities.

“The uneven progress in the economic access to healthy diets cast a shadow of achieving Zero Hunger in the world, six years away from the 2030 deadline,” the SOFI report says.

“There is the need to accelerate the transformation of our agrifood systems to strengthen their resilience to the major drivers and address inequalities to ensure that healthy diets are affordable for and available to all. But there is also a need to assure people that can access and consume healthy diets,” said Torero.

Mapping the details

The global average cost of a healthy diet rose to 3.96 PPP dollars – a measure that compares purchasing power parity across economies – in 2022.

Subregional variations were considerable, ranging from a high of 5.34 PPP dollars in Eastern Asia to a low of 2.96 PPP dollars in Northern America. For Africa, the average price was 3.74 PPP dollars; for Asia 4.20 PPP dollars; for Latin America and the Caribbean, it was 4.56 PPP dollars; for Oceania 3.46 PPP dollars and for Northern America and Europe 3.75 PPP dollars, with a sizable difference between Southern Europe, at 4.15 PPP dollars and Western Europe at 3.01 PPP dollars.

1.677 billion people living in lower-middle-income countries cannot afford a healthy diet, and the

People who cannot afford the least-cost healthy diet in their countries are likely facing at least some degree of food and nutritional insecurity



same holds for 503 million people living in low-income countries. Combined, these account for 77 percent of people worldwide unable to afford healthy diets.

People who cannot afford the least-cost healthy diet in their countries are likely facing at least some degree of food and nutritional insecurity and thus face the risk of swelling the ranks of the hungry as measured in SOFI's traditional measures of chronic hunger as well as chronic conditions such as stunting and wasting.

FAO's ongoing foray into gauging and tracking the cost of affordable diets offers an early warning indicator of sorts. As the alarm is greatest where countries' fiscal capacities are weakest, and

where the cost burden perpetuates itself by dragging down economic growth, the data in SOFI 2024 highlight the need for greater and more innovative investments in agrifood systems, the topic of the second section of the flagship report.



Environment Agency- Abu Dhabi, TotalEnergies partner to conserve and restore coastal ecosystems

ROOT models, which biomimic mangrove root systems, will be used to reduce beach erosion and enhance marine biodiversity by attracting invertebrates and fish

In line with the Year of Sustainability and the Abu Dhabi Climate Change Strategy, the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) has partnered with TotalEnergies to launch a programme of conservation and restoration of coastal ecosystems to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by Dr. Shaikha Salem Al Dhaheri, EAD's Secretary General and Samir Oumer, President, TotalEnergies EP United Arab Emirates and Total Energies Country Chair in the UAE. As part of this collaboration, EAD and TotalEnergies will research, monitor, and evaluate Abu Dhabi's coastal ecosystems, and then develop guidelines, methodology, and cost benefit options to restoring these habitats.

The project will involve innovative technology and state-of-the-art restoration solutions, including ROOT – three-dimensional models that



biomimic the root system of mangrove trees. These models aim to play a role similar to the roots of mangrove trees in mitigating currents, resisting wave action, and reducing beach erosion. In addition to attracting invertebrates and fish, the models will enhance the marine environment's biodiversity. Drones and other technological advancements will be used to enhance the restoration's success rates.

The outcome and achievements of the study developed as part of this partnership will form part of the reporting process for the UN SDG 14: "Life under water".

Highlighting the importance of restoration for climate change mitigation, the preservation of biodiversity and socio-economic benefits, the outcome of the work will be shared globally, helping EAD and TotalEnergies to stand out in the international environmental community.

Under this initiative EAD will involve key stakeholders, including its network of schools from the Sustainable Schools Initiative, to increase the overall understanding of the importance of preservation of coastal habitats and restoration of Blue Carbon ecosystems among students, and to enhance their role as the environmental leaders of the future.

To ensure the project resounds beyond the borders of the UAE, EAD, together with TotalEnergies, will organise an international conference on restoration and showcase the project's achievements in a documentary film.

Dr. Shaikha Salem Al Dhaheri emphasised the importance of this programme in enhancing the important role played by coastal ecosystems in mitigating climate change and their role in sequestering carbon dioxide, and supporting environmental and human well-being. She elaborated: "In partnership with TotalEnergies, we will be able to research, monitor, conserve,

The outcomes of this collaboration will contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goal 14: "Life under water"



restore and develop outreach and awareness campaigns to highlight the importance of these precious ecosystems."

The project will also include details on the seasonal status and health assessments of coastal ecosystems following international best practices by sampling and analysing the rate of carbon sequestration of coastal habitats in Abu Dhabi. Furthermore, restoration guidelines will be developed for stakeholders, consultants, corporate entities, and research communities which will be applicable to local and regional coastal (Blue Carbon) ecosystems.



Human Dimension of Climate Action



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

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GREEN FLASH

Rainfall in Africa this year has been far higher than in previous years. Several countries now face floods in residential areas, causing serious damage to the fragile infrastructure. The Greater Horn of Africa was expected to experience above-normal rainfall from June to September 2024, including in Djibouti, Eritrea, central and northern Ethiopia, western and coastal Kenya, much of Uganda, South Sudan, and Sudan.

In Sudan, the humid south winds reached far north up to the borders of Egypt, rendering the whole country under heavy rain. The Northern State, a desert region, is not used to such heavy rain and mud houses collapse easily during heavy rainfall or mild floods, leading to a humanitarian crisis in most parts of Sudan and neighboring countries. Before the onset of the monsoons, the region experienced heat waves and high temperatures, and many people died of heat stroke.

These conditions are seen in other parts of the world too, indicating that record temperatures and the unprecedented impact of climate change continue to affect people across the globe. Hence, we urgently need to step up serious commitments and raise ambitions in the next round of climate pledges under the Paris Agreement. The new Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs 3.0) should set ambitious socio-economic targets of emission reductions to limit

global warming to 1.5°C and increase local resilience to climate impacts by 2035.

Without such serious commitments, calls for climate justice and saving the planet will become mere flashy slogans. Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions must drop significantly, and all countries must invest heavily in adapting to climate impacts.

The last "Emissions Gap Report" issued by UNEP found that current NDCs will lead to a global temperature rise of 2.5-2.9°C above pre-industrial levels of 1850. Emissions may stabilize after 2030, but they are not expected to drop rapidly enough to meet the scientific targets of the 2023 NDC Synthesis Report. We need at least 42 percent reductions in global GHG emissions by 2030. In 2023, UNEP also identified an annual adaptation finance gap of USD 194-366 billion. Therefore, appropriate finance is urgently needed to fund country-driven adaptations.

We should focus on the human aspect (humanware) of climate action. Overconsumption by humans is one of the chief causes of global warming and reducing emissions by a significant percentage is possible if humans are aware and conscious about it. This requires massive investments in environmental education and to raise awareness.



Zayed International Prize for the Environment

Together for a green century

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IS IN OUR HANDS.

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Zayed International Foundation for the Environment