



JULY  
2025  
ISSUE 245

# Society & Environment

A monthly publication issued by Zayed International Foundation for the Environment

creating green communities for a better tomorrow



06

## Dubai unveils Dh650 million Ras Al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary project

Sharjah launches first solar power plant with 60 MW capacity

Nissan MICRA EV: Modern, Audacious, and Chill

Sydney, Australia: Green, global and connected

12



34



42







Zayed International Prize for the Environment



Together for a green century





## Chairman's Message



**Prof. Mohammed  
bin Fahad**  
Executive Editor

The UAE actively develops and preserves its unique ecosystems, transforming its natural landscapes into vital assets that benefit both biodiversity and human well-being. These reserves, including national parks and wildlife sanctuaries, play a vital role in protecting endangered species and ecosystems. Today, the UAE has 49 nature reserves, covering nearly 15% of the country's land area.

This proactive conservation of natural reserves is a powerful testament to the visionary leadership that understands true national progress extends beyond economic indicators to encompass robust environmental stewardship. These conservation efforts have enriched the UAE's recreational and tourism experiences and provide invaluable educational opportunities that foster a profound connection with the environment for residents and visitors alike.

This strategic, forward-thinking approach protects invaluable natural assets while simultaneously enhancing the quality of life and diversifying the economic landscape.

A prime example of this visionary commitment is the Dh650 million facelift for the Ras Al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary. This initiative seamlessly integrates into the broader urban fabric, aligning with the ambitious Dubai 2040 Urban Master Plan and the Dubai Economic Agenda D33. Ras Al Khor, already a globally recognized wetland of international importance, stands as a powerful testament to how a thriving natural ecosystem can not only coexist but flourish within a bustling metropolis. The planned expansion will further preserve the sustainability of its natural habitats, ensure the sanctuary remains a vital haven for migratory birds and local wildlife, and reinforce the sanctuary's position as a premier sustainable eco-tourism destination.

Through its unique design, this project sets a new benchmark in natural reserve development and preservation. It showcases innovative practices that champion biodiversity and ecological balance, supporting sustainable growth. Ultimately, these efforts are firmly positioning the UAE as a leading global model for sustainable future cities, where urban living and nature thrive in harmonious coexistence.

# Contents



06

**COVER STORY:**  
Dubai unveils Dh650 million Ras Al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary project



12

**SOLAR POWER:** Sultan bin Ahmed inaugurates Sharjah's first solar plant, 'SANA'



16

**CONFERENCE:** UAE, Senegal, France, UN-Water lead call for integrated water-ocean management

20

**COLLABORATION:**  
Department of Health Abu Dhabi, Sanofi partner to develop global vaccines and expand regional biopharma capacity



24

**STUDY:** Plastic, crude oil, laundry microfibers cited as top causes of seabird deaths in UAE study

PUBLISHED BY



Zayed International Foundation for the Environment

**Executive Director**

Prof. Mohammed Bin Fahad

**Advisors**

Dr. Hamdan K. Al Shaer

Dr. Eisa M. Abdellatif

**Marketing**

marketing@zayedprize.org.ae

**Editor**

Sangeetha K

editor@zayedprize.org.ae

mail@zayedprize.org.ae

**Design Director**

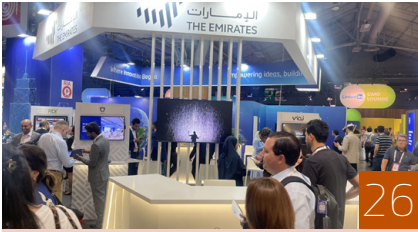
Nash - Intoto Marketing

Communications

editor@zayedprize.org.ae

P.O. Box 28399, Dubai, UAE | Tel: +971 4 3326666 | Website: [www.zayedprize.org.ae](http://www.zayedprize.org.ae) | email: [secretary@zayedprize.org.ae](mailto:secretary@zayedprize.org.ae)





**FUTURE-TECH:** 32 UAE-based startups and SMEs showcase future-driven vision, digital prowess at VivaTech 2025

28

**AGRITECH:** MOCCA, Emirates Growth Fund to power UAE SMEs driving food security, AgriTech



**ELECTRIC MOBILITY:** UAE enhances coral reef protection through innovative programmes

38

**CONSERVATION:** Jumeirah celebrates World Sea Turtle Day with conservation milestones



**GREEN CITY:** Sydney, Australia: Green, global and connected

56

**REPORT:** Transformation to a healthy food system is blocked by three key barriers, says new UN report





# Dubai unveils Dh650 million Ras Al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary project

Ras Al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary is among the most biodiversity-rich natural reserves in the region





In line with the directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, to develop Dubai's natural reserves in alignment with the Dubai 2040 Urban Master Plan, Dubai Municipality has announced the awarding of the contract for the first phase of the Ras Al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary Development Project at a cost of approximately AED100 million, with the overall cost across two phases of



the project estimated at AED650 million.

The project aims to enhance biodiversity, preserve the sustainability of natural habitats and reinforce the sanctuary's position as a premier sustainable eco-tourism destination offering a unique and integrated experience that further enriches quality of life for residents and visitors alike.

The development aligns with the Dubai Economic Agenda D33, especially its objective of placing

Dubai among the world's top three destinations for tourism. The city's exceptional quality of life and new investment opportunities promise to boost the sanctuary's direct economic returns, offering added impetus for the initiative.

The sanctuary has been planned and designed based on the needs of both residents and tourists, aiming to deliver the best recreational and tourism experience that promotes connection with the environment while preserving the sanctuary's natural elements.

### **Qualitative shift**

The project, which is to be executed in two main phases, will bring about a qualitative shift in environmental sustainability in the emirate. Phase one will cover approximately 6.4 square kilometres of the sanctuary and is expected to be completed by the end of 2026.

Dubai Municipality seeks to rehabilitate and improve mangrove habitats by planting new mangroves and increasing mangrove coverage by 60%, from 40 to 65 hectares. This includes the provision of new irrigation channels, rehabilitation of mangrove forests, and creation of new habitats such as the mangrove lake, North Edge Lake, and reed ponds. A Green Spine will also be developed, and post-rehabilitation monitoring will be conducted regularly.

Phase one also envisions a 144% increase in water bodies within the reserve, expanding their total area to 74 hectares, helping achieve major environmental benefits such as a 60% increase in carbon dioxide absorption. Additionally, 10 hectares of mudflats (salt flats) will be added, contributing to the sanctuary's ecosystem and biodiversity.

### **Global model**

His Excellency Eng. Marwan Ahmed bin Ghalita, Director General of Dubai Municipality, said: "The Ras Al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary Development



His Excellency Eng. Marwan  
Ahmed bin Ghalita, Director  
General of Dubai Municipality



Project is one of the most prominent environmental infrastructure initiatives being undertaken by Dubai Municipality. It enhances the appeal of Dubai's nature reserves as unique and diverse destinations, supporting the goals of the eco-tourism sector and reinforcing Dubai's position as the best city in the world to live, work, and visit."

He added: "With its unique design, the project marks a major milestone in the development and preservation of natural reserves. It reflects Dubai Municipality's commitment to protecting biodiversity and natural habitats through innovative practices that support sustainable growth and ecological balance. This project is part of our broader effort to make Dubai a leading

global, attractive, sustainable, and high-quality city through innovative initiatives and services."

Bader Anwahi, CEO of the Public Facilities Agency at Dubai Municipality, said: "The project, which Dubai Municipality is implementing in two main phases, will lead to significant environmental advancements that enhance sustainability and preserve natural habitats across the emirate. It also aims to achieve a range of social goals, most notably raising environmental awareness among the community about biodiversity issues, supporting the strategic objectives of Dubai and the UAE for eco-tourism, and creating investment opportunities and environmentally themed tourist destinations. Upon completion, the project is expected to multiply the number of



The initial phase of the project, costing around AED100 million, is expected to be completed by the end of 2026



visitors to the sanctuary six-fold, reaching between 250,000 and 300,000 annually.”

### **Infrastructure development**

The second phase, to be implemented at a later stage, will focus on establishing and enhancing the main infrastructure and recreational services. This will support the hosting of various events and activities within a total area of 20,000 square metres, taking into account the specific requirements of the ecosystem.

This phase will include a uniquely designed visitor centre showcasing the sanctuary’s diverse flora

and fauna, birdwatching towers, and various commercial and recreational facilities such as restaurants and kiosks, as well as environmental awareness and education centres.

### **Cycling tracks, walking trails**

The second phase will also include the completion of 5.6 kilometres of cycling tracks and three kilometres of walking trails through natural landscapes. Moreover, 23 hectares of landscaping are also part of the makeover.

### **Award-winning design**

The project has been designed in accordance with the highest international standards by specialised expert firms, with Dubai Municipality and the Dubai Environment and Climate Change Authority coordinating the initiative. It has already won seven international and regional awards, affirming Dubai Municipality’s commitment to global leadership in sustainable public facility design and development.

Ras Al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary is one of the largest and most significant nature reserves in Dubai, covering approximately 6.4 square kilometres. It was the first site in the UAE to be listed under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance in 2007 and is classified under the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) guidelines.

The sanctuary is counted among the most biodiversity-rich natural reserves in the region, hosting nearly 450 species of flora and fauna, including 47 hectares of mangroves. It welcomes around 20,000 migratory birds annually, including the iconic flamingo.

---



## Hamdan bin Mohammed approves new policies to boost environmental standards in Dubai

Dubai's Air Quality Strategy 2030 aims to achieve clean air standards on 90% of the days by 2030 to enhance public health and environmental sustainability

**H**.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, and Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai, approved an array of key strategic policies and projects, including implementation of Dubai's Air Quality Strategy 2030, during a meeting of The Executive Council.

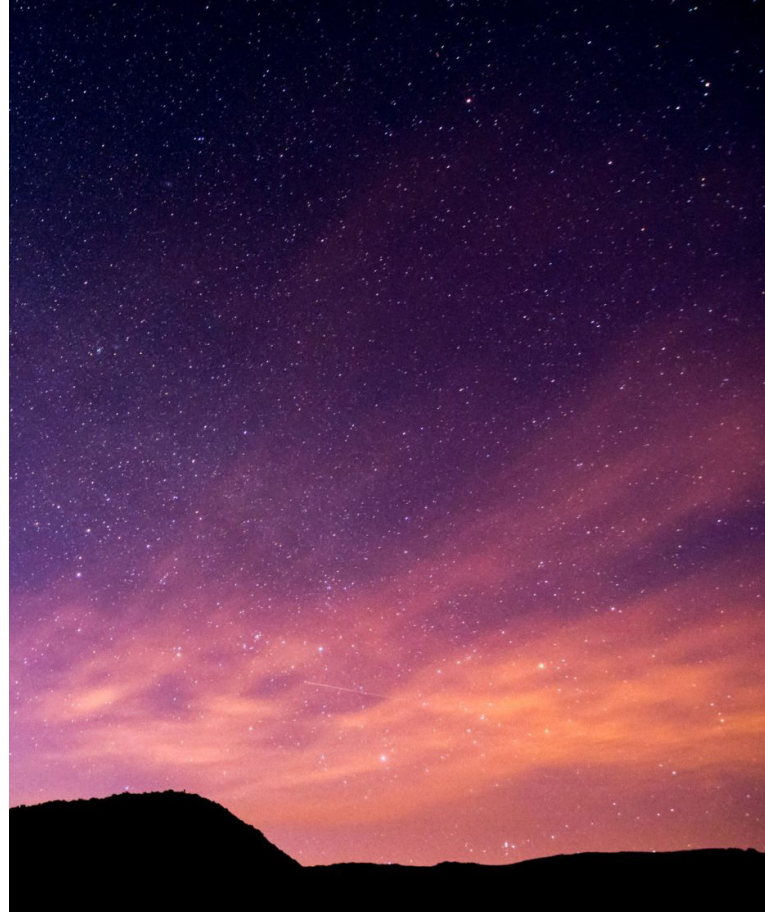
The initiatives aim to reinforce Dubai's standing as a global centre for academia, business, and sustainable development.

H.H. Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Second Deputy Ruler of Dubai, attended the meeting, held at Emirates Towers.

Dubai's Air Quality Strategy 2030 aims to achieve clean air standards on 90% of the days by 2030 to enhance public health and environmental sustainability.

The strategy provides for sector-specific targets and initiatives to reduce fine particulate matter concentrations to 35 micrograms per cubic metre, while also addressing other key pollutants such as carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, and ground-level ozone.





Led by the Dubai Environment and Climate Change Authority, the strategy is to be implemented in partnership with relevant entities including Dubai Municipality, Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA), Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), the Supreme Council of Energy, Dubai Airports, the Ports, Customs and Free Zone Corporation, DP World, the Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology, and Emirates Global Aluminium.

### **UAE highlights leadership in 'Global Cooling Pledge'**

The UAE participated in the first Global Cooling Pledge Signatories Focal Points Meeting, held in Bonn, Germany. During the meeting, the UAE highlighted its efforts in the cooling sector and the integration of cooling within its national energy efficiency plans, as well as the latest developments in the Global Cooling Commitment, which the UAE co-chairs in partnership with Brazil in preparation for COP30.

This commitment was launched during the United

Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) by the UAE Presidency, in partnership with the UN Environment Programme's Cool Coalition, to translate global commitments into practical actions on the ground.

Within 18 months, the commitment has seen remarkable expansion with the addition of 72 countries and more than 80 partners, highlighting the international community's ability to act swiftly when cooling is viewed as a frontline defence against climate change.

Launched at COP28, the Global Cooling Pledge, addresses extreme heat risks and sustainable cooling demand through a triple strategy: passive cooling, super-efficient technologies, and climate-friendly refrigerants to cut sectoral emissions by 68% by 2050. Reinforced at COP29's inaugural Annual Cooling Ministerial Meeting, the Pledge prioritizes equitable access to sustainable cooling to protect nations from the impacts of extreme heat while aligning with the Paris Agreement and biodiversity.

## Sultan bin Ahmed inaugurates Sharjah's first solar plant, 'SANA'

Sharjah launches landmark renewable energy project spanning 850,000 sqm, capable of producing 60 megawatts (MW) of clean energy

**H**.H. Sheikh Sultan bin Ahmed bin Sultan Al Qasimi, Deputy Ruler of Sharjah, Chairman of the Sharjah Petroleum Department, and Chairman of the Sharjah National Oil Corporation (SNOC), officially inaugurated "SANA," Sharjah's first utility-scale solar power plant.

This landmark facility spans 850,000 sqm and will produce 60 megawatts (MW) of clean energy, reinforcing the emirate's commitment to driving sustainable energy solutions and aligning with the UAE's broader net-zero ambitions.

The "SANA" solar power plant project, developed with the robust support of SNOC, is the result of a partnership between the Sharjah Electricity, Water and Gas Authority (SEWA) and Emerge, a joint venture formed by the Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company (Masdar) and the French energy giant EDF Group.

Emerge has been entrusted with the long-term operation and maintenance of the plant, ensuring its efficient and reliable performance for the next 25 years.



H.H. Sheikh Sultan bin Ahmed bin Sultan Al Qasimi emphasized that launching Sharjah's first solar power plant marks an important step forward in the emirate's quest for sustainable energy in line with the broader goals of the emirate's Energy Council, which focuses on planning for the future of energy and water in the region.

Eng. Khamis Al Mazrouei, CEO of Sharjah National Oil Corporation (SNOC), highlighted the imperative shift towards renewable energy,

*The clean energy produced at the 60 MW "SANA" solar power plant will power approximately 13,780 homes annually*



reiterating that the initiative aligns seamlessly with SNOC's corporate objectives to be a dependable energy provider, focusing on achieving carbon neutrality, diversifying energy sources, and ensuring safe and sustainable practices. The ultimate aim, he concluded, is to deliver lasting benefits to the Emirate of Sharjah, its residents, and the broader community.

Abdulaziz Al Obaidli, Chairman of Emerge, highlighted the project's dual impact: boosting

energy security in Sharjah by producing clean energy and playing a crucial role in mitigating climate change by significantly reducing carbon dioxide emissions, thereby delivering tangible environmental and economic benefits both locally and nationally.

Following the inauguration, H.H. Sheikh Sultan bin Ahmed toured the site, exploring the various facilities and features of the "SANA" plant. This facility is the largest in Sharjah and is notable as the first to utilize renewable energy to power the emirate's oil and natural gas facilities. Furthermore, it is one of the first plants globally designed to not only meet its own electricity needs but also to export any surplus power it generates back to the grid.

During the tour, H.H. received an update on the project's stages. The 60 MW "SANA" solar power plant is capable of producing clean energy sufficient to power approximately 13,780 homes annually. This significant output is projected to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 66,000 tons each year, contributing substantially to environmental protection.

The plant incorporates advanced technology, including 13,000 flexible poles that dynamically track the sun's path to maximize energy collection. These poles support over 98,000 high-efficiency solar panels, collectively harnessing solar power with optimal efficiency.

## **UAE curbs desertification with innovation, foresight**

**To combat desertification, the UAE has reclaimed vast areas of desert land and established artificial forests, green belts, and open spaces using native and salt-tolerant plants**

**T**he UAE has made remarkable progress in addressing and combating desertification and its associated challenges by implementing a series of proactive measures and innovative initiatives that have helped mitigate the phenomenon's impact and steadily expand agricultural land.

On the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, observed annually on June 17, the UAE highlighted its forward-looking approach to managing this pressing issue, despite severe climatic conditions such as high temperatures and low rainfall.

The UAE continues to pursue the goals outlined in the National Strategy to Combat Desertification 2022-2030, which aims to preserve ecosystems and improve arid and semi-arid lands, adapt to and mitigate the effects of





climate change on desertification-prone ecosystems, raise awareness and build national capacity regarding desertification, adopt and implement modern technologies, enhance integration of scientific research in desertification control, and strengthen partnerships and cooperation at national, regional and international levels.

During a Cabinet meeting on February 3, key results achieved under the strategy were reviewed, including the rehabilitation of 1,800 hectares of degraded land, the improvement of 378.2 square kilometres of land, the reduction of degraded land to just 1.2 percent, and the stabilisation of 98.8 percent of land areas. Soil carbon stability was recorded at 98.2 percent.

Additionally, the UAE developed a smart soil monitoring system using artificial intelligence, conducted 96 scientific studies under the rain enhancement science programme, and implemented 25 projects in saline and desert agriculture. It also studied the drought, heat, and salinity tolerance of 325 plant species.

Several initiatives were launched to enhance land ecosystems, including sustainable grazing projects, a land degradation neutrality programme, the development of gene banks for native desertification-resistant plants, an early warning and forecasting programme for sand and dust storms, and initiatives on green belts and urban forest management.

To combat desertification, the UAE has reclaimed vast areas of desert land and established artificial forests, green belts, and open spaces using native and salt-tolerant plants. These efforts also include reducing overgrazing, deforestation, and unsustainable agricultural practices, as well as focusing on rain enhancement research, building dams, and promoting the use of treated water.

The UAE has reinforced its commitment to global desertification efforts by joining several international environmental conventions, including the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in 1998. The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment developed the first national desertification strategy in 2003, which was subsequently updated in 2014. The current strategy represents the third iteration.

The UAE has successfully transformed vast desert areas into green landscapes, parks and farms. Its broad efforts to combat desertification also include the establishment of around 49 terrestrial and marine nature reserves, in line with national efforts to reduce land degradation and promote environmental sustainability.

Notably, the UAE is one of the first countries in the region to adopt artificial rain enhancement to combat desertification and drought, increase green cover, boost water reserves, and mitigate the effects of climate change.





# **UAE, Senegal, France, UN-Water lead call for integrated water-ocean management at 2025 UN Ocean Conference**





Global leaders championed integrated strategies for managing freshwater and ocean resources, emphasizing the crucial "Source-to-Sea" approach that acknowledges their interconnectedness

The United Arab Emirates, Senegal, France, and UN-Water co-hosted a high-level side event at the 2025 UN Ocean Conference (UNOC3), convening global leaders and representatives to champion integrated approaches to sustainable freshwater and ocean management.

The side event, titled 'Bridging the Waters from UNOC3 to 2026 UNWC: Joint action for Sustainable Freshwater and Ocean Management', underscored the critical need for 'Source-to-Sea' approaches that recognise the intrinsic relationship between freshwater and marine ecosystems.

The event brought together governments, UN representatives, civil society leaders, and technical experts to explore practical mechanisms for better coordination between ocean, coastal, and freshwater management. Discussions focused on leveraging synergies between the global water and ocean agendas, particularly in advancing both Sustainable Development Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG6) and Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Below Water (SDG14).

Participants explored case studies of integrated management in various local contexts, where they also highlighted the need for innovative financing mechanisms and the role of local communities and youth in addressing water-ocean challenges.

Barbara Pompili, Ambassador for the Environment

of France, added, "There is an urgency to reconnect freshwater issues to the ocean – we should not forget that the ocean is a key element of the global hydrological cycle. Let us bring key commitments from UNOC3 on ocean preservation to the 2026 UN Conference on Water."

Dr. Musonda Mumba, Secretary-General of the Ramsar Convention, highlighted the importance of also connecting this event at UNOC3 to Ramsar COP15, taking place from 23 to 31 July 2025 in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

He emphasised that "what we heard today on this panel is our human story, how we humans have changed nature in ways that are not healthy - from source to sea. So, we have a chance now, to change this trajectory for the sake of both people and the planet alike. And that's why wetlands are central to this change and our planetary health".

### **Preparing the ground for 2026 UN Water Conference (2026 UNWC)**

During the event, the UAE and Senegal, as co-hosts for the 2026 UN Water Conference, outlined their vision for an inclusive and collaborative preparatory process - which started over a year ago, leveraging key multilateral processes and partnerships.

Shaima Gargash, Director of Energy and Sustainability Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, addressed the need for enhanced coordination: "As co-hosts of the 2026 UN Water Conference, the UAE is committed to fostering



inclusive partnerships that recognize how water connects us all – from glaciers and rivers to open oceans. Our engagements at UNOC3 demonstrate our commitment to diverse, multi-stakeholder collaboration that can deliver on SDG6, SDG 14, and the entire 2030 Agenda.”

Dr. Mohamed Diatta, Sherpa for the 2026 UN Water Conference from Senegal, emphasized the collaborative approach: "We have a duty to act - with resolve, with clarity, and with solidarity.

"The challenges we face - pollution, water stress, biodiversity loss, sea-level rise - do not recognize borders. Our response cannot be fragmented. What we shape today must have a lasting impact: from local to global, from source to sea, from

UNOC3 to the 2026 UN Water Conference.”

The UAE and Senegal ended the session with an invitation to all Member States and stakeholders to join the upcoming 2026 UN Water Conference high-level preparatory meeting, which will be convened by the President of the General Assembly on 9th July in New York, to adopt the themes of the six interactive dialogues.

Speakers at the event included representatives from the governments of Germany, Indonesia, Brazil, and Fiji; the World Bank; the UAE-based organisation Clean Rivers; the International Whaling Commission Secretariat; the World Youth Parliament for Water; and the UN Special Envoy for the Ocean.



## Hamdan bin Mohammed supports innovation, investment in the UAE's space sector

**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 Supreme Space Council, met with representatives of leading space sector startups operating in the UAE. The meeting is part of H.H. Sheikh Hamdan's keenness to advance the national space ecosystem and further promote its role as a global leader in the space industry.

H.H. Sheikh Hamdan underscored the importance of strong partnerships and strategic collaboration between the public and private sectors as a foundation for developing an advanced and innovative space ecosystem. He also expressed confidence in the capabilities of UAE-based companies and entrepreneurs in driving the growth of the local space industry.

He stressed the UAE's ongoing efforts to build a supportive environment to foster the growth of national companies and unlock new opportunities for investment and innovation. The private sector is leading the space scene in the UAE, reaffirming the maturity of national investments that have been established over the past three decades.

Several UAE-based companies took part in the meeting. These companies represented a wide range of specialisations including locally developed Internet of Things (IoT) solutions, artificial intelligence and remote sensing, commercial space ecosystem development, edge computing for robotics applications, high-resolution Earth observation via microsatellites, as well as AI systems, robotics, interactive



simulation technologies, and reusable space launch systems.

Participants shared insights into their current projects, long-term strategies, and future investment plans in support of the national economy. Discussions focused on strengthening public-private collaboration, expanding operations both locally and internationally, and exploring promising opportunities within the UAE's growing space sector.

Company representatives reaffirmed their commitment to the UAE's space ambitions and outlined plans to expand their operations, seizing the opportunities offered by the UAE's flexible regulatory framework and advanced infrastructure. Attendees also welcomed initiatives such as the Space Economic Zones Programme, which they said play a vital role in enabling collaboration and fostering long-term, sustainable growth across the space ecosystem.

## DoH, Sanofi partner to develop global vaccines and expand regional biopharma capacity in Abu Dhabi

Both entities aim to streamline regulatory processes, enhance manufacturing preparedness, and promote knowledge sharing



The Department of Health – Abu Dhabi (DoH), the regulator of the healthcare sector in Abu Dhabi, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Sanofi, a research and development-driven, AI-powered healthcare biopharma company, at the BIO International Convention 2025, in Boston, USA.

The collaboration will leverage the Emirate's health-tech ecosystem and advanced research infrastructure to drive the development of new global vaccines and strengthen regional capabilities in vaccine manufacturing.

In the presence of Dr. Noura Khamis Al Ghaithi, Under-Secretary of the Department of Health –

Abu Dhabi, and Laurie Gery, Global Head of Business Development, Vaccines at Sanofi, the agreement was signed during the BIO International Convention in Boston, USA, by Dr. Asma Al Mannaei, the Executive Director of the Health Life Sciences Sector at DoH and Baptiste de Clarens, General Manager Greater Gulf, Vaccines at Sanofi.

Dr. Asma Al Mannaei, Executive Director of the Health Life Sciences Sector at DoH, said, "DoH is partnering with Sanofi to expedite the development of new global vaccines. This initiative aims to shorten the timeline from early research to public availability by utilising



advanced technologies, real-time data analysis, and conducting parallel clinical trial phases. By combining Sanofi's global scientific expertise with Abu Dhabi's state-of-the-art infrastructure, we aim to set new benchmarks for resilience, innovation, and international partnerships. Abu Dhabi offers a globally connected, purpose-driven environment for leading research, and together we will drive a transformative change that will safeguard the health and well-being of our community while contributing to global health security."

Both entities will work together to streamline regulatory processes, enhance manufacturing preparedness, and promote knowledge sharing between local and international experts. This partnership reflects Abu Dhabi's strategic goal to establish itself as a leading centre for bio- and pharmaceutical innovation and underscores the emirate's commitment to advancing proactive, technology-driven healthcare solutions.

Baptiste de Clarens, General Manager Greater Gulf, Vaccines, Sanofi, said, "The MoU signed with the Department of Health - Abu Dhabi marks an encouraging step towards advancing global health security while reflecting our shared interest in addressing global health challenges through scientific partnership. This agreement allows us to examine how Sanofi's experience in vaccine development could complement Abu Dhabi's growing R&D ecosystem. Through this initial framework, we look forward to exploring opportunities for public-private collaboration in healthcare innovation."

In addition, both DoH and Sanofi will advance clinical research and development planning, optimise resource allocation, and establish

the foundational terms for funding and access. These efforts are designed to enhance healthcare resilience and sustainability across Abu Dhabi's healthcare sector and beyond, expanding access to quality care for patients locally and globally.

This is not the first collaboration between DoH and Sanofi. In 2022, the two entities announced their commitment to advancing four key healthcare priorities: hematology and oncology, rare metabolic diseases, diabetes management, and vaccines.

## **MoU with Boehringer Ingelheim**

The Department of Health - Abu Dhabi (DoH) also signed an MoU with Boehringer



DoH and Sanofi will expedite vaccine development, conduct parallel clinical trial phases, and apply real-time data analytics



Ingelheim, one of the world's leading research-driven pharmaceutical companies, to advance scientific research and innovation, foster groundbreaking research and development, and cultivate an environment of scientific excellence.

Signed during the BIO International Convention in Boston, the two parties seek to strengthen the Emirate's research ecosystem by facilitating access to and harnessing the capabilities of Boehringer Ingelheim's OpnME platform.

Researchers, scientists, and innovators across Abu Dhabi will be able to leverage the platform's cutting-edge data and resources to address critical biological challenges and accelerate scientific discovery.

Through four flagship programmes, Molecule to Order (M2O), Molecule for Collaboration (M4C), opn2EXPERTS (o2e) and opnTALENTS (o25), the

platform empowers the research community with access to advanced compounds, collaborative opportunities, expert networks, and support for emerging talent. OpnME connects visionary researchers to champion transformative, research-driven medical innovation for generations to come.

Dr. Noura Khamis Al Ghaithi, Undersecretary of the Department of Health – Abu Dhabi, said, "With this partnership, we are empowering Abu Dhabi researchers with the opnMe platform, an open portal offering top-tier pharmaceutical compounds, fostering collaboration and safeguarding researchers' rights to their findings.

"This is about transforming our emirate into a global life sciences hub, speeding up breakthroughs, and building a healthier, resilient future for all."

---



## ‘UAE prioritises food safety as part of the Sustainable National Food Security Framework’

**D**r. Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, affirmed that food safety is indispensable to the stability of food supply chains and is at the forefront of the UAE's strategic priorities to enhance sustainable national food security.

In a statement on the occasion of World Food Safety Day 2025 on June 7, Dr. Al Dahak noted that the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment has been consistently working to develop a comprehensive framework of laws and regulations based on scientific principles, in line with global best practices in this field.

Dr. Al Dahak stated, "This year's World Food Safety Day is held under the theme 'Food Safety – Science in Action,' which highlights the use of scientific knowledge as key to ensuring food safety, protecting society and driving well-being in a world experiencing rapid changes and increasing food challenges."

She continued, "Food safety is a shared national endeavour and an imperative for our future. The UAE has built a flexible and modern legislative system, powered by advanced digital infrastructure, and strengthened by seamless integration across regulatory bodies, government, and the private sector. We continue to enhance our regulatory capabilities and update tracking and early warning mechanisms, ensuring food quality and safety from source to consumer, and further strengthening public trust in the national food system."

The minister pointed out that the growing



challenges related to food call for cooperation and coordination among all stakeholders at both local and global levels to share best practices and regulatory standards to ensure the highest levels of food safety.

She further stated that the UAE's vision extends beyond its borders, committing to international collaboration in food safety. The nation stands ready to partner on initiatives that integrate food safety systems worldwide, sharing expertise as a testament to its international responsibility.

Dr. Al Dahak concluded, "The UAE's continued investments in knowledge, legislation, and innovation are propelling food safety to new heights and driving the nation's vision for a healthy, safe, and food-secure future."



## STUDY ■ Plastic, crude oil, laundry microfibers cited as top causes of seabird deaths: UAE study

Led by the Environment and Protected Areas Authority (EPAA) in Sharjah, the study analyzed 478 deceased seabirds from 17 species along the Arabian Gulf and Gulf of Oman

In a groundbreaking scientific achievement coinciding with World Environment Day and underscoring its leadership in marine environmental protection, the Environment and Protected Areas Authority (EPAA) in Sharjah announced the completion of the first research study of its kind in the Middle East to monitor the ingestion of marine debris, microplastics, and oil residues by seabirds.

Conducted as part of the Sharjah Strandings Response Program, the study was recently published in the scientific journal Marine Pollution Bulletin, highlighting the invisible environmental threats facing seabirds along the UAE's coasts and the wider region. The study sheds light on threats to marine biodiversity and calls for collective action to protect marine ecosystems from escalating pollution.

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





Sharjah, stated, “This comprehensive study represents a pioneering scientific accomplishment at both national and regional levels, and is based on a rigorous methodology that supports the development of evidence-based conservation policies and establishes a reliable database for tracking long-term trends. These findings lay a critical scientific foundation for monitoring the future impacts of marine waste on marine life, including seabirds, which

**The study revealed that 12.8% of the seabirds had ingested marine pollutants: 11.1% had consumed marine debris, and 1.7% contained crude oil and tar balls**



play a key role in maintaining the balance of coastal ecosystems.”

The study involved examining the digestive systems of 478 stranded marine and coastal birds from 17 different species that were found deceased along the shores of the Arabian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman. The results revealed that 12.8 percent of the birds had ingested marine pollutants: 11.1 percent had consumed marine

debris, and 1.7 percent contained crude oil and tar balls. Plastic polymers were the most commonly ingested materials, particularly among black-headed gulls (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*), with polyethylene identified as the most prevalent polymer, followed by glass as another frequently ingested substance.

The findings further showed that juvenile birds of the large white-headed gull species were more prone to ingesting waste than their adult counterparts, highlighting the vulnerability of younger age groups to marine pollution.

In a subsample of 20 birds, the ingestion of microplastics was examined. The results showed that microfibers made up 77.8 percent of all detected microplastics, suggesting that wastewater from laundry could be a major source of this type of pollution. The study also found that oil balls and fishing hooks posed immediate and serious threats to the survival of these birds.

The Sharjah Strandings Response Program is a core component of EPAA's strategic agenda. It integrates scientific surveys, environmental research, marine life rescue efforts, and community awareness. By responding directly to cases of marine wildlife strandings across Sharjah, the program contributes to ecosystem monitoring, biodiversity conservation, and the advancement of environmental education and stewardship.

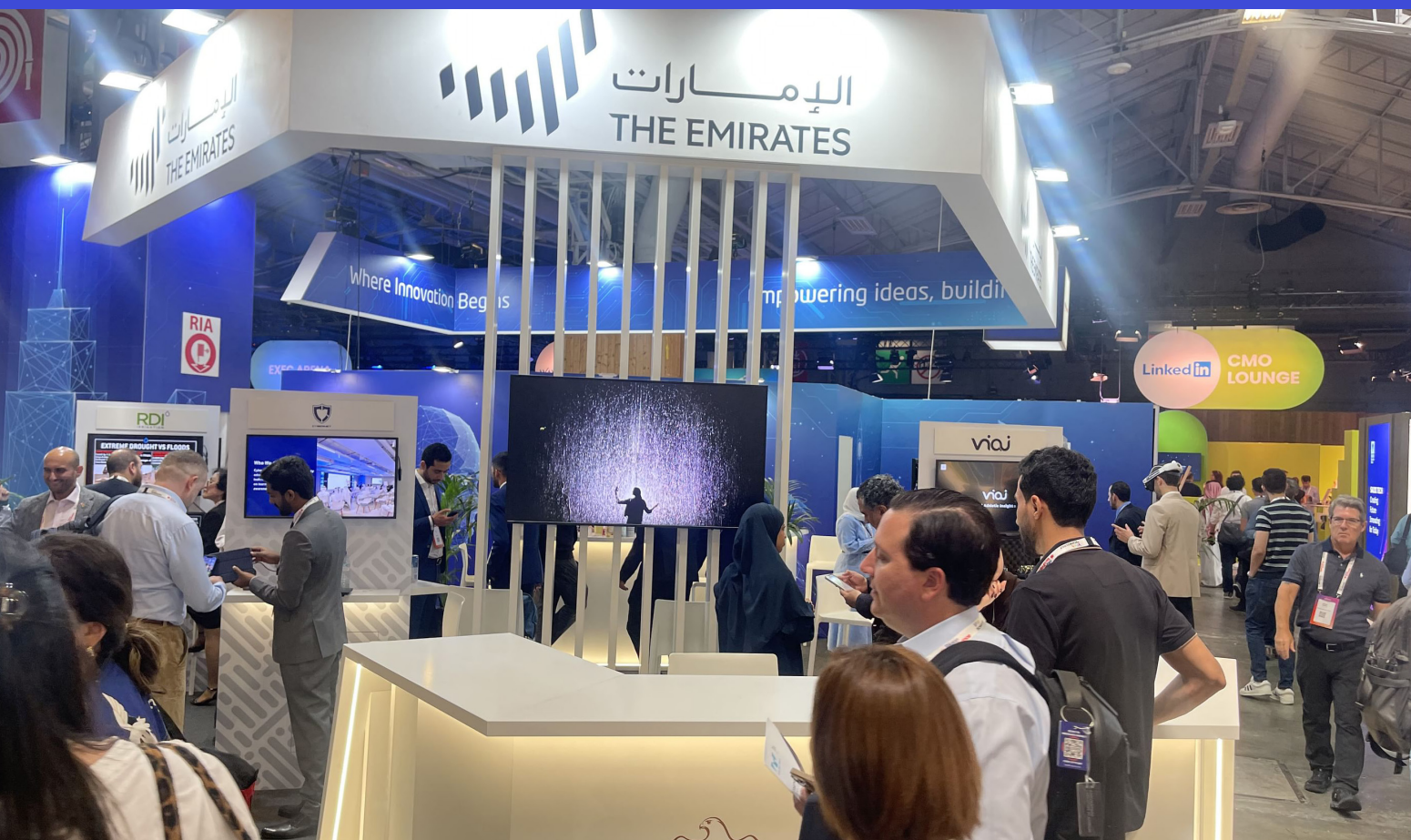
## UAE showcases future-driven vision, digital prowess at VivaTech 2025

UAE's participation in Europe's leading tech exhibition sought to bolster cooperation in entrepreneurship, technology, AI, creative industries, and sustainability

The UAE made a remarkable impact at VivaTech 2025, Europe's largest technology exhibition, held in Paris, transforming its presence from symbolic representation to a dynamic showcase of the country's soft power and innovation-led economic vision.

H.E. Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri, Minister of Economy, led an official economic delegation to the event to strengthen international collaboration and exchange best practices across key sectors, including entrepreneurship, technology, artificial intelligence, the creative economy, sustainability, cybersecurity, cloud computing, and smart mobility.

The UAE delegation comprised representatives from 19 entities, including business incubators, universities, and chambers of commerce, such as the DIFC Innovation Hub, Sharjah Entrepreneurship Center (Sheraa), Ajman Chamber, Fujairah Chamber of Commerce and





Industry, Higher Colleges of Technology, Emirates Entrepreneurship Association, UAE University, Dubai Integrated Economic Zones Authority, and Hub71. In addition, 32 UAE-based startups and SMEs participated to showcase the country's vibrant innovation ecosystem.

UAE startups showcased a wide range of innovative digital solutions and services that reflect the diversity and richness of the country's entrepreneurial ecosystem. These included software development using advanced technology, cloud computing platforms for smart

*32 UAE-based startups and SMEs showcased their pioneering projects and innovations, highlighting the competitiveness of the UAE's entrepreneurial ecosystem*

management, digital health, robotics in education, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, AI virtual workers for repetitive tasks, and generative AI platforms for geographic data.

At the event, a series of business meetings were held between the owners of national SMEs, French companies, and several investors and venture capitalists participating in the exhibition. The meetings aimed to foster strategic partnerships across emerging economic sectors, including technology, artificial intelligence, and advanced industries. Several Emirati entrepreneurs also showcased their pioneering projects and innovative products during various sessions held on the sidelines of the exhibition. Among the standout exhibits was a self-driving motorcycle, displayed by Dubai-based robotics firm RoboHitech.

The UAE's participation at VivaTech 2025 reflected the country's strategic push to position itself as a global innovation hub, empowering its youth, startups, and entrepreneurs to lead in emerging technologies.

The 2025 edition of VivaTech brought together decision-makers, business leaders, and innovation pioneers from around the world. The event attracted approximately 165,000 visitors, more than 13,500 startups, 3,500 exhibitors, and 3,200 investors, serving as a dynamic platform for accelerating innovation, exchanging ideas, and forging strategic partnerships.



call centers, digital infrastructure for loyalty programs via blockchain, a smart irrigation system that delivers water directly to plant roots based on chemical signals emitted by the plant, AI-powered real estate marketing platforms, technical solutions to stimulate the circular economy, and AI solutions to support People of Determination in their interactions with society.

In addition, UAE companies showcased innovative digital products and services in various other areas, such as live streaming on social media platforms, consumer behavior analysis, urban climate analysis, green hydrogen production support, data cybersecurity, real-time sports analysis, metaverse technologies, legal contract



## **MOCCAЕ, Emirates Growth Fund to power UAE SMEs driving food security, AgriTech**

The strategic partnership will unlock new opportunities for UAE-based businesses to lead in building a more self-sufficient, sustainable, and resilient national economy

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCAЕ) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Emirates Growth Fund (EGF) to catalyse the growth of UAE-based companies shaping the future of food, agriculture, and environmental resilience.

The agreement was signed during the Emirates Agriculture Exhibition and Conference 2025 in Al Ain in the presence of Dr. Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, and Najla Al Midfa, Vice Chair and Managing Director of EGF.

This strategic partnership brings together two national entities committed to supporting SMEs operating in the areas of food and water security, agricultural innovation and local production, environmental technologies, and climate-aligned business models.

Together, MOCCAЕ and EGF aim to unlock new opportunities for UAE-based businesses to lead in building a more self-sufficient, sustainable,



and resilient national economy. From securing the country's food supply to advancing environmental innovation, the collaboration reflects a shared vision of empowering the private sector to drive lasting impact.

The MoU provides a framework for exchanging knowledge, co-promoting eligible companies, and showcasing success stories that align with the UAE's long-term climate and food security goals.



Dr. Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, commented, "This partnership paves the way for achieving our shared environmental objectives aligned with the goals of the National Food Security Strategy 2051, and We the UAE Vision 2031. The private sector is a key component of our drive towards

environmental resilience and food security. By empowering SMEs working in the food supply chain and environmental innovation, we are laying a strong foundation for greater national self-reliance and a future-ready economy."

Najla Al Midfa, Vice Chair and Managing Director of EGF, added, "EGF exists to support businesses solving national challenges through innovation and scale. Our value creation approach brings strategic guidance, governance support, and access to networks. By focusing on agri tech and environmental innovation, we are investing in the building blocks of national resilience and self-sufficiency."

Established with AED1 billion in capital, the Emirates Growth Fund invests in UAE-based growth-stage companies operating in sectors of strategic importance to the nation. The Fund offers more than capital, providing long-term partnership to help scale businesses built to last.

---

### **Call for greater coastal resilience**

Jassim Mohammed Al-Budaiwi, Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), reaffirmed Gulf countries' unwavering commitment to tackling environmental and climate issues, at the Ocean Rise and Coastal Resilience Summit, held in Nice, France, ahead of the third United Nations Ocean Conference.

Organised by the governments of France and Costa Rica, the summit brought together global leaders, experts, and policymakers to issue key recommendations for coastal resilience and marine protection.

Al-Budaiwi emphasised that sustainable development and climate resilience are central to the visions of all GCC member states and called for urgent and collective action to transform climate pledges into measurable outcomes, especially in vulnerable coastal zones.

---

# Jameel Index launches to illuminate food security risks amid global food trade uncertainty

The Jameel Index for Food Trade and Vulnerability tackles one of the most urgent crises facing the planet – food insecurity





The Abdul Latif Jameel Water and Food Systems Lab (J-WAFS) at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has announced the official public launch of the Jameel Index for Food Trade and Vulnerability. The innovative online tool equips policymakers, investors, and development practitioners with data-driven insights to better navigate the complexity of global food trade and its implications for food security in a time of mounting geopolitical,

*Approximately 276 million people worldwide are severely food insecure, and more than half a million are facing famine conditions*



climate, and economic instability.

The Jameel Index is the foundational project of the J-WAFS-led Food and Climate Systems Transformation (FACT) Alliance, a global network of over 20 leading research institutions and stakeholder organizations with support from Community Jameel.

Fewer than 10 countries provide more than 90 percent of the world's food exports. The Jameel Index indicates that 55 percent of the world's countries are in medium to extreme food import vulnerability. This growing interdependence raises serious questions about systemic resilience, equity, and preparedness.

By translating complex global trade data into actionable insights, the Jameel Index aims to inform and guide both global and local strategies for enhancing food security through diversified sourcing, policy alignment, and sustainable investment.

The Jameel Index generates food trade vulnerability scores for over 180 countries, analysing risks across eight major agricultural commodities (wheat, rice, soy, maize, dairy, meat, sugar, and cooking oils).

It integrates indicators on import dependency, supply chain diversity, supply variability, and foreign exchange, offering a customisable,



holistic platform to assess exposure to global food trade shocks.

According to the Jameel Index, four countries in the Middle East –Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, and Oman– are among the most vulnerable, alongside small island states such as Cabo Verde and Grenada. By contrast, major food exporters, including Argentina, the US, and China, remain the most resilient to shocks in global food trade.

The Jameel Index was formally unveiled at a special event titled The Jameel Index Forum: Food Trade in the Current Age of Uncertainty, hosted by the Martin School at the University of Oxford.

The launch event featured a presentation of the Jameel Index and a thematic address exploring the Jameel Index's application within the evolving BRICS trade bloc, now composed of 11 major agri-food economies.

The event additionally included a panel discussion with global leaders in food systems, trade, and sustainability.

Dr. Greg Sixt, director of the FACT Alliance at J-WAFS, said: "The Jameel Index is a critical tool for the planning and investment needed to ensure that food trade can meet food security needs in an increasingly volatile global trade environment.

"In the coming months, the Jameel Index will integrate the impacts of future climate change

scenarios on food trade, which will further enhance the Index's value for long-term future planning."

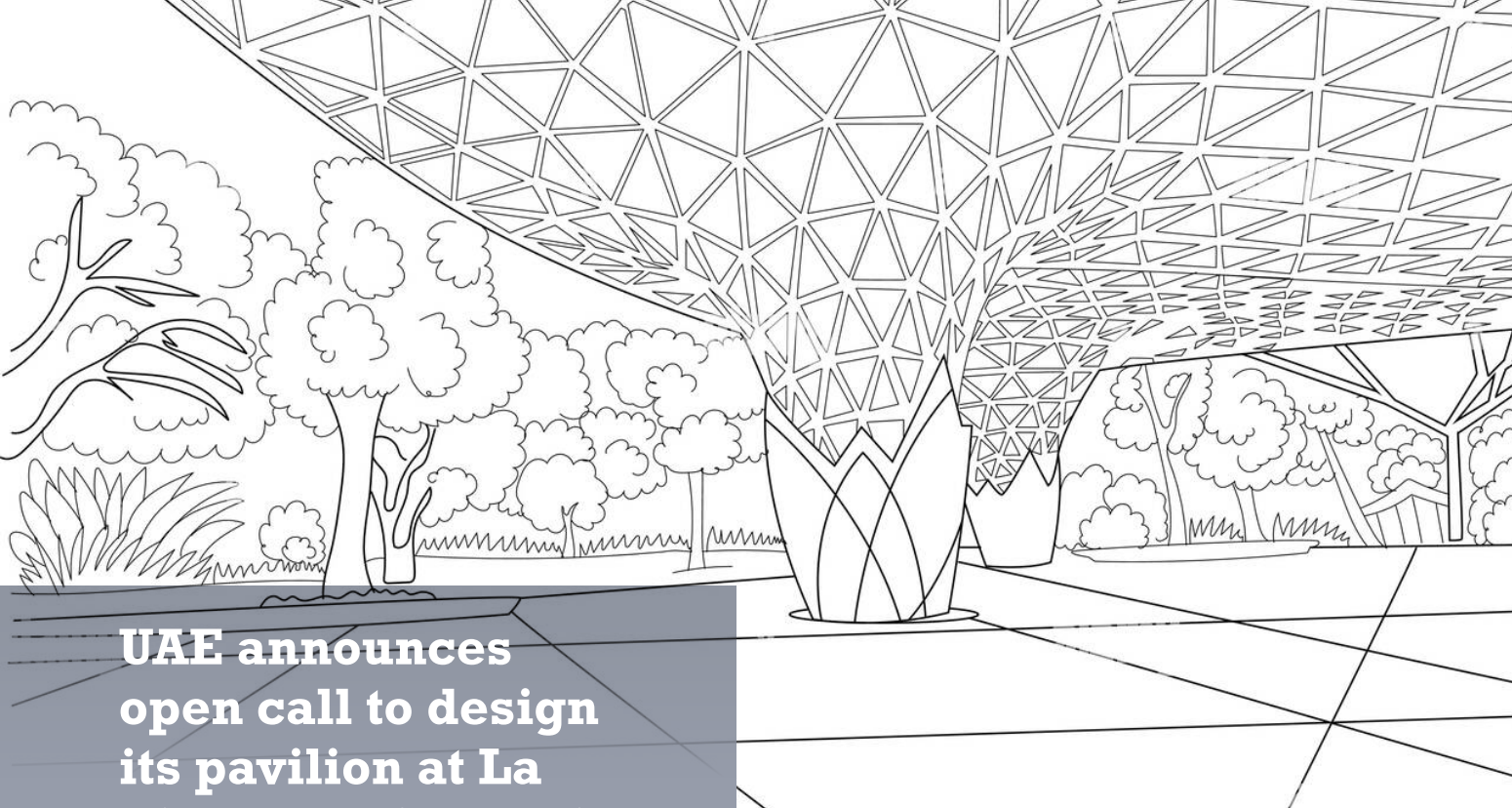
Nader Iskandar Diab, head of programmes at Community Jameel, said: "Shielding global communities, especially the most vulnerable ones, from the impact of climate change is core to our mission at Community Jameel. We are pleased to support the development of the Jameel Index, which will equip policymakers and practitioners with the critical insights they need to strengthen food systems, improve resilience, and ultimately safeguard lives and livelihoods in a time of mounting uncertainty. We are proud to see this tool come to life as a cornerstone for more equitable and sustainable global food security."

Paola de Almeida, food, agriculture and water portfolio head at Pegasus Capital Advisors, said: "The Jameel Index is a valuable tool that will help de-risk investments around the world. It serves as a sentinel for food and agricultural systems risk areas, ensuring that money is properly deployed and allocated, fit for purpose and context."

The Jameel Index was previewed at the 2024 World Food Prize's Borlaug Dialogue, where project co-leads Dr Greg Sixt and Professor Kenneth Strzepek, presented the framework and a preliminary version of the index.

---





## UAE announces open call to design its pavilion at La Biennale di Venezia in 2027

UAE NEWS

**T**he National Pavilion UAE has launched an open call for proposals to curate the UAE Pavilion at the 20th International Architecture Exhibition at La Biennale di Venezia, set to take place from May to November 2027 in Venice, Italy.

Architects, designers, artists, historians, and researchers with experience working or studying in the UAE or the broader MENASA (Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia) region are invited to submit concept proposals that tell an untold story from the UAE's architectural discourse.

Proposals should reflect the Biennale Architettura's mission as a global platform for the exchange of ideas, and present a compelling curatorial narrative rooted in local, regional, and global contexts, as well as in dialogue with previous National Pavilion UAE exhibitions.

UAE citizens and residents, as well as international applicants with relevant regional experience and understanding, are eligible to apply individually

or as part of a team. Applications are open to everyone including non-UAE residents. For team proposals, at least one member must be based in the UAE.

Angela Migally, Executive Director of the Salama bint Hamdan Al Nahyan Foundation, Commissioner of the National Pavilion UAE, said, "The Biennale Architettura is a space for rigorous thought, experimentation, and critical reflection. This open call is an opportunity for curators in the UAE to engage with global architectural discourse through research grounded in local context, and engages with the complexities of the built environment, both in the UAE and beyond."

Applications will close at midnight UAE time (GMT+4) on 30th September 2025. Selected finalists will be invited to submit a full proposal in the second round of the selection process. Full details and submission guidelines are available at <http://nationalpavilionuae.org/open-call/>.

## Nissan MICRA EV: Modern, Audacious, and Chill



34

ELECTRIC MOBILITY

Now fully-electric, the all-new Nissan Micra EV is available in two battery sizes, and offers up to 408km range, with convenient quick charging

The all-new, sixth-generation Nissan MICRA returns to the B-segment in 2025 as a fully connected, pure EV. Combining an assertive personality with zero-emission mobility, the new MICRA stays true to its guiding principles as a stylish and unpretentious car, which has underpinned its popularity and success as an iconic compact car across five generations and more than 40 years.

### **Audacious and assertive design**

Designed at Nissan's Design Europe (NDE) in London, the new MICRA boasts a refreshed and distinctive new exterior look – combining a premium exterior finish and a ton of attitude with an SUV-like design, simple and uncluttered surfaces, and subtle details throughout.

All new MICRA grades will come with 18-inch wheels, with three different options depending



*The new MICRA combines audacious design, agile performance, intuitive tech and seamless connectivity*



Fuji, incorporated into the storage space between the front seats.

As soon as they enter the car, the driver will appreciate the three-spoke wheel as well as the 10.1" configurable display behind it for easy viewing of vital information. In the centre of the car sits an additional 10.1" touchscreen display, covering the full width of the dashboard and providing a sleek feel for navigation, audio and phone functions.

### **Compact and convenient**

At under 4 metres in length and less than 1.8 metres wide, the new MICRA punches well above its weight, and is perfectly suited for the tight turns and busy roads of urban life. A wheelbase of 2.54 metres pushes the wheels to the corners, which has the triple benefits of guaranteeing improved interior space, while providing a dynamic stance on the road and an optimum blend of agility and stability.

on grade. The large wheel dimension, combined with the dark wheel arch trim, contributes to the new MICRA's strong and solid stance on the road.

Central to the new MICRA's audacious personality is the palette of 14 exterior colour combinations.

### **Interior elegance**

Inside the car, the new MICRA's interior recaptures a theme that has been at the heart of the model across all previous generations - simple, understated elegance.

Building on that legacy, this latest generation also hints at its Japanese heritage through subtle hidden design features - including a moulded outline of Japan's most famous landmark, Mount





## Seamless EV driving

Available for the first time as a fully electric model, the new MICRA offers worry-free EV driving that's perfect for daily life. Available in two battery options – 40kWh and 52kWh – the model offers significant power and range for an urban car.

While primarily designed as a car for the urban jungle, the 52kWh battery and impressive 408km real-world range mean that when done cutting a swathe through busy streets, drivers can escape to the country without range anxiety.

When a charge is needed, the new MICRA offers one of the best quick charge options available in the category. Thanks to its 100kW DC charger, quick charging from 15 per cent to 80 per cent takes a convenient 30 minutes. To maximise charging efficiency, a heat pump is standard on

both battery options, as well as battery heating and cooling capability.

To help provide even more benefits from going fully electric, the new MICRA will be equipped with V2L (Vehicle-to-Load) technology on both battery versions, giving owners the option to use the electrical capacity in the battery to power external devices.

## Efficient and responsive performance

Complementing the smooth and hassle-free feel of an electric drive, the new MICRA has been meticulously engineered to provide a performance that goes above and beyond previous generations.

Significantly lighter than many of its peers, and despite its solid and robust look, the new model



*The MICRA offers a range of modern features, including touchscreen infotainment systems, advanced safety technologies, and comfortable interiors*



weighs just 1400kg – allowing for increased efficiency, performance and handling versus its heavier counterparts.

With its battery pack sitting as low as possible within the architecture, a front suspension utilising independent struts and passive dampers, and a rear suspension consisting of multi-link geometry – a configuration typically found in higher segment vehicles – the new MICRA offers brilliant driving dynamics, and a best-in-class ride and handling.

### **Intuitive tech**

Integrated throughout the new MICRA are purposeful and seamless technology features – all designed to provide an uplifting and connected

on-board and off-board experience for drivers and passengers alike. NissanConnect with Google built-in services creates a car that is an extension of the customer.

NissanConnect also elevates the EV ownership experience through off-board connectivity via the NissanConnect services app – available on all grades of new MICRA. The app, provides access to features such as battery state of charge, car location, charging history, and remote control of various features such as cabin temperature and charging schedule.

### **Advanced safety systems**

At the heart of all Nissan vehicles is a commitment to safety, and the new MICRA is no different despite its size. For peace of mind on the highway, the new MICRA is available with Nissan ProPilot Assist, as well as a comprehensive suite of advanced driver assist technologies to provide an impressive level of reassurance for the driver and passengers.



## Jumeirah celebrates World Sea Turtle Day with conservation milestones

72 rehabilitated sea turtles, including Hawksbill and Green turtles, were released back into their natural habitat under the Dubai Turtle Rehabilitation Project (DTRP)

In celebration of World Sea Turtle Day on June 16, Jumeirah, together with members of the community, guests, and partners, released 72 rehabilitated sea turtles back into their natural habitat. The release included Hawksbill and Green turtles, marking a significant milestone for the Dubai Turtle Rehabilitation Project (DTRP), with over 2,300 turtles now returned to the wild since its launch in 2004.

Among those released was Najeeb – meaning “noble” and “generous” in Arabic – an 80kg male Green turtle rescued in December 2024 with severe injuries to both front flippers. Najeeb was one of two turtles fitted with a satellite tracker, allowing the DTRP team to monitor his journey after release. The last time the team released a male Green turtle of similar size, it travelled to nesting sites in Oman. Najeeb is one of many turtles nursed back to health by the dedicated team at DTRP, based at Jumeirah Burj





Al Arab and Jumeirah Al Naseem. Each release marks a meaningful step forward in the ongoing mission to protect marine life and preserve biodiversity in the Arabian Gulf.

This year, DTRP reached a significant conservation milestone with the rare rescue of a Loggerhead baby – a species not known to nest in the Arabian Gulf. The tiny turtle, discovered earlier this year, represents an important finding in marine science for the region. According to experts from the IUCN and regional organisations, there are no previous records of Loggerhead turtles nesting inside the Gulf.

Barbara Lang-Lenton, Director of Aquarium at Jumeirah Burj Al Arab and DTRP lead, said: “Sea turtles have remarkably complex biology, and there is still much to uncover about their behaviours, migration patterns, and nesting habits in this region. Each new finding, like this one, helps us piece together a more complete picture of their presence and life cycles in the Gulf, guiding future conservation efforts.”

In celebration of World Sea Turtle Day, a variety of other conservation-focused activities also took place across Jumeirah’s portfolio. In Abu Dhabi, Jumeirah Saadiyat Island, in partnership with the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD), hosted the release of 135 sea turtles on its pristine beachfront. Meanwhile, guests at Jumeirah Bali witnessed the release of newly hatched turtles into their natural habitat, as part of a long-standing collaboration with Eco Tourism Bali. The event also featured an engaging educational programme on sea turtle conservation and the importance of protecting marine biodiversity, fostering greater awareness of ocean health, and encouraging responsible travel.

Beyond turtle rehabilitation, Jumeirah has been expanding its marine conservation initiatives through coral restoration efforts – one of several

*To date, Jumeirah has returned over 2,300 turtles to the wild since the project’s launch in 2004*

projects under the ‘Planet’ pillar of its sustainability strategy. A new coral nursery at the Turtle Lagoon in Jumeirah Al Naseem is now visible to guests and incorporated into daily educational experiences. In collaboration with ecosystem restoration specialists Ocean Revive, the team is researching and testing new technologies to grow and reintroduce corals into the sea. So far, over 1,400 fragments have been created, with over 300 already translocated to the sea.





fragments have been created through this process, contributing to the initiative's broader goal to help repopulate and strengthen local reef systems.

Jumeirah's commitment to marine preservation extends across its global portfolio, with impactful initiatives at its resorts in Tanzania and the Maldives. At Jumeirah Thanda Island, the team partners with local NGOs Marine Megafauna Foundation (MMF) and Sea Sense to protect whale sharks and endangered turtles and engage local communities through education and conservation training. In the Maldives, guests at Jumeirah Olhahali Island actively contribute to reef restoration to help regenerate the vibrant marine habitats that surround the resort.



REEF - a pioneering purpose-built reef development and one of the largest in the world, which aims to increase marine biodiversity and protect the emirate's coastal ecosystems. Reflecting Dubai's commitment to marine conservation, the three-year initiative will see over 20,000 reef modules deployed across 600 square kilometres to restore marine habitats and support the growth of indigenous corals, thereby enhancing marine life.

As part of this initiative, Jumeirah is contributing through coral fragmentation work at the turtle lagoon at Jumeirah Al Naseem, where small coral fragments - known as "frags" - are attached to circular discs, often called "coral cookies", providing a stable base for growth and easy handling. To date, more than 3,000 coral





## Abu Dhabi unveils integrated system to monitor waste management

The Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD) has launched an integrated system for managing and monitoring waste management activities across the emirate to ensure compliance with its environmental standards and waste management laws.

The implemented system seamlessly integrates three main waste monitoring and management systems: the Waste Management Activities Inspection and Patrolling System, the Occupational Health and Safety System for Waste Management Sector Workers, and the Electronic System for Tracking and Monitoring Waste Transfer Operations.

By developing and integrating sustainable waste management practices, the new system will ensure improved operational efficiency for facilities operating in this sector as well as for inspection and patrolling system.

Developed through a series of processes and procedures designed to evaluate all activities related to the collection, transportation, treatment and storage of waste, the system helps facilitate inspection and monitoring procedures for waste sector stakeholders. The system also examines current gaps in the waste sector and identifies lessons learned, enabling EAD to achieve its future initiatives.

Salem Mubarak Al Breiki, Director of Waste Management Division at EAD, said, "The launch of this integrated system marks a pivotal step in achieving our strategic waste management objectives and reinforcing the agency's role in



addressing challenges. It fosters stronger partnerships with various entities, enabling the exchange of expertise and the evaluation of our procedural and regulatory frameworks. By integrating artificial intelligence-driven technology and tools, we optimise the process of collecting and processing data to implement the best sustainable solutions."

The implementation of this integrated system is further supported by key legislative and operational tools, including the Integrated Waste Management Regulation and the Waste Classification System, strengthening the enforcement of sector laws and work regulations.

The system also includes the preparation of field inspection plans and periodic monitoring that target licensed and operating sectors and facilities in the field of waste trade, transportation, and treatment.

The scope of control includes rural areas, and aims to regulate random waste dumping and other incorrect practices, while longer-term plans will also include dealing with challenges created by waste-producing sectors.



# Sydney, Australia: Green, global and connected

With its stunning gardens and sprawling parks, Sydney is ranked as Australia's greenest city and the third greenest city in the world

42

GREEN CITY

The Harbour City of Australia, Sydney, was ranked in 10th place out of more than 100 cities by the Global Destination Sustainability Index in 2024. The GDS-Index evaluates cities on their sustainability efforts in tourism and events, measuring a city's performance across four key areas: environmental responsibility, social progress, supplier engagement, and destination management.

Using the UN Sustainable Development Goals as a guide, the index benchmarks cities against 77 criteria to measure the sustainability performance of environmental and social strategies and outcomes, and tourism and business event destinations. Out of all the Australian cities evaluated, the Harbour City emerged as the number one.

Sydney, Australia, has been internationally recognized as a leader in urban sustainability, thanks to a comprehensive and long-term

strategy aimed at making the city more resilient, livable, and environmentally responsible. The city of Sydney Council (which governs the central business district and inner-city suburbs) has been especially proactive through its strategic plan, "Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050: Continuing the Vision."

Sydney became carbon neutral in 2007, the first local government in Australia to do so. It has committed to reaching net-zero emissions by 2035 across the local government area and net-zero city-wide by the year 2050.

This strategy involves reducing emissions through initiatives, including transitioning to renewable energy, improving energy efficiency, and implementing sustainable technologies. The city is also working with residents and businesses to reduce their carbon footprint through targeted programs and partnerships.



# The New South Wales government aims to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 and be more resilient to a changing climate



## Net-zero buildings

Energy use in buildings continues to be a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in Greater Sydney. To support the transition to net-zero energy, the city of Sydney developed performance standards for net-zero energy buildings to be implemented through the planning system in 2023.

The performance standards are step change improvements in energy performance for new office, multi-unit residential, hotel, shopping centre and mixed-use developments, and major refurbishment projects.

These improvements can be achieved through:

- Energy efficiency
- On-site renewable energy
- Off-site renewable energy recognised in the planning system

The performance standards respond to the NSW electricity strategy, the Greater Sydney Region Plan and its low-carbon city objective, and net-zero corporate targets. These standards mark the first time a local council in Australia has tied planning approvals to net-zero performance, offering a model for broader adoption.

The city of Sydney councillors have also voted to ban all gas appliances in new homes. Sydney's updated development control rules mandate electric stoves, ovens and heaters, and coolers in all newly built houses and apartments.

This move is progress towards the city's goal of making all new homes, offices, hotels, and serviced apartments fully electric by 2027.

## Greening the city

Green city initiatives aim to make cities more resilient in the face of the global climate emergency and future liveability challenges. The city of Sydney has made substantial gains in urban greening and developing policies and programs to meet those commitments. These include:

- Developing an urban forest strategy, an urban





ecology strategic action plan, a green roof and walls policy, a streetscape gardening policy, and a landscape code

- Increasing canopy cover from the 2008 baseline of 15.5 per cent to 18.1 per cent in 2019
- Increasing parks and open space network managed by the City from 190 ha in 2012 to 211.9 ha in 2020
- Creating the Sydney City Farm and supporting the establishment of over 20 community gardens, restoring and expanding native bushland areas from a baseline of 4.6 hectares in 2012 to 12.9 hectares in 2020
- Planting thousands of lower-level gardens and shrubs within the city's parks and streets

The city of Sydney, like other cities around the world, is embracing tree canopy and urban greening as solutions to address the climate and

health challenges that global cities are facing. In 2012, they released the first Greening Sydney Plan, which set the city's fundamental groundwork. They began measuring the city's canopy cover and identified important targets to increase their overall canopy cover to 22 per cent by 2030 and to 27 per cent by 2050.

### **Green transport**

Sydney's public transportation system is a comprehensive network that includes buses, trains, ferries, and light rail. This diverse range of transport modes helps cater to the needs of the city's residents and visitors, offering convenient and efficient travel options.

Sydney is actively working towards a more sustainable transport system by focusing on reducing emissions, promoting public transport, and encouraging active travel like walking and



Sydney has decided to cover 40 per cent of the city with greenery by 2050, up from the current 33 per cent



cycling. This includes transitioning to electric vehicle fleets, investing in cycling infrastructure, and expanding the light rail network. The goal is to create a transport system that is both environmentally friendly and beneficial for the community.

Sydney has adopted several sustainable transportation initiatives to reduce the environmental impact of public transport and promote eco-friendly mobility options. These initiatives include:

**Electrification of bus and ferry fleets:** The city is gradually replacing diesel buses and ferries with electric or hybrid versions to reduce emissions and improve air quality.

**Expansion of the cycling network:** Sydney is investing in the development of dedicated bike lanes and shared paths to encourage cycling as a sustainable mode of transport.

**Promotion of transit-oriented development:** The city is focusing on developing high-density, mixed-use areas around public transport hubs to reduce the need for private vehicle use.

**Implementation of green technologies:** Sydney is exploring the use of green technologies, such as solar panels and regenerative braking systems, in its public transportation system to improve energy efficiency.

## **CBUAE hosts landmark Climate Forum for green finance**

The forum discussed ways to integrate climate policies in risk management and investment, and explored effective solutions for enhancing financial sector resilience in the face of future climate and environmental challenges

Demonstrating its commitment to driving sustainable finance and leading the transition towards a more sustainable financial system, in line with the UAE's vision to achieve net zero by 2050, the Central Bank of the UAE (CBUAE) organised its first Climate Forum and a meeting of the Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS) at the St. Regis Saadiyat Island Resorts, Abu Dhabi.

The Climate Forum brought together financial leaders, policymakers, international experts in sustainable finance and climate risks, and senior officials from regulatory bodies, central banks, and international financial institutions.

The forum reaffirmed the importance of effective dialogue and close collaboration among key stakeholders in addressing climate-related financial risks, advancing sustainable finance, and exchanging best practices to strengthen the resilience of the financial system and accelerate climate action.





Khaled Mohamed Balama, Governor of the CBUAE, opened the forum in the presence of Dr. Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak Al Shamsi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, Abdulaziz Al Ghurair, Chairman of the UAE Banks Federation, and James Talbot, Chair of the Monetary Policy Workstream at the Network for Greening the Financial System.

In his keynote address, Khaled Mohamed Balama said: “The Climate forum represents a pivotal turning point towards transitioning from a phase of dialogue and exchanging visions to a phase of practical implementation, through systematic investment in building institutional capabilities, updating policies, and developing operational processes within financial institutions. This contributes to enhancing the resilience and stability of the financial system and raising its level of preparedness in facing future risks, further solidifying the desired balance between sustainable economic growth and environmental protection.”

The forum discussed ways to enhance the integration of climate policies in risk management and investments, and the necessity of finding effective solutions to strengthen the financial sector's resilience in facing future climate and environmental challenges. It also addressed frameworks for activating regional and international cooperation in the areas of legislation, financial policies, and adopting a proactive approach in developing sustainable Islamic finance solutions, in a step that affirms the UAE's growing position as a leading global centre in leading the dialogue on the future of sustainable finance.

The forum's agenda featured several themes in the field of sustainable finance, most notably strategies for integrating climate risks into regulatory frameworks, adaptation finance tools in emerging markets, and policies for enhancing the resilience of financial systems in the face of

### *The Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS) meeting centred on “greening” monetary policy frameworks*

climate change. The forum also highlighted the need for empowering financial institutions to adopt best global practices in analysing environmental risks and enhancing sustainability-related disclosures.

During its dialogue sessions, the forum discussed ways to align monetary and financial policies with climate goals and the importance of innovation in developing green investment tools. The sessions highlighted the urgency of building institutional capabilities and activating frameworks for regional and international cooperation in the areas of greening banking operations and sustainable Islamic finance, further enhancing the integration of roles between the public and private sectors.





## WGS launches 'Urban Security: Enabling Cities of the Future' report

The report explores the intricate relationship between urban transformation and security, emphasizing that sustainable, livable, and economically vibrant cities must prioritize safety as a foundational element

The World Governments Summit Organization (WGS) has launched a new report 'Urban Security: Enabling Cities of the Future' in partnership with management consulting firm, Arthur D. Little (ADL). The ground-breaking report builds on a comprehensive study from ADL and offers actionable insights to help governments, civil society, and the private sector manage the urban design and security landscape as they build the cities of the future.

Today, cities across the globe are evolving fast, with developments in infrastructure, technology, and socio-economic structures enhancing the functionality, sustainability, and livability of the world's urban centers. However, to reap the long-term rewards of transformation, a city must first be safe and secure.

Against this backdrop, the joint report explores the vital link between security and development







through five sections: The importance of urban security as a national priority; the relationship between urbanisation and crime; the methodology for forecasting crime in evolving urban areas; case studies of Delhi, Singapore, and Buenos Aires; and recommendations for future urban security transformation.

The pioneering report is the result of in-depth research, analysis, and modelling conducted by Arthur D. Little that unearthed a wide range of valuable findings. Among them is a strong, positive correlation between economic development and societal factors such as GDP per capita and performance on the UN Human Development Index (HDI).

Delving deeper, the study identified a theoretical and empirically valid relationship between HDI scores and crime rates, where higher HDI levels are observably associated with reduced crime.

These findings point to several considerations about economic development and urban security that impact countries worldwide:

- Economic development has many conceptual factors. However, at its heart lies people who aim to live in a productive, modern, and safe urban environment
- Well-designed urban centers drive economic productivity, prosperity, and livability for citizens, and, most importantly, sustainable cities for the future
- Addressing public safety and security is critical to improving livability, tourism, and the attractiveness of cities for citizens, localisation of businesses, and FDI
- There is a symbiotic relationship between national security, economic development, and public safety, where improvements in one area create positive momentum in the other
- Successful economic and urban transformation requires a holistic approach that balances growth, urbanisation, and future infrastructure, service, and technology needs for citizens.





Building on these findings, 'Urban Security: Enabling Cities of the Future' relays several key messages and calls to action, including the clear need for coordinated efforts across all levels of government to ensure successful urban security transformation. This need is particularly great in a world where emerging megatrends such as AI, blockchain, and cybersecurity are reshaping societal structures and making traditional approaches less effective.

Reem Baggash, Deputy Director of the World Governments Summit Organization for Strategy, Content, and Communications, emphasised the importance of security modernisation in enabling safer cities of the future. She said, "Security underpins economic stability and social cohesion, enhancing quality of life and boosting a city's ability to attract investment and talent."

Alexander Buirski, Transformation Practice leader at Arthur D. Little Middle East & India, outlines some of the important steps that cities can take towards successful urban transformation.

He said, "There is no one-size-fits-all approach. However, success requires collaboration and information sharing across agencies, balancing whole-of-government reforms, city-level initiatives, modernising policing, and upholding national security standards."

Buirski added: "Moving forward, city stakeholders need to carefully consider the impact of human development and urbanisation initiatives on future public safety and security requirements to unlock the full potential of engines of economic growth, innovation, and social cohesion."







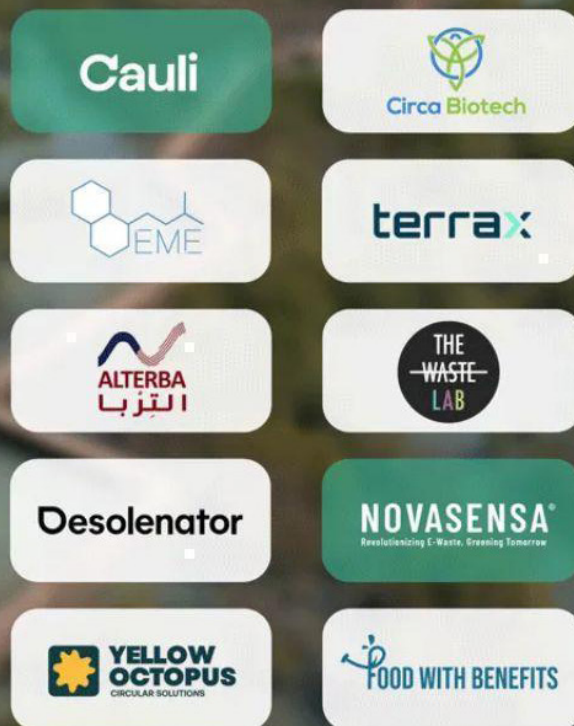
## UICCA Launchpad showcases 10 climate tech startups driving circular economy solutions

UAE NEWS

Ten climate tech start-ups presented pioneering circular economy solutions at the showcase event for the latest cycle of the Launchpad, hosted by UAE Independent Climate Change Accelerators (UICCA), in partnership with the Ministry of Economy.

The UICCA Launchpad is designed to fast-track the growth of climate tech start-ups by providing access to funding, market opportunities, mentorship, and policy guidance. Each cycle targets a critical area of climate action, with the 2025 edition dedicated to advancing circular economy solutions that eliminate or repurpose waste across key sectors such as food, water, energy, and infrastructure.

The 10 participating companies were selected from over 150 global applicants. These include solutions in decentralised composting, textile upcycling, critical minerals recovery, industrial reuse, food waste management, and circular desalination.



The showcase marked the culmination of an intensive three-month accelerator featuring intensive capacity-building sessions. Startups benefited from critical expertise on market entry, financial modelling, impact assessment, and capital attraction. Programme participants also received expert mentorship, training, and stakeholder engagement opportunities tailored to scaling in the UAE.

The Circular Economy Cycle cohort included: Altera, Cauli, Circa Biotech, Desolenator, Excess Material Exchange, Food with Benefits, Novasensa, Terrax, The Waste Lab, and Yellow Octopus: Circular Solutions. These companies delivered live presentations to an audience of investors, policy stakeholders, and sustainability leaders from across the UAE.

The UICCA Launchpad will continue with upcoming cycles focused on carbon solutions and climate adaptation.





# Nice Ocean Action Plan signals commitment for global action to protect the ocean

52

BIO DIVERSITY

The Declaration underscores the vital importance of the ocean to life on our planet and its essential role in mitigating climate change



*Underlining the importance of interlinkages between the ocean, climate and biodiversity, the declaration called for enhanced global action to minimize the impact of climate change and ocean acidification*

The 2025 United Nations Ocean Conference, hosted from 9 to 13 June 2025, concluded with more than 170 countries adopting an inter-governmentally agreed declaration committing to urgent action to conserve and sustainably use the ocean. 55 Heads of State and Government, along with 15,000 participants from civil society, business, and science, participated in the conference co-hosted by the governments of France and Costa Rica, including more than 450 side events, to accelerate action and mobilize all actors to conserve and sustainably use the ocean.

The declaration titled *Our Ocean, Our Future: United for urgent action* calls for concrete steps to expand marine protected areas, decarbonize maritime transport, combat marine pollution, and mobilize finance for vulnerable coastal and island nations, among others.

The declaration, together with bold voluntary commitments by States and other entities, constitutes the *Nice Ocean Action Plan*, successfully concluding the five-day Conference with a boost to environmental multilateralism.

“Pledges made at the United Nations Ocean Conference must be rigorously implemented, tracked, and scaled,” said United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs Li Junhua, who served as the Conference Secretary-General. “The momentum we have generated must carry us forward to COP30, global and regional ocean forums, and national decision-making, and translate into decisive national action.”

Voluntary commitments made during the Conference include:

- The European Commission, as part of its Ocean Pact, announced an investment of 1 billion EUR to support ocean conservation, science and sustainable fishing.
- French Polynesia pledged to create the world’s largest marine protected area to safeguard its seas, covering its entire exclusive economic zone, approximately 5 million square kilometres (1.93 million square miles).
- New Zealand committed over 52 million US dollars towards supporting enhanced ocean governance, management and science in the Pacific Islands region.
- Germany launched a 100 million EUR immediate action programme for the recovery and clearance of legacy munitions in the German Baltic and North Seas – the first of its kind.
- Indonesia, the World Bank and other partners launched a Coral Bond, a groundbreaking financial instrument designed to mobilize private capital to conserve coral reef ecosystems within marine protected areas in Indonesia.
- Thirty-seven countries, led by Panama and Canada, launched the High Ambition Coalition for a Quiet Ocean — the first high-level political initiative to tackle ocean noise pollution on a global scale.
- Italy committed 6.5 million EUR to strengthen surveillance by the Coast Guard in marine protected areas and on oil platforms, including through a satellite surveillance system capable



of detecting potential oil spills in real time.

- Canada contributed 9 million US dollars to the Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance to help Small Island Developing States and coastal developing countries increase their resilience to the impacts of climate change through nature-based solutions.
- Spain committed to creating five new marine protected areas that would allow protection of 25% of its marine territory.
- A collective of United Nations agencies and global partners launched a co-design process for One Ocean Finance — a bold new effort to unlock billions in new financing from ocean-dependent industries and blue economy sectors.

A Conference report, listing the voluntary commitments in an annex, will be published after the Conference.

## **The Marine Biodiversity Treaty**

In a big step towards entry into force of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention

on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), 19 more States ratified the Agreement in the margins of the Conference, and 20 more signed it, bringing the total number of signatures to 136, and ratifications to 50 States plus the European Union. Ten more ratifications are needed for the Agreement to enter into force.

The BBNJ Agreement, adopted in June 2023, is a crucial legal instrument to protect marine life and ecosystems in the two-thirds of the ocean that lie beyond any country's jurisdiction.

At the event, 10 Ocean Action Panels also produced forward-looking recommendations to guide implementation across key themes — from marine pollution and nature-based solutions to the role of women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples in ocean governance.

The fourth UN Ocean Conference, in 2028, will be co-hosted by Chile and the Republic of Korea.

---



## MoHAP unveils comprehensive strategy for health risk management in the UAE

The Ministry of Health and Prevention recently held a workshop titled "Launching the National Policy for Combating Health Risks in the UAE." The event gathered various stakeholders, including health authorities, to discuss the policy's pillars following its approval by the UAE Cabinet. The workshop aimed to enhance coordination among partners to ensure integrated efforts in combating health risks, aligning with the UAE Centennial 2071 vision.

The workshop was opened by Dr. Salem Al Darmaki, Advisor to the Minister of Health and Prevention, with the participation of representatives from the National Emergency, Crisis and Disaster Management Authority, the Presidential Court, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, the Ministry of Economy, and several other prominent public sector institutions, underscoring the cross-sectoral commitment to national health security.

Discussions at the workshop centered on robust governance frameworks for combating health risks. Key areas covered included fostering social, financial, and administrative commitment; strengthening coordination through effective national partnerships and international cooperation; developing supportive policies and legislation; integrating health considerations across all policy domains; and establishing comprehensive mechanisms for managing health risks through prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery. These efforts will be underpinned by continuous monitoring of the



National Framework for Health Risk Management, alongside systematic identification, analysis, assessment, and early warning systems to ensure swift and effective responses to health emergencies.

The workshop also addressed strategies for bolstering sustainable basic health infrastructure and logistics, ensuring the continuity of vital health services during crises. Emphasis was placed on developing a qualified health workforce, leveraging risk data and statistics for evidence-based decision-making, and strengthening research capacity. Furthermore, the agenda included establishing systems for innovation in health risk management and developing proactive future planning processes.

Dr. Mohammed Salim Al Olama, Undersecretary of MoHAP, stated, "The policy's focus on good governance, institutional empowerment, and improving infrastructure efficiency constitutes a fundamental pillar for establishing comprehensive national health security."

He highlighted the policy's role in consolidating community participation as a strategic tool for early detection and disease prevention, ensuring continuity of vital services, thereby advancing the Ministry's 2023-2026 strategy.





## Transformation to a healthy food system is blocked by three key barriers: UN report

Despite its vital role in sustaining life, the global food system continues to undermine health, biodiversity, and climate goals, a new UN report warns



Despite its critical role in sustaining billions of lives, the global food system fails to deliver for health, rights, and particularly, nature, according to a new report published by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and Chatham House. The report highlights three system barriers – the cheaper food paradigm, market consolidation, and investment path dependencies – that must be addressed to meet

*Over 800 million people go hungry each day, while approximately 30% of food is lost or wasted between harvest and consumption*



sustainable development goals.

The report, *Unlocking Sustainable Transition for Agribusiness*, explores these three barriers – perceived, technical, institutional, or economic “lock-ins” – and the role that intergovernmental organizations, financial institutions, the private sector, and civil society can play to remove them. The report was published ahead of the UN Food Systems Summit +4 Stocktake (UNFSS+4) on 27-29 July, co-hosted by Ethiopia and Italy, and follows the original UN Food Systems Summit in 2021.

“With the Global Biodiversity Framework,

governments have already committed to reducing subsidies that harm biodiversity, reducing pollution from nutrients, pesticides and hazardous chemicals, and protecting at least 30 per cent of land and sea. Yet despite this abundant political momentum, the global food system remains vulnerable and contributes to the triple crisis of climate change, nature loss, and pollution,” said Doreen Robinson, Deputy Director of the Ecosystem Division at UNEP.

“Unlocking the positive potential of agribusiness, as shown in this report, is essential to achieving a sustainable, equitable, and health-supporting food system,” she added.



Globally, over 800 million people are facing hunger today. Around 30 per cent of food, from harvest to consumption, is being wasted. Poor diets contribute to 1 in 5 premature deaths. The food system's hidden environmental and health costs may be up to USD 20 trillion. Agribusinesses, which are capital- and input-intensive businesses engaged in industrialized agricultural value chains, are at the heart of this system.

Private actors are central to the global food system. The most powerful among them are large agribusinesses and investors, with great potential to transform, at scale and at speed, the way in which food is produced and consumed.

This market is sustained by subsidies, taxes, and regulations shaped by the first lock-in: the cheaper food paradigm, according to which food must be cheap to produce and to buy, even if costly for the environment and human health in the long term (e.g. through overconsumption and

increased waste). The report recommends more regulation and public research to reward sustainable practices and increase the costs of doing business as usual.

This paradigm contributes to two additional lock-ins. The second lock-in is market concentration, whereby the private sector can be resistant to change, competition, or disruptive innovation and limit farmers' agency and income. The third lock-in is investment path dependencies, reflecting trends established over the past 80 years. These dependencies focus on boosting efficiencies and sales, while increasing farmers' reliance on seeds, agrochemicals, and digital platforms controlled by large corporations, but with significant costs to the environment and other sustainable development goals.

There is an urgent need to reform standards and taxation to reflect long-term environmental and health costs. This requires shifting harmful subsidies, increasing investments in public research and development, requirements for transparency, and incentives for protecting healthy soil, reducing emissions, and shifting towards healthier diets.


Consumer actions can accelerate these shifts. A growing number of citizen-led initiatives are increasing scrutiny of agribusiness practices and investor decisions, pushing for reductions in harmful emissions, soil and water pollution, and for improvements in food's nutritional values.

This would result in agricultural machinery and chemical production that are less dependent on fossil fuels; Food sourced from diverse landscapes rather than monocultures; Meat processing could yield greater profits through high-quality, low-impact, high-welfare products, and alternative plant-based or cultivated meats

Overall, the food system can become less input- and technology-intensive, and more diverse and knowledge-intensive. UNEP is committed to supporting the evolution of farming into a protective force of healthy humans, animals, and ecosystems.

---





## Brazil, Italy announce new push and funding on cooling action ahead of COP30

**B**razil and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) have launched a new initiative to address extreme heat through sustainable cooling - Beat the Heat in Cities/Mutirão contra o Calor Extremo - while Italy pledged EUR 2 million in new funding for the Global Cooling Pledge, supporting action on a major contributor to climate change ahead of the COP30 climate summit later this year.

“Sustainable cooling will be a top priority at COP30 because cities, climate, and billions of people depend on it. Through Beat the Heat, our goal is to turn cities into engines of adaptation, drive implementation of the Global Pledge, and make sure no one is left behind as extreme heat accelerates,” said H.E. Ana Toni, CEO of COP30.

The announcements were made in Bonn, Germany, at the first Global Cooling Pledge Signatories Focal Points Meeting. Launched at the 2023 UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) by the UAE Presidency and the UNEP Cool Coalition, the

Global Cooling Pledge (GCP) is the world’s first collective commitment to cut cooling-related climate impact by 68 per cent by 2050, and to extend affordable access for all who need it.

The world has just logged its third year in a row of record-breaking heat, underscoring that extreme heat is now at the sharp edge of climate change. UNEP’s Global Cooling Watch 2023 warned that if current trends continue, rising cooling demand alone could add 6.1 giga tonnes of carbon dioxide by 2050, while more than a billion people still lack access to cooling to keep food, medicine and economies viable.

Brazil has confirmed that sustainable cooling and extreme heat will be a headline priority at COP30 in Belém. Italy also announced new funding for the implementation of the Global Cooling Pledge through UNEP’s new Enabling Pledge Implementation for Cooling (EPIC) Facility. This new initiative will channel technical advice and finance to cities.

---

# Word Scramble

**NNGEAEDERD**  
**NIOSTNMUA**  
**IDELWLIF**

**NGMESVAI**  
**SAQCNE**

**LIEHTCA**  
**LUNSEIASTAB**  
**CEVNSEOR**

60

ANSWERS: 1) VEGANISM 2) MOUNTAINS 3) OCEANS 4) ENDANGERED 5) ETHICAL 6) SUSTAINABLE 7) WILDLIFE 8) CONSERVE

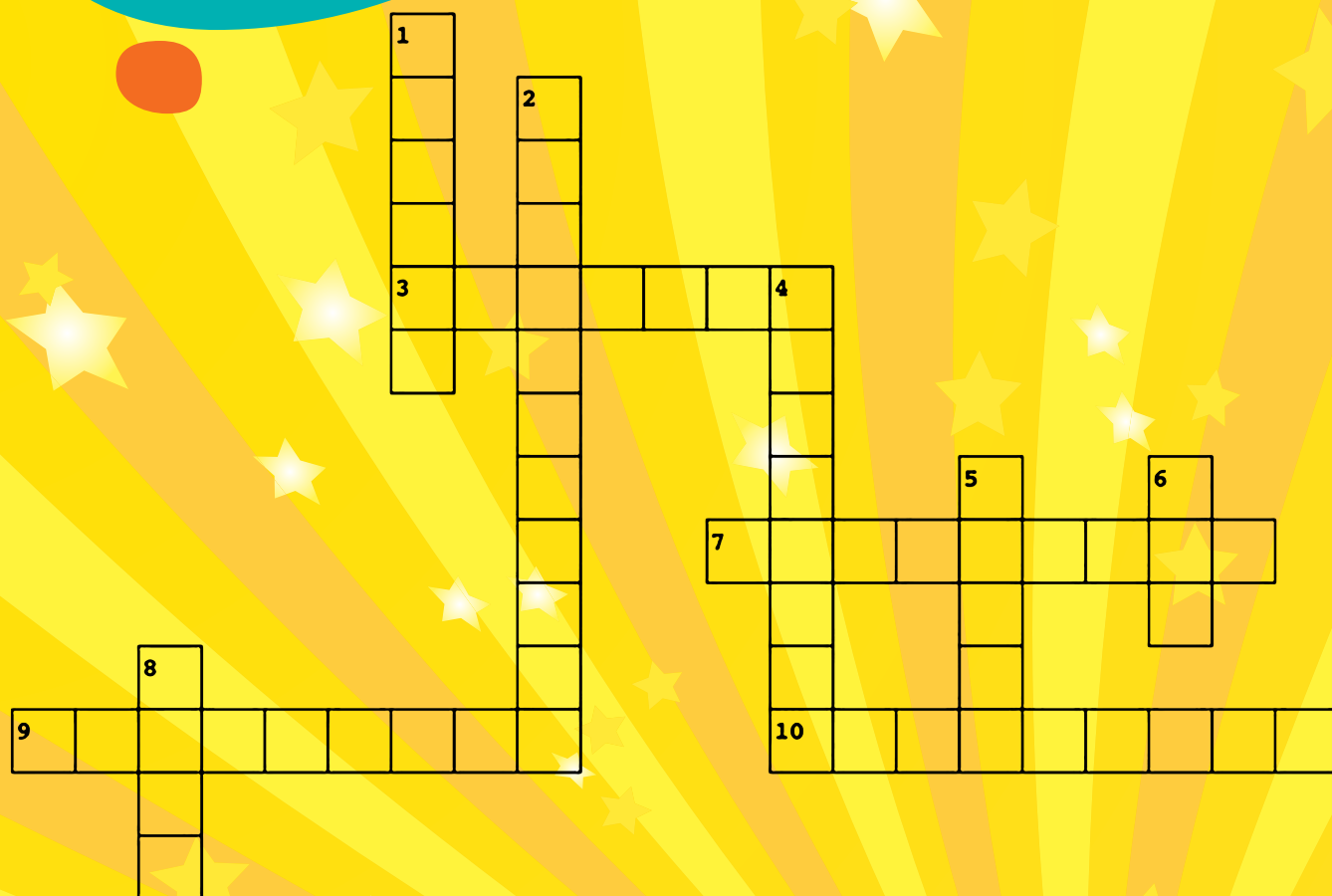
# Word Search

C	O	N	S	E	R	V	E	S	L	E	T	R	A
L	E	T	S	T	R	I	S	S	E	B	S	B	R
P	R	C	A	R	B	O	N	O	I	L	N	B	O
I	G	S	N	O	I	T	C	U	R	T	S	E	D
R	R	A	L	E	E	E	V	A	S	E	E	T	T
T	E	E	B	U	P	L	T	S	E	U	N	S	R
T	E	X	T	N	O	E	A	L	A	B	O	L	G
R	N	T	E	R	R	E	S	T	R	I	A	L	C
I	T	I	S	S	E	L	T	R	U	T	R	I	T
T	G	N	N	E	N	T	E	R	S	S	T	T	T
E	A	C	R	T	E	E	N	A	S	S	N	R	N
S	G	T	O	N	L	R	A	N	A	L	O	E	T
P	E	N	E	T	I	B	L	L	O	B	C	E	A
C	L	P	R	X	V	O	P	S	A	R	R	S	T

GLOBAL  
 CONSERVE  
 CARBON  
 SAVE  
 DESTRUCTION  
 TERRESTRIAL  
 TURTLES  
 PLASTIC  
 TREES  
 EXTINCT  
 GREEN  
 PLANET



# Crossword Puzzle



## Across

- 3. No longer existing
- 7. Change of abode
- 9. Meat eater
- 10. Any animal used or kept for profit

## Down

- 1. Tender of crops
- 2. Capable of being sustained
- 4. Humid climate
- 5. Discarded materials
- 6. Plant seeds
- 8. Lacking sufficient water or rainfall

ANSWERS: 1) FARMER 2) SUSTAINABLE 3) EXTINCT 4) TROPICAL 5) WASTE 6) SOW 7) MIGRATION 8) ARID  
9) CARNIVORE 10) LIVESTOCK



## WORD OF THE DAY:

### CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE

Carbon capture and storage (CCS) is a way of reducing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions, which could be key to helping to tackle global warming. It's a three-step process, involving: capturing the CO<sub>2</sub> produced by power generation or industrial activity, such as hydrogen production, steel or cement making; transporting it; and then permanently storing it deep underground.

CCS involves the capture of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from industrial processes, such as steel and cement production, or from the burning of fossil fuels in power generation. This CO<sub>2</sub> is then transported from where it was produced, via ship or in a pipeline, and stored deep underground in geological formations.

There are three steps to the CCS process:

#### 1. Capturing the CO<sub>2</sub> for storage

The CO<sub>2</sub> is separated from other gases produced in industrial processes, such as those at coal and natural-gas-fired power generation plants or steel or cement factories.

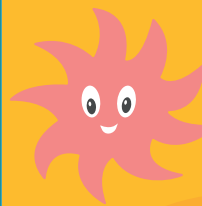
#### 2. Transport

The CO<sub>2</sub> is then compressed and transported via pipelines, road transport or ships to a site for storage.

#### 3. Storage

Finally, the CO<sub>2</sub> is injected into rock formations deep underground for permanent storage.

As well as CCS, there is a related concept, CCUS, which stands for Carbon Capture Utilisation (or sometimes this is termed 'usage') and Storage. The idea is that, instead of storing CO<sub>2</sub>, it could be re-used in industrial processes by converting it into, for example, plastics, concrete or biofuel.



## WORLD SHARK DAY

- JULY 14

World Shark Day is an international observance dedicated to shark preservation and education. It aims to improve public perception of sharks, encourage ocean stewardship, and highlight the importance of protecting shark populations from extinction.

The day is used by marine biologists, conservationists, and animal welfare groups to launch campaigns, host educational programmes, and advocate for policy reform to end destructive practices such as shark finning and bycatch.

Sharks are among the oldest living lineage of species in the ocean, with fossil records dating back at least 420 million years ago. Modern-day sharks have been around for about 100 million years, predating the dinosaurs and even surviving them in the last major extinction event in the Miocene.

Yet today, 1/3 of species are threatened with extinction. Films like *Jaws* and more modern popular programming inspire fear and perpetuate the myth that sharks are vicious.



cold-blooded killers. Many native societies, such as the Hawaiian culture who today offer sharks complete protection, have long revered and respected these magnificent marine predators. Unfortunately, our new cultural depictions of sharks on social media and in programs contribute to the fear and stigma surrounding them, and often reinforce a disregard for their importance and the threats facing them. Over the past 50 years shark numbers have declined by more than 70%, with an associated loss to the biodiversity and ocean ecosystems.

JULY  
29

## INTERNATIONAL TIGER DAY

International Tiger Day is a global event dedicated to raising awareness about the plight of tigers and promoting efforts to protect this majestic species. Over the last century, the global tiger population has declined drastically due to habitat loss and wildlife trafficking. Today, there are more tigers in captivity than in the wild.

International Tiger Day was founded in 2010 at the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit, where leaders from 13 tiger-range countries committed to doubling the number of wild tigers by 2022. Since then, the day has become a global platform for advocacy, awareness, and collaboration, uniting people and organizations in a shared mission to save tigers from extinction.

### Facts About International Tiger Day:

- There are fewer than 4,000 tigers left in the wild today.
- Tigers have lost over 90% of their historic range due to habitat destruction.
- There are six remaining tiger subspecies, with



three already extinct in the last century.

- Tigers are the largest wild cats in the world and can weigh up to 300 kilograms (660 pounds).
- Conservation efforts have helped increase tiger numbers in some countries, demonstrating that recovery is possible with global commitment.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

### Things to Do...

- ☒ Don't waste water
- ☒ Carry a water bottle
- ☒ Reuse paper
- ☒ Recycle waste
- ☒ Volunteer for a cleanup drive

COLOUR ME!





## At COP30, Curupira reinforces Brazil's identity and its bond with nature

With flaming hair, backward feet, and the body of a boy, Curupira is a beloved figure in Brazilian folklore, revered as the guardian of forests and animals. Chosen to be part of the visual identity of COP30 (United Nations Conference on Climate Change), this symbol reflects the Brazilian presidency's commitment to solidifying efforts that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, causing the Earth's warming.

The first recorded reference to Curupira in Brazilian history dates back to 1560. The character's name derives from the Indigenous Tupi-Guarani language, where "curumim" means boy and "pira" means body.

The selection of Curupira as part of COP30's visual identity also serves as a strategic way to engage new generations in understanding the crucial importance of environmental preservation.

"All manifestations of popular tradition can and should serve as a foundation for reflecting on climate issues that affect human beings," says Elaine Oliveira, a professor at the Universidade da Amazônia (UNAMA) and a public policy specialist for culture. "In times of climate catastrophe, introducing the symbolic figure of Curupira, especially to younger audiences, is a fun way to appreciate and share the poetic, oral, and creative stories of our people. It's a form of cultural resistance against the destruction of Brazil's environmental and cultural heritage in the Amazônia."

In a letter addressed to the international



community, COP30 president André Corrêa do Lago asserted that forests will be a "central topic" in discussions at the world's largest environmental debate. He said: "Forests can help us buy time for climate action during this increasingly limited window of opportunity. If we reverse deforestation and restore what has been lost, we can remove massive amounts of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere while bringing ecosystems back to life."

COP30 marks the 10th anniversary of the Paris Agreement, which set national and international goals for limiting global warming to 1.5°C.



## New threats to Bees

**Dr. Eisa M. Abdellatif**

Chief Technical Advisor  
Zayed International Foundation  
for the Environment

66

GREEN FLASH

To mark World Bee Day (May 20), my column last month addressed the challenges facing bees as important pollinators and food providers and called for accelerated efforts to save bees and biodiversity.

In a new article in Ecowatch, Cristen Hemingway Jaynes has highlighted that a new science-led campaign identified 12 emerging threats to bees over the next decade, including war zones, streetlights, and microplastics. This study is important because we cannot prevent serious declines of pollinators without identifying the threats early enough to counteract their impact. Pollinators such as bees, bats, butterflies, and many birds are essential for our food security, climate resilience, and economic viability. As we stated last month, they pollinate almost 90% of the flowering plants and over 75% of all major crops.

Bees are impacted by pesticides, habitat loss, invasive species, and climate change, and some species are now extinct.

A dozen emerging threats to pollinators, ranked by novelty, impact, and ranking from highest to lowest, were listed in the Ecowatch article. These include:

1. Wars and conflicts destroy important habitats, forcing people to grow fewer crop varieties, leaving pollinators without diverse food sources.
2. Microplastic pollution reduces the health and lifespan of pollinators.
3. Poorly planned tree planting to meet net-zero goals.
4. Antibiotic pollution contaminates beehives and honey, affecting pollinator behavior by reducing foraging and flower visits.
5. Air pollution makes pollinator survival, growth, and reproduction more difficult.
6. Increased indoor farming can reduce wild pollinators' natural habitat and spread diseases by introducing managed pollinators to wild populations.
7. A higher demand for mining materials such as cobalt and lithium used in batteries and gold mining damages water and land resources and threatens pollinators.
8. A dangerous mix of pesticides, especially in developing countries, weakens pollinators.
9. Artificial light at night confuses pollinators and reduces flower visits by moths and other nocturnal insects by 62%.
10. Pollution from toxic heavy metals such as mercury and cadmium harms the health, behavior, and survival of pollinators.
11. Larger and more frequent wildfires destroy pollinator habitats, making recovery more difficult.
12. Regional loss of pesticide tracking leads to overuse of these toxic chemicals, killing pollinators, removing floral resources, driving resistance in pests, and damaging the environment.

We must join hands and intensify our research and field programs to offset these serious threats to future life on Earth.



# Emirates Appreciation Award For The Environment

Together for a  
green home



THE FUTURE OF OUR WORLD  
IS IN OUR HANDS.

ACT NOW!

