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# Society & Environment

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creating green communities for a better tomorrow



06

## HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum holds discussions with world leaders at WGS 2024

WGS 2024 'Building Responsible Artificial Intelligence Forum' launched

COP28 launches 'The COP Presidencies Troika' with COP29, COP30 Presidencies

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# Emirates Appreciation Award For The Environment

Together for a  
green home





## Chairman's Message



**Prof. Mohammed bin Fahad**  
Executive Editor

As the UAE concludes yet another successful edition of the World Governments Summit in Dubai, the country has reinforced its position as a catalyst for international collaboration and progress. This annual summit has become a symbol of the UAE's commitment to fostering a united global community and is a testament to the nation's dedication to shaping a collective future.

The UAE, under the visionary leadership of UAE President HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and the dynamic guidance of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, has played a pivotal role in bringing together leaders from diverse nations and cultures, making WGS a platform where the foremost decision-makers converge to address shared challenges and seek innovative solutions.

Every year, as Dubai transforms into a global hub for dialogue and cooperation, the summit encapsulates a genuine desire to propel the world toward a more interconnected and sustainable future. Sheikh Mohammed's leadership has infused the summit with a spirit of optimism, championing dialogue on pressing issues such as environmental sustainability, technological advancement, and social inclusion.

At the heart of the discussions during the 2024 summit was the urgent need for collective action on urgent global issues. The UAE's role in fostering these conversations reflects its understanding that in an interconnected world, collaboration is not just beneficial but essential. The summit facilitated dialogues on climate change, economic disparity, and healthcare challenges, demonstrating the UAE's commitment to addressing humanity's most pressing concerns.

The World Governments Summit represents a tangible force for positive change. It reminds us that to shape a better future for all, nations must work hand in hand to lead us towards a sustainable future.

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# UAE President, Ruler of Dubai welcome world leaders at World Governments Summit 2024

Meetings with heads of state address the importance of collaboration and coordination between world governments

In a resounding call for international cooperation and collective action, UAE President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan called on the international community to seize the opportunity to build a better future on the eve of the World Governments Summit in Dubai.

The UAE President said the annual global gathering serves as a key platform for promoting dialogue and harnessing new ideas in order to tackle pressing issues facing the planet.

The annual event, hosted in Dubai, brought together more than 25 world leaders, 140 governments and 85 international organisations to deliberate on pressing global challenges and collaborative solutions.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, spoke of the crucial responsibility of governments to effect change.

"The UAE believes that real governments are capable of translating people's ambitions into a sustainable reality," His Highness said.

"When government work is afflicted with stalling and procrastination, when it is dependent on happenstance, these are signs of the end of development, and the end of human civilisation itself.



"When governments fail to deliver their mission of leading and enacting change, they waive their entitlement to the present and the future; they retire from life."

During the three-day event, HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid engaged in discussions with world leaders and addressed the importance of collaboration and coordination between governments. In a meeting with Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Qatar, the

Manuel Marrero Cruz, PM of Cuba, and Egypt's Prime Minister Dr. Mostafa Madbouli.

In his meeting with Ajay Banga, President of the World Bank Group, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid discussed global economic issues, recent advancements in the UAE's economic development process and strategies to strengthen cooperation between the UAE and the World Bank Group. This includes enhancing collaboration in exchanging experiences, sharing knowledge and developing national competencies.



Ruler of Dubai emphasised the need to forge common approaches in the face of challenges and anticipate future trends.

During his interaction with Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, the two sides discussed the strong ties between UAE and India and explored ways to strengthen collaboration in various spheres for the mutual benefit of the two nations.

Sheikh Mohammed also met with Masrour Barzani, PM of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq,

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum also met with Arab Youth Ministers taking part in the Arab Meeting for Young Leaders. He also held discussions with Mathias Cormann, Secretary-General of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and discussed global economic issues, the strong relations between the UAE and OECD, and the noteworthy contributions made by OECD in advancing development initiatives on the international stage.



## Zayed International Foundation for the Environment champions climate action at UNEA-6

Under the auspices of the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment in the UAE, the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment participated in the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) in Nairobi, Kenya, from February 26 to March 1, 2024, where world leaders gathered to express determination to accelerate multilateral action on the triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature loss and pollution.

At UNEA-6, Prof. Dr. Mohamed Ahmed Bin Fahad, Chairman of the Higher Committee of the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, Dr. Hamdan K. Al Shaer, Member of the Higher Committee, and Saji Ittoop Thomas, Technical Advisor, engaged in crucial discussions to address global climate challenges and set new milestones in sustainability.

In Nairobi, the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment actively networked and participated in discussions to galvanize collective action on pressing environmental



issues. This participation underscores the Foundation's unwavering commitment to raising awareness about climate challenges and advocating for sustainable solutions.

During their visit, the delegation had the honor of meeting with His Excellency Dr. Salem Ibrahim Al Naqbi, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the UAE to Kenya, to discuss collaborative opportunities to drive impactful change and contribute to global efforts in



addressing environmental challenges. In discussions with the Ambassador's team of officials, the Zayed International Foundation expressed its commitment to forging strategic partnerships that align with its mission of advancing environmental sustainability.

Constructive dialogues were also held at the UNEP Regional Office where Prof. Dr. Mohamed Ahmed Bin Fahad and Dr. Hamdan K. Al Shaer, met with Sami Dimassi, Regional Director and Representative, Regional Office for West Asia,

UNEP. During discussions with Muralee Thummarukudy, Director of G20 Land Initiatives, the Zayed International Foundation also raised the importance of developing national capacities for land restoration.

Following the visit, Prof. Dr. Mohamed Ahmed Bin Fahad, Chairman of the Higher Committee, said: "Participating in UNEA-6 aligns with Zayed International Foundation's commitment to advancing environmental sustainability."

He added, "It is our duty to engage on the global stage, fostering collaborations and driving initiatives that address the urgent climate challenges we collectively face."

Dr. Hamdan K. Al Shaer, Member of the Higher Committee, said: "Our participation in UNEA-6 signifies the Zayed International Foundation's dedication to proactive involvement and enabling tangible solutions for environment challenges. We were at UNEA-6 to contribute, collaborate, and learn, and build partnerships to accelerate efforts in building a sustainable future for all."

More than 7,000 delegates from 182 UN Member States and more than 170 Ministers participated in UNEA-6 this year. The UN Environment Assembly is the world's highest decision-making body on the environment and it meets biennially to shape global environmental policy.





## WGS 2024: Dubai to bolster use of AI for municipal work

Dawoud Al Hajri underscores key axes influencing 'Cities of Opportunity', role of youth in shaping future

Dawoud Al Hajri, Director General of Dubai Municipality, highlighted the trends shaping future cities in his keynote speech during the 'Cities of Opportunity' session at the World Governments Summit (WGS) 2024, held in Dubai, and observed that cities that have succeeded in capitalising on transformative opportunities are the ones leading today's global landscape.

Al Hajri stated, "The capacity to recognise opportunities is one of the primary abilities that leaders and governments must possess. This way, numerous cities have managed to turn enormous obstacles into disruptive breakthroughs and success stories, serving as an inspiration to communities worldwide."

"Several cities have acknowledged the significance of youth and the opportunity they have to shape the future and propel development. There can be no sustained development of societies without active collaboration with the youth as they hold the key to future and innovation," Al Hajri added.

## Cities of Opportunity Framework

In his speech, Al Hajri discussed the five-pillar framework for Cities of Opportunity, which are knowledge economy and technology, culture and society, environment, planning and accessibility, and infrastructure. These pillars serve as the main axes and foundations for cities to recognise possibilities and accelerate their progress. He went on to highlight AI technologies as an example that has high impact on global cities. With its market value approaching USD200 billion at

*Dubai Municipality is leveraging AI solutions and incorporating them into various aspects of municipal work, including waste management and sewage plant treatment*



present, AI has grown in prominence in several fields. As a result, over 60 per cent of government decisions are expected to be based on AI technologies by 2030, with a projected value of USD1.9 trillion, he said.

### Dubai: The City of Opportunities

“One nation that stands out when talking about how opportunities shape the story of urban development is the UAE, which was established 52 years ago. Once a vast desert, our nation – dubbed the ‘miracle country’ – has grown to become one of the most developed in the world

today. The late Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum and late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan have been the catalysts for this change. Their visionary leadership transformed dreams into reality, which the people of the UAE enjoy today,” Al Hajri stated.

“The exceptional accomplishments of the union were made possible by the founding fathers’ ability to transform their goal of unification into a reality. Today, the UAE government ranks among the most effective bodies in the world, owing to its visionary leadership. With the successful

Emirates Mars Mission, the country also embraced space exploration and fulfilled the aspirations of its youth, all of which have contributed to the country's promising future," he further added.

## Leveraging AI

Al Hajri elaborated on Dubai Municipality's strategy for leveraging artificial intelligence solutions and incorporating them into various aspects of municipal work.



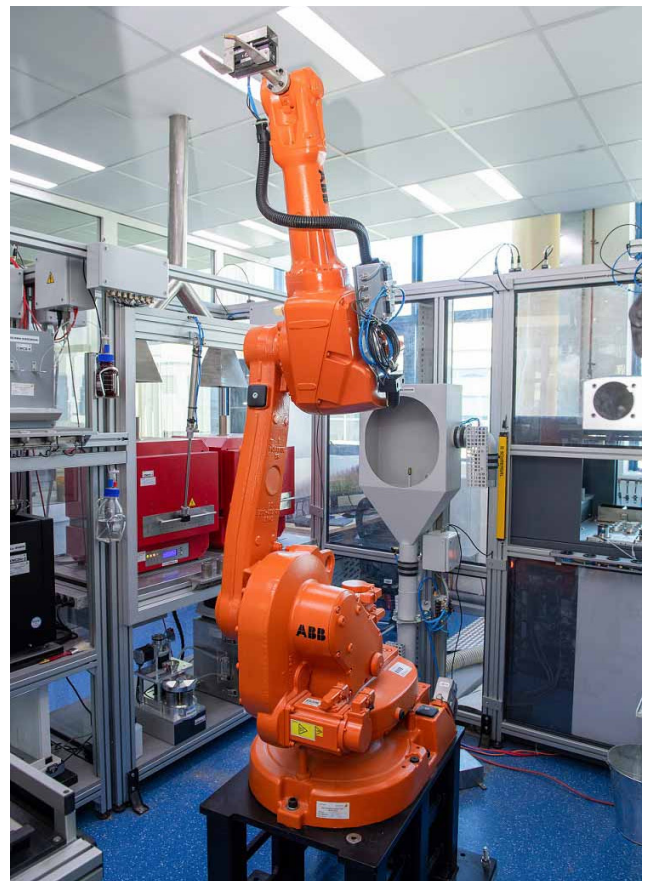
Al Hajri stated, "Dubai Municipality has adopted a proactive stance by using artificial intelligence technologies for urban planning, such as (Urbanist AI). These tools assist planners in generating solutions tailored to urban environments, thereby facilitating accurate changes and advancements, along with significant savings in time and costs."

Further discussing the different opportunities for development in cities, Al Hajri explained, "Waste management still remains a challenge for cities all over the world even today. Dubai Municipality, on the other hand, views it as a significant economic opportunity. Using the biggest waste treatment and energy conversion facility on the planet, we have leveraged waste to

help light 135,000 residential buildings across Dubai. This facility uses cutting-edge technologies, such as artificial intelligence systems that further boost operational efficiency."

Sewage plants treat more than 360 million cubic metres of wastewater each year. Al Hajri emphasised the efforts being made by the Dubai Municipality to take advantage of this resource to launch its innovative 'Green Dubai' program. With the help of recycled water from the Dubai Municipality nursery, the municipality has successfully planted over 700,000 trees in the last five years. This AI-enabled nursery also allows for the production of 90 million seedlings per year.

Dubai Municipality's participation in the WGS 2024 successfully highlighted Dubai's efforts to drive innovation and changes that further improve quality of life.





## UAE President extends Year of Sustainability for 2024

UAE NEWS

**H**is Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, announced that 2024 will be the continuation of the “Year of Sustainability”, building on the success of last year’s theme and reaffirming the nation’s commitment to fostering a sustainable and prosperous future for all.

The announcement was made on X, formerly known as Twitter, to mark the UAE’s National Environment Day.

“On the occasion of National Environment Day, we announce that the Year of Sustainability is extended into 2024, reflecting our ongoing collective commitment to protect and preserve the environment for the benefit of future generations. Building on the UAE Consensus achieved at COP28, we will continue to work hand in hand with the global community to pursue a more sustainable future for all,” the UAE President wrote on X.

The world came together at the summit to sign up

for the UAE Consensus, which called for nations to start cutting back on fossil fuels to achieve net-zero goals by 2050.

Throughout 2023, the Year of Sustainability championed raising awareness of the UAE’s sustainability values, encouraging behaviour changes that inspire collective progress. This year, the Year of Sustainability continues to invite everyone that calls the UAE home to join in the collective effort to adopt sustainable practices through a range of community-driven initiatives and activities themed around sustainability.

The Year of Sustainability team, driven by the achievements of 2023, extends its invitation to individuals and communities to engage in shaping initiatives for the coming year.

All ideas for impactful activities, innovative initiatives, and community-driven projects are welcomed and can be shared via email at [Contact@UAEYearOf.ae](mailto:Contact@UAEYearOf.ae)

# WGS 2024 convenes forum to boost global efforts to achieve UN's SDGs

The forum was launched under the theme “XDGs 2045: Navigating the Future of Our World”

The UAE National Committee for Sustainable Development Goals organised the 8th edition of SDGs in Action forum, as part of the World Governments Summit (WGS) 2024, held in Dubai on 12-14 February. The forum was launched under the theme “XDGs 2045: Navigating the Future of Our World” aimed to exchange best practices for achieving the sustainable development goals and reshaping the common future for the coming generations.

The forum also discussed global challenges by presenting innovative solutions, projects and initiatives to accelerate the creation of sustainable solutions to all major challenges in the world, including technological development, climate change, natural disasters and other challenges.

Participants included Emine Erdoğan, the First Lady of Turkiye; Ohoud bint Khalfan Al Roumi, Minister of State for Government Development

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



and the Future; Hessa bint Essa Buhmaid, Director-General of Dubai's Community Development Authority; Levan Davitashvili, the First Vice Prime Minister, Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development in Georgia; Mukhtar Babayev, Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources for the Republic of Azerbaijan and COP29 President; Rafael Mariano Grossi, Director-General, International Atomic Energy Agency; Devika Vidot, Minister of Investment, Entrepreneurship And Industry of Seychelles; and Paula Ingabire, Minister of ICT and Innovation of Rwanda.

The forum included fruitful dialogue sessions, aiming to shape a prosperous and equitable future for all by shedding light on relevant topics including boosting the pace of growth and change for effective governments, achieving Net Zero, enhancing partnerships and data-driven strategies, modern perspectives on development and future economies, aspirations of future societies, new global transformations, and urban expansion towards new future horizons.

The move complies with the UAE's persistent efforts to make the SDGs a global call to action in order to eradicate poverty, protect the environment, and ensure peace and prosperity.

Amine Erdogan, the First Lady of Turkiye, stated, "We have supported and will continue to support all initiatives aimed at protecting the Earth entrusted to us, ensuring that we leave it as a habitable legacy for future generations. As the polluted sea washes up on all of our shores, as the polluted air poisons us all, and as the severity of global warming burns us all, we cannot continue to fight our battles separately. If there is any hope, it lies in people who step up, are courageous, and exercise common sense in the face of challenges."

Abdulla Nasser Lootah, UAE Deputy Minister of Cabinet Affairs for Competitiveness and

Knowledge Exchange, and Vice-Chairman of the National Committee on SDGs, said, "The UAE, under the guidance of our wise leadership,



continues to move forward towards accelerating the pace of achieving the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals locally and globally. The UAE's efforts transcend borders through global partnerships aiming to help countries and communities around the world, especially those who are less fortunate."

## Landmark UAE Consensus is the 'defining framework for all countries to keep 1.5°C within reach'

The COP28 Presidency's UAE Consensus, a historic set of measures outlining a firm plan to keep the average global temperature rise below 1.5°C, has become the defining point of reference for global climate ambition and sustainable development.

Speaking at the World Governments Summit in Dubai, COP28 President Dr. Sultan Al Jaber noted that the UAE Consensus gives clear direction to all countries to keep 1.5°C within reach. He added that parties must now transition to adopt follow-up steps to ensure global implementation.

Dr. Al Jaber was part of a panel on "Delivering the UAE Consensus Globally - From Agreement to Action," along with the IMF President Kristalina Georgieva, Simon Stiell, the UN Climate Change Executive Secretary, COP29 President-Designate Mukhtar Babayev, and the ministers of environment for Jordan and Bangladesh.





He discussed the transformative achievements of the unprecedented agreement, the critical factors to deliver success and unprecedented action, and what still needs to happen to keep 1.5°C within reach.

Since its inception at COP28, held in Dubai in December, the UAE Consensus has emerged as a defining element of the multilateral climate framework, proving that multilateralism can still work, even at a time of high geopolitical tension. “We rose above geopolitics to make progress for the planet and all people,” Dr. Al Jaber said.

With inclusivity as its guiding principle, COP28 was a success. The UAE brought the spirit of the majlis, which allowed everyone to share on equal terms, and leveraged its relationships with key players - US, China, India and OPEC plus. It also created the USD30 billion ALTERRA fund, the first private investment fund to focus entirely on climate solutions.

The UAE Consensus is now recognized as a landmark agreement reaffirming the UAE position as a global leader in the international climate and development agenda, and more broadly in multilateral settings.

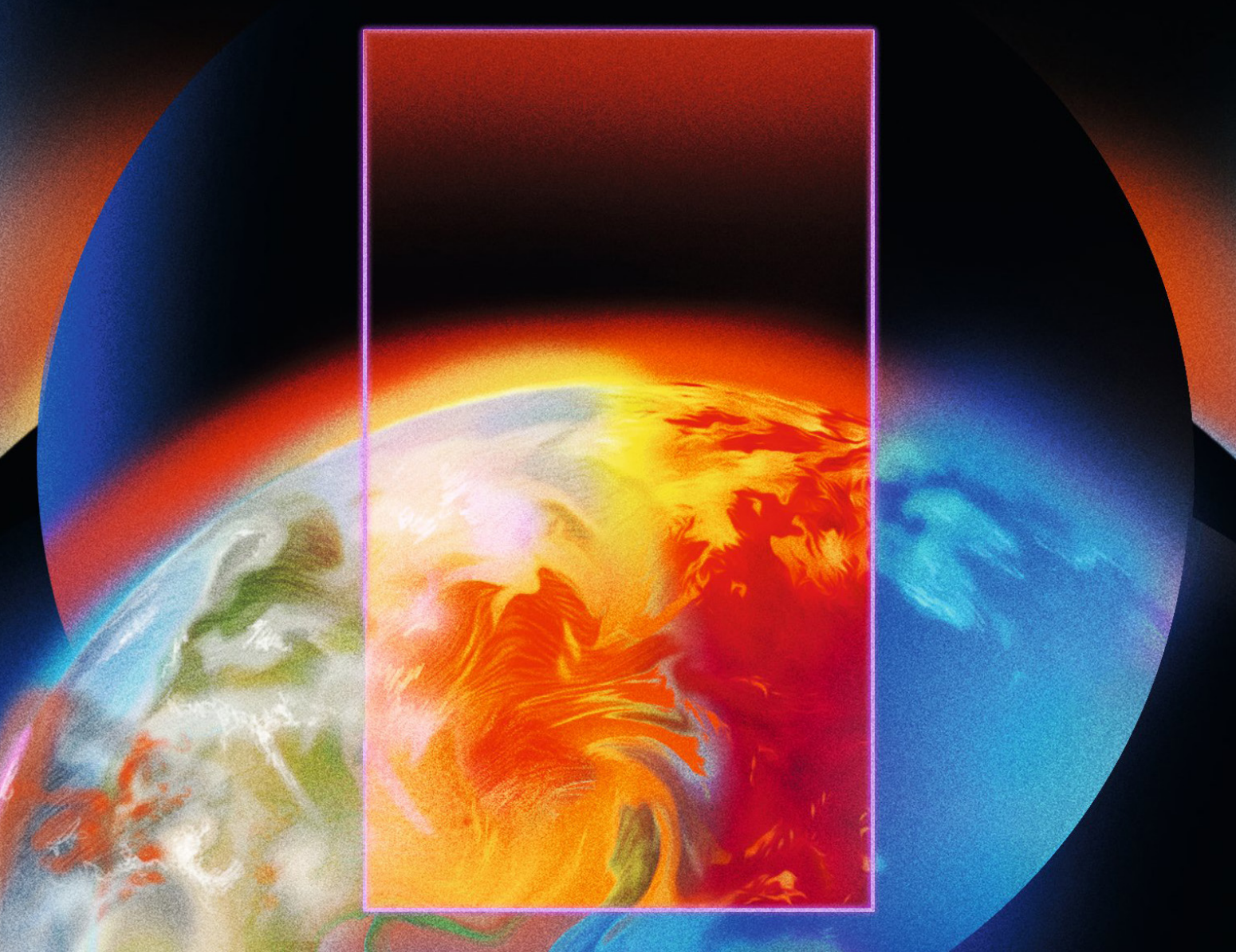
“While there is still a lot of work to do, the consensus laid out a clear roadmap for keeping 1.5°C within reach by delivering a set of world firsts across the climate agenda,” Dr. Al Jaber said. He continued, stating, “To keep 1.5 within reach, we need to double down on tangible action.”

Under the UAE Consensus, all Parties committed to an unprecedented agreement to transition away from fossil fuels for the first time in COP history. They set time-bound targets to expand renewable energy with a goal to triple global capacity, end deforestation, and double energy capacity by 2030. Dr. Al Jaber called for “all Parties who signed the UAE Consensus to meet their commitments and honor their obligations.”

## *The UAE Consensus reaffirms the UAE’s position as a global leader in multilateral climate and development settings*



The UAE Consensus operationalized and began financing a fund to address Loss and Damage. As a first for inclusivity, it established a Youth Climate Champion for all future COPs.



The UAE Consensus called for all industries to leverage their technology, talent, and balance sheets to decarbonize, and it established climate finance as a critical success factor to achieve climate objectives. It also pushed the oil and gas industry to step up, with 40 percent of global oil production committing to zero methane emissions by 2030 and net zero by or before 2050.

The COP28 Presidency also created a meaningful Action Agenda, which centered on fast-tracking a just and orderly energy transition, fixing climate finance, focusing on people, nature, lives and livelihoods, fostering inclusivity, and bringing the energy sector to the table.

To encourage continuity, the UAE is launching the COP Presidencies Troika with Azerbaijan and Brazil, officially linking COP28 with the

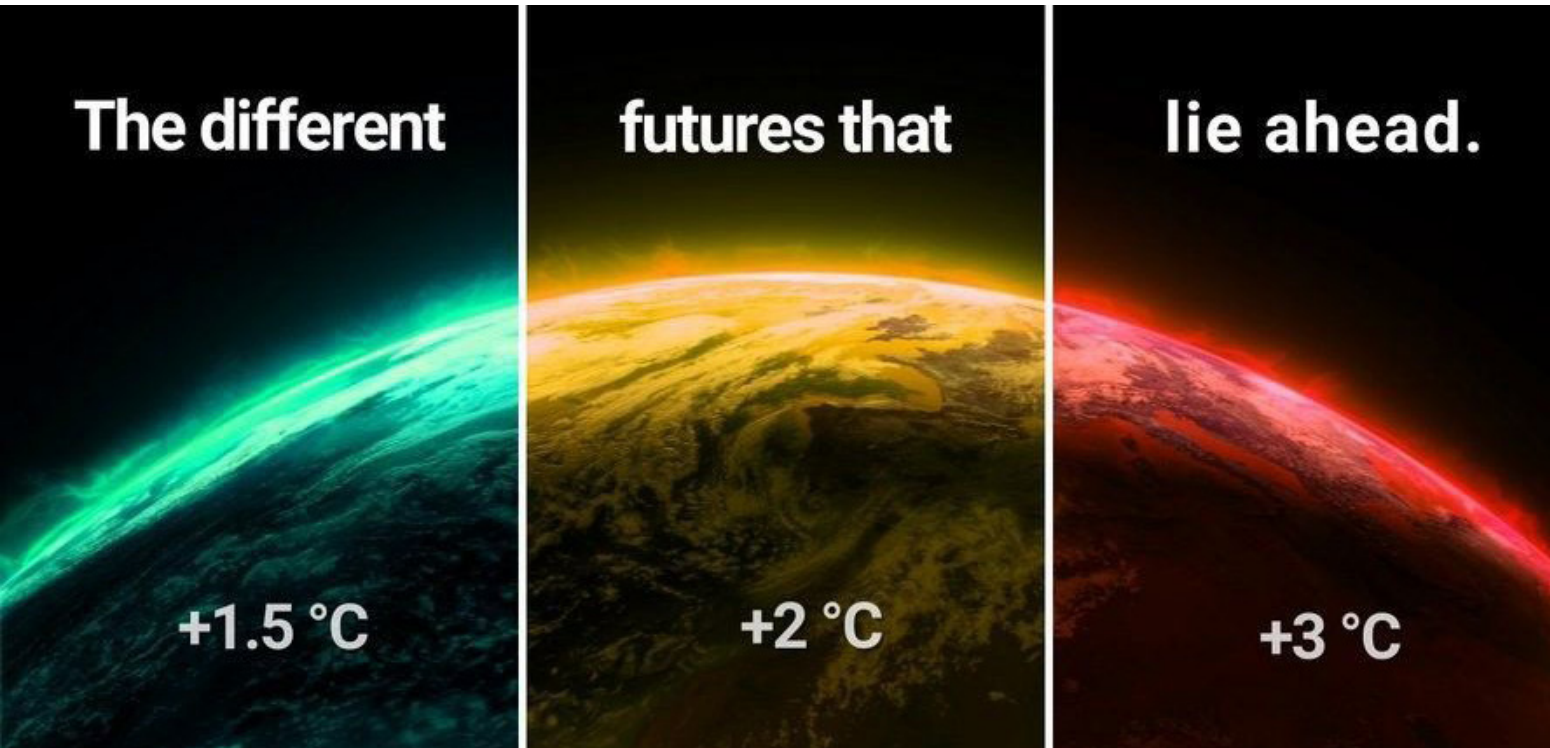
presidencies of COP29 and COP30. Emphasizing the importance of this collaboration, Dr. Al Jaber said, “The troika will maintain momentum, lock in continuity, and anchor implementation.”

“We must use every milestone on the road from Dubai to Baku to Belém to double down on action and turn rhetoric into results,” he said.

Countries must now follow through by enhancing Nationally Determined Contributions, reducing economy-wide emissions, and increasing climate investments.

Following through on climate finance will also be a critical success factor. “Finance is the key enabler across the entire climate agenda,” Dr. Al Jaber said. The New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance will be a critical deliverable for COP29. They need to fully capitalize Loss and

“Polarization and pointing fingers do not drive progress. Solidarity and unity do. That is the lesson of COP28.”



Damage, reform international finance institutions, and leverage the private sector to triple clean tech investments to \$4.5 trillion annually by 2030.

To achieve these goals, governments must adopt a clear mindset shift to significantly transform climate challenges into opportunities and create a new low-carbon model of socio-economic growth, with new industries and new jobs.

During the panel, Dr. Al Jaber also addressed his position as CEO of ADNOC. He noted that his experience across all forms of energy was an asset and his ability to bring the energy sector to the table made the action agenda more meaningful. He noted that ADNOC is aiming for

net zero by 2045.

The world needs to get to net zero by 2050. He said, “The journey to get there will happen in different places at different paces. In a transition that will take time, “maintaining energy security with the lowest carbon intensity is critical.”

Dr. Al Jaber highlighted that this was the first COP that agreed to transition away from fossil fuels. “The results really do speak for themselves,” he said.

“Polarization and pointing fingers do not drive progress,” Dr. Al Jaber said. “Solidarity and unity do. That is the lesson of COP28.”



## WGS 2024: Omar Al Olama inaugurates 'Building Responsible Artificial Intelligence Forum'

AI market to grow by 33 percent in 2024, reaching around USD20 billion by 2025

Omar bin Sultan Al Olama, Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy, and Remote Work Applications, inaugurated the "Building Responsible Artificial Intelligence Forum (BRAIN)" as part of the activities of the World Governments Summit (WGS) 2024, held under the theme "Shaping Future Governments".

The forum brought together technology leaders from around the world to discuss the future of responsible artificial intelligence and envision the future of this promising field through international efforts and the integration of expertise from global technology professionals.

In his opening remarks, Omar Sultan Al Olama emphasised that WGS sheds light on the state of governments, focusing on the path of integration, collaboration, and ways to achieve prosperity. It anticipates the development of the generative artificial intelligence sector, which is experiencing rapid growth globally. "The market is expected to grow by 33 percent in 2024, reaching around USD20 billion by 2025," he said.

AI Olama added, "Approximately 97 million people are expected to work in the field of AI which underscores the need for governments to recognise the potential of this transformative force. Understanding its capabilities is crucial for bringing about fundamental changes and adapt to its various trends to achieve the best possible utilisation of these technologies for the development of the digital economy."

In a panel session, Jack Hidary, CEO, SandboxAQ,



discussed the 'Next Wave of Intelligent Solutions' to explore the frontiers of AI beyond Large Language Models (LLMs) and the rise of humanoid robots and how these technologies impact society. The session further delved into their potential, challenges, and ethical considerations, offering insights into the future they are creating.

In the session, 'Embedding Trust in the AI Data Pipeline', AJ Abdallat, President and CEO of Beyond Limits; Arya Bolurfrushan, CEO of Applied AI Company; and Gary Kazantsev, Head of Quant

Technology Strategy at Bloomberg, highlighted the importance of building trust in AI data, considering its integration and impact on various sectors. 'AI: Lifeline Or Landmine?' featured a dialogue with Yann Lecun, Meta Chief AI Officer, and addressed AI's impact on society and the myths and misconceptions that often cloud public understanding of AI.

'The Intersection of Responsible AI and Scientific Discovery' brought together Prof. Serge Haroche, Nobel Prize Laureate in Physics 2012 and Greg Wilson, Worldwide Public Sector Government Chief Technology Officer at Microsoft moderated by Dr. James Canton, CEO and Chairman of the Institute for Global Futures. They explored the transformative potentials of AI and its trajectory in the coming years, its capability in redefining the essence of scientific research and its role in enhancing the role of human scientists.

Dr. Werner Vogels, CEO at Amazon offered insights from his tech journey and Amazon's culture of innovation as he delved into the impact of AI, offering a unique historical perspective on its evolution and the positive impact AI has already been making on society and environment. The session moderated by Dr. Tariq bin Hendi, Senior Partner in Global Ventures and highlighted the importance of accessible technology and collaborative AI development across industries.

A session hosted by the UN AI Advisory Body gathered His Excellency Amandeep Gill, Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology, UN; Carme Artigas, Co-Chair AI high-level advisory body, UN; Omar Sultan Al Olama, UAE Minister of State; and Philip Thigo, Advisor in the Government of Kenya to discuss the promotion of AI for rapid progress in various fields, including healthcare, education, economy, and others.

The session delved into the responsible role of AI in enhancing the functioning of governments and societies and achieving the SDGs by 2030.



## WGS 2024: UAE takes lead in future readiness indices

The UAE government ranked first globally in the government's rapid responsiveness to change, according to the first edition of the Future Possibilities Index

The UAE has made remarkable strides in future readiness indices, a testament to its visionary leadership's emphasis on forward-thinking and proactive planning.

Underpinning this progress is a commitment to innovation as the cornerstone of comprehensive development, aligning closely with the vision of President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai.

As part of its strategy to bolster future readiness, the UAE unveiled the 'Principles of the 50', a document that sets forth 10 principles for the UAE, which all government agencies must adhere to and use as guidelines for all their decisions. It also launched "Projects of the 50", a series of developmental and economic projects that aim to accelerate the UAE's development, transform it into a comprehensive hub in all sectors, and establish it as an ideal destination for talents and investors.

These initiatives support the nation's journey towards a future-focused framework, prioritising the development of a globally competitive economy, driving investments in human capital, education, talent attraction, and the promotion of digital, technological, and scientific excellence.

According to the Future Possibilities Index (FPI) report by Newsweek Vantage International and the Swiss Horizon Group, the UAE ranked first globally in 20 indicators, 23rd globally, and 1st in the Arab world in the overall FPI ranking.



The UAE government ranked 1st globally in the government's rapid responsiveness to change, 2nd globally after Singapore in the government vision index, ahead of both Britain and South Korea. It also ranked 2nd globally in the government support of the entrepreneurship environment, ahead of Singapore, Switzerland, the United States and Denmark, and 3rd globally in long-term future planning and future government strategy.

The UAE also ranked 1st globally in 20 indicators, namely government's responsiveness to change,

developing future policies and launching proactive government initiatives. The UAE further ranked 1st globally in the attractiveness and stability of global talent, the number of competitive working-age talent, future digital software developers, the number of international tertiary education students, the size of the UAE market with its consumer spending potential, as well as ICT connectivity, mobile broadband subscriptions and speed, and internet users.

To further enhance governmental preparedness for the future, the Government Development and the Future Office has launched the "UAE Future Mission", a national platform for the proactive design of qualitative projects that advance the work of entities and enhance the readiness of government work for the future.

The UAE Future Mission is set to empower government entities in the future agenda. This will be achieved by jointly designing initiatives to enhance the UAE's readiness for the future, involving collaboration between the Government Development and the Future Office and various government entities. The participating entity in the mission will take responsibility for implementing the readiness project, aiming to achieve clear results and specific impact.

Incentivising institutions to embrace forward-thinking initiatives, the UAE introduced the "Future Fit Seal", a national symbol recognising forward-thinking and innovative projects undertaken by federal and local government institutions. Future Fit Seal awarded government projects invest in future-oriented skills. They implement advanced technologies to achieve practical readiness for the future and demonstrate tangible and impactful outcomes.

The Future Fit Seal focuses on priority sectors such as the new economy, food and water security, environmental sustainability, and future technologies, skills, and quality of life.

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## COP28 launches 'The COP Presidencies Troika' in partnership with COP29, COP30 Presidencies

The COP Presidencies Troika unites COP28 with the next two COP Presidencies - Azerbaijan and Brazil - to drive ambitious collective climate action

COP28 has launched a partnership with Azerbaijan and Brazil, who will host COP29 and COP30 respectively, to improve cooperation and continuity between current and future COP Presidencies, leading to increased climate action in support of 'Mission 1.5°C'.

The partnership, known as The COP Presidencies Troika, marks the first time that a current COP Presidency has been formally mandated to unite with two future presidencies to foster international cooperation to stimulate ambition. COP28 President Dr. Sultan Al Jaber emphasized the importance of this partnership, stating, "The Troika represents critical and unprecedented collaboration to maintain momentum, lock in continuity and anchor implementation."

The Troika, which means group of three, will help to ensure the delivery of the Presidencies' collective responsibilities and support of global priorities, which in turn will transform agreement into action by government and non-government stakeholders



Speaking at the launch of the Troika, held in Expo City Dubai, COP28 President Dr. Sultan Al Jaber said: "COP28 delivered a groundbreaking COP, that culminated in The UAE Consensus.

"At COP28, Parties mobilized behind historic climate action through both the negotiations and their commitments to the Presidential Action Agenda. The Troika helps ensure we have the collaboration and continuity required to keep the North Star of 1.5°C in sight - from Baku to Belém and beyond. The breakthroughs we all achieved at

and the international enabling environment to stimulate ambition in the next round of nationally determined contributions, with a view to enhancing action and implementation over this critical decade and keeping 1.5°C within reach."

Dr. Al Jaber said: "The UAE Consensus included a clear mandate for the three Presidencies-the UAE, Azerbaijan and Brazil-to cooperate on the 'Roadmap to Mission 1.5°C'. We will be working together through the COP Presidencies Troika, with our friends in Baku and Brazil, to ensure that



COP28 must carry forward to COP29 and 30 - in ambitious nationally determined contributions, climate finance follow through, and accelerated implementation."

An agreement for the three Presidencies to work together on a 'Roadmap to Mission 1.5°C' was mandated by the UAE Consensus. Supported by all 198 Parties, this agreement must now be actioned under the COP Presidencies Troika.

The agreement states that the partnership will "significantly enhance international cooperation

promises made in Dubai are fulfilled through closer, focused partnerships and credible support to enable delivery."

COP29, in Baku, Azerbaijan, is expected to agree on a New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on climate finance to respond to the needs and priorities of developing countries. The adoption of the NCQG will constitute the most significant climate finance milestone since the 2009 commitment by developed countries to a goal of mobilizing jointly USD 100 billion a year by 2020

to address the needs of developing countries.

Building on both the UAE Consensus and the outcomes of Baku, at COP30 in Brazil, the Troika's laser focus on the 2025 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) round will ensure that countries' individual commitments deliver ambitious climate action.

COP29 President-Designate Mukhtar Babayev, Azerbaijan's Minister for Ecology and Natural Resources, joined Dr. Al Jaber, and highlighted:

*The UAE, Azerbaijan and Brazil will work on the 'Roadmap to Mission 1.5°C'*



“We are committed to leveraging our strength as a bridge builder between the developed and developing world as host of COP29, to accelerate efforts to keep 1.5 in reach. Key to that will be establishing a new climate finance goal that reflects the scale and urgency of the climate challenge. And equally important, unlocking those funds and getting them to the nations that need them most.”

Following the launch of the Troika, Simon Stiell, the UN Climate Change Executive Secretary, said: “The unity of this Troika will help deliver on the ambition needed to tackle climate change, through collaboration, cooperation and coordination. This is an opportunity to cement

what was agreed at COP28, ensure that it is enabled by COP29 and the subsequent actions taken at COP30 with new ambitious NDCs - shifting finance from trickles to torrents and delivering 1.5°C aligned NDCs.”





## Wasit Wetland Centre joins Wetlands International

UAE NEWS

**W**asit Wetland Centre has been admitted to the Wetland International membership as part of the continuing endeavours of the Environment and Protected Areas Authority in Sharjah (EPAA) to support wildlife and maintain biodiversity in the Emirate of Sharjah.

With 350 members across six continents, Wetland International is a worldwide network of wetland organisations. Recognised formally by an MoU with the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, it is an essential tool for educational wetland centres and Ramsar Convention contracting parties. Wetlands CEPA allows them to create communication programmes, educate the public about community-level educational activities and training programmes, share knowledge, and provide useful conservation equipment.

At the event, Hana Saif AlSuwaidi, the chairperson of Sharjah's Environment and Protected Areas Authority, received the official certificate of membership from the Wetlands International

network. According to Aisha AlMidfa, the centre's director, the Wasit Wetland Centre is situated at the point where Sharjah city's land meets the sea. It is made up of enormous sand dunes, ponds with fresh water, mudflats, and coastal lakes with saline water. Wildlife in wetland regions rely on it for various reasons including food, shelter, safety, and the best possible conditions for nesting and reproducing.

She explained that at the Centre, visitors can connect with birds, both in the large aviaries and at the multiple bird-watching stations located throughout the site.

The centre is home to more than 60 species of resident and migratory birds, providing visitors with a unique opportunity to observe these birds in their natural habitat. The centre also offers a variety of educational programs and activities that teach visitors about the importance of coastal birds and the threats they face.



## ‘ALTÉRRRA investment vehicle aims to mobilize USD250 billion by 2030’

ALTÉRRRA was launched at COP28 with a USD30 billion commitment from the UAE, making it the world’s largest private investment vehicle for climate change action

ALTÉRRRA, the USD30 billion climate investment fund launched at COP28, aims to become the “fund of choice” for the climate transition, with its structure, scale and scope and focus on innovation and partnerships enabling it to steer private markets towards climate investments and focus on transforming emerging markets and developing economies, its chief executive officer said in a special session at the World Government Summit.

The UAE has committed USD30 billion to ALTÉRRRA, making it the world’s largest private investment vehicle for climate change action, and the fund aims to mobilize USD250 billion globally by 2030, HE Ambassador Majid Al Suwaidi, COP28 Director-General and ALTÉRRRA CEO, said in a panel session.

The panel session included Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin, Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund; Rajiv Dhar, Board Member of the National Infrastructure Investment Fund and Head of US India Green

Fund; Arvind Ramamurthy, Chief Market Development Officer at Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM); Samir Suleymanov, Director of Finance at COP28 and was moderated by Mercedes Monserrate, CEO of the Global Climate Finance Center (GCFC).

Ambassador Al Suwaidi said, “The vision for ALTÉRRRA was borne out of the COP28 Presidency’s Action Agenda focus on how we can make climate finance more available, accessible and affordable for all, and remove barriers

Investment Fund & Head of US India Green Fund, said “There is a need for blended finance for meeting the climate goals of Global South. ALTÉRRRA is a pathbreaking initiative of UAE and will have a significant impact on emerging and developing economies.”

ALTÉRRRA features an innovative two-part structure, designed to both bridge the gap in investment into the solutions needed to keep the world on the 1.5°C pathway, drive investment into the Global South, and create new investment



impeding investment – especially into the Global South. ALTÉRRRA is a key element in the COP28 Presidential Action Plan to help drive climate investment to the solutions and markets where it is most needed.”

ALTÉRRRA has been designed to be as innovative as possible to maximize its impact and unlock capital flows to tackle challenges head-on, Ambassador Al Suwaidi said.

Rajiv Dhar, Board Member, National Infrastructure

opportunities and strategies for emerging markets and developing economies (EMDEs).

The first arm, ALTÉRRRA ACCELERATION, with USD 25 billion, is designed to steer the much-needed capital towards investments at scale to accelerate the transition to a net-zero and climate-resilient economy. The second arm, the USD 5 billion ALTÉRRRA TRANSFORMATION, is designed to provide risk mitigation capital to further incentivize investment flows into the Global South.

“Transforming the global economy towards a net-zero and climate-resilient pathway will require a transformation of the climate finance landscape and ALTÉRRRA will play a key role in that transformation,” Ambassador Al Suwaidi said. “ALTÉRRRA’s mission is to mobilize investment at scale, stimulating innovation and underpinning the UAE’s efforts to create a global green finance ecosystem that can bridge investors and markets and ensures that money flows to where it is most needed, in alignment with the objectives of The UAE Consensus.”

*ALTÉRRRA is a key component of the UAE’s commitment and contribution to climate finance*



ALTÉRRRA’s efforts to spur new ideas, incentivize policy and regulatory frameworks, and identify solutions to rapidly deploy capital across the entire value chain will create a multiplier effect in climate-focused investment, helping it to achieve the target of mobilizing USD 250 billion in the next seven years. Innovative partnerships will be key to the success of ALTÉRRRA, Ambassador Al Suwaidi said.

ALTÉRRRA is making good progress on the commitments made at COP28, where in collaboration with BlackRock, Brookfield and TPG it committed USD 6.5 billion to climate-dedicated funds for global investments, including the Global South, the ambassador said.

Alterra is focused on the success of the Emerging Market transition funds launched with Brookfield and TPG that are purpose-built to attract institutional capital into markets that have to date been chronically underinvested.

ALTÉRRRA has a dedicated investment focus on four pillars that underpin the priorities of the COP28 Action Agenda: the energy transition, industrial decarbonization, sustainable living and climate technologies. In total, COP28 mobilized more than USD85 billion in direct climate finance pledges, with 11 pledges and declarations made under the Action Agenda.



## UAE and Lithuania partner to promote sustainable food systems

PARTNERSHIP

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania to collaborate in developing sustainable food systems, supporting agricultural and food exchange, and investing in the agriculture sector.

The MoU was signed by Mohammed Saeed Al Nuaimi, Undersecretary of MOCCA, and Vytenis Tomkus, Vice-Minister at the Ministry of Agriculture of Lithuania, in Dubai.

This collaboration focuses on knowledge exchange and best practices in organic agriculture, sustainable food systems, climate-smart agriculture, food safety, as well as plant and animal health. The MoU includes sharing knowledge on organic agriculture and sustainable farming, soil improvement techniques, climate change mitigation, nature conservation, food safety, ensuring the quality and safety of agricultural products.

The areas of cooperation also encompass enhancing research and collaboration between universities or research institutes and technology in sectors of common interest.

### 233-million-euro investments in climate projects

The European Commission is investing over 233 million euros in 12 new strategic projects across Europe under the LIFE programme to support the implementation of the EU's environmental and climate ambitions under the European Green Deal. These strategic projects are expected to mobilise substantial additional funds from other EU sources, as well as from national governments and private sector investment.

The funding awarded will support Bulgaria, Czechia, Ireland, Spain, France, Italy, Lithuania, Austria, Poland and Finland to reach their national environmental and climate targets as they ramp up their contributions to the EU's green transition.



**WORLD  
GOVERNMENT  
SUMMIT**

**COP28UAE**

## **COP28 UAE advances climate and health financing efforts at World Governments Summit**

The session ‘Breaking Down Silos in Development Financing for Climate and Health’ was jointly convened by COP28, Reaching the Last Mile, and the Office of the Development at the UAE Presidential Court

The World Governments Summit showcased new policy and disbursement plans to implement the historic climate-health commitments made at COP28, with strong support from financiers to ensure sustained momentum in 2024.

The event - titled ‘Breaking Down Silos in Development Financing for Climate and Health’ - followed from Health Day at COP28 which saw 148 countries sign on to a landmark political Declaration with USD1 billion of initial finance for implementation.

The session outlined priority projects and programs for the climate-health nexus, building on the ‘COP28 Guiding Principles on Financing Climate and Health Solutions’, which were endorsed by over 40 major climate and health financiers committed to impactful, equitable, and timely investment. Key speakers included H.E. Khumbize Kandodo Chiponda, Malawi’s Minister of Health; Peter Sands, Executive Director of the Global Fund; Ajay Tandon, Lead



Economist at the World Bank and Naina Batra, CEO of Asian Venture Philanthropy Network.

In his opening remarks, COP28 UAE Chief Executive Adnan Amin said, “What we achieved at COP28, together with our partners, was historic. We must maintain this focus and accelerate efforts to make the financing required available, in line with the Guiding Principles on Financing Climate and Health Solutions which we launched with over 40 partners at COP28. Carrying forward the health legacy of COP28 in 2024 and beyond

said “The growing frequency of severe weather phenomena is causing sudden spikes in diseases and fatalities. Air pollution is leading to over 7 million excess deaths per year. It’s a harsh reality that those least responsible for climate change are often the first to suffer its impacts.”

He said that COP28’s achievements can lead to transformative change in global health. “By aligning our efforts with climate financing, we can accelerate progress towards achieving universal health coverage in the face of climate



will deliver vast social and economic benefits, including through our efforts to transition away from fossil fuels and address increasingly severe climate impacts.”

Minister Chiponda emphasized the urgent need for action and said Malawi is committed to addressing the climate-health intersection through collaborative partnerships and strategic investments, prioritizing community well-being.

Peter Sands, Executive Director, The Global Fund

change. The climate crisis is a health crisis – and saving human lives must be our North Star for ambitious climate and health action.”

COP28, under the Presidency of the UAE, was a breakthrough moment for climate and health. The significant political and financial commitments made at the COP28 conference in December. COP28 marked a global first in recognizing the urgent need to protect human health and to invest in resilient and inclusive health systems.

## Al Dahak calls for uniting efforts to protect environment, conserve resources on National Environment Day

Her Excellency Dr. Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak, Minister of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA), has affirmed that extending the 'Year of Sustainability' into 2024, as announced by HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, reflects the nation's commitment to embedding sustainability across all sectors and instill these practices in the behavior of society and future generations.

The goal is to build on the UAE's achievements in this field and increase its contribution to confronting global climate challenges and protecting the planet. This initiative builds on the success of COP28 and the historic UAE Consensus.

Her Excellency emphasized that His Highness's statement serves as a powerful incentive for the MOCCA, which led national efforts for COP28, to continue working with relevant authorities



and engaging the community towards achieving Net Zero by 2050.

On the 27th National Environment Day, held under the theme “Together for a Sustainable Local Product”, HE Dr. Al Dahak urged collaboration among various stakeholders from the public, private sectors, and the community to continue to protect the environment and conserve our resources. She also reiterated the importance of supporting local products and raising awareness about transforming our food systems to become more sustainable, resilient, and locally sourced.

She said: “On National Environment Day, the UAE renews its commitment to addressing challenges facing our planet and reaffirms its determination to build on the legacy and environmental stewardship of our founding father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

“Achieving a sustainable food supply requires innovation, collaboration, and dialogue with crop and livestock farmers, as well as fisheries. The MOCCAE is helping drive these conversations and is supporting individuals spearheading the development and sustainability of the nation’s local produce.”

HE Dr. Al Dahak praised the work of these groups, saying, "On National Environment Day, let's enhance collaboration, and engage in meaningful dialogues with farmers, livestock farmers, and fishermen, who are the backbone of the security of food we have established in the UAE. We must eliminate obstacles, enabling them to contribute effectively to boosting our local products."

Her Excellency added: "From the food we consume to the products we purchase and the water we use, every choice influences our environment. While our food systems address humanity's fundamental needs, they also contribute to one-third of global greenhouse gas emissions." HE Dr. Al Dahak urged all stakeholders, including public

*27th National Environment Day was held under the theme “Together for a Sustainable Local Product”*



and governmental bodies, relevant organizations, and the community, to unite in championing local products in the UAE, empowering those leading us towards this goal.

This year's theme focused on engaging with local producers and the community to increase domestic food production and consumption.

Sustainable local produce plays a crucial role in promoting community and environmental health. Opting for local products not only ensures sustainable access to quality and nutritious food for people in the UAE, but it also reduces emissions and actively contributes to the growth of local businesses and the community's economic prosperity.

*Food systems address humanity's fundamental needs, they also contribute to one-third of global greenhouse gas emissions*



This year's National Environment Day builds on the success of COP28, held in the UAE last year, where food systems sat at the heart of negotiations and climate progress.

During COP28, over 159 Heads of State and Government, representing a combined population of over 6.2 billion people, endorsed the 'COP28 UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems and Climate Action'. The Declaration recognizes the potential of agriculture and food systems to drive innovative responses to climate change, and ensure safe, sufficient, affordable, and nutritious food for all.

The nation's Net Zero by 2050 Strategy was

launched prior to the start of COP28. It set out a plan for how the country will build on the momentum created by its Third Update to the Second Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), moving from 40% emission reduction by 2030, to Net Zero by 2050.

MOCCA considers it imperative that alongside innovation and technology, the entire supply chain works collaboratively to ensure we produce, source, consume, and dispose of food sustainably.

National Environment Day activities in the UAE will continue through to World Environment Day on June 5, 2024.

# ONE HEALTH



## 'One Health' biosecurity programme launched in Abu Dhabi

UAE NEWS

The Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority (ADAFSA) has announced the launch of its 'One Health' biosecurity programme, which aims to promote the integration of human, animal and plant health and the environment.

The announcement was made during a workshop organised by ADAFSA and attended by international organisations including the World Health Organisation (WHO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and relevant federal and local government agencies.

The One Health Biosecurity Programme is an innovative initiative reflecting Abu Dhabi's dedication to cross-sectoral integration, ensuring the health and safety of the community and the environment. This involves establishing an effective monitoring system to track and monitor health conditions associated with each sector,

developing preventive policies and measures to limit the spread of diseases and epidemics, and enhancing the sustainability of natural resources.

The Biosecurity Programme comprises eight key initiatives aimed at establishing an effective surveillance system based on the monitoring of human, animal, plant and environmental health conditions in Abu Dhabi. This includes analysing data to identify and assess risks and take the necessary preventive and corrective measures. In addition, the programme focuses on developing policies and measures to reduce the spread of diseases and epidemics, promoting awareness and education on biosecurity requirements.

The programme also aims to facilitate integration across sectors such as health, agriculture, environment, industry and education. It emphasises the exchange of information and data between stakeholders to develop joint plans and programmes in line with the strategic objectives of the initiative.



## Sixth phase of USD1.5bn Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park secures financial closure

Built and operated by Masdar, the phase will add 1,800MW of clean energy to DEWA's total output and power 540,000 houses

Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) and Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company (Masdar) have announced the financial closing of the 1800-megawatt sixth phase of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park, the largest single-site solar park in the world. The solar park's capacity will exceed 5,000 megawatts by 2030, with investments totalling approximately AED 50 billion. This is a new milestone in promoting the use of clean and renewable energy in the UAE.

Masdar was selected as the Preferred Bidder to build and operate the 1,800MW 6th phase of the Solar Park using photovoltaic solar panels based on the Independent Power Producer (IPP) model, with costs up to AED 5.5 billion. This phase will provide clean energy for approximately 540,000 residences and will reduce around 2.36 million tonnes of carbon emissions annually. The project will cover an area of 20 sq kms. In addition, the 6th phase has achieved the lowest Levelized Cost of Energy (LCOE) of USD1.6215 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) in the Solar Park.

HE Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, MD & CEO of DEWA, said: “DEWA is implementing the sixth phase of the solar park in cooperation with Masdar, using the latest solar photovoltaic bifacial technologies with single-axis tracking.

The current production capacity at the solar park is 2,627MW and the total capacity under construction is 2033 MW. In its sixth phase, the solar park will see the total production capacity increase to 4,660MW by 2026. DEWA will have around 27% of the generation mix sourced from

*The AED 5.5 billion project will reduce carbon emissions by 2.36 million tonnes annually*



clean energy sources by 2030.”

For the 6th phase of the Solar Park, DEWA established Shuaa Energy 4 in partnership with Masdar. DEWA owns 60% of the company, whereas Masdar owns the remaining 40%.

Mohamed Jameel Al-Ramahi, Masdar CEO, said: “The UAE continues to demonstrate leadership in delivering cutting edge clean energy solutions which have attracted the interest and confidence of the investment community. Accessing capital is fundamental to accelerating the global energy

transition and the expansion of the Solar Park is an important milestone for the UAE in its own clean energy journey. Masdar aims to further deepen our partnership with DEWA as we work collectively to support the country’s National Energy Strategy 2050 and the UAE Consensus.”

The lending group to the project includes Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank, Commercial Bank of Dubai, First Abu Dhabi Bank, HSBC, Standard Chartered Bank, Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank and Warba Bank.



## UAE's first integrated battery recycling plant opens in Dubai

Fully integrated battery recycling plant will contribute to the goals of UAE Circular Economy Policy 2031 and Dubai Integrated Waste Management Strategy 2041

The UAE's first fully integrated battery recycling plant was formally inaugurated at Dubai Industrial City, part of TECOM Group, marking a significant step towards a circular economy and sustainable industrial development.

Launched by Dubatt Battery Recycling, the Dhs 120m facility has a built-up area of 65,000 square feet and features advanced battery breaking, separating, smelting and refining technologies to safely extract hazardous waste from used lead acid batteries. The facility will recycle up to 80 per cent of battery waste produced in the UAE to manufacture lead ingots.

The ingots manufactured will be used to produce new batteries, creating a circular economy that furthers the UAE's sustainability agenda. Battery products manufactured at the end of the production cycle will be sold in the UAE and exported across the GCC, Europe, and Far East, supporting the Make it in the Emirates initiative to strengthen the supply chain for locally manufactured products.



Speaking at the event, His Excellency Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri, Minister of Economy, said: “The opening of the Dubatt factory, with its advanced technology in the field of battery recycling, is an important step forward in support of the goals of the circular economy agenda and emphasises the pivotal role that the manufacturing sector plays in achieving them. It also aligns with the “valorisation of industrial waste” policy, which was recently approved by the Council of Ministers with the aim of encouraging the reuse of industrial waste. The move confirms the policy of integrated

introducing dedicated lines for lead billets, wires and lead shots, in addition to a grinding, and granulation line for 3,600 MT of battery plastics, 5,000 MT of lithium batteries, and 7,000 MT of e-waste.

Shamsudheen Binmohideen, Chairman of Dubatt, added: “The UAE generates around 72,000 to 96,000 tonnes of used batteries every year, and this encouraged us to develop a homegrown solution to ensure their proper recycling. Dubatt’s project aims to energise the Dubai Integrated



management of recyclable materials as one of the efforts that drives the UAE’s shift towards a circular economy model.”

The plant’s inauguration follows months of trials to complete approval and audit processes with government and environmental stakeholders, and its planned expansion, spanning 50,000 sq.ft. of built-up area, is expected to raise Dubatt’s turnover to AED 200 million. Upon completion, the AED 96 million expansion will raise the factory’s lead acid battery recycling capacity to 75,000 metric tonnes (MT) a year, in addition to

Waste Management Strategy 2041 by leveraging Dubai Industrial City’s supportive ecosystem.”

The improper disposal of battery scrap can contaminate soil and groundwater, which is an environmental and health hazard. According to Dubatt’s estimates, around 90% of the lead acid battery scrap generated in the UAE is exported for recycling. Dubatt’s factory at Dubai Industrial City will localise the recycling of used battery waste, ensuring the safer treatment of hazardous waste materials.

## Rare green turtle nest spotted in Abu Dhabi

The discovery of the first-ever green turtle nest in Al Dhafra region mark a milestone for conservation efforts and highlights the rich marine habitat of the area

During its annual turtle survey and as part of the marine assessment and conservation programme, the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) recorded the first nest of ‘green turtles’ at one of the core Hawksbill turtle nesting sites in Al Dhafra Region. Although green turtles are found extensively in Abu Dhabi’s waters, nesting activity has never been reported.

Ahmed Al Hashmi, Executive Director of Terrestrial and Marine Biodiversity Sector at EAD, said, “During one of our nocturnal turtle surveys conducted this year, we spotted a green sea turtle nesting at one of our core Hawksbill turtle nest locations. We normally conduct annual monitoring of all recognised and potential nesting areas, and although green turtles forage extensively on seagrass meadows in Abu Dhabi, no evidence has ever been found to suggest that they have nested in any other location within the emirate. We have



also seen from previous satellite tracking studies on Abu Dhabi's green turtles that most have migrated to Oman to nest before returning to our waters."

He added, "The island where the nest was seen is characterised by multiple, small pocket beaches separated by rocky outcrops - a contrast to Oman's long and wide beaches where green sea turtles nest in abundance, which is why this is an unexpected sighting, but the EAD is committed to continue extensive monitoring of all confirmed and potential beaches for any similar occurrences.

"We also recorded a total of 247 Hawksbill turtle nests this year, in comparison to 193 nests in 2022, with a 72 percent hatching success - a sign of this species' population stability in Abu Dhabi waters. This increase in nesting activity reflects the EAD's ongoing efforts to protect its marine turtle populations, with nesting seen as a key indicator of a healthy marine ecosystem."

Seven marine turtle species are found worldwide. Four can be spotted in Abu Dhabi's waters, with a total population of more 6,000 individuals - two of which, the Hawksbill and green turtle - are predominantly found here, with two other species - the Loggerhead turtle and the Olive Ridley turtle - considered occasional visitors.

In Abu Dhabi, most Hawksbill and green turtles have been spotted in the waters of Al Dhafra region between the islands of Abu Al Abyadh and Bu Tinah, and the waters bordering the islands of Al Yasat and Muhayimat. These areas offer extensive seagrass beds, marine algae, and coral reef habitats.

Nesting occurs from mid-March to mid-June, and more than 200 nests are reported during the nesting season. Hatching usually occurs between mid-June and early August. Females are pretty selective when choosing their nest

site and have often been spotted emerging onto a beach for several consecutive nights before finding an ideal spot with soft sand, secluded from human activity.



The increased nesting and hatchling activity recorded during this year's turtle survey provides further evidence of Abu Dhabi's healthy marine ecosystems.



## UAE partners with Germany to boost green industrial development

UAE, Baden-Württemberg sign a comprehensive Joint Declaration of Intent on industrial cooperation, decarbonisation opportunities for the industrial sector

The Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology (MoIAT), UAE, and the State of Baden-Württemberg, Germany, have signed a Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference, held in Germany.

The signatories included the UAE Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology (MoIAT), the Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Economic Affairs, Labour and Tourism and the state's Ministry of Environment, Climate Protection, and the Energy Sector.

It was signed by Dr. Sultan Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology, Dr. Nicole Hoffmeister-Kraut, Minister of Economic Affairs, Labour and Tourism of Baden-Württemberg, and Thekla Walker, Minister of the Environment, Climate Protection, and Energy of the State of Baden-Württemberg.

Dr. Al Jaber said, "The UAE collaborates with international partners on projects that not only support sustainable industrial development but

also contribute to global climate action. This commitment to collaboration was evident at COP28, where the UAE led several international initiatives to increase the contribution of industry to global decarbonization targets.

“The launch of the Industrial Decarbonization Roadmap at COP28 represents a new model for reducing carbon emissions in a phased, targeted manner.”

The roadmap seeks to reduce emissions by 93%

*The agreement will focus on sustainable industrial development, bolstering technological solutions, and boosting collaborative investments to enhance supply chain sustainability*



by 2050 through leveraging solutions such as CCUS and clean energy solutions across hard-to-abate industries.

He added, “Building on these milestone initiatives, this latest partnership will focus on identifying projects in the areas of sustainable industrial development, supporting technology solutions, and joint investments which will contribute to the supply chain resilience of both countries.”

Dr. Nicole Hoffmeister-Kraut said, "In order to future-proof Baden-Württemberg as a globalised business and technology location with a strong

automotive and supplier industry and a focus on mechanical and plant engineering, it is essential that we establish an efficient hydrogen economy.”

Thekla Walker said, "Hydrogen is the fuel for a climate-neutral industrial society. Together with strategic partners, we want to create a common market for green hydrogen. The UAE has the best conditions for producing green hydrogen with solar energy while Baden-Württemberg is home to many companies and power plants that can produce climate-neutral hydrogen."

The partnership also involves cooperation among various private and public sector entities in the UAE and the State of Baden-Württemberg to promote bilateral relations in addition to promoting green industrial investments under the Make it in the Emirates initiative.

Some of the key areas of collaboration that will be explored include a focus on AI, smart manufacturing, smart health and aerospace. The parties will also collaborate on accelerating industrialisation and decarbonisation initiatives in line with the UAE's national industrial strategy, the UAE Net Zero by 2050 strategic initiative, as well as the goals of the Paris Agreement.

The JDI will also enhance capacity building and skills development, through internships in companies involved in priority projects.



## Amna Al Dahak reviews latest agricultural research during visit to ICBA

The visit aimed to shed light on the latest projects by ICBA, as well as its innovations, research, and achievements in crop cultivation and production

Her Excellency Dr. Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak Al Shamsi, Minister of Climate Change and the Environment, visited the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA) in Dubai. During her visit, she was updated on advanced agricultural technologies and research at ICBA and learned about their contribution to improving national and global food security.

H.E. Dr. Amna was welcomed by H.E. Dr. Tarifa Alzaabi, Director General of ICBA. The meeting was attended by H.E. Mohammad Saeed Al Nuaimi, Undersecretary of the MoCCA, and H.E. Eng. Mohammed Mousa Alameeri, Assistant Undersecretary for the Food Diversity Sector at the MoCCA.

The visit is part of the UAE's 2024 Year of Sustainability and in line with the theme of this year's National Environment Day. It aimed to shed light on the latest projects by ICBA, as well as the innovations, research, and achievements in crop cultivation and production to sustain

agricultural and food production in the UAE and around the world.

During the visit, H.E. Dr. Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak said the UAE has a clear vision to enhance its food security through innovation and scientific research in order to overcome the challenges posed by climate change, and the UAE's desert environment and water scarcity. She emphasised that ICBA plays a vital role in this area through scientific and research activities conducted in the UAE.

*Through its work, ICBA focuses on improving food security and nutrition, enhancing water security and environmental sustainability*



Her Excellency said: "I am delighted with my first visit to the ICBA, where I witnessed significant progress in agricultural research and experimentation. The work the ICBA does has opened up opportunities to increase the production of critical crops, which will reduce our reliance on imports. The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment is committed to providing all necessary support to the ICBA and other agricultural scientific and research centres in the country. Our collective goal is to develop climate-smart agricultural systems that reduce carbon emissions and support our national food

security now and in the future."

H.E. highlighted that the purpose of the visit is to underline the importance of improving the sustainability of local products, which was also the theme of UAE's 2024 National Environment Day. She emphasized that ensuring the sustainability of agricultural products is a top priority in the UAE to guarantee the production of agricultural and food products.

H.E. Dr. Tarifa Al Zaabi stressed that the center has tremendous capabilities in agricultural

research, and has achieved success in seed germination, cultivation of various crops, enhancing agricultural productivity, and ensuring its sustainability in saline and marginal environments.

H.E. Dr. Tarifa Al Zaabi added: "We are actively working to transfer our successful experiences and knowledge to local farmers in the UAE to improve the productivity of strategic crops, thereby contributing to the UAE's food security. There are several training programs and

*The work the ICBA does has opened up opportunities to increase the production of critical crops, which will reduce reliance on imports*



educational workshops that are organized with the aim of introducing the climate smart crops."

H.E. Al Dahak was provided with an overview of the center's initiatives and research, as well as future plans for agricultural research, soil and irrigation efficiency, remote sensing, climate-smart crops, and genomics research for healthier crops. She visited the center's genebank, which contains 16,000 accessions of crops tolerant of heat, salinity, and drought.

During her visit, H.E. Al Dahak also planted a Ghaf tree, and toured ICBA's research station that has a main field with a number of agricultural crops and conducts local UAE-specific agricultural

research as well as international research.

She also participated in the harvesting of the Millet Demo Farm inaugurated by ICBA during COP28. The center will soon transfer the latest knowledge and research findings to local farmers through a training program.

ICBA has been carrying out sorghum and pearl millet research since 2000, and scientists have tested hundreds of sorghum and pearl millet accessions in many countries around the world. The center showcases the entire value chain of millet at the Millet Demo Farm, starting from seeds and leading up to consumption.





## EAD, Modon Properties introduce region's first smog-free tower for cleaner future

UAE NEWS

The Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD), in partnership with Modon Properties, has inaugurated the region's first smog-free tower at Hudayriat Island.

The new air purification tower is an urban innovation designed to enhance air quality in the area and provide an inspirational experience of a clean and green future.

Mohamed Ahmed Al Bowardi, EAD's Vice Chairman and Chairman of EAD's Executive Committee, said that EAD continuously monitors the state of ambient air quality in Abu Dhabi through a wide network of monitoring stations, which is considered one of the most comprehensive ambient air quality monitoring networks in the MENA region.

He added, "We will also explore the possibilities of introducing smog-free towers across other areas in Abu Dhabi in the future. The installation of the tower on Al Hudayriyat Island is a pilot project, as the experience will be evaluated

before continuing to install more towers in other areas of the emirate."

The seven-metre tower uses environmentally friendly positive ionisation technology to purify surrounding air that cleans 30,000 m<sup>3</sup> of air per hour. The ionisation technology produces smog-free air in public spaces, allowing people to breathe and experience clean air.

Shaikha Al Dhaheeri, EAD's Secretary-General, said, "We chose Hudayriat Island because it is a community hub where people enjoy several outdoor activities. Therefore, the tower will allow people with sensitivities to access outdoor areas and encourage them to spend more time outside. This is due to the tower's positive impact on the surrounding environment thanks to its air purification capability."

The Smog-Free Tower, previously introduced in select countries like China, the Netherlands, and Poland, is now making its debut in this region.



## At UNEA-6, Heads of State call for greater cooperation on the environment

Heads of State and Governments acknowledged that the transboundary nature of environmental challenges necessitates strong multilateral responses

Heads of State and Government, Ministers, senior UN officials, members of civil society and the private sector gathered on February 29, 2023, at the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) headquarters in Nairobi for the High-Level Segment of the sixth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-6). World leaders expressed determination to accelerate multilateral action on the triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature loss and pollution.

President William Ruto of Kenya was joined by Heads of State and Government, including President Mokgweetsi Masisi of Botswana, President Omar Guelleh of Djibouti, Transitional President Brice Nguema of Gabon, President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud of Somalia, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed of Ethiopia, and Prime Minister Ariel Henry of Haiti, among others.

“It is my hope that UN Environment Assembly will demonstrate that challenges are best addressed when the community of nations and citizens of the world join forces with an open mind,” said Leila Benali, President of UNEA-6

and Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development for the Kingdom of Morocco. “Our efforts today will be crucial to secure our world – for the benefit of people and planet.”

“UNEA-6 is the first intergovernmental global meeting after COP28. This places upon this Assembly a tremendous responsibility to expeditiously deliver on its agenda in full, and thereby demonstrate the power of international cooperation and effective multilateralism,” President Ruto told delegates.”



Heads of State and Government sounded the alarm on the worsening impacts of climate change on communities, acknowledging that the transboundary nature of environmental challenges necessitates strong multilateral responses.

“This Assembly plays a vital role in driving environmental action. And you have shown before that you can unite and deliver – most recently with your historic decision to negotiate a plastic treaty,” UN Secretary-General António Guterres said in a video message. “I urge you to do so again – and go further. There are many important

resolutions before you. So, please, take this chance to drive multilateral solutions.”

More than 7,000 delegates from 182 UN Member States and more than 170 Ministers registered for UNEA-6. The Assembly had 19 resolutions and two decisions under discussion – they cover a range of issues, including circular economy; effective, inclusive, and sustainable multilateral actions towards climate justice; solar radiation modification; sound management of chemicals and waste, and sand and dust storms.

“We can push back against the triple planetary crisis if we show unity of purpose, at this Assembly and beyond. Purpose to shun fossil fuels and look to renewable energy sources. Purpose to conserve and restore the natural world and our lands, which give us life. Purpose to keep harmful chemicals, pollution and waste out of our ecosystems and yes, out of our bodies,” said Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP.

“But I also ask you to recall that this Assembly is much more than one set of resolutions or decisions,” she added. “This is where the global community gathers to think big and dream bigger. To reimagine how we can work better, smarter, harder and faster – together. To hold the future that we want in our mind’s eye and make it happen.”

A series of leadership and multi-stakeholder dialogues and more than 30 official side events and associated events were also held at UNEA-6. The Assembly also highlighted the importance of cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) – international agreements that address the most pressing environmental issues of global or regional concern and are critical instruments of international environmental governance and international environmental law – with a full day devoted to strengthening convergence of actions and sharing of experiences while also providing increased visibility to the MEAs.



## UN recognizes seven World Restoration Flagships

Initiatives in Africa, Latin America, the Mediterranean and South Asia cited as best practices for reversing ecosystems degradation

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) have named seven initiatives from Africa, Latin America, the Mediterranean, and South Asia as UN World Restoration Flagships. These initiatives include ecosystems at the tipping point of outright degradation resulting from wildfires, drought, deforestation, and pollution. They are now eligible for technical and financial UN support.

The World Restoration Flagship awards are part of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration – led by UNEP and FAO – which aims to prevent, halt, and reverse the degradation of ecosystems on every continent and in every ocean.

The awards track notable initiatives that support global commitments to restore one billion hectares – an area larger than China. Together, the seven new flagships are expected to restore nearly 40 million hectares – an area almost 600 times the size of Nairobi – and create around 500,000 jobs.

“For too long, economic development came at the expense of the environment. Yet today we see global efforts to usher in a comeback for nature,” Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP, said. “These initiatives show how we can make peace with nature, put local communities at the heart of restoration efforts and still create new jobs.”

FAO Director-General QU Dongyu said: “Restoring terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems is a crucial step in the transformation of global agrifood systems to be more efficient, inclusive, resilient

*Together, the seven new flagships are expected to restore nearly 40 million hectares - an area almost 600 times the size of Nairobi - and create around 500,000 jobs*



and sustainable. Ecosystem restoration is long term solution in the fight to eradicate poverty, hunger and malnutrition, as we face population growth and increased need for foods and ecosystem goods and services.”

### **From Fires to Forests – Resilience in the Mediterranean**

The Mediterranean basin is the world’s second largest biodiversity hotspot, but 16 per cent of its forest species are threatened with extinction, in part due to climate-driven longer drought

periods, extreme heat waves and wildfires. In the past decade, the region has experienced the worst fire seasons on record.

The Restoring Mediterranean Forests Initiative involving Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, and Türkiye consists of a novel approach to protecting and restoring these natural habitats and vulnerable ecosystems.

This initiative has led to around two million hectares of forests being restored across the region since 2017, with over eight million



hectares planned for restoration by 2030. The initiative is supported by FAO's Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - Silva Mediterranea, the governments of Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, and Türkiye, and The Association for Forests, Development and Conservation Lebanon (AFDC).

### **Living Indus – Restoring a Cradle of Civilizations**

The 3,180 km long Indus River has served as the vibrant core of the social, cultural, and economic life of what is today called Pakistan for well over 5,000 years. Some 90 per cent of Pakistan's people and more than three-quarters of its economy reside in the Indus Basin, and it irrigates over 80 percent of its arable land. Negligence, environmental degradation, and climate change have threatened the river's ecosystem, including

its abundant fish and fertile lands.

The Living Indus initiative was approved by Pakistan's parliament in the wake of the devastating 2022 climate-change induced floods and was officially launched at the UN Climate Change Conference in Sharm el-Sheikh (COP27). It aims to restore 25 million hectares of river basin by 2030, encompassing 30 per cent of Pakistan's surface area through the implementation of 25 high-impact interventions for policymakers, practitioners and civil society. The initiative designates the Indus River as a living entity with rights - a measure taken to protect rivers elsewhere, including in Australia, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Ecuador, India, New Zealand, Peru, and Sri Lanka.

Partners in this initiative include the Government of Pakistan, FAO and other UN agencies.

The seven flagships target ecosystems teetering on the brink of irreversible degradation due to wildfires, droughts, deforestation, and pollution



### **Acción Andina: Saving a global water and climate hotspot**

The Acción Andina social movement is inspired by Peruvian conservation non-profit organisation, ECOAN and powered by U.S-based non-profit Global Forest Generation. It is scaling up a community reforestation model, which has proved itself over the past two decades as a cost-effective solution for climate resilience plans to restore and grow 30 million trees by 2030 across a vegetative band spanning almost 800,000 hectares in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela.

The initiative ultimately aims to protect and restore a forest area of one million hectares by

2045. 25,000 people from remote Andean communities are already engaged in restoring 5,000 hectares and protecting over 11,000 hectares of Andean forests. They are expected to benefit from the initiative by 2030 in various ways, from access to medicine, solar panels, and clean-burning clay stoves, to improved grazing management, sustainable agriculture, microbusiness, and ecotourism management of Indigenous cultures. It also works to secure land titles for local communities, protecting the forest from future mining, timber exploitation and other drivers of degradation.

Partners in this initiative include the Asociación Ecosistemas Andinos (ECOAN) and Global Forest Generation (GFG).

## **Sri Lanka stopped planting mangroves and started growing them**

In Sri Lanka, mangrove forests are immensely valuable coastal ecosystems that thrive at the border between land and sea and serve as an important bridge between marine and terrestrial biodiversity. The livelihoods of coastal communities in Sri Lanka are highly dependent on marine and coastal ecosystems. Nevertheless, climate change and human activities are posing

*The main role of flagships is to provide inspiration to other countries and regions for scaling up successful restoration efforts, and to attract global attention and investments*



threats to this unique ecosystem.

The Sri Lanka Mangrove Regeneration Initiative is science-driven, co-led by local communities, and focused on restoring the natural balance in the ecosystem. Since the initiative was launched in 2015, efforts have already resulted in 500 hectares of restored mangroves, benefiting 150 households. Some 10,000 hectares are slated for restoration by 2030, with 5,000 households to benefit and more than 4,000 new jobs to be created.

Partners in this initiative include the Sri Lanka Ministry of Environment and the governments of Australia, the UK and USA.

## **Terai Arc Landscape: Reviving Asia's mega-fauna**

Over seven million people depend on the Terai Arc Landscape, stretching across 5.10 million hectares and shared by India and Nepal. It is also one of the world's most critical habitats for tigers whose numbers have sharply declined, along with those of other species such as rhinos and elephants, due to poaching, habitat loss, degradation, and human-wildlife conflict.

The Terai Arc Landscape Initiative has focused on restoring the forests of critical corridors of the Terai Arc Landscape and collaborates with local communities working as citizen scientists,



community based anti-poaching units, forest guards and social mobilizers. The restoration of 66,800 hectares of Nepal's forests, as well as other measures, has improved the livelihoods of about 500,000 households in Nepal. It also supported the tiger population in the landscape shared by India and Nepal, increased today to 1,174- more than doubling what had been its lowest number when the programme launched in 2001. Development is expected to continue as almost 350,000 hectares will be restored by 2030.

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Nepal is the primary partner in this initiative, supporting the Nepalese government.

### **Regreening Africa's agriculture**

The Regreening Africa initiative has been using proven agroforestry techniques, adapted to suit the needs of farmers under varying socio-ecological contexts in the past two decades, to restore over 350,000 hectares in Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, and Somalia. By 2030, a further five million hectares are planned to be restored.

The initiative is expected to benefit more than 600,000 households. It is also increasing carbon storage, boosting crop and grass yields, makes soil more resilient (preventing floods) and treating it with fixed nitrogen that acts as a natural fertilizer.

Partners in this initiative include CARE Nederland, Catholic Relief Services, CIFOR-ICRAF, Oxfam, Regreening Africa, Sahel Eco, and World Vision Australia.

### **Growing forests in Africa's drylands: African farmers transforming food systems**

The Forest Garden Program, launched in 2015, includes multiple Forest Garden projects in

Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, The Gambia, Kenya, Mali, Senegal, Uganda, and Tanzania. Through researched agroforestry techniques, unsustainable farming practices are replaced and nature regenerates, as farmers receive essential training, supplies and equipment for their success.



By planting tens of millions of trees every year, it aims at expanding from 41,000 restored hectares today to 229,000 hectares by 2030, supporting many more through 230,000 jobs created.

Partners in this initiative include Trees for the Future.



## World must move beyond waste era and turn rubbish into resource: UN

Urgent need to decouple waste generation from economic growth and shift to zero waste and circular economy approaches

With municipal waste set to rise by two thirds and its costs to almost double within a generation, only a drastic reduction in waste generation will secure a liveable and affordable future, according to a new UN Environment Programme (UNEP) report launched at the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6).

Titled "Beyond an age of waste: Turning rubbish into a resource," the UNEP Global Waste Management Outlook 2024 (GWMO 2024) provides the most substantial update on global waste generation and the cost of waste and its management since 2018.

The analysis uses life cycle assessments to explore what the world could gain or lose through continuing business-as-usual, adopting halfway measures, or committing fully to zero waste and circular economy societies.

According to the report, municipal solid waste generation is predicted to grow from 2.3 billion tonnes in 2023 to 3.8 billion tonnes by 2050. In

2020, the global direct cost of waste management was an estimated USD 252 billion. However, when factoring in the hidden costs of pollution, poor health and climate change from poor waste disposal practices, the cost rises to USD 361 billion.

Without urgent action on waste management, by 2050 this global annual cost could almost double to a staggering USD 640.3 billion.

“Waste generation is intrinsically tied to GDP, and many fast-growing economies are struggling

management measures could limit net annual costs by 2050 to USD 270.2 billion. However, projections show that a circular economy model, where waste generation and economic growth are decoupled by adopting waste avoidance, sustainable business practices, and full waste management, could in fact lead to a full net gain of USD 108.5 billion per year.

“The findings of this report demonstrate that the world urgently needs to shift to a zero waste approach, while improving waste management to



under the burden of rapid waste growth. By identifying actionable steps to a more resourceful future and emphasising the pivotal role of decision-makers in the public and private sectors to move towards zero waste, this Global Waste Management Outlook can support governments seeking to prevent missed opportunities to create more sustainable societies and to secure a liveable planet for future generations,” said Inger Andersen, UNEP’s Executive Director.

The report’s modelling shows that getting waste under control by taking waste prevention and

prevent significant pollution, greenhouse gas emissions and negative impacts to human health.

Pollution from waste knows no borders, so it is in everyone’s interests to commit to waste prevention and invest in waste management where it is lacking. The solutions are available and ready to be scaled up. What is needed now is strong leadership to set the direction and pace required, and to ensure no one is left behind,” said Zoë Lenkiewicz, lead author of the report.

# Word Scramble

**AEEEWBRNL** **RAOCBN**  
**GREEREYN**  
**GEYENR** **RUOESECSR**  
**TSIUNAS**

LITIEWLFD

INOMSSJIS

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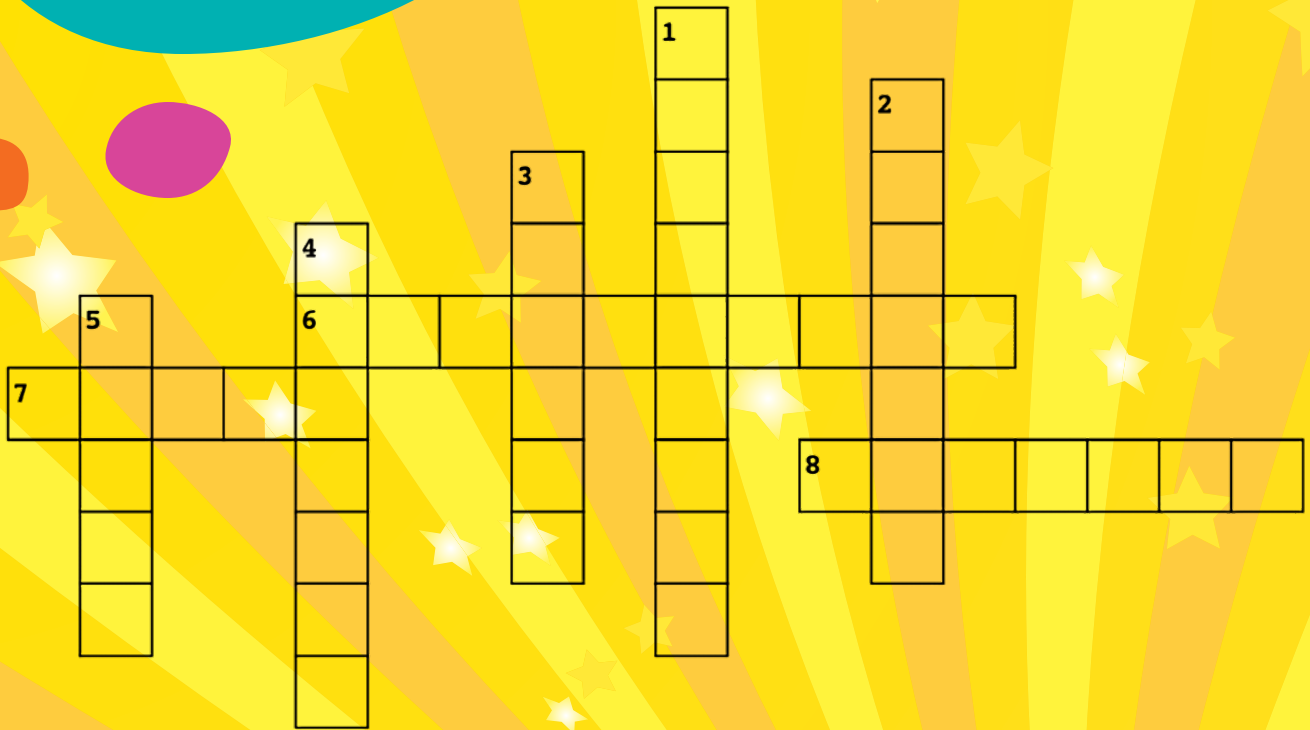
ANSWERS: 1) Greenery 2) Wildlife 3) Energy 4) Renewable 5) Resources 6) Carbon 7) Emissions 8) Sustain

# Word Search

I	T	C	A	E	P	C	E	M	G	I	E	C	C
C	Y	T	L	C	V	C	R	C	L	E	C	M	M
G	Y	I	I	E	E	E	C	M	C	E	C	R	E
E	G	G	E	C	S	R	C	L	C	R	R	R	N
E	R	N	N	G	E	N	Y	E	I	E	U	S	T
D	E	I	Y	E	E	L	A	E	T	M	C	I	U
A	N	L	A	E	S	U	E	R	L	L	A	S	E
R	E	C	A	V	E	G	A	N	I	S	M	T	E
T	L	Y	I	S	E	N	F	I	A	R	Y	C	E
E	C	C	O	S	C	I	T	S	A	L	P	O	G
E	Y	C	C	I	M	O	N	O	C	E	I	G	L
R	C	F	S	T	Y	R	T	U	R	T	L	E	S
F	E	E	T	E	E	E	R	C	Y	R	D	Y	R
P	R	E	M	I	R	C	N	S	C	R	V	R	I

- FREETRADE
- CLIMATE
- REUSE
- CYCLING
- ENERGY
- VEGANISM
- PLASTICS
- TURTLES
- ECONOMIC
- RECYCLE

# Crossword Puzzle



## Across

6. Relating to the environment
7. Animals of a region
8. Study of living organisms

## Down

1. Urgent crisis
2. Produced without artificial chemicals
3. Course of action proposed in politics
4. Meteorological report
5. Such as neon, hydrogen

Answers: 1) Emergency 2) Organic 3) Policy 4) Weather 5) Gases 6) Ecological 7) Fauna 8) Biology

# ★ WORD OF THE DAY:

## DESALINATION

Desalination means any process that removes the excess salt and other minerals from water in order to obtain fresh water suitable for animal consumption or irrigation. If almost all of the salt is removed for human consumption, sometimes the process produces table salt as a by-product. Desalination may help solve the water supply problem for some water-stress regions.

Desalination of brackish water is done in the United States in order to meet treaty obligations for river water entering Mexico. Several Middle Eastern countries have energy reserves so great that they use desalinated water for agriculture.

Water intake structures cause adverse environmental impact by sucking fish and shellfish or their eggs into an industrial system. There, the organisms may be killed or injured by heat, physical stress, or chemicals. Larger organisms may be killed or injured when they become trapped against screens at the front of an intake structure. Alternative intake types that mitigate these impacts include beach wells, but they require more energy and higher costs.

Desalination processes produce large quantities of brine, possibly at above ambient temperature, and contain residues of pretreatment and cleaning chemicals, their reaction byproducts and heavy metals due to corrosion (especially in thermal-based plants).

Brine is denser than seawater and therefore sinks to the ocean bottom and can damage the ecosystem. Brine dispersal from the desalination plants has been seen to travel several kilometers away, meaning that it has the potential to cause harm to ecosystems far away from the plants. Careful reintroduction with appropriate measures and environmental studies can minimize this problem.



United Nations World Wildlife Day (WWD) is celebrated every year on 3 March to celebrate wild animals and plants. Every year, we recognize the unique roles and contributions of wildlife to people and the planet.

World Wildlife Day 2024 focuses on digital innovation and emphasizes how digital conservation technologies and services can



## WORLD WILDLIFE DAY - MAR 03

drive wildlife conservation, sustainable and legal wildlife trade, and human-wildlife coexistence. The 2024 theme, "Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation", recognizes the impact of digital interventions on ecosystems and communities in an increasingly connected world.

We find ourselves amidst a global digital revolution that is dismantling barriers to people-centered digital governance and equal opportunities. The 'digital divide' is gradually shrinking, with improved connectivity and Internet access now reaching 66 percent of our global population. However, approximately 2.7 billion people worldwide remain offline. In the least developed countries and landlocked developing nations, only an average of 36 percent of the population has online access. Furthermore, women and young individuals are disproportionately affected by gaps in

Internet access and job-ready digital skills.

While technological advancements have significantly improved various aspects of wildlife conservation, including research, communication, tracking, and DNA analysis, challenges such as uneven access, environmental pollution, and unsustainable technology use impede achieving universal digital inclusion by 2030.

World Wildlife Day 2024 serves as a platform for cross-generational exchange and youth empowerment. Through art, presentations, and discussions, it focuses on the opportunities for sustainable digital wildlife conservation. It encourages exploration of existing digital innovations, addresses intersectional discrepancies, and envisions inclusive digital connectivity for all people and the planet.



help recognise, and celebrate, the importance recycling plays in preserving our precious primary resources and securing the future of our planet. It is a day for the world to come together and put the planet first.

The theme of Global Recycling Day 2024 is #RecyclingHeroes. This will recognise the people, places and activities that showcase what an important role recycling plays in contributing to an environmentally stable planet and a greener future which will benefit all.

## MAR 03 GLOBAL RECYCLING DAY

The last decade has been the hottest on record, and Earth is now facing a climate emergency of unparalleled proportions.

This directly affects humanity and we have the power to make lasting changes to combat this. With recycling being recognized in the UN's Sustainable Development Goals 2030, we are already seeing many individuals, governments and organisations taking direct action to support the global green agenda.

Recycling is a key part of the circular economy, helping to protect our natural resources. Each year the 'Seventh Resource' (recyclables) saves over 700 million tonnes in CO2 emissions and this is projected to increase to 1 billion tons by 2030.

Global Recycling Day was created in 2018 to

### WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

#### Things to Do...

- Use both sides of paper
- Reuse plastic bags
- Use metal straws!
- Volunteer for a clean-up drive
- Use public transport!

COLOUR ME!







## Champion of Amazon's indigenous Yanomami tribe, Junior Hekurari, at Conservation Summit



CONSERVATION

The 8th edition of the Xposure International Photography Festival, hosted environmental activist Junior Hekurari, leader of the Yanomami tribe in the Amazon, during the 'Conservation Summit' held on February 29.

The Conservation Summit highlighted the extraordinary efforts made by Junior Hekurari as a leading example of those who have made an impact in environmental protection. Right from his youth, he joined activists advocating for the protection of the Amazon, serving as the president of the Yanomami Association and the Local Health Council for Indigenous Suburban Populations. He has fought against deforestation due to illegal gold mining and its disastrous effects on the environment and indigenous people in the Alto Alegre, Roraima region (northern Brazil).

The Conservation Summit at Xposure 2024 featured 15 speakers, including renowned photographers and conservationists, who led

discussions and presentations on pressing environmental issues. Among them are Charlie Hamilton James, Florian Schulz, Kathy Moran, Beth Wald, Kiliiii Yuyan, Sandesh Kadur, Melody Mnisi, Karabo Magakane, Rifumo Mathebula, and Mike Kendrick.

The top experts and photographers participating in the Conservation Summit, highlighted the beauty of protected areas documented through their lenses to support global efforts and actions aimed at raising awareness for environmental preservation.





## Investing in humanware is the need of the hour

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

At UNEA-6, as the spotlight once again shone on the pressing global need for sustainable solutions to combat climate change, one glaring gap persisted in our continued approach to solving environmental challenges. - a lack of emphasis on humanware, or efforts towards raising public awareness. As technologies (Hardware & Software) dominated the discourse, human behavior and awareness were sidelined, raising concerns about the sustainability of our climate strategies.

The imbalance in focus, favoring hardware and software solutions over humanware, is not a new phenomenon. The allure of technological innovations often overshadows the more nuanced and the more difficult to quantify realm of changing human behavior. This trend is perpetuated by the perception that investing in technologies yields quicker and more tangible results, aligning with the fast-paced nature of our modern world.

The justifications for this technological bias are clear. Advancements in hardware and software offer promising avenues for immediate impact, often with measurable outcomes. Investments in renewable energy, sustainable infrastructure, and carbon capture technologies help fight climate change. However, we must not neglect the equally crucial human factor.

Changing behaviors, fostering awareness, and empowering individuals to make sustainable choices are prerequisites for any successful climate action strategy. It demands a longer-term commitment, patience, and a sustained effort to reshape mindsets because it is through these that the seeds of lasting change are sown. Governments and businesses must acknowledge the inherent value of humanware investments by allocating resources to educate and inspire individuals to adopt environmentally conscious lifestyles.

Ultimately, the success of our collective efforts to combat climate change hinges on the synergy and interdependence between hardware, software, and humanware solutions. Investing in humanware, despite its challenges, offers unparalleled benefits. It has the potential to create a ripple effect, with informed individuals influencing their communities and driving demand for sustainable practices. These long-term effects are invaluable in fostering a global culture of environmental responsibility.

In charting our course towards a sustainable future, let us not forget that the collective power of informed, engaged, and environmentally conscious individuals will be critical in driving the lasting change we seek.



Zayed International Prize for the Environment

Together for a green century

THE FUTURE OF OUR WORLD  
IS IN OUR HANDS.

ACT NOW!



Zayed International Foundation for the Environment