

MULTAQANA

A FORUM FOR EDUCATORS OF SUSTAINABILITY



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Greetings environmental champions

As we come to the end of another year, it is a good opportunity to look back at all the events that kept us busy and remind ourselves that the journey towards sustainability is yet to continue.

We kicked off the year with our SSI cleanup campaign under the theme “Towards Enhancing Air Quality”, where students were educated on the value of our precious Ghaf Tree.

On the occasion of the World Future Energy Summit (WFES), which took place back in January, students got the chance to visit the International Renewable Energy Agency's (IRENA) booth, learning about the agency's trainee and internship programs. During the first quarter of 2017, the third annual Roots & Shoots Ceremony took place, where students got the chance to meet the founder herself Dr. Jane Goodall.

The second quarter of the year was a rather busy one, with the fourth Eco Club Summit taking place, where students got the chance to share their sustainability achievements with each other. Evaluation of SSI awards in the five main categories took place towards the end of April, and in May, those winning schools were awarded at the SSI Award Ceremony.

In quarter three, the Environment Agency exhibited at the Abu Dhabi International Hunting & Equestrian Exhibition (ADIHEX), where it hosted a number of interactive activities.

It has indeed been a busy and exciting year for us and none of this would have been accomplished without the help and support of our strategic sponsors and collaborators of the Sustainable Schools Initiative, not to mention the schools who have been on board, supporting us with their commitment and creative ideas.

We hope you enjoy the last issue of the newsletter for this year, and we invite you to share it with the largest number of your acquaintances, for all to acknowledge our initiative and realize the importance of environmental education in the field of sustainable development.

With warmest thanks,

Environmental Education Team
Sustainable Schools Initiative (SSI)
Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD)

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End-of-Year Message from the Secretary General, Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi

Dear Readers,

As we come to the end of 2017, it is a good time to thank you all for your continued support and commitment to the Sustainable Schools Initiative (SSI). We would like to extend our thanks to all schools, students, parents, teachers, administrative staff and the non-teaching staff for working in partnership with us to ensure that our youth 'aspire and achieves' knowledge to create change from within towards their everyday behaviour and attitude for a sustainable future.

With climate change, rapid depletion of our natural resources, loss of biodiversity, increasing waste generation and pollution as well as loss of traditional knowledge are just some of the critical issues most countries, including the United Arab Emirates face.

This clearly scales up the value of 'education' as one of the main vehicles to promote education for sustainability through persistence and inspiration, instil the relevant skill and understanding among our youth to disseminate this knowledge in the classroom.

The Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi is pleased with the progress it has made with the Sustainable Schools Initiative and its continued partnership with the Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK) Abu Dhabi Distribution Company (ADDC), Al Ain Distribution Company (AADC), Department of Transport (DOT), The Center of Waste Management (Tadweer) and the unwavering support of its Sponsor BP.

We look forward to the year ahead with dedication to the continued education for sustainability and hope this newsletter continues help, inform and inspire you for a transformative educational learning that will lead us towards a sustainable world.

HE Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak
Secretary General
Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi

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Call for Action:

In recognition of 40 years of global commitment to environmental education, made by world leaders at Tbilisi back in 1977. We are asking you to join a global “Call for Action” to raise and align the work of environmental leaders across the globe.

Since the intergovernmental 1977 conference in Tbilisi, Georgia, a lot has been accomplished in the field of environmental education. Moving forward however, we need to achieve a sustainable and positive future. This can be attained through expanding our work as individuals and organizations, in order to raise our collective impact.

A “Call for Action” requires three steps; Learn, The Call, Act. The first step requires watching videos related to the Tbilisi event, considering the progress environmental educators have made throughout the last four decades. “The Call” requires reading a series of future actions, suggested by the Global Environmental Education Partnership. The third step requires providing feedback on the call for action, in an effort to shape a plan for environmental education.

To learn more about the move visit: <http://www.actnowforee.org>

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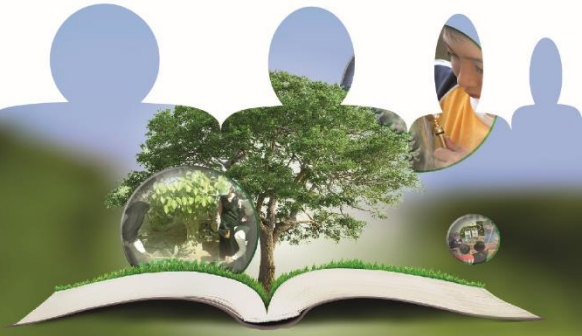


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For additional Environmental Educational resource, materials you can find online please note the following:

- Biodiversity Learning Kit: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002459/245982e.pdf>
The 'Biodiversity Learning Kit, Volume 2, Activities' aims to help secondary school students and teachers understand the multiple dimensions and complex processes related to biodiversity through innovative learning pathways and hands-on activities. It also explains the status of biodiversity and how it is affected by prevailing attitudes and behaviours, and by consumption patterns.
- Textbooks for sustainable development "A Guide To Embedding": http://mgiep.unesco.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/COMPLETE-GUIDEBOOK_Textbooks-for-Sustainable-Development.pdf.
- The book help schools on how to reorient the existing curriculum content towards peace, sustainable development and global citizenship, it aspires to make learning relevant and effective, and contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Additionally, if you are interested in joining a global "Call for Action" to help make a difference, visit the following websites:

- <http://www.waterexplorer.org>
- www.dropityouth.org



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School Field Trips

Salamat Forest, Al' Ain 'Science into Practice'

The main purpose of Al Salamat Forest is to curb desertification and protect residential neighbourhoods and roads from encroachment by sand dunes, Al Salamat Forest is an important habitat for many indigenous plants and it is a home for many threatened animals. Many species can be found in the area including: Ghaf Tree, Ethel, Damas Tree, Toothbrush Tree, Sodoms Apple Tree, and Wild Drumstick Tree.

The learning objective of Al Salamat Forest is to help observe and develop an affinity for the natural environment around us. In this unique forest, students will have the opportunity to explore the country's native plants, learn about water conservation using native plants, as well as the use of native plants for medicine. Additionally, students are educated on how these species adapt to such harsh environmental conditions.

One of the important native plants that Salamat Forest focuses on educating students on is the Ghaf Tree. This plant has many benefits which include the absorption of Carbon Dioxide, their leaves are used in salad since they are high in protein, and they provide shelter and shade for species in the desert.

The Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi is in its final stages of experimenting the uses of solid waste in forestry and agriculture. The agency is leading an intensive research program, which has been running for two years, in coordination with other stakeholders such as Barari Forest Management, Abu Dhabi Sewerage Services Company, and UAE University.

How schools can visit Al Salamat Forest?

Teachers interested in arranging field trips should contact:

Sara Mohamed Hafez

Email: s.hafez@barari.ae

Tel: 03 737 2244, Ext. 232

Mob: 052 995 4614

Opening Hours: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM



EAD organises Ghaf planting campaign for SSI students and stakeholder partners

By Wam, Published Tuesday, January 24, 2017:<http://www.emirates247.com/lifestyle/ead-organises-ghaf-planting-campaign-for-ssl-students-and-stake-holder-partners-2017-01-24-1.646961>

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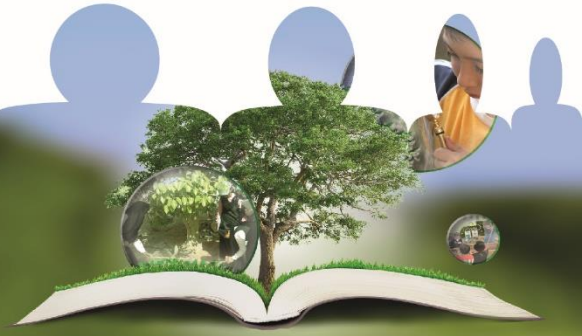


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Al Wathba Wetland Reserve, Abu Dhabi

Al Wathba Wetland Reserve established in 1998 by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. It was the first place in the Emirate designated for protection by law and declared a Ramsar site in 2013. This means that the site is recognised by the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance and joins a list of over 2,000 other internationally recognised wetlands around the world. The Reserve covers a total area of five square kilometers, comprising of wetlands, sabkhas (salt flats), fossilized sands and dunes.

Despite its relatively small size, it is teeming with life. You will discover an amazing diversity here, including several endangered species who have made this their home and found shelter, protection and nourishment.

The presence of so many different habitats and types of vegetation within one compact area has attracted many different forms of life. More than 250 species of birds have been spotted along with an abundance of aquatic life, as well as 37 plant species. Al Wathba also features a rich variety of dragonflies and damselflies.

The learning objective of Al Wathba is to understand what a wetland habitat is.

Located 40 km southeast of central Abu Dhabi, just past Mussafah.

For further information please note the following:
<https://www.ead.ae/Pages/al-wathba-wetland-2.aspx>



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International Water Summit (IWS)



ABU DHABI
SUSTAINABILITY WEEK

13 - 20 JANUARY, 2018
ABU DHABI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week is one of the largest sustainability gatherings in the region. Hosted by Masdar, this event will take place from the 13th to the 20th of January 2018, ADNEC. The event is dedicated to understand and recognize the major economic, social, and environmental trends that form the world's sustainable development. This year's theme is 'Driving the Global Energy Transformation'

A number of events, exhibitions, and conferences will take place including: The Zayed Future Energy Prize Award Ceremony, The International Water Summit, The International Renewable Energy Agency Meeting, and Ecowaste. The event will host a number of leaders, policy and decision makers, scientists, experts, and academics to highlight and discuss the challenges facing sustainability and energy. The four main pillars that Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week focuses on include Policy, Leadership, Business, and Awareness.

The International Water Summit (IWS) is held under the patronage of H.H Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, hosted by Masdar, run in strategic partnership with the Abu Dhabi Water & Electricity Authority (ADWEA), and endorsed by the Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi.

The purpose of this summit is to address environmental challenges facing the country, the Arabian Gulf, and the wider Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. IWS is co-located with the World Future Energy Summit to recognize the water-energy nexus, since the region provides a good example of the interconnection of water and energy in a water-scarce area.

This year's summit will take place from the 15th to the 18th of January. Just like every year, the Environment Agency will take part to highlight and showcase its latest efforts in conserving water resources.

Visit us at the exhibition in Hall 4. Stand 4240, ADNEC to learn more about the agency's efforts.

INTERNATIONAL WATER SUMMIT

PART OF ABU DHABI SUSTAINABILITY WEEK

Featuring

SMART WATER EXPO

15-18 January 2018

ADNEC, Abu Dhabi

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National Environment Day

Celebrated on February 4, this is a day to urge people across the country to incorporate the concept of sustainability in their daily lives. The year 2017 marked the 20th National Environment Day, under the slogan “Sustainable Production and Consumption”, which will extend for 3 years (2017-2019).

This theme will highlight the importance of adopting sustainable practices and minimizing resource consumption, emphasizing that this is an alarming issue due to overconsuming resources, especially food and water resources, leading to the generation of waste and carbon emissions.

His Excellency Dr. Thani Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment said "The patronage of His Highness the President of UAE for this occasion underlines UAE's firm and inherent commitment to protect the environment, and to continue its efforts to achieve the goals of sustainable development in accordance with the UAE Vision 2021, which was inspired by the prospects of His Highness's national action program.

In a country with such high consumption rates, high ecological footprint represents a major challenge to the UAE. This calls for the participation of all members of the society in supporting the government's efforts to reduce unsustainable consumption and its long-term negative impacts. All government and private sectors, organizations, community groups, and individuals can express their commitment to environmental responsibility through taking part in the celebrations of National Environment Day.

Send us your stories on National Environment Day to sustainableschools@ead.ae

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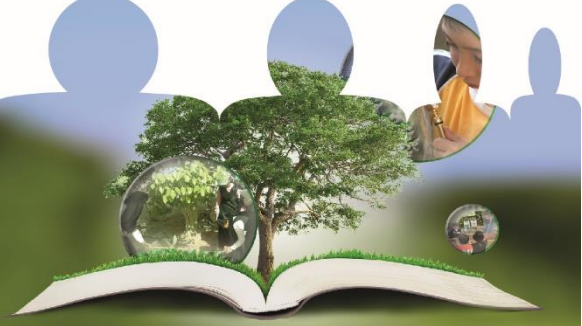


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Roots & Shoots



Founded in 1991 by Dr. Jane Goodall, Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots is a youth service program for young people of all ages. Its mission is to foster respect and compassion for all living things, to promote understanding of all cultures and beliefs, and to inspire each individual to take action to make the world a better place for people, other animals, and the environment.

Roots & Shoots UAE encourages children to implement practical positive change for people, animals and the environment by providing teachers with free resources and a place to share their success stories with the world.

For further information on the Roots & Shoot Organisation, please visit:

- <https://rootsandshoots.org/>
- <http://www.rootsnshoots.ae/>



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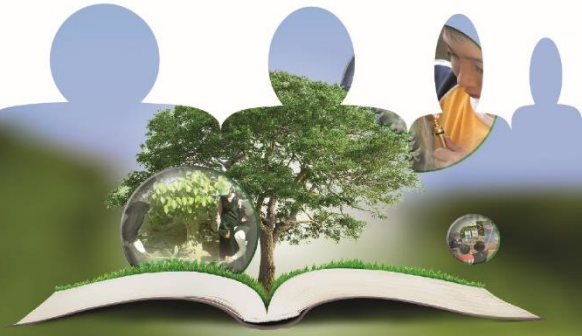


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Robert Swan, OBE visits the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi

Early in October 2017 EAD had the pleasure in receiving Robert Swan, OBE the first explorer to walk on both poles of the earth, held at Al Mamoura Building A, Auditorium. He gave an inspirational talk to raise awareness about the Earth's last great wilderness 'Antarctica' and the threats it faces from climate change as a key factor promoting "Climate Force Challenge 2041" <https://www.2041.com/about-us/>. He also went on to give a recount of his many expeditions over the years and the hardships faced in such harsh environments as the poles.

From November 2017 through to March 2018, Robert Swan and his son Barney Swan are planning Robert's last unassisted walk to the South Pole, you can track their progress on the Climate Force Challenge 2041 website. We wish them both all the very best of luck and thank them for their continued help with the much-needed data they provide to scientists and awareness of the threats faced to Antarctic and the urgent action we must take to stop this.



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Training of Trainers (TOT) Workshops for Educators

Our special educators got the chance to attend the Training of Trainers (TOT) workshops, conducted by Dr. Shepard Urenje, between the 6th and 9th of November 2017. A total of 110 educators attended four workshops.

Who is Dr. Shepard?

Dr. Shepherd Urenje is a Programme Specialist in Education with the Swedish International Centre of Education for Sustainable Development. He supports the teaching of environment and sustainability throughout the countries of Scandinavia, Asia, and Africa. After studying Developmental Education in the United Kingdom, Dr. Shepard has since been teaching environmental education and developing education in Zimbabwe.

Some of his latest achievements include:

- Nominated global coordinator of the Global Action Program by UNESCO.
- Appointed by UNESCO as a key partner in developing the Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) capacity of 60 education institutions in the Southern African and Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program.
- Successfully developed and implemented a new institutional capacity development program for leaders in education — now used in 14 countries in Southern and East Africa.
- Directed the development and implementation of new methods/approaches for capacity development — presently adopted by 42 institutions of Teacher Education in South-East Africa and Sweden.

The workshops aided educators through challenging them to come up with new teaching methods, as well as providing them with examples on 21st century teaching styles. The workshops provided teachers with learning methods to help equip youth with the essential competences, to come up with solutions for the current environmental challenges. Additionally, educators were trained on linking their teaching methods to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically goal 4.7 stating that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, by the year 2030. Furthermore, teachers were introduced to the “Change Project Approach”, related to future learning.

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We look forward for your comments and feedback about
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To contact us
sustainableschools@ead.ae
<https://sustainableschools.ead.ae>

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