

A FORUM FOR EDUCATORS OF SUSTAINABILITY

# MULTAQANA



## INSIDE

1. Editor's note
- 2 – 3. Launch of the Botanical Adventure Competition Workshop
4. Environmental Agency- Abu Dhabi Stand at ADIHEX 2018
5. SSI Core Aims
6. Nahtam Social Responsibility
- 7 – 8. Resources
- 9 – 10. Field trips
11. Dugong Teacher Training
- 12 -13. Days to Look Forward To

## Greetings!

The Sustainable Schools Initiative (SSI) team would like to welcome you to the SSI's 16th Edition of the Multaqana Newsletter. In alignment with the beginning of the new academic year of 2018-2019, we would like to extend our appreciation to the coordinators and students who have put huge efforts in implementing their proposed green initiatives in their schools during 2017-2018 academic year.

We would like also to stress the approaching deadline for submitting detailed reports of the successful projects undertaken by the participating schools eco-clubs.

Schools who wish to partake and win the Sustainable School Awards should submit their detailed SSI reports starting from the end of November 2018 until December 2018. All submitted reports will be evaluated by the SSI Committee, consisting of representatives from the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) as well as from partnered educational, governmental and non-governmental organisations.

After thorough assessment, schools that have achieved remarkable changes after implementing their sustainable initiatives will be rewarded with Sustainable School Reward during the SSI Awards Ceremony to be held in May 2019.

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

*Sustainable Schools Team*  
*Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD)*

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## Launch of the Botanical Adventure Competition: Come along to our Botanical Quest!

The SSI team is excited to announce the launching of its new competition, the **Botanical Adventure Competition!** Students are encouraged to go out on an adventure and find rare plants that are native to the UAE. By doing so, students will learn to connect with nature and to learn more about the environment of the country.

To start off their journey, students need to form teams where they collect different plant specimens and properly store them. They are then submitted to EAD where they will be placed in the National Herbarium.

Students will need to submit information about their specimens, such as the location where the plants were found and images of the plant, by uploading onto the ArcGIS Collector app, which is conveniently available in both the App Store and Play Store.

### Specimens collected will be evaluated based on four categories:

- Number of samples
- Correct labelling
- Cleanliness
- Diversity of samples

The competition commences mid-September 2018 and will last until the end of December 2018. Three teams will be chosen as winners and rewarded a certificate by EAD as well as valuable prizes on the **National Environment Day**, 4th February 2019.

### Workshop for Teachers

In accordance with the Botanical Adventure Competition mentioned earlier, the SSI team conducted three workshops, located in Abu Dhabi, Al Ain and in Al Dhafra, to inform teachers about the requirements of the competition.

The workshop covered an introduction about the flora of the UAE, followed by a detailed instruction on how to collect specimens, what equipment is needed and how to complete the datasheet required.

The second part of the workshop focused on the ArcGIS Collector application, and how to properly utilise it. Recording specimens appropriately are crucial to building the flora database, it is therefore essential to ensure the teachers know on how to use the app properly.

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## Environmental Agency- Abu Dhabi Stand at ADIHEX 2018

The Abu Dhabi International Hunting & Equestrian Exhibition (ADIHEX) was held from the 25th to 29th September 2018 at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC). With 2018 being the Year of Zayed, the Environmental Agency- Abu Dhabi (EAD) used its platform to feature the late Sheikh Zayed's environmental legacy through the years. Visitors had the opportunity to learn more about how his efforts to protect ecosystems and conserve species have paved the way for a more sustainable future.

The stand featured five zones: Protected Areas, Endangered Species, Regulations, the Sheikh Zayed Falcon Release Programme, the Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital and Inspired Citizens. The imperative role of the late Sheikh Zayed can be seen in each of the five zones displayed throughout the stand, beginning with his establishment of the Al Wathba Wetland Reserve in 1998 to the issuance of regulations and laws to protect the biodiversity of the environment.

A recorded total of 120 students visited the stand for the duration of the five days of the exhibition. Optimistically encouraging and inspiring the students to participate in protecting the environment and keep going Sheikh Zayed's legacy <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gAmjh8Pk88M&feature=youtu.be>



## SSI Core Aims

In an effort to raise awareness of the Sustainable Schools Initiative (SSI) programme between students, posters about the core aims of the initiative will be handed to schools affiliated with the initiative. The posters outline the fundamental components of the initiative and answers the basic, necessary questions to not only educate students about the initiative but it also motivates them into taking part in it.

The posters, as shown below are available in both the Arabic and English languages.

### WHAT, HOW & WHY OF SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS INITIATIVE



**HOW?**

- Green Schools Audit
- Setting-up and running Environmental Clubs
- Training of Trainers
- Exposing Students to hands-on Field Trips

**WHAT?**

- Environmental Management
- Empower Students
- Building Teachers Capacity
- Outdoor Education

**WHY?**

Contribute to:

- Environmental Education of Sustainable Development
- Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Green Economy
- UAE Vision 2021
- Abu Dhabi Plan

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH: 

INITIATED BY: 

SPONSORED BY: 

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### مبادرة المدارس المستدامة ماذا وكيف ولماذا؟



**كيف؟**

- تدقيق المدارس الخضراء
- إنشاء وإدارة النوادي البيئية
- تدريب المدرسين
- الرحلات الميدانية

**ماذا؟**

- الإدارة البيئية الشاملة
- تمكين الطلاب
- بناء قدرات المعلمين
- التعليم الميداني

**لماذا؟**

المساهمة في:

- التعليم البيئي من أجل التنمية المستدامة
- تحقيق أهداف التنمية المستدامة
- الاقتصاد الأخضر
- رؤية الإمارات 2021
- خطة أبوظبي

بشراكة مع: 

مبتدئة من: 

ممولة من: 

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## Nahtam Social Responsibility



Nahtam is an Arabic word translates to “We Care”, but it also the name of a social organisation based in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. The organisation, founded ten years ago, is an initiative that develops and carries out projects that shape for a better society. The main areas of focus include culture, health, environment and education.

Nahtam Social Responsibility has created a massive portfolio for itself, from smoking awareness campaigns to a fundraising for Zayed Higher Organisation Agricultural Centre, amongst many other projects. More information regarding the organisation and their projects can be found on the following link: <http://www.nahtam.com/>.

Schools are encouraged to collaborate with the Nahtam team to support their Sustainable Schools initiative, where the team can assist students to execute their projects and help them out during any stage of their projects.

The contact details for Nahtam Social Responsibility are posted below:

**Email:** [nahtam@nahtam.com](mailto:nahtam@nahtam.com)

**Tel:** +971 2 6420 526

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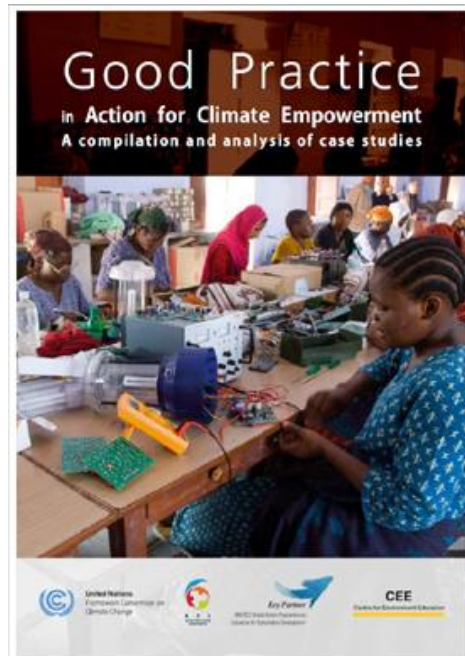


## Good Practice: Case Studies in Climate Empowerment

**Resource:** *Good Practice in Action for Climate Empowerment: A compilation and analysis of case studies.*

It has been, previously debated that there has been no strong argument supporting the relationship between education and positive climate action. As a result, this report published as a collection of 17 strong case studies that show how pivotal education is concerning behavioural changes that promote sustainability.

These case studies highlight the importance of awareness on people's lifestyle, therefore; the choices they make become inclined to mitigate their effects on the environment. Education and training have shown to provide successful, innovative and cost-effective solutions to current problems. The report analyses the 17 case studies to illustrate the significance of education in effective climate action and its role in meeting national climate plans.



For further information please use the link provide below:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/17ZEgGto8rqNmxMSkeawvynJ8WkIjdfd0/view>

## Resource: Preparing Teachers for Global Citizenship Education: A Template

The turn of the twenty-first century marked a more globalised world, where the economy of countries has become interdependent with one another, and businesses with strong international relationships thrive the most. With the world becoming more integrated and countries aligning their economic and political values with one another, it is also crucial to keep environmental aspects in mind as well.

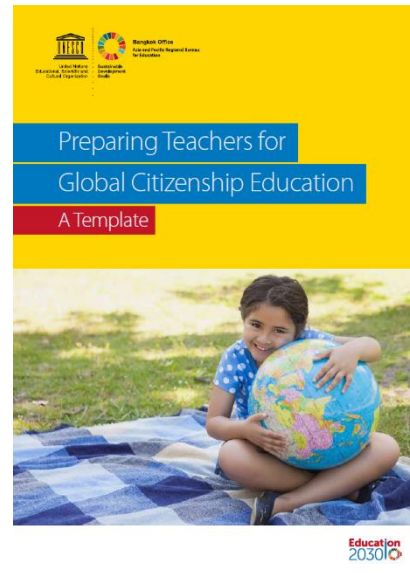
Decision-making is no longer governed by benefitting oneself but should take all people into consideration, requiring leaders not to be focused on their country; but **should encompass all of humanity; be global citizens. This begins by educating students on how to become global citizens**, and how to structure their thought processes to be more aware of global issues and understand their role in creating a better future.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation released a publication titled **“Preparing Teachers for Global Citizenship Education: A Template”**, which contains valuable information on how to integrate global citizenship concepts and principles into school curriculums. The publication also contains a wide range of resources and materials available for reference

This template focuses on the central role of teachers in creating future global citizens by implementing **Global Citizenship Education (GCED)** and instilling fundamental values such as solidarity, acceptance and empathy among students.

To help more with integrating GCED values into different school subjects, teachers are encouraged to review the publication and get to know more about global citizenship. The publication can be downloaded using the link below:

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0026/002654/265452E.pdf>





## Field Trip: Jebel Hafeet



As is common with previous releases of this newsletter, the SSI team would like to feature in this edition two field trip locations for schools interested in planning educational trips for its students.

The first location is Jebel Hafeet, located south of Al Ain. Reaching 1,240 metres, it is Abu Dhabi's highest peak, and the country's second tallest mountain. Teachers can use this opportunity to delve deeper into the geography of the country, as well as its history and the remarkable fossil discoveries linked to the country's ancestry found there.

Students can learn about how Jebel Hafeet was formed using the link below:

[www.environmentalatlas.ae/geographicInheritance/coastAndMountains](http://www.environmentalatlas.ae/geographicInheritance/coastAndMountains)

At the foot of the mountain lies Jebel Hafeet tombs, which were estimated to be around 5,000 years old. The cultural significance of these tombs is that it marks the beginning of the Bronze Age of the UAE. Older students can view the tombs firsthand, which can build an interest in archeology among students. The mountain is accessible to everyone, therefore; interested schools can plan trips without prior authorisation from governmental entities.



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## Field Trip: Wadi Nahyan

A second interesting location for a school trip, also located in Al Ain, is a trip to Wadi Nahyan. Aimed at older students, this trip can enhance their geography knowledge and introduce them to the ArcGIS data collection application.

Wadis, valleys or channels that run through mountains, in the UAE are characterised as steep-sided and so are not easily accessed by vehicles.

A visit to a wadi shows us how diverse the UAE is in its habitats and biodiversity. The only amphibian of the UAE is found in the wadis and it is the only habitat where you can find freshwater fish.

The SSI team encourages students to utilise the ArcGIS Collector application, where they can input their flora and fauna findings into the EAD database. Schools that are interested in accessing the application should contact the SSI team to help with login details.



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## Dugong Teacher Training: A Workshop

The SSI team is thrilled to introduce a new workshop for teachers and students that emphasises the importance of protecting Dugongs, an important marine animal species in the UAE. This workshop is a collaborative effort between EAD and TOTAL, to increase public awareness and knowledge on the country's conservation efforts.

The workshops will be held in; Abu Dhabi, Al Ain and Al Dhafra, and the aim is to provide knowledge on Dugongs, the threats they face, and all the efforts undertaken to protect and conserve them. Teachers are encouraged to integrate Dugong awareness concepts into school curriculums using cognitive teaching approaches.

The objective of the workshop is to integrate an array of teaching methods that can be implemented to teach students about Dugong conservation and preservation, including mathematical and physical approaches where it is fit.

**Abu Dhabi:** 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> November 2018

**Al Ain:** 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018

**Al Dhafra:** 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018



**DUGONGS DID YOU KNOW?**

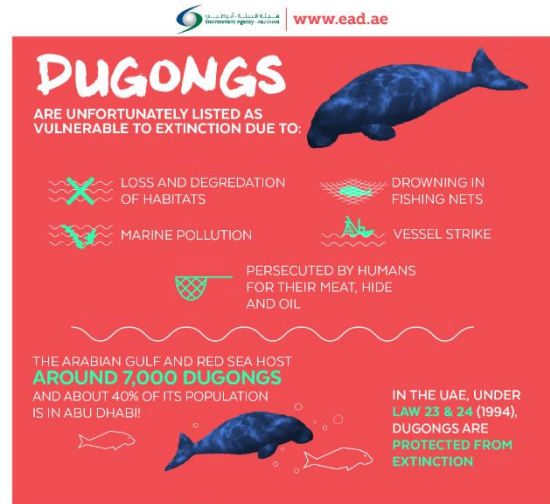
**DUGONGS ARE SHY AND SECRETIVE CREATURES**

**THEY ARE VEGETARIAN**  
THEY DIVE TO DEPTHS OF 33 METERS TO FEED AND CAN EAT UP TO **30KG** OF SEAGRASS A DAY!

**ALTHOUGH THEIR EYESIGHT IS POOR, THEY HAVE EXCELLENT HEARING!**

**DUGONGS ARE NOT IN A HURRY... THAT'S WHY THEY MOVE SLOWLY**

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**DUGONGS ARE UNFORTUNATELY LISTED AS VULNERABLE TO EXTINCTION DUE TO:**

- LOSS AND DEGRADATION OF HABITATS
- DROWNING IN FISHING NETS
- MARINE POLLUTION
- VESSEL STRIKE
- PERSECUTED BY HUMANS FOR THEIR MEAT, HIDE AND OIL

THE ARABIAN GULF AND RED SEA HOST **AROUND 7,000 DUGONGS** AND ABOUT 40% OF ITS POPULATION IS IN ABU DHABI!

IN THE UAE, UNDER **LAW 23 & 24 (1994)**, DUGONGS ARE **PROTECTED FROM EXTINCTION**

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## Days to Look Forward To

There is no way better to celebrate and raise awareness of our Earth than a set, unified, and global day focused solely on appreciating the environment. This is why the United Nations has set days to encourage awareness on various environmental issues and concerns. This article focuses on three environmental days occurring in October 2018 to December 2018, and how schools can use these days as an opportunity to heighten their students knowledge on numerous environmental issues.

On the first Monday in October,, **World Habitat Day** was held. The main theme of this day is the right to shelter for all people, and the need to protect human habitats for the future generations. Students could use this day to learn more about the past of the city they are in, or what future plans are in store. Students could design competitions to appreciate their city, add their own input to bettering their cities or do a trivia quiz focused on their city.

October 14th is the **Arab Environment Day**, as was collectively agreed in 1986 by the Arab Council in Tunisia. Events for this day can include assimilating similar environmental concerns all Arab countries face and the ones that might be unique to each country. Students can learn from these activities the need for countries to cooperate when dealing with environmental issues and the benefits of doing so.



<https://unhabitat.org/whd-2018/>

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## Days to Look Forward To

October 16th is the Food Agricultural Organisation (FAO) proclaimed this day to be the **World Food Day** in 1979. This day is meant to educate the public on world food problems and intensify efforts in combating the hunger, malnutrition and poverty that is prevalent in the world. Students can organise discussion panels and debates on these issues. Another activity can be the overconsumption of food and how we can reduce food loss as well as redistributing leftover food to those in need.

December 11<sup>th</sup> is the **International Mountain Day** this day aims to highlight the importance of the mountains to life. Students can compile interesting information about the different mountain ranges of the world. They can find out the importance of mountains as important ecological regions, additionally, they can organise a hike in the mountains of Al Ain, Ras Al Khaimah, and Fujairah. They then share their experiences with other students in the school through the school webpage to motivate them by sharing experience and findings.



<http://www.fao.org/world-food-day>



<http://www.un.org/en/events/mountainday/>

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# Education for Sustainability

We look forward receiving your feedback about our quarterly newsletter.

To contact us:

[sustainableschools@ead.ae](mailto:sustainableschools@ead.ae)  
[sustainableschools.ead.ae](http://sustainableschools.ead.ae)



@EADTweets



Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi  
Sustainable Campus Initiative  
Green Youth Majlis

YouTube



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