



# Multaqana

A Forum for Educators  
of Sustainability

## WELCOME TO MULTAQANA!

### CONGRATULATIONS ON THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR 2019-2020.

*October 2019 / Edition 20*

#### We hope you had an enjoyable holiday!

In 2009, we began our journey with schools - addressing environmental challenges as one team. These challenges included the increase in the rate of natural resource consumption, pollution, desertification, climate change, biodiversity loss and Ozone depletion. These challenges led to an ecological imbalance which has affected humans and other species.

We faced these challenges together. We have also contributed to achieving the goals set out in Abu Dhabi Vision 2030, as well as the Abu Dhabi government's policy agenda, which enhances Abu Dhabi's leading role in balancing prosperity and future aspirations.

Education is the key to achieving sustainable development by highlighting environmental concepts and strengthening positive behaviours. This education is based on a comprehensive view, sustainable efforts, continuous progress, and following up to enhance the meaning of environmental protection responsibility.

In this context, the Sustainable Schools Initiative was launched by the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD), supported by BP, to build school capacity in the field of auditing, monitoring and managing environmental impact per the best available approaches. The implementation of field activities helps to reflect the concepts of awareness and turn them into positive individual behavioural changes.

The team effort demonstrated through this innovative initiative not only contributes to behavioural change in school communities but also affects families and communities. In this issue of Multaqana, we are excited to share with you educational resources, guidelines and activities that will help increase your innovation and creativity.

**Regards,**  
**Sustainable Schools Initiative Team**

## Get Moving!

Walking and cycling are healthy ways to get to school. They benefit both the student and the environment. It can also be a higher quality experience than traveling by car or bus and can be an opportunity to get fit.

### SOME BENEFIT FROM BEING ACTIVE:

- Healthier – physically active children are more alert and ready to learn.
- Reduces traffic congestion and pollution – for a better environment and friendly and safe neighbourhoods.
- Raises safety around the school area.
- Develops students' autonomy and social skills.
- Saves money.

### SAFETY TIPS:

- Plan the route, set an appropriate distance with your parents and test it in advance.
- Make sure you are accompanied by an adult during your trip.
- Avoid the traffic and use designated routes near houses, sidewalks and pedestrian crossings.
- Look left and right before crossing the road.



- Follow the instructions of your school's safety officer.
- Avoid using a mobile phone as it can be distracting while walking or cycling to school.

To learn more, please visit [www.dot.abudhabi.ae](http://www.dot.abudhabi.ae)



Yearning to get outdoors and have adventures in the wild? Feel like doing something more meaningful with your eco-club? Itching to influence the future of the UAE? Or do you simply want to learn more about conservation and sustainability issues? Then, Connect with Nature is for you.

## Connect with Nature

Connect with Nature is a new and exciting conservation programme for youth aged 15-30 years old. Co-founded by the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) and Emirates Nature-WWF, Connect with Nature will get you out into nature with loads of fun experiences and will support you to become a future leader of sustainability. Register online to access an interactive map with 30 geolocations that bring to life conservation and biodiversity hotspots across the country. Browse through our Knowledge Hub for information about UAE species and conservation issues relevant to this

region. Register for adventure-based experiences in nature, such as night-time kayaks, horseback riding and snorkeling. Attend a youth majlis, volunteer to help us deliver an event, join us on a trail run in nature, and even apply for the Youth Leadership Programme. By the end of your learning journey, you will be equipped with the experience, knowledge, and know-how to become a future leader of sustainability!



## CONNECT WITH NATURE'S BESPOKE ACTIVITIES TAILORED FOR ALL INTERESTS AND LEVELS INCLUDE:

- Terrestrial and marine citizen science projects
- Nature-themed escape rooms
- Turtle patrols, releases, and tagging
- Yoga, trail runs and other fitness activities in nature
- Photography in nature workshops
- Nature-based scavenger hunts
- Desert treks
- Mangrove kayaking
- Horseback riding
- Camping trips
- Outdoor survival skills workshops
- Snorkeling and scuba diving
- Nurdle hunts
- Sustainable farming trips
- Film screenings

The topic of biodiversity conservation can at times be serious and even off-putting. But it doesn't have to be! Learning about UAE species and ecosystems and how to protect them can be fun and we have loads of ways you can join in together with your friends and family. What better way to make a difference than to do it locally while you are exploring UAE habitats,

meeting new like-minded people and gaining life lessons and skills.

Visit [www.connectwithnature.ae](http://www.connectwithnature.ae) to kick-start your journey today!

Don't miss the soon-to-be-launched Connect with Nature mobile application where you can start earning virtual badges and try gamified challenges at geolocations.

### Follow us on social media:

 [www.instagram.com/connectwithnature.ae](https://www.instagram.com/connectwithnature.ae)

 [www.facebook.com/ConnectWithNatureUAE/](https://www.facebook.com/ConnectWithNatureUAE/)

 [www.mobile.twitter.com/cwnuae](https://www.mobile.twitter.com/cwnuae)



# The Melting Arctic



## BY HUMAID KANJI

Environmental Economist  
Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi

The Arctic is beautiful yet fragile - a true global barometer of the imminent risks of climate crises. Visiting the polar region can be an overwhelming experience because it brings us face-to-face with the impacts of climate change and an accelerating rate of sea ice melting. This year, a dry, hot summer caused fires in part of the Arctic, with the region losing 11 billion tons of ice in one day. The rapid loss of sea ice means that within two decades there could be no summer ice at all. This changing condition of sea ice is

a great threat to the survival of polar bears, with potential habitat destruction. In June 2019, the hottest recorded summer around the globe, I joined Team Tolerance from the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi onboard the National Geographic Explorer from the Svalbard Norwegian archipelago on an expedition north - as far as 79.55 degrees into the Arctic region. On this expedition, I joined more than 90 participants from different countries, with a mission to observe the extreme changes in the

Arctic environment. Climate change is a collective responsibility that requires collective actions. The key to responding to the crisis is with enhanced participation of the public, private sectors and civil society in limiting global warming. Youth especially have a great opportunity to get involved in the decisions being made today, so that we don't have to ever experience a world where the Arctic region has no ice.

## (Submit) SDGs Design International Awards 2019



**SDG 10**  
Reduced Inequalities

Students from all over the world are invited to use their design skills to create new, bold, and innovative solutions. Ask your student to submit designs for SDG 13 Climate Action, SDG 14 Life Below Water or SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities. Any genre of design is accepted. One winner will receive a prize of ¥300,000. The competition is open to any post-secondary student interested in design.

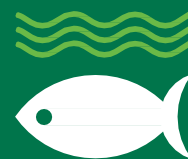


**SDG 13**  
Climate Action

### Important dates:

- Last day to submit your entry: 31 October 2019
- Final presentation and award ceremony: 14 March 2020

To apply and for more information [click here](#)



**SDG 14**  
Life Below Water

### Contact information:

SDGs Design Unit Secretariat  
Faculty of Design, Kyushu University  
4-9-1 Shiobaru, Minami-ku, Fukuoka,  
815-8540, Japan  
Tel: +81 92 553 9461  
[sdgs@design.kyushu-u.ac.jp](mailto:sdgs@design.kyushu-u.ac.jp)

[www.sdgs.design.kyushu-u.ac.jp/en/](http://www.sdgs.design.kyushu-u.ac.jp/en/)

# Learning and Participation

## GREEN SCHOOLS AUDIT GUIDELINES

The first component of the Sustainable Schools Initiative is the Green Schools' Audit, in which schools are assessed on environmental impact and use of natural resources. This component contributes to the transition of all members of the school community from merely talking about sustainability to achieving it.

Schools use the Green Schools Guidelines, which allows them to

[Click here for more information](#)

monitor and consume resources through information inventory, analysis, and comparison across five key elements:

**Water:** works to build and expand awareness of water use, water resources, ways to rationalise water consumption, the importance of the availability of sanitation facilities, and the need to build an informed society that is aware of water issues.

**Air:** helps schools understand the impact of their transportation policies on air quality, and find the best ways to reduce harmful gas emissions to preserve the right of individuals to enjoy clean air.

**Land:** focuses on schools' use of land by planting green areas, monitoring biodiversity, and recognising the value of environmental and economic sources.

**Energy:** helps schools learn about energy sources, consumption, and ways to protect those resources to reduce pollution and costs.

**Waste:** determines the total amount of waste generated, and presents the best ways to reduce it through separation, reuse and recycling.

Our Green School Guidelines are accredited by the Abu Dhabi Quality and Conformity Council.

## ECO CLUB GUIDELINES

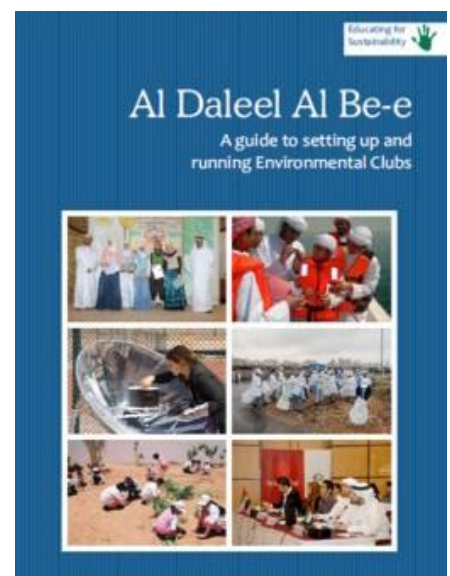
Eco-clubs are one of the essential pillars of the Sustainable Schools Initiative. These clubs provide platforms and an organisational framework to enable students to participate actively in the development of activities. They also stimulate discussion and dialogue between students, teachers and community members on environmental issues.

The Eco-Club Guidelines (Al Daleel Al Beei) provides teachers and

students with the best practices in establishing and managing their environmental club, developing its programs and increasing interaction with various activities – both within the school or the community.

It is worth mentioning that these guidelines can be modified.. It provides a wide area for creativity and innovation while increasing the spirit of competition. It achieves the best results that contribute to maintaining the natural balance and sustainability of resources now and in the future.

[Click here for more information](#)



## TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE WORLD

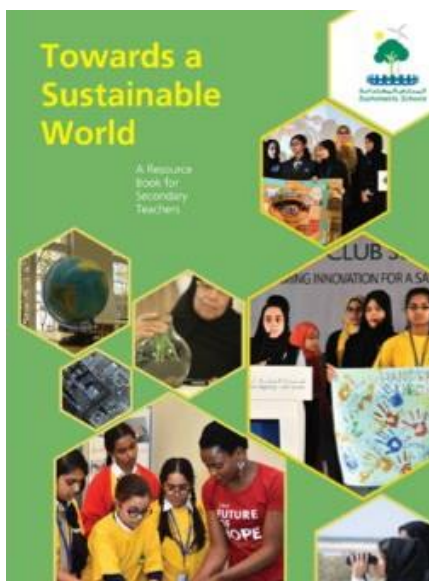
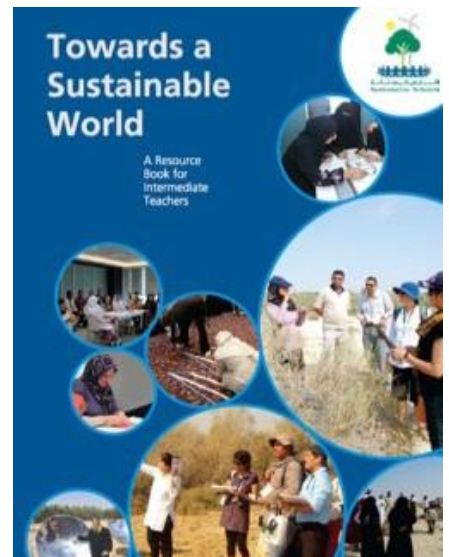
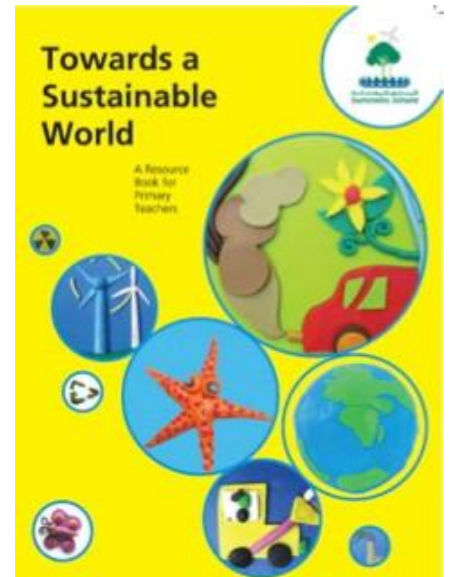
Through the Train-the-Trainers component of the Sustainable Schools Initiative, we seek to change the way teachers present sustainability concepts in their classrooms. Knowledge in the classroom can enhance understanding, expand perceptions – or even change practical attitudes. To reach these platforms, the teacher needs to nurture a sense of urgency and enhance the desire to work among their students.

One component of this is workshops that aim to integrate sustainability concepts into the curriculum in innovative, entertaining and exciting ways for students. The Sustainable Schools Initiative team also provides resources for primary, preparatory and secondary teachers so they can build a conscious generation with the ability to take realistic actions and achieve sustainability.

The Towards a Sustainable World Guideline paves the way by describing the issue of sustainability and then moving on to persuasive justifications for school teachers according to the stages they are teaching. The focus of the guidelines is on six key priority issues in the UAE: water, waste, energy, climate change, air quality and biodiversity. It provides knowledge and information on the environmental situation within the topics mentioned and suggests methods and activities that can be used with the students based on their study.

These guidelines included innovative approaches to education, such as thinking systems that focus on perception and management of environmental problems within interrelated links. For example, this could include GIS, smartphones, maps, information, graphics and games to understand environmental issues

These guidelines have enabled us to reach a large number of teachers who have helped us to ‘walk the talk’ in the classrooms.



[Click here to access](#)

**Primary teachers guideline**

[Click here to access](#)

**Intermediate teachers guideline**

[Click here to access](#)

**Secondary teachers guideline**



# Upcoming Environmental Events

As part of the Sustainable Schools Initiative, schools can celebrate environmental events to raise awareness among students and community members of the challenges facing the planet. Below, we include environmental occasions in the fourth quarter of the year. You also have the opportunity to share your activities to be published in the next issue of Multaqana.

## WORLD HABITAT DAY



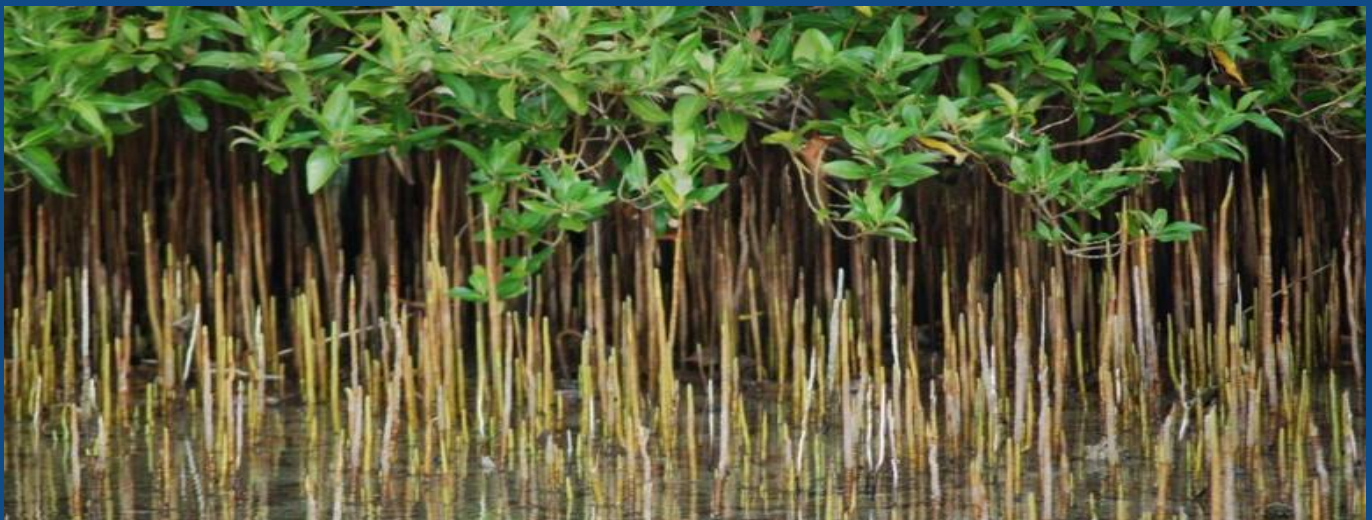
**Date: The first  
Monday of October**

The United Nations declared the first Monday of October each year as World Habitat Day to shed light on the reality of settlement and human stability, and the fundamental right to shelter for all.

### Activities:

A competition can be organised to create posters that reflect the different considerations of cities (such as the need for green squares) and what can be done to improve the conditions of the city buildings. The best entries including sustainable solutions, could then be selected for a special exhibition.

Experts from the Department of Planning and Municipalities will be able to speak about the development projects in the city and answer questions from students and other community members.





## ARAB ENVIRONMENT DAY

**Date: 14 October**

The Council of Arab Ministers met for the first time in Tunis to take steps to protect the Arab environment on 14 October 1986, and this date has been declared as the annual Arab Environment Day.

### Activities

This day can be an opportunity to learn more about Arab countries and the importance of environmental issues facing each one of them. The eco-club students can also compile a list of solutions and measures taken by each country to address these problems. This day is an excellent opportunity to initiate activities that contribute to understanding while identifying local environmental problems and issues – raising awareness on these issues in society.

## WORLD FOOD DAY

**Date: 16 October**

World Food Day, declared in 1979 by the UN World Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), aims to raise social awareness of food problems and address the threat of famine, malnutrition and poverty. It also referred to the establishment date of FAO in 1945.

### Activities

It is essential for students to identify problems related to poverty, famine and malnutrition. The eco-club can conduct an activity such as browsing newspapers, magazines and other media sources to collect news and excerpts related to these global issues. The collected materials can be shown on a wall display. Discussions, competitions and films on these pressing issues can help to raise awareness from that point.

**The following topics can also be discussed:**

- The importance of eating balanced meals.
- The importance of eating organic food.
- The best ways to reduce the consumption of fast food.
- Rationalising food consumption.
- Encouraging the purchase of local food.

## UNIVERSAL CHILDREN'S DAY

**Date: 20 November**

On this date, the United Nations General Assembly declared the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Universal Children's Day offers each of us an inspirational entry-point to advocate, promote and celebrate children's rights, translating into dialogues and actions that will build a better world for children.

### Activities

Eco-club students can celebrate Universal Children's Day and prepare posters to raise awareness of children's rights. They can also educate the community on children's rights to a clean environment in the future.

This day can also be an opportunity to draw attention to the fact that not all children around the world have the same rights, including environmental rights. Members of the eco-club could also sign a pledge to help other children.

---

## INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN DAY

**Date: 11 December**

December 11 is International Mountain Day. This day is an opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of mountains and highlight the opportunities and constraints of developing surrounding areas. This occasion also helps to build partnerships that enhance positive changes by developing mountains and highlands.

### Activities

Students can carry out a programme to gather interesting information about mountains in the UAE. They could also organise a trip to a mountain in Al Ain, Ras Al Khaimah or Fujairah.

The eco-club students can start educating their peers about these mountains through talks or the school website to raise awareness about the importance of mountains for environmental balance.



# Upcoming Events

To ensure the Sustainable Schools Initiative's events are included in your annual schedule, and to be prepared for participation, below are the activities and events planned for the fourth quarter of the year:

## GREEN SCHOOLS AUDIT WORKSHOPS

### Objective:

These workshops will help teachers participating in the Sustainable Schools Initiative to use the Green Schools Guide to assess their environmental level; develop goals and plans for sustainability; and improve their performance.

### Date:

Abu Dhabi: 15, 16 and 17 October 2019  
 Al Ain: 22, 23 and 24 October 2019  
 Al Dhafra: 29, 30 and 31 October 2019

### Language:

Arabic and English

## TRAINING OF TRAINERS

### Objective:

These training sessions will provide SSI participants with the latest teaching methodologies to integrate environmental and sustainability concepts into the curricula of various subjects.

### Date:

Al Ain: 3 November 2019  
 Abu Dhabi: 4, 5, 6 and 7 November 2019

### Language:

English

## SETTING UP AND RUNNING ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB

### Objective:

The workshop will guide schools on how to engage students in sustainability issues and encourage them to share the message and the best practices with their local communities and families.

### Date:

Abu Dhabi: 18 and 19 November 2019

### Language:

Arabic and English

AN INITIATIVE OF



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



SPONSORED BY

