

Past and present environmental exhibition



Environmental Protection and Development Authority celebrated the National Day (43th), where an environmental exhibition has been opened (environment, past and present), in the presence of His Excellency, Ras Al Khaimah Municipality Director Mundhir bin Zaabi and some staff of Ras Al Khaimah Investment Authority and a group of staff and visitors. The exhibition included various activities about the emirate natural resources between the past, present and how to protect them.

Al Ghaf

Ghaf (*Prosopis cineraria*), those giant tree that represents the shade, warmth and food for livestock and humans, a popular tree for UAE people, is a part of the country heritage, and still even today part of the available food at any time. Some think that the tree is a good source of food only for animals but research has shown that every part of the tree, representing a benefit for both human and the environment, also discovered that, Ghaf leaves has great nutritional benefits. Ghaf tree plays an important role in the Bedouins life, because the animals use it for feeding and for sheltering, when the temperature rises strongly in the summer. Also Ghaf tree is a shelter for birds and therefore it is a vital component in the ecosystem, where it is a good shelter for insects larvae and bees used it for the nectar extraction, it is also food for Gazelles, Oryx and a valuable source of food for camels.



Blue carbon stock assessment project



Environment Protection and Development Authority (EPDA) in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Water and Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative (AGEDI) implemented the national project for blue carbon, which comes as a continuation of the Abu Dhabi indicative project of blue carbon. The project aims to assess the blue carbon in the marine and coastal ecosystems, because mangrove and salt marshes store blue carbon, therefore a field survey and sampling of mangrove forests in Khor Ras Al Khaimah and Khor Al Rams has been conducted in order to make an assessment of the stock of blue carbon in those environments. These new data points will form an important part of the overall national Blue Carbon account for the UAE.

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United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Decided by 2010, "falconry" to be considered as a human alive heritage.

Environmental Event

International Mountain Day

United Nations General Assembly has taken December 11, the International Day of Mountains, starting from 2003, and encouraged the International community to organize on that day events to highlight the importance of mountain sustainable development. As stated in the United Nations report, mountain environment representing a quarter of the world's landmass and home to 12% of the people in the world, it is categorized by the tremendous global diversity ranging from tropical rainforest to the ice and permanent snow; and climates from intensive rainfall to even high deserts; from sea level to a height of nearly nine thousand meters and so the mountains are representing water towers of the world, where it saves fresh water for at least half of the world's population, as far as, the mountains have great effect on the climate and weather conditions either on the regional or global scales.

Protected area

It is defined by the Environmental law, No. (24) of 1999, as :

Land or water with special environmental characters (birds, animals, fish, plants or natural phenomena) having cultural or aesthetic or environmental value and determined by a decree issued by the Cabinet of Ministers on a proposal from the Ministry of environment and water or a resolution by the competent authorities.

How to be an environment friend?

1. Sparingly use plastic bags or bring your own shopping bags.
2. Do not throw cardboard and paper in the trash.
3. When buying detergents try to choose those which are devoid of sulfur, phosphates, especially if it is an atmosphere detergent.
4. Do not waste paper.
5. Select the simply coated goods, and it is better to be packed in plastic.

BU Tinah Island

BU Tinah island, its area with the surrounding shallow waters (about 190 km), is a part of Marawah biosphere reserve. BU Tinah characterized by its rich marine and terrestrial ecosystems and is a unique habitat for rich biodiversity in the dry weather prevailing in the Gulf region. It is a home to numerous species of seabirds, such as greater Flamingo, Osprey, different species of dolphins and endangered sea turtles, such as hawksbill and green turtle. Also Marawah hosts the second largest population of dugongs after Australia marine mammal classified as vulnerable species according to the red list of the International Union for the conservation of nature (IUCN).



Studies and Research

Electromagnetic energy pollution

Scientific studies and research has shown that, among the causes of disability are the environmental pollution factors and simple example of this, the impact of towers and electrical currents links near 200 meters away from the population where it pollutes the region with electromagnetic energy, which have a great impact on children leading to damage to the nervous system, impair their mental growth and weaken the realizable abilities, hence lead to a decline in the level of intelligence, also it has a negative impact on their abilities for speech and hearing.

Cleanup campaign in Mina Al Arab beach in cooperation with RAK Properties



EPDA organized in collaboration with RAK Properties campaign to clean up Mina Al Arab beach, with a wide participation from the existing schools in Ras Al Khaimah emirate. This campaign reflects our commitment to various projects and activities aimed for increasing public awareness about the commitment support importance to social responsibility towards wildlife and natural resources protection. During the campaign marine debris has been removed and scattered wastes on the beach have been collected reflecting on improvement of the coastal environment.

Environmental monitoring

EPDA monitors ambient air quality through fixed stations in three regions: City of Ras Al Khaimah (Qasimiyah School) Albairat and the Al Jeer area, as well as the mobile station that contribute to the expansion of surveillance base, monitoring is accomplished by using the following indicators: nitrogen oxides, nitrogen dioxide, nitrogen monoxide, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide and dust (particulate matter).



Study on coast productivity



Enhancing the existing cooperation between EPDA and its partners, a scientific team from both EPDA and Masdar conducted a field study on Ras Al Khaimah emirate coasts, where the team collected samples of sea water to know the types of marine phytoplankton and the water characteristics for matching these findings with the available satellites images. The main target of these studies is to monitor and follow-up anticipation of the red tide phenomenon, the scientific team will continue this study in a regular base for the purpose of completing the data base on marine phytoplankton in the country.

Annual meeting for the car wash facilities owners

EPDA organized the annual meeting to the Emirate car wash facilities owners. The event included a presentation on environmental regulations, in addition to the car wash facilities establishment sites selection standards. At the end of the meeting, a group of distinguished owners was honored in recognition of their commitment to implementing the environmental standards for car wash facilities.

World Wildlife Fund (WWF):

Increase in consumption with a decrease in biodiversity in the world.

Indicators listed in the Living Planet Report 2014 showed that, about 50 % global decline in biodiversity during the past four decades, as a result of the increasing pressure on the ecosystems. The report also indicated that, global consumption patterns prevailing require additional half Globe to what is currently provided by the planet to meet the growing demand for resources , it means that we use the available resources faster than the ability of the planet to compensate in comparison with the previous report issued in 2012, the results showed ecological footprint per capita in the UAE " index to gauge the impact of a particular community on the planet and ecosystems " has decreased from 8.4 global hectares per person to 7.7 global hectares per person , occupies the third place. Commenting on the findings of the report, Dr. Rashid Ahmed Bin Fahad , Minister of Environment and Water and Chairman of the Steering Committee for the initiative of the ecological footprint, said: " Despite the improvement achieved by the UAE in this year's report is an important improvement, the per capita consumption in the UAE society is still high, and this issue requires further work on the development of activities and programs to reduce consumption and a special focus on reducing our carbon footprint, which constitute 74 percent of the total individual environmental footprint in the United Arab Emirates.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)

It is an international agreement between governments. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in wild animals and plants specimens, their parts and derivatives does not threaten their survival in their natural habitats. CITES provide means to protect many of these species. In order to protect wildlife, UAE became a member in the Convention in 1990 and issued the Federal Law No. (11) of 2002 regarding this issue.

University activities

University of Sharjah

University of Sharjah hosted in December 2014 the 11th Arab Conference on Astronomy and Space Science, held in parallel with the Second International Conference on the History of Science for Arabs and Muslims Sharjah astronomical garden has been inaugurated. The conference addressed some topics around observatories and scientific research in the fields of astronomy and space physics where sessions were allocated to discuss the latest findings of the scientists in remote sensing technology, control and monitoring of the Earth from outer space and solar activities and its impact on the atmosphere and on the Arab scientific heritage in astronomy.



Environmental legislation

Article (44) of the Federal Law
No. (24) of 1999

The competent authorities in cooperation and coordination with the Federal Environment Authority and stakeholders work on the development of the desert environment resources and attention to biodiversity and increase green areas using modern methods and techniques and benefit from the advanced technology that protects and develop the agricultural areas. It is prohibits any activity that would harm the quantity or quality of the vegetation cover in any arealeading to desertification or distort the natural environment, and prohibits cutting or uprooting or harm to any tree or shrub or herb without permission from the competent authority in coordination with the Authority.

Note:

The Authority intended the Federal Environment Agency (formerly) – now the Ministry of Environment and Water.