



Annual Report 2020





His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said



His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik

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Message from the President

2020 was a challenging year for us all. In January we mourned the devastating passing of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos, may his soul rest in peace. His inspiring vision for our country will be forever held in our hearts. Under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said, the country quickly came together to move forward with a renewed commitment to the future stability and prosperity of Oman. Just a month later however, Oman recorded the first case of COVID-19 and the global pandemic placed unprecedented challenges on us all. As the impact continues to be felt around the world, I would first like to express my sincere hope that you and your families are in good health during these extraordinary times.

The financial implications of COVID-19 on our organisation at the beginning of the year were significant, to the extent that the long-term viability of ESO was in question. As the only non-profit organisation in Oman dedicated to conserving the environment, ESO is entirely dependent on sponsorship, membership fees and donations to deliver our mission. We acted swiftly to mitigate the expected impact by reducing administrative costs and, unfortunately, the size of our team.

Many projects were inevitably put on hold with lockdowns, curfews and travel restrictions in place, however, with the steadfast and generous help of our members, sponsors and supporters, we were still able to carry out a number of educational programmes, awareness campaigns and conservation projects. During the year, we produced seven educational publications, including booklets, infographics and videos; distributed more than 700 frankincense tree seedlings in partnership with Dhofar communities; and distributed 4,600 reusable bags to communities in Muscat, Sur, Masirah, Al Wusta, Sadah and Thamreet. Bolstered by the Summer Sea Turtle Sustainability Grant from the Turtle Island Restoration Network and SEE Turtles, a grant awarded to ESO thanks to an international public vote, we also removed 190 tons of abandoned fishing nets from important nesting beaches on Masirah Island.

Leveraging data collected as part of ESO's ongoing research to support the conservation of the highly endangered Arabian Sea humpback whales, an international team of researchers published a paper in December 2020, with the wonderful discovery of a new population of blue whales that have been hiding off our coast in the Indian ocean. This is a clear indication that the marine world has so much yet to be discovered and highlights the importance of our continued protection and conservation.

With 'normal' fundraising events impossible to continue as planned, we had to find alternative ways to raise funds to sustain our operations. We are proud to have hosted two successful virtual fundraising events in 2020: 'ESO's Environmental Big Night In' replaced our annual fundraising ball, and an exhibition by artist, Joana Mollet, at Bait Al Baranda entitled 'Coastline, Community and Conservation,' featuring installations by children from local schools, raised awareness on beach litter and the importance of conserving our fragile marine habitat. Both these events were well received across Oman and it was humbling to see the generosity and continued belief in ESO from corporates, friends of ESO and our international supporters.

Our organisation was founded to help protect the environment in Oman and influence environmentally sustainable behaviour through education, awareness and conservation. I am extremely proud of the work we have delivered over the past 16 years, and of the team that we have developed during this time. I am determined to continue our endeavours to conserve and protect one of Oman's greatest assets: our incredible natural heritage.



Our work continues to be supported by companies who believe in our cause and have partnered with us over the years. Our annual report is a testament to what your funds continue to enable us to achieve. I would like to thank all our corporate members and donation partners for your ongoing partnership, as well as our individual supporters, be it from private sector companies or personal donations.

We are also grateful to our volunteers who are always at hand to help, and to the government of Oman who continues to support our work.

Tania S Al Said
President



Gulf blenny, Paul Flandinette

Introduction



2020 was a year of reflection, adaptation and contradictions. On the one hand, health and the economy suffered yet on the other hand, there were many benefits to the environment.

With lockdowns in place and travel restrictions across the globe, we saw a decrease in the amount of greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants known to damage our environment and our health. A reduction in commercial and industrial activities saw a reduction in effluents entering waterways and the marine environment became clearer. Fewer movements of cruise ships and other vessels, lessened overall underwater noise, reducing one of the stressors to marine mammals. All of these changes resulted in a recovery for nature, as people were locked in and wildlife roamed, enjoying reduced noise and pollution.

In Oman, as lockdowns and curfews eased, people spent more time outdoors and in nature. The restrictions resulted in a realization of what is truly important for health and mental well-being and connecting with nature came to the forefront. Tour operators, fishermen and the public reported sightings of Arabian Sea humpback whales off Shatti Al Qurm Beach, at the Dimaniyat Islands and off the coast of Al Sawadi; larger schools of whale sharks were reportedly observed over a longer period and, unusually, sea turtle hatchlings were witnessed in Bandar Khairan and Sohar.

The lockdowns proved that the environment has the ability to recover and humans are capable of making swift changes that can benefit the environment. Not all was positive for the environment though. Attempts to reduce our universal reliance on single use plastics that were seeing such progress in 2019, were dealt a heavy blow by COVID-19. Understandable hygiene concerns triggered a significant increase in plastic consumption with a collapse in the oil market, making plastic cheaper than ever to produce. Face masks, gloves, cups and other single use items can now be found around every corner. The volume of plastic waste discarded as a result is having a significant impact on both our environmental and human health and must be addressed. Oman's Ministerial Resolution 23/2020 to ban single-use shopping bags from January 2021 is a positive start but there are reusable and sustainable options for almost every item of single use plastic.

The lockdowns were a temporary phase but as the pandemic situation improves and activities resume, we hope that individuals and businesses take the opportunity to consider how we move forward in the future, keeping in mind our ability to minimize environmental degradation. With this in mind, we look forward to 2021 and we invite you to consider what you can contribute beyond this and join us by spreading awareness as we launch the 'It's Time' campaign to raise awareness on plastics, littering and recycling, after all... 'It's Time'!

Suaad Al Harthi
Executive Director



Violet dropwing, Andrew Spalton

Supporting Oman's Vision 2040 and UN Sustainability Goals

"In line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, Oman's 2040 Vision is focused on achieving development that meets the needs of the present without sacrificing the requirements of the future, a balance between development and the environment, between production and consumption and between the environment's ability to give and its ability to endure."

HE Dr Abdullah bin Ali al Omari, President of the Environment Agency

Under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Al Said and His Majesty Sultan Haitham Al Said, Oman's Vision 2040 provides strong foundations for a development agenda that recognizes the importance of protecting the nation's natural resources and the outstanding environment of Oman. At ESO we strongly advocate for national initiatives that promote sustainable development and mitigate, if not eliminate, negative behaviour detrimental to Oman's environment and rich biodiversity. Our projects seek to respond to the overarching aim to protect Oman's natural heritage for future generations by focusing on

- Research and conservation to support endangered species in Oman
- Educating communities on the importance of adopting more sustainable lifestyles
- Building capacity in the environmental sector.

We also believe that it is important to closely align our projects to the priorities outlined by the UN's Sustainability Goals.



2020 Year in Numbers



28 Collaborations with international organizations

8 Conservation awareness materials produced
1 Booklet
5 Infographics
2 Manuscripts




9 Community awareness events



4,600 Reusable bags distributed

20,000+ Followers on social media



31 schools, from **9** Governates enrolled in the Green School Initiative consisting of **310** Representatives



220 Individuals reached during outreach campaigns, targeting fishermen and farmers



30 Corporate members



356 Individual members

4 Hotels and **3** tour operators part of the donation program



1st virtual fundraiser

10 Weeks of sea turtle survey work



190 Tons of abandoned fishing nets removed from turtle nesting beaches on Masirah



700 Frankincense seedlings distributed and planted

ESO Board

The following Board Members were elected in April 2020 for a two-year duration:

President

HH Sayyida Tania bint Shabib Al Said holds a BSc in Marine and Freshwater Biology and a Diploma in Early Childhood Education. She is a founding member of ESO and has served as the President of the Board of Directors of ESO since its establishment. Sayyida Tania initiated the Say No to Plastic Bags Campaign, organises the annual ESO fundraising ball as well as the annual corporate ECO BOWL competition. She represents ESO in the media and helps with fundraising initiatives. Sayyida Tania continues to work towards the renewal of the ESO strategy with the board and is in discussions with lawyers and the Ministry of Social Development to renew the constitution with the intention to bring it in line with current work and operations of the society.

Vice President

Dr Amor Nasser Al Matani holds a BEng (Hons), an MBA and a PhD in Sustainability. After graduating from Teesside University, UK in 1990 as an Instrumentation and Control Engineer, he joined Petroleum Development Oman in upstream operations and commissioning. In 1993 he moved to the Ministry of Health where he occupied several executive positions, including Deputy Director General for Administration and Finance at the Royal Hospital, Oman's largest hospital for specialised medical care. He completed his MBA (Newcastle) in 1997 before being appointed Director General for Sur Industrial Estate in the Public Establishment of Industrial Estates. He joined Oman LNG in 2002 as Deputy CEO and is also the Chief HR Executive Officer. In June 2019 Dr Al Matani was appointed the CEO of Oman LNG foundation. Dr Al Matani has a passion for better working and safe environments and is a proactive leader striving for a more sustainable Oman. He has a keen interest in education and is a member of several university and technical college boards. He is Chairman of the Board of Trustees for OLNG's HAS International School and many others.

Director

Ms Rumaitha Omar Al Busaidi is an Omani marine scientist and an advocate for environmental youth leadership and women's rights. Most recently, she served as vice-chair of food manufacturing in the National Program for Enhancing Economic Diversification (Tanfeedh) working on implementing strategies to maximize sustainable development through creating sustainable food manufacturing clusters. An award-winning radio presenter and sportswoman, Rumaitha is considered to be the first female soccer analyst in the Arab World. She has travelled solo to over 70 countries and, in the process, became the youngest Omani to step foot on the South Pole. Among other leadership positions, Rumaitha is an Atlantic Council fellow, a World Economic Forum Global Shaper, a One Young World Ambassador, and an advisory board member for AIESEC. Rumaitha was also named by the European Commission and the Institute of Economics and Peace (IEP) as a Peace Ambassador and is the recipient of Harvard's prestigious Lucius N Littauer Fellows Award after having earned her Master's in Public Policy and Management from the Harvard Kennedy School.

Treasurer

Dr Andrew Spalton is a wildlife biologist who came to Oman in 1987 to join a team who were reintroducing the Arabian oryx. He has long experience of many aspects of wildlife conservation in Oman including overseeing protected areas and working with both iconic species such as the Arabian leopard as well as species, such as bats, that are less understood. He has also worked on issues such as wildlife trade, poaching, overgrazing and climate change. Andrew holds a BSc in Environmental Science and PhD in Zoology. He serves on a number of IUCN specialist groups and on other international technical committees. Andrew is a founding member of ESO and currently serves as Adviser for Environmental Affairs at the Diwan of Royal Court.



H.H Tania Al Said



Rumaitha Al Busaidi



Omar Al Riyami



Laila Al Zakwani



Dareen Mehdi



Dr. Mohammed Al Kalbani



Amor Al Matani



Amira Al Yarubi



Dr. Andrew Spalton



Ahmed Al Rashdi

Secretary

Mrs Amira Mohammed Al Yarubi holds a BSc in Management Information Systems from Sultan Qaboos University. She also holds Environmental Management Certification - IEMA, 2019. Amira is a certified Lead Auditor in Environmental Management System and a certified Sustainability Practitioner. She began her career as CSR specialist at the Information Technology Authority before joining the QHSE team to handle the Environment Management System at the Ministry of Technology & Communication (MTC). Amira initiated environmental programs such as waste reduction campaigns aimed at reducing paper and plastic consumption at MTC and worked closely with the event team to ensure environmentally friendly practices were adopted. As an ESO member, Amira participated in the Eco-thon as a mentor for the student groups and continues to spread conservation messages through her social media accounts. As a mother she continually strives to raise environmentally aware children by educating them on saving the planet and engaging them in clean-up campaigns.

PR Officer

Mrs Laila Saleh Al Zakwani is an Executive Director at Apex Media, playing an integral role in establishing it as one of the nation's leading publishing houses, while heading its HR and Events functions. She is armed with a major in Psychology and an associate degree in Business from the University of Missouri, St. Louis, USA. Laila has also been a proud member of ESO for the last 15 years. With CSR as one of Apex's core commitments, initiatives are introduced and featured in Muscat Daily and The Week papers to both inform and inspire its readers. A recycling campaign was launched in 2011 to encourage the public to reuse paper. Over 120 schools were visited across the country to explain the effects of paper usage on our environment and equip students with the knowledge and ambition to practice recycling at school as well as at home. A second campaign entitled 'Bitter About Litter' was launched in 2019 to improve education across all levels of society while changing existing attitudes and behaviours towards responsible disposal of waste materials. Furthermore, Apex Media has a dedicated team to collect old newspapers, magazines, books, and paper from offices, lending a much-needed hand in the country's efforts to recycle.

ESO Board

Board Member

Dr Mohammed Saif Al Kalbani holds a PhD in Environmental Sustainability from the University of Aberdeen, UK. He has MSc and BSc in Environmental Engineering Sciences and Management. He worked as a Research Assistant at Sultan Qaboos University and then at the Environment Authority (EA, formerly the Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs) as Director of Environment and Sustainable Development and is also entrusted to carry out duties as Director General of Environmental Affairs at EA. Dr Al Kalbani has participated in many research projects related to integrated environmental assessment, environment preservation, biodiversity conservation, climate change, environmental management and legislation. He has published several articles in international journals and has participated in the preparation of the 4th - 6th Global Environmental Outlook Reports for UNEP and the Arab Environmental Outlook Report for the Arab League. He has published and presented many papers at international, regional and national conferences, symposiums, and workshops; and has participated in international meetings related to environmental conventions and protocols. He holds memberships at different social societies and has received awards and distinctions as an active employee, researcher and social member from government officials, academic and research institutes and non-governmental organisations.

Membership Officer

Mr Omar Salim Al Riyami holds a master's degree in Environmental Impact Assessment and Management from the University of Manchester, UK and a BSc in Marine Science and Fisheries from the Sultan Qaboos University. He is a former ESO employee who served the organization from 2009 to 2013 and occupied many positions including Marine Projects Assistant Manager, Assistant Manager, Membership and Volunteerism Manager and Community Outreach Manager. Omar has represented ESO at high-level environmental committees and work teams both locally and internationally. He joined the International Visitors Leadership Programme on 'National Parks, Biodiversity and Ecotourism' sponsored by the US Department of State in 2011. He also represented Omani and Arab youth in the UNESCO's conference on the 40th Anniversary of the World Heritage Convention, Kyoto, Japan 2011. Omar has worked in the environment field in different organisations in Oman including PDO and Duqm Refinery and Petrochemical Industries. He currently works as Lead Sustainability Business Partner in OQ. In 2020, Omar led the development of the 'Environment and Natural Resources' priority in the implementation of the Oman Vision 2040.

Board Member

Mr Ahmed Issa Al Rashdi holds an MBA in Business Administration and Management from the University of Bedfordshire. He is an environmental activist interested in the vegetation of Oman and a co-founder of the Civil Initiative for the Cultivation of Native Plants in Jabal Al Akhdar. He is also very interested in promoting organic farming and seeks to standardize it in Oman. Ahmed has 12 years of experience in the aluminium smelting industry and in the airport and aviation industry. Currently Ahmed works within Lead Asset Planning at Oman Broadband. He had the chance to participate in the mobile Environment Research Unit - Hajar Mountains Biodiversity Survey in 2015 and over the last five years on the board of ESO, Ahmed has played a key role in HR, education and community outreach. His interests have taken him to Buraimi, Masirah and Dhofar to carry out awareness meetings and he is very keen to continue his involvement with local communities and students as well as other key stakeholders. Ahmed has represented ESO in the development of Oman Vision 2040 and participated in the Future Quest Forum in 2017.

Farewell

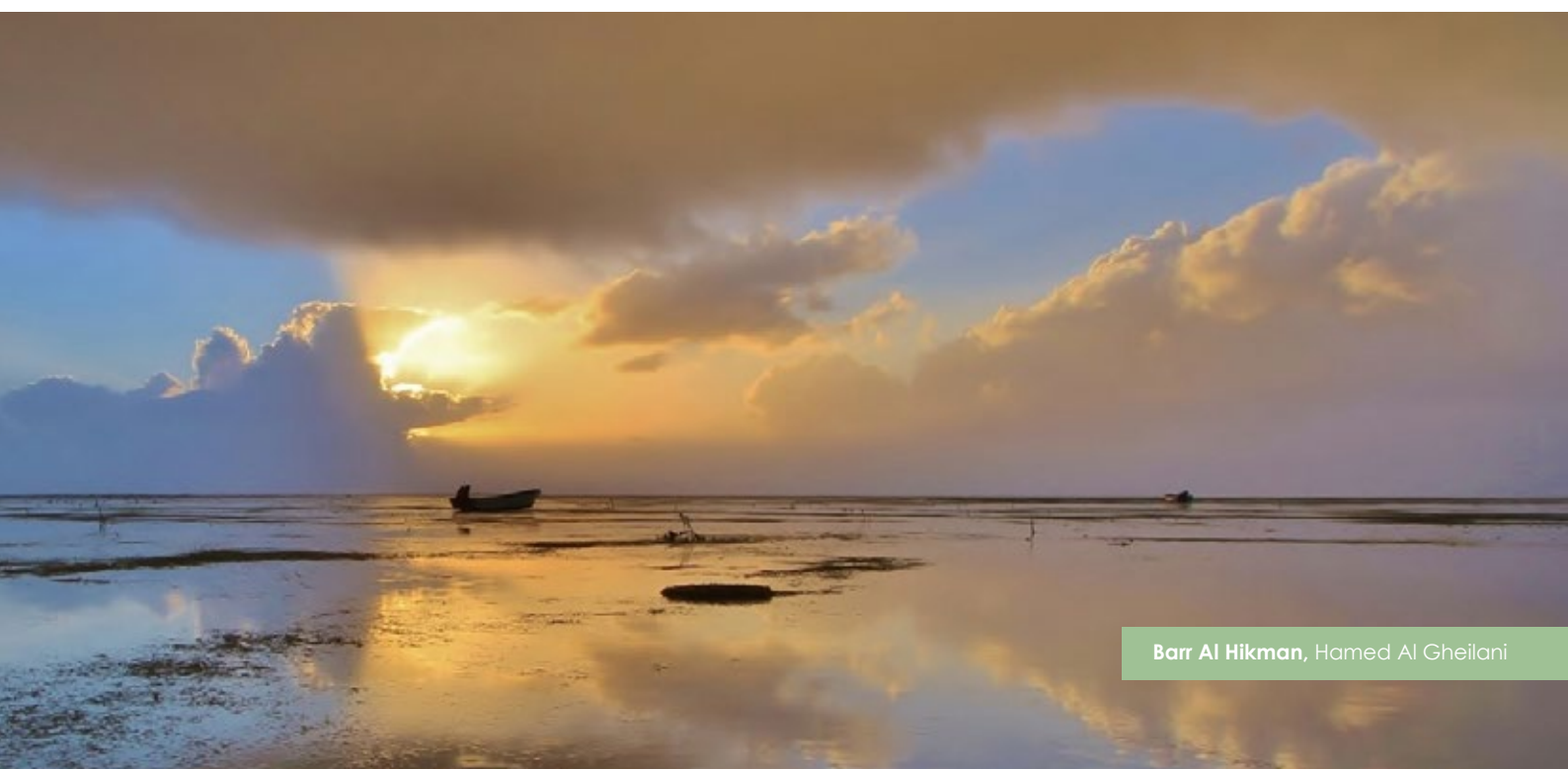


2020 witnessed the passing of Dareen Mehdi, our fellow board member and a long-time supporter of ESO.

Dareen was an energetic activist who had always been passionate about the environment. She strongly believed in the role and responsibility individuals and communities have in conserving Oman's unique environment. This was reflected in her various contributions, initially as an active student member and then by becoming a three-time elected board member of ESO. She initiated environmental competitions, educational projects, led and participated in judging panels; and had a genuine and vast impact on peoples' lives through her enriching contribution on various media channels.

Dareen had a special passion and belief in empowering Omani youth as key stewards of both development and conservation. She always aspired to promote innovation and creativity and stressed the need to think out of the box and away from conventional solutions and ideas.

Although Dareen has left us, her legacy as an environmental activist will be forever remembered and will continue to inspire ESO, Omani youth and the whole community.



ESO Staff



- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Suaad Al Harthi
Executive Director | 8. Said Al Jabri
Public Relations Officer |
| 2. Bashaar Zaitoon
Administrative Manager | 9. Ghasi Al Farsi
Field Coordinator |
| 3. Maïa Sarrouf Willson
Research and Conservation Manager | 10. Olivia Dalziel
Communications & Fundraising Manager |
| 4. Dr Hamed Al Gheilani
Community Outreach Manager | 11. Juma Al Araimi
Field Assistant |
| 5. Antonia Vegh
Event and Volunteerism Coordinator | 12. Jawaher Al Ghafri
Education Coordinator |
| 6. Juma Al Humaidi
Field Assistant | 13. Atika Ahmed
Accountant |
| 7. Aisha Al Ghallabi
Membership Coordinator | |

Marine Conservation Projects

Turtle Research and Conservation

The global importance of Oman to the survival of sea turtles has been definitively established through surveys and research conducted within the Sultanate over the past 40 years. For over ten years, ESO, in collaboration with the **Environment Authority** (EA) and senior international scientists, has played the lead research role on turtles in the Sultanate. We have accelerated our knowledge and understanding of turtle biology, ecology and conservation needs, as well as raised the international profile of Oman's turtles.

The project is based mainly on Masirah Island and focuses on loggerhead turtles, though outside of the loggerhead nesting season field assistants monitor green, hawksbill and olive ridley turtles. In 2013, an initial review of 2008-2012 loggerhead nesting data revealed the first indication of a dramatic decline in loggerhead nesting on Masirah, with a reduction in nesting females by approximately two-thirds from the pre-1980 estimates. Recent estimates further confirm these alarming figures. An average of 11,000 female turtles are estimated to have visited the island in 2014, compared to an estimated 30,000 to 40,000 females in the late 1970s. The major threats that impact both the habitat and population numbers are land-use disturbances, such as extensive coastal development, light pollution and beach driving, and sea-based disturbances such as turtles being caught accidentally in fishing nets (bycatch). This assessment was published in a peer-reviewed journal in August 2020 and is further discussed in the publication section.



Hawksbill turtle, Yaqoob Al Rashdi



Publications

ESO is proud to have contributed towards various publications related to sea turtles of Oman, listed below.

Tracing the origin of olive ridley turtles entangled in ghost nets in the Maldives: A phylogeographic assessment of populations at risk

M Stelfox, A Burian, K Shanker, AF Rees, C Jean, M Sarrouf Willson, NA Manik, M Sweet

Abandoned, lost or discarded fishing nets (ghost nets) represent a major threat to marine vertebrates. Thorough assessments of their impact on threatened species however, are largely missing. In the Maldives, olive ridley sea turtles (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) are frequently caught in ghost nets, however the archipelago does not support a significant nesting population. The aim of this study was to determine the origin of olive ridleys entangled in ghost nets found in the Maldives and evaluate potential impacts on respective source populations. Based on a citizen science and conservation program, 132 olive ridley turtles entangled in ghost nets were recorded in just one year. Genetic analyses (mtDNA) of entangled individuals and of potential source populations revealed that most captured olive ridleys originated from Sri Lanka and Eastern India. Oman was excluded as a source population, even during the prevalence of the South-West monsoon. Based on our results and available published literature, we were able to estimate that recorded ghost net entanglements accounted for a relatively small amount (0.48%) of the eastern Indian population. However, the entangled turtles accounted for a much larger percentage (41%) of the Sri Lankan populations. This paper was published in the peer-reviewed journal **Biological Conservation** in February 2020.

Evaluating the Long-Term Trend and Management of a Globally Important Loggerhead Population Nesting on Masirah Island, Sultanate of Oman

A Willson, B Witherington, R Baldwin, M Tiwari, T Al Sariri, A Al Kiyumi, S Al Harthi, M Sarrouf Willson, A Al Bulushi, G Al Farsi, J Al Humaidy, J Al Araqimi, LA Daar, B Schroeder, JP Ross, E Possardt

Nest count surveys provide an important means for tracking trends in marine turtle populations. In

2015, the IUCN Red List global status review changed the loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) from Endangered to Vulnerable, and, with a revised regional management unit (RMU) assessment system in place, concluded that the North-West Indian Ocean loggerhead turtle RMU was Critically Endangered. The paper analysed annual time series nest count survey data between 1978 and 2016 to evaluate population trends and characterise the existing spatial and temporal attributes of a globally significant rookery on Masirah Island. A two-point trend assessment using a subset of historical data (1985–1996) combined with recent data (2008–2016) on a representative 9km section of index beaches revealed a statistically significant 79% decline. Comparative data were tested for spatial and temporal conformity, and the influence of other parameters on the trend result were considered, such as nesting success ratios and spatial shifts in density. The analyses confirmed that the decline occurred within a single loggerhead generation. The North-West Indian Ocean RMU is thought to represent 35% of the global nesting population. The paper also identifies potential threats on nesting beaches and at sea, which point toward priority actions for conservation actions. This paper was published in the peer-reviewed journal **Frontiers in Marine Science** in August 2020.

IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group Annual Regional Report 2020 for Sea Turtles in the Middle East and South Asia Region – Oman Chapter

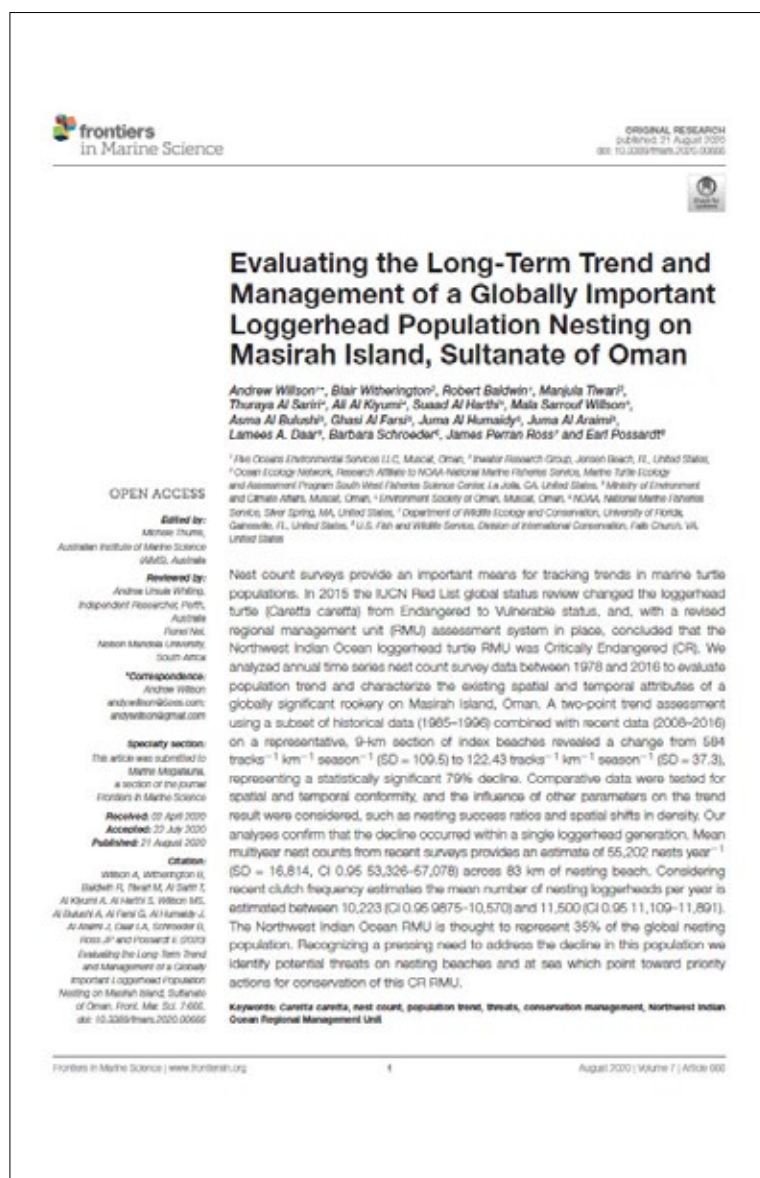
M Sarrouf Willson, K Al Azri, S Al Harthi, R Baldwin, E Possardt, M Tiwari, A Willson, T Al Sariri

The Oman chapter summarises existing published information on the four turtle species that nest in Oman, under the North-West Indian Ocean Regional Management Unit (NWIO RMU): green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*), hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and olive ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*). Summarised information covered distribution, abundance and trends, threats, and ongoing conservation and research efforts. This report was published in late 2020.

Community Outreach and Public Engagement

A Masirah Turtle Festival was due to take place in April 2020 ahead of the loggerhead nesting season, however the COVID-19 pandemic restricted the planning and execution of this event as early as February 2020. This campaign has, therefore, been cancelled as the spread of the pandemic is still being felt to date and public gatherings are not encouraged. Community outreach, centred around the effects of light pollution on sea turtles, took place in September 2020 and ESO's social media platforms continued regular messaging about sea turtle conservation throughout the year.

Following the 6-minute awareness video on the decline of marine turtles on Masirah Island produced in 2019 (Voices from Masirah), a second video illustrating ESO's conservation efforts (Conservation on Masirah: Raising awareness and community engagement) was produced in 2020, which showcases ESO's awareness-raising activities with the local fishing community of Masirah and a focus on the impacts of ghost gear and marine debris on marine fauna, including cetaceans. The video can be viewed on ESO's YouTube channel (ESOMediaChannel).



Dedicated Net Clean-ups

ESO coordinated two clean-up campaigns, specifically targeting discarded fishing nets on key turtle nesting beaches (K8 to K85), ahead of the hawksbill and olive ridley nesting season in February and December 2020. Every year turtles along the coast of Masirah Island become entangled in discarded nets that are strewn across the beaches. These turtles can become distressed and/or injured causing a failed nesting attempt or, in several cases a year, death. Many of the nets had been on the beach for over a decade and had become partially or fully buried in the sand.



These campaigns were coordinated by ESO's Events and Volunteer Coordinator, Antonia Vegh, with the help of ESO's local Field Assistants, Ghasi Al Farsi, Juma Al Aرامي and Juma Al Humaidi, and required intensive planning and logistics. The collaborative effort was supported by ESO staff, locally employed laborers, volunteers, the **Environment Authority (EA)**, **Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources (MAFWWR)** and **Sinyar Oman** (formerly, National Ferries Company), along with significant contributions from **Suma/Ecovision** (subcontractors of the local authority for waste management, **Be'ah**, for the Governorate of Al Sharkiyah), **HE Wali of Masirah** and **Masirah Municipality**. The December clean-up was made possible thanks to grant funding from the **Summer Sea Turtle Sustainability Grant** and **Sprint for Oman**, with additional in-kind support by **Mahmood Salam Al Farsi Trading** and field support provided by Juma Al Aرامي. Collected nets were stored at the sorting station of the Masirah dumpsite.

In total, an estimated 190 tons of abandoned fishing gear was collected from 77 km of vitally important turtle nesting beaches. To our knowledge, this effort combined with the three previous initiatives in May 2017, December 2018 and early 2019, represents one of the largest dedicated clean-ups of fishing nets globally and is one of ESO's proudest achievements to date. *The estimated total number of nets removed since 2017 from Masirah Island is around 615 tons.*

Light Pollution Assessment

In February, ESO's Community Outreach Manager, Dr Hamed al Gheilani visited Masirah Island in preparation for the annual awareness raising campaign ahead of the loggerhead nesting season. Throughout his visit, he scheduled one-to-one meetings with leading authorities on the Island to discuss the impacts of light pollution on the nesting sea turtle populations. A key stakeholder, the **Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO)**, was engaged to discuss the potential lighting impacts of the air force base. RAFO has expressed their commitment for further support to replace light fixtures within their premises.

Additionally, an awareness raising campaign focused on light pollution impacts to female nesting turtles and hatchlings was held in September on Masirah Island. A brochure was designed in both English and Arabic to highlight the harmful impacts emanating from cars, streetlights, tourists and residential and commercial units close to nesting beaches. 50 posters were distributed to house owners close to these sensitive beaches, as well as the Wali's Office, the Environment Office, the Municipality Office and the ferry company. One-to-one engagement with homeowners was also held, explaining the need to switch off unnecessary lighting at night, and to keep curtains closed when the lights are on.



We thank the Wali of Masirah for supporting our work.

Following the lighting survey, a rapid assessment was completed in July 2018 and recommendations detailing the need for light screening in certain areas were provided to the **Environment Authority (EA)**. It is hoped that in 2021 ESO, along with the EA, will be able to construct these barriers with support from the Ministry of Housing and the Municipality Office in Masirah.

Due to COVID-19, we had to postpone various initiatives related to community outreach, awareness and conservation actions ahead of the loggerhead nesting season in April 2020. The global pandemic froze the global and local economy and had a major financial impact on ESO. In response, ESO has sadly had to halt the full-time employment of Masirah's field assistants.

Guidelines to protect sea turtles on Masirah Island from lighting pollution

Masirah Island hosts some of the most important nesting beaches in Oman. Four different species of sea turtles can be found nesting on the island including: Green, Loggerhead, Hawksbill and Olive Ridley. The Olive Ridley and Hawksbill sea turtles can be found nesting on the southern side of Masirah Island between February to May with the hatchling period observed until July. Green and Loggerhead sea turtles nest on the island between May to September and their hatchling season extends to November. Masirah Island hosts one of the largest nesting population of Loggerhead sea turtles in the world, and this population has been in decline for various reasons including natural and human induced threats from land and sea. Nesting female turtles that approach beaches to nest, as well as hatchlings that try to make their way to sea are impacted by artificial lighting and can get disoriented. In order to minimize the impact of lighting pollution on Masirah's sea turtle nesting beaches during the nesting and hatchling season, we recommend the following guidelines to be observed between February to November:



- Switch off or turn down your headlights when driving close to nesting beaches.



- Switch off external house lights, and boundary lights that face the beach during the nesting and hatchling season.



- Do not use flashlights or flash photography if taking photos of turtles on your camera or mobile device.



- Switch off unnecessary lights inside the house, especially for rooms facing nesting beaches. For rooms with lights on, ensure that the curtains remain closed to keep the light from reaching the beaches.



- Turtle friendly lights such as amber or red lights with long wave lengths, and low-pressure sodium are recommended for less impact to sea turtles.



- When using boundary lights, use lights that are downward facing and placed inside the boundary wall and ensure that the lights are not visible from outside the home.

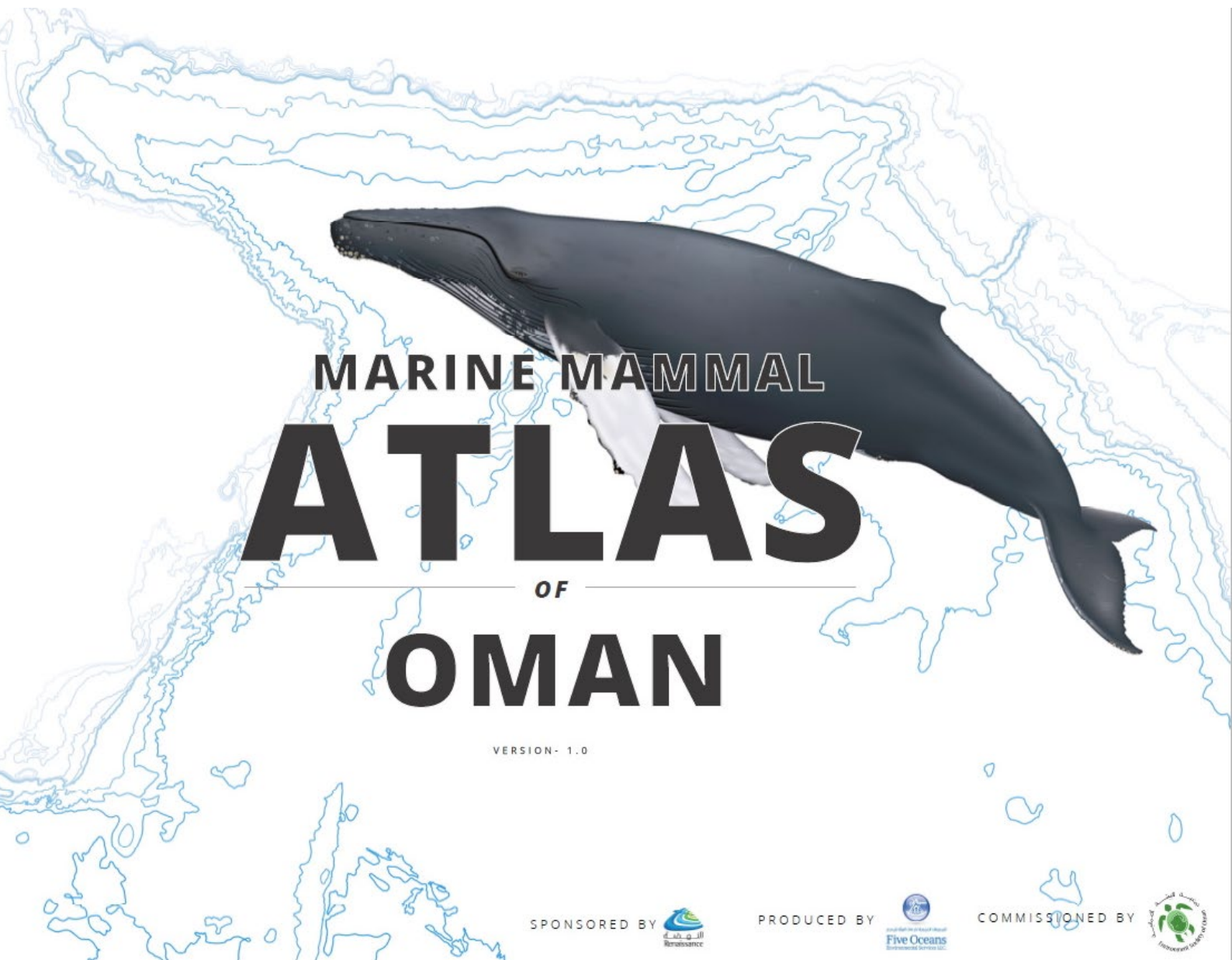


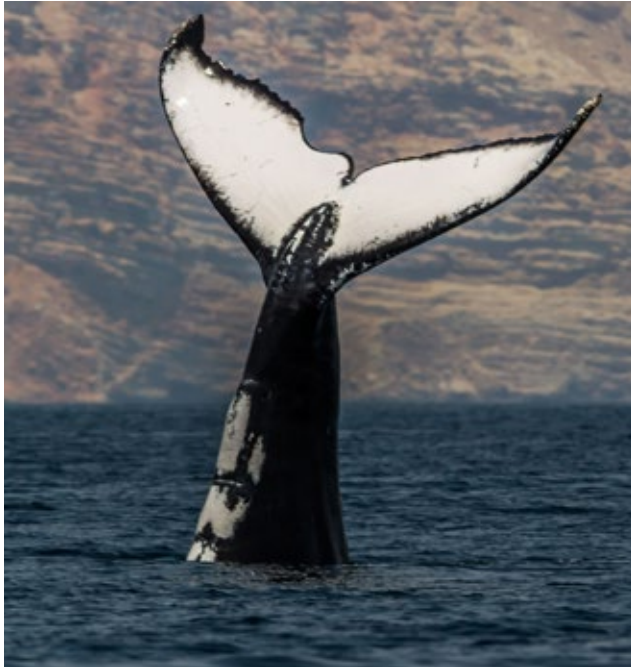
www.eso.org.om

Environment Society of Oman

Renaissance Whale and Dolphin Conservation

Thanks to the renewed support of **Renaissance Services SAOG**, the Renaissance Whale and Dolphin Conservation Project, which began in 2011, has continued throughout 2020 in coordination with the **Environment Authority** and the **Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources**. The funds were used to complete a 'Marine Mammals Atlas of Oman', which will be released in 2021. The Atlas provides a detailed biogeographical account of all of the marine mammals that have been recorded in the Sultanate of Oman to date. The information is derived from evidence that has been assembled and assessed through scientific processes, including records of whales and dolphins collected during dedicated scientific field surveys, as well as opportunistic and incidental records from third parties. The Atlas is aimed at whale and dolphin enthusiasts, scientists, environmental consultants, policymakers or developers and provides tools to complement and build existing knowledge of cetaceans (the collective name for whales and dolphins), with a primary aim of guiding activities towards a sustainable future for this remarkable group of marine mammals.





Two awareness-raising videos, an animation and a short documentary, both produced in collaboration with **Renaissance Services SAOG** were released in 2020. The animation illustrates the hazards that ghost fishing gear (derelict and abandoned fishing nets and other debris that remains in the oceans) presents to marine wildlife and the marine ecosystem at large, with potentially negative impacts on target fisheries and livelihoods. It is narrated in Arabic, Urdu, English, Hindi and Bengali, in order to reach a wide audience of fishermen in Oman. The short documentary showcases ESO's awareness raising activities with the local fishing community of Masirah Island and a focus on the impacts of ghost gear on marine fauna, including cetaceans. Both these materials are part of a wider community outreach and conservation campaign aiming to engage with fishermen and the local communities of Masirah Island, which hosts a large artisanal fishing fleet operating in one of the identified core habitats for Arabian Sea humpback whales in Oman. The videos can be viewed on ESO's YouTube channel (ESOMediaChannel).

Whale and Dolphin Field Surveys

In March, ESO joined a collaborative field research effort organised by **Five Oceans Environmental Services LLC** in Dhofar. These short, opportunistic surveys continue to provide evidence of the ecological importance of Southern Oman for large baleen whales (including humpback, Bryde's and blue whales) as well as other species of odontocetes (toothed whales). The team mobilised to deploy acoustic detection units and recorded the unusual observation of blue whales engaged in feeding behaviour over a three-day period. Blue whales are infrequently seen in Oman and were documented off the survey site for the first time in 2011. Their presence elsewhere in the Northern Indian Ocean (eg. off the coast of Sri Lanka) is better known, although the taxonomy and population structure remain unresolved.



Discovery of a Unique Population of Blue Whales in Oman

In 2018 the team working on acoustic analyses of Arabian Sea humpback whale song briefly reported on the discovery of a new blue whale song-type, recorded off Oman and less extensively off North-West Madagascar during a year of monitoring at each site. As reported in the Arabian Sea Whale Network 2020 progress report, in February a manuscript was submitted describing the implications of this discovery in greater detail and expanding the dataset to include documentation from a second year of monitoring in Madagascar, and from five years of monitoring off the Chagos Archipelago. The paper proposes that this song-type reveals a previously unrecognized population of blue whales that ranges in the western Indian Ocean with an affinity for the Arabian Sea and has been historically conflated with the Sri Lanka acoustic population. This population would have been most heavily impacted by the illegal Soviet whaling of the 1960's, and therefore its definition is of great significance for the conservation of blue whales in the Arabian Sea. In March, a bottom-mounted archival acoustic recorder was placed off the southern coast of Dhofar in Oman, as part of a collaboration between ESO, **Five Oceans Environment Services, African Aquatic Conservation Fund** and **NOAA Fisheries**. Placed on the continental slope at a depth of 300m, the recorder can specifically monitor blue whale and other deep diving cetacean song and will provide a more detailed and clear assessment of this magnificent animal's presence in Oman's waters. It has the capacity to record for up to 341 days, and the hope is to retrieve and redeploy every 6 to 8 months for at least 1 to 2 years. At this depth, the recorder will be able to detect blue whale song at a much higher fidelity and longer detection range than the shallow water recorders used in the previous Oman study.



Publications

ESO is proud to have contributed towards various publications related to whales and dolphins, listed below.

Visual health assessment and evaluation of anthropogenic threats to Arabian Sea humpback whales in Oman

G Minton, MF Van Bresse, A Willson, T Collins, S Al Harthi, M Sarrouf Willson, R Baldwin, M Leslie, J Robbins, K Van Waerebeek

This study examines all available images of Arabian Sea humpback whales (ASHWs) taken between 2000 and 2018 for evidence of disease, predation, epizoots and human-induced scarring or injury. A tattoo-like skin disease was detected in 43.4% of 83 adult whales, with a roughly equal distribution between males and females. Killer whale tooth rakes were detected in 12% of individuals based on examination of photographs showing the ventral surface of tails. Roughly two thirds of individuals represented by good quality photos of the caudal peduncle region bore scarring patterns likely associated with fishing gear entanglement and there were no significant differences in entanglement scarring rates between males and females. Four individuals bore injuries consistent with vessel strikes and at least two individuals showed severe injuries and deformations likely to have been caused by interactions with vessels and/or fishing gear. In light of this population's endangered status, these findings indicate an urgent need to continue monitoring ASHWs, with an emphasis on methods that allow continued and expanded assessment of health, body condition and anthropogenic interactions, aimed toward designing effective conservation strategies to mitigate known threats. This paper was submitted to the **International Whaling Commission Scientific Meeting** in June 2020.

Assessing the body condition of the world's only nonmigratory humpback whale population, the endangered Arabian Sea humpback whale

F Christiansen, R Baldwin, G Minton, T Collins, K Sprogis, J Rudd, S Al Harthi, M Leslie, D MacDonald, A Willson

In this study the body condition of Arabian Sea humpback whales (ASHWs) was compared to a healthy (growing) population of humpback whales in Western Australia. While fisheries and shipping have been identified as possible direct threats, non-lethal effects resulting from potential fishing gear entanglement, low prey availability and disease, have the likelihood to negatively affect survival and reproduction by reducing the body condition of whales. Drone photogrammetry methods were used to measure the body condition of 9 Arabian Sea humpback whale (ASHW) photographs taken in November 2019, and of 167 photographs of humpback whales in South-West Australia (from breeding stock D), taken between June and

October 2017. The body condition of ASHWs suggests that whales sampled in the study were not nutritionally suppressed. Continued research into the health of the ASHW population, together with continued monitoring of population demographics and assessment of fisheries interactions is therefore needed. This paper was submitted to the **International Whaling Commission Scientific Meeting** in June 2020.

A new blue whale song-type described for the Arabian Sea and Western Indian Ocean

S Cerchio, A Willson, EC Leroy, C Muirhead, S Al Harthi, R Baldwin, D Cholewiak, T Collins, G Minton, T Rasoloarijao, TL Rogers, M Sarrouf Willson

Blue whales (*Balaenoptera musculus*) in the Indian Ocean (IO) are currently thought to represent 2 or 3 subspecies (*B. m. intermedia*, *B. m. breviceauda*, *B. m. indica*), and believed to be structured into 4 populations, each with a diagnostic song-type. This study describes a previously unreported song-type that implies the probable existence of a population that has been undetected or conflated with another population. The novel song-type was recorded off Oman in the Northern IO/Arabian Sea, off the western Chagos Archipelago in the equatorial central IO, and off Madagascar in the southwestern IO. As this is the only blue whale song that has been identified in the western Arabian Sea, it was labelled the 'Northwest Indian Ocean' song-type to distinguish it from other regional song-types. Its potentially restricted range, intensive historic whaling, and the fact that the song-type has been previously undetected, suggests a small population that is in critical need of status assessment and conservation action. This paper was submitted to the **International Whaling Commission Scientific Meeting** in June 2020 and published in the peer-reviewed journal **Endangered Species Research** in December 2020.



Capacity Building and National/Regional Collaboration

ESO is a member of the **Arabian Sea Whale Network**. Members include representatives from the UAE, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Iran and India, as well as international research partners. The network updates members on new sightings and strandings, increasing the number of confirmed records from countries within the range and helping to further understand whale distribution. An online regional data platform was launched in 2019 to share data and research protocols among members.

In February, the 'Concerted Action' for humpback whales of the Arabian Sea was awarded a three-year extension at the CMS Conference of Parties. The extension focuses on completing the actions that were set out in the original Concerted Action: continuing to address knowledge gaps, monitoring of the ASHW population, raising awareness and capacity in the region, and working toward more formal government participation and support in regional conservation initiatives. ESO is engaged in advocacy efforts with local authorities to help facilitate a capacity-building workshop for industry and government stakeholders in Oman.

At a local level, ESO is a member of the **National Stranding Response Committee**, led by the **Environment Authority** in association with several key stakeholders including: the Coast Guard – Royal Oman Police, Sultan Qaboos University, the Diwan of Royal Court, the Ministry of Health, Muscat Municipality, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources, the Royal Navy of Oman, the Ministry of Tourism, the Museum of Natural History and the Oman Plant and Animal Genetic Resources Center. ESO is also a member of the Technical Committee, providing technical advice and recommendations to the National Stranding Response Committee.

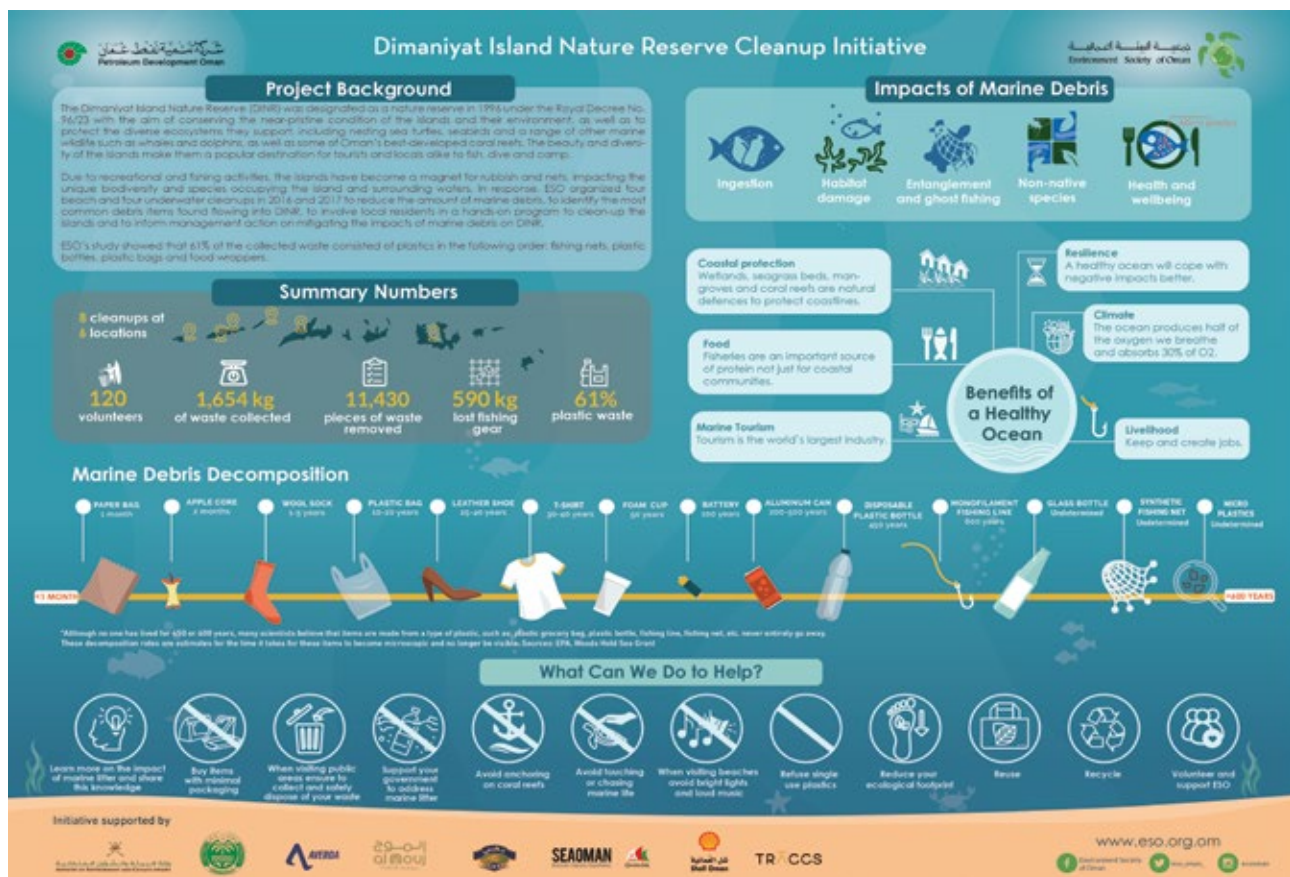
Dimaniyat Islands Conservation

The Dimaniyat Islands Conservation Program aims to engage volunteers in conducting clean-ups to remove marine debris both underwater as well as on the beaches of Oman's only marine protected area. The Islands host beautiful coral reefs and provide nesting beaches for hawksbill and green turtles. They are also home to a multitude of sea birds, fish, invertebrate and plant species, some of which are endemic to the area. It is estimated that around 8 million metric tons of plastic enter our oceans every year in addition to the 150 million metric tons that currently circulate our marine environments, leaving no part of the world untouched by debris and its impacts. At least 100,000 marine mammals and millions of sea birds and fish are thought to die each year from plastic. The islands attract recreational as well as fishing activities which, coupled with ocean currents, have made the islands a magnet for plastic waste, nets and litter that negatively impact the unique ecosystem.

In 2016 and 2017, ESO collected and properly disposed of an estimated 1,645 kg (11,430 pieces) of waste with the help of 120 volunteers. Throughout 8 clean-up activities we not only removed debris but surveyed and gathered information on the type and amount of waste from 6 different locations on land and in the surrounding waters. The results of our calculations clearly indicate the predominance (61%) of plastic litter, with fishing nets, plastic bottles, plastic bags and food wrappers being the most common.



In 2020 ESO produced visual information on the most common debris items found flowing into the nature reserve, showing an overview of the impacts of marine debris, the importance of healthy oceans to human survival, and what individuals, governments, companies and communities can do to help save our oceans. Many items we use for a few seconds or minutes may end up in our seas and may take hundreds of years to break down in the ocean. Plastics photodegrade rather than biodegrade and are broken down into very small particles and chemical fragments by the sun, wind, waves and bacteria - they never completely go away. The resulting micro plastics (less than 5mm in size) accumulate in fish, birds and other marine life and send toxins up the food chain, impacting human health.



Terrestrial Conservation Projects

Raptor Research and Conservation

Raptors, or birds of prey, such as eagles, falcons, vultures, hawks and owls are key indicators of the overall health of the ecosystem. Sitting at the top of the food chain, they provide many ecosystem services. For example, they eat millions of insects, which, if left unchecked, could threaten agriculture. They also consume animal carcasses, preventing the spread of disease. Raptors face a wide variety of threats. Over the last few decades, human activities have contributed to the fragmentation and destruction of raptor habitats through development. In addition, the intensification of agriculture and other land-use practices; electrocution and collision with power infrastructure; shooting, poisoning and trapping; and reduced breeding success due to pesticides and other contaminants, are negatively affecting raptors. These continuing threats have led to a reduction in population levels and the geographic range of many species.

Oman is known to be a haven for a variety of raptors including the globally endangered Egyptian vulture, one of the region's most threatened bird species. ESO started researching this vulture in 2012, showing the country to be a stronghold for this species. Using satellite tags, our studies have shown that Masirah Island hosts the second highest density of breeding Egyptian vultures in the world. Ongoing tracking of 11 steppe eagles from Muscat and Salalah is revealing their migratory routes between Oman and their breeding range in central Asia and has highlighted likely threats they face throughout the year.

Donations made through the 'Wild Oman' wildlife exhibition by artist **Violet Astor** in November 2019, helped develop outreach material about raptors in the form of a new booklet, entitled 'Raptors of Oman'. The booklet was released in September 2020 and is available online for free on ESO's website. It offers an introduction to the various common raptors found in Oman, their diet, status and ways to identify them. Written in both English and Arabic, it also includes fun illustrations for children. This booklet is part





Bonelli's eagle, Twizted Myrtle

of ESO's efforts to engage the public and bolster Oman's conservation commitment to the important raptors that live here seasonally or year-round. An accompanying poster was also produced which summarises the 11 most common species found in Oman.

In late 2020, ESO was selected as a recipient of the **Disney Conservation Fund Award** for its ongoing Raptor Research and Conservation Project. The Disney Conservation Fund is committed to saving wildlife, inspiring action and protecting the planet. Since 1995, the fund has provided more than \$100 million in philanthropic grants, paired with contributions of expertise from Disney's Animals, Science and Environment professionals and other employees who work together to make an impact for people, wildlife and wild places. The work will take place in 2021.

Frankincense

Frankincense plays an integral part in the Omani heritage and culture and has been a main source of income for Dhofari communities for centuries. Oman is home to the primary range of the *Boswellia sacra* tree, a species considered to produce a fine quality resin. Several threats affect this species, such as habitat destruction, insect infestation, overgrazing and over tapping for trade. In 2019, ESO signed a Memorandum of Understanding with **Neal's Yard Remedies**, an award-winning natural and organic health and beauty brand, launching a Frankincense community outreach and tree planting campaign in the Sultanate. Aimed at safeguarding the future of the Omani frankincense trees, this campaign kicked off in Sadah, Salalah, where more than 1,500 *Boswellia sacra* seedlings were distributed to participating local farmers and harvesters, students, and community members. In 2020, the seedlings that were previously planted in schools, homes and farms were evaluated and found to be in good condition. Additionally, a total of 700 frankincense seedlings were distributed to locals and farmers in Sadah and Thamreet. A brochure on 'How to care for your frankincense tree: a guideline for transplanting' was designed and published in both English and Arabic to guide the receivers of seedlings on the best methods of plant and care for the trees.



GENERAL NOTES



In each time of irrigation, the amount of water is equivalent to 60 liter approximately.



Add organic manure / compost twice a year.



Soils in different sites differ in texture. The irrigation program is therefore applicable to calcareous sandy soils with average annual precipitation ranging between 80 mm to 120 mm. This suits the areas of Soqatra, Mitbat and most of the North draining wadis of Dhofar Mountains.



The frankincense tree can produce a canopy of 2 m when mature, so it should be planted at least 1-2 m from any wall.



Boswellia sacra

How to care for your frankincense tree: A Guideline for transplanting



NEAL'S YARD REMEDIES



Guidelines for transplanting frankincense trees (*Boswellia sacra*)

1 SOIL PREPARATION

For Planting in Ground



* Size of planting hole should be at least 50 cm bigger than the seedling

For Planting in Pots



2 IRRIGATION FREQUENCY



F.S: plants in pots depend on the water applied and they cannot survive for long without irrigation. Depending on the season, the soil in the pot needs to be wet.

This information has been contributed from:

Engineer Salah Aljelel
Former Forestry Expert, Director General of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Wealth
Dhofar, Sultanate of Oman



NEAL'S YARD REMEDIES



Community Outreach and Education Projects

Masirah Sea Turtle Awareness Campaign

The focus of awareness campaigns on Masirah Island this year was the impact of artificial lighting on nesting sea turtles as well as their hatchlings. A lighting leaflet was produced and shared with the community in September and October. In addition to the distribution amongst communities living adjacent to the turtle nesting beaches, meetings were held with the **Wali of Masirah, Be'ah**, the **Environment Authority (Masirah)**, **Masirah Municipality** and the **Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources (Masirah)**.



Plastic Bag Awareness Campaign

In line with the Ministerial Decision 23/2020 to ban the use of single-use plastic bags, ESO raised awareness in Muscat, Masirah, Mahoot and Sur on the threats that plastics pose to humans and the environment. 4,000 reusable shopping bags printed by **Oman Flour Mills** were distributed as well as 400 reusable shopping bags sponsored by **Petroleum Development Oman**.

Green Schools Initiative

The Green School Initiative was launched in September 2019, sponsored by **Veolia** and **Emily's Garden** with the support of the **Omani National Commission for Education, Culture and Science**. Schools were encouraged to form teams and register action plans in one of 3 themed areas: waste management, water management or energy management. 33 schools were shortlisted and worked towards implementation of their action plans with an evaluation and award ceremony set to take place in April 2020. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, extracurricular activities at schools were prohibited in 2020 and the program was put on hold. ESO intends to relaunch the program in 2021 should circumstances allow. In the interim, ESO developed education materials and activities to keep students active during the summer months. The materials included 4 thematic areas; *discover*, *play*, *experiment*, *colour* and included a variety of activities from colouring, problem solving, crosswords and experiments.

Environmental Heroes – Online Workshop

ESO launched an online Arabic interactive workshop to inspire a green generation of children to take better care of the environment. Educating them about their responsibilities and impacts on issues such as climate change and pollution, this program teaches our youth what they can do to help protect and improve the environment around them. Most importantly, how they can become true Environmental Heroes! We do not need superpowers to save Planet Earth, we just need to be more thoughtful and take action to reduce our impact on the environment. The workshops were held online every Saturday in June covering different themes each week.

Other Outreach Activities

COVID-19 & Climate Change: One Big Business Opportunity?

Inside Stories – Ithraa, 16 June 2020

At the invitation of **Ithraa**, ESO's Executive Director, Suaad Al Harthi participated in a panel discussion related to the strong correlation between COVID-19 and the climate crisis. Global measures to battle COVID-19 including lockdowns, business closures and travel bans, resulted in widely reported climate benefits including improved air quality and a reduction in green-house gas emissions. This presents an opportunity to reconsider the way we move forward post-pandemic as businesses recover, considering investing in renewable energy and green technology so that we can build a more resilient future for our planet and our health.

Whale Shark Watching Guidelines

Whale Sharks (*Rhincodon typus*) are considered Endangered under the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and seasonally pass through the Sultanate of Oman between May and September. This summer saw more residents spending time exploring the waters of Oman, with anecdotal reports from tour operators on a longer whale shark season and a higher density of whale sharks sighted. Recognising the importance of sharing information with the tour operators and the public on how to safely approach and observe whale sharks, ESO, in partnership with **SharkWatch Arabia**, **Wildbook**, **Five Oceans Environmental Services** and the **Environment Authority**, launched an infographic illustrating 'Guidelines for Sustainable Whale Shark Watching in Oman.' Furthermore, tourists were encouraged to share photographs taken with **Wildbook** to contribute to scientific understanding of whale sharks locally, regionally and internationally.

إرشادات لمشاهدة أسماك القرش الحوت بشكل مستدام في عُمان Guidelines for Sustainable Whale Shark Watching in Oman

Whale Sharks (*Rhincodon typus*) are considered Endangered under the IUCN Red list of Threatened species and seasonally pass through the Sultanate of Oman and are often sighted between May to September. When interacting with these magnificent creatures, the following Code of Conduct should be adhered to for the safety of both humans as well as the sharks.

Whale Shark Quick Facts

- Largest of all fish
- They have a large mouth and are filter feeders (similar to some whales)
- Feed on plankton, krill and small fish
- Whale shark females produce eggs, the young hatch inside of the mother then the female gives birth to about 300 whale shark pups!
- Unique spot patterns allow individual sharks to be identified
- Touching them can disturb their protective mucus layer that is part of their immune system
- Oman is part of the migration route of a globally significant population of whale shark population

الاقتراب من الخلفية الأمامية من اتجاه حركة القرش
خفض السرعة أثناء الاقتراب منها لتتجنب
ضجعة المحركات على الوضع الحيادي عند اقتراب القرش

Approach from ahead of the whale's direction of travel
Reduce speed to no wake as you approach
Place boat engines in neutral as the sharks approach

Let's work together for sustainable whale shark watching to encourage them to keep visiting Oman!



يمنع استخدام وميض الكاميرات
No flash photography



يمنع التمسك والركوب والملاحقة
No touching, riding or chasing



الدرجات المائية بسهولة
No jet skis or underwater scooters



أقصى الحد الأقصى للسرعة
Max speed 8 knots



عدم اعتراض حركتهم ومقاربتهم
Do not block their movement



الحد الأقصى للمشاهدة ٢٠ دقيقة لكل قارب
Maximum viewing time 20 minutes per vessel



أشخاص فقط أثناء السباحة مع
الحيوانات البحرية المرافقة السفينة
Only 10 swimmers at a time
no swimming directly underneath

To report wildlife violations call Environment Authority Hotline 60071999

لتبلاغ عن المخالفات يثق الحياة البحرية اتصلوا بهيئة البيئة على الخط الساخن ٦٠٠٧١٩٩٩



تصنف أسماك القرش الحوت ضمن اللائحة الحمراء للأنواع المهددة بالانقراض التابعة للاتحاد الدولي لصون الطبيعة (IUCN) على أنها مهددة بالخطر. وهي تزور المياه العمالية غالباً بين شهري مايو وسبتمبر من كل عام. وفي حالة الاقتراب من هذه الكائنات الرائعة والتسباح معها فلا بد من اتباع بعض القواعد السلوكية لضمان سلامة الأسماك وسلامة البشر.

معلومات سريعة عن القرش الحوت

- أكبر أنواع الأسماك على الإطلاق
- لديها أفواه كبيرة وتتغذى عن طريق ترشيخ الغذاء (مثل بعض الحيتان)
- تتغذى على العوالق والقرشيات والأسماك الصغيرة
- تتكاثر إناث القرش الحوت بالبيض التي تعشش وتنفق داخل جسم الأم. ثم تقوم الإناث فيما بعد بولادة حوالي ٣٠٠ من الأفراس الصغيرة.
- لكل فرد من الأسماك أنماط من البقع تميزه عن غيره
- لمسها يؤدي على الإخلال بالطبقة المخاطية المخصصة للحماية والتي هي جزء من جهازها المناعي
- تلقى عمان على مسارات الهجرة لمجموعة ذات أهمية عالمية من أسماك القرش الحوت

إن أردنا ضمان استمرار زيارة هذه الحيوانات للمياه العمالية، فعلى العمل معاً نحو الوصول المستدامة لمشاهدة أسماك القرش الحوت.

In celebration of Arab Environment Day, ESO and **Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar Resort** jointly published an infographic on the wildlife of the Sultanate's Western Hajjar mountains 'Biodiversity of Jabal Al Akhdar'. The illustration highlights the main terrestrial biodiversity of Eastern Arabia's highest mountain range, aiming to increase knowledge and raise awareness of the most common species found there. Various species of birds, mammals and flora were included, along with their listing under the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar Resort works on a number of projects as part of the hotel's sustainability commitment, including Dollars for Deeds, where it matches guest donations to ESO ryal-for-ryal. The infographic is part of an ongoing relationship between ESO and the resort, as together we continue to highlight the unique diversity of Oman's wildlife while promoting environmentally sustainable behaviour.

Whales and Dolphins of Oman Stamps

In coordination with ESO, **Oman Post** (an **Asyad** member company), launched a new series of stamps 'Whales and Dolphins of Oman'. The set of stamps depict five of the local and endangered cetaceans that occur in the coastal waters, namely the Arabian Sea humpback whale, Indian Ocean humpback dolphin, Northern Indian Ocean blue whale, spinner dolphin, and Indo Pacific bottlenose dolphin. Philatelists and wildlife enthusiasts alike can enjoy the special issue.



Earth Hour

Earth Hour is a worldwide movement which aims to encourage individuals, communities, and businesses to turn off non-essential lights, for one hour on the last Saturday of March, as a symbol of commitment to our planet. ESO celebrated Earth Hour in 2020 with a month-long social media campaign, the 'Earth Hour 20 Day Challenge', posting daily challenges to encourage everyone to make more sustainable choices as consumers. We were also pleased to see major landmarks, including the Royal Opera House Muscat, switch off their lights for one hour in recognition and support for this global commitment.



Capacity Building Program

In 2010, due to a lack of Omanis in the field of environment within the country, it was agreed by the ESO Board that a central part of ESO's mandate would be to hire and train Omani graduates in conservation strategies, community engagement and NGO management, giving them an opportunity to pursue a career with ESO or take on environmental roles in the public or private sector.

Over the last 10 years, ESO has successfully trained 11 young Omanis, some of whom are still with ESO and some who have gone on to work in the public or private sector as environmental advisors. Many of these graduates are very active members and volunteers of ESO and continue to be environmental ambassadors for Oman.

In 2020 the Capacity Building Program was sponsored by Veolia, Oman Shell and Khimji Ramdas – Eshraqa, with five Omanis being supported through the program. Although graduates are trained in a specific area of NGO management, each are given exposure to the following areas:

- ESO Manage - NGO Management and Fundraising
- ESO Protect - Research and Conservation
- ESO Advocate - Education and Community Outreach

Juma Al Humaidi, Ghasi Al Farsi and Juma Al Araimi

Juma, Ghasi and Juma have been working for ESO since 2009 as part-time Field Assistants (FAs) on Masirah Island. Although they were initially recruited and trained by ESO to help with field surveys of loggerhead turtles, their contributions have been unparalleled in terms of creating ties with the local community in Masirah. Our FAs have now been working full-time with ESO for over ten years, assisting in the field with our Turtle Research and Conservation Project, the Renaissance Whale and Dolphin Conservation Project and the Egyptian Vulture Research and Conservation Project. Not only have the FAs been trained in field surveying methods, but they have also completed courses in computing, English, typing, bird identification and ringing, and whale and dolphin identification. They have worked with experts from the US, Netherlands, Bulgaria and the UK.





Aisha Al Ghallabi

Aisha Al Ghallabi holds a BSc in Environmental Health Management from the Canadian University of Dubai and joined ESO as a Membership Coordinator in 2015. Throughout her time with ESO, she has worked hard on running the membership department. In 2020, her efforts led to a Zero Waste Picnic on Oman Environment Day and a membership trip to Al Ansab Wetlands. The COVID-19 pandemic led to a shift from face-to-face activities to online activities and Aisha managed to organize a virtual movie screening night featuring 'The Story of Plastics', 5 virtual panel discussions or lectures and 3 virtual quiz nights. These virtual events covered a range of topics from plastics and recycling to raptors and loggerhead sea turtles.



Jawaher Al Ghafri

Jawaher Al Ghafri holds a Bachelor of Communication Studies from Sur College of Applied Sciences and joined ESO as an Education Coordinator in March 2016. She took over the leadership of the Inter-College Environmental Public Speaking Competition during which time she ensured that hundreds of students from colleges and universities around the country were properly registered and mentored prior to their presenting at the event. In 2019, Jawaher challenged college and university students further through the Green Innovation Eco-thon in which the students had to develop solutions to environmental challenges over a 24-hour period and were given a limited time to pitch their ideas. Jawaher has also been in charge of ESO's Education Program, coordinating volunteers and visiting schools in different regions throughout the Sultanate and in 2019 she focused on launching the Green Schools Initiative to encourage schools to form teams and work towards minimising their ecological footprint and improving sustainability within their schools and their communities. The COVID-19 pandemic posed a challenge for education programs due to social-distancing restrictions, however, Jawaher was able to quickly adapt to the development of online events, workshops and activities for school aged children.

Other Activities and Fundraisers

ESO's Environmental Big Night In

Our first ever virtual fundraiser, 'ESO's Environmental Big Night In' was hosted by Her Highness Sayyida Tania Al Said and special guest, international football player, Ali Al Habsi. The event drew friends and supporters from across Oman to raise vital funding for ESO following the economic impact of COVID-19. Sponsored by **Oman Arab Bank**, the hour-long event included videos of ESO's past and ongoing work, a raffle and silent auction, as well as musical performances from artists including **Eman Al Zadjali**, **Maestro Al Kindi** and **Salha and Joel** from the **Million Dollar Band**.



Auction prizes were provided by **Amran Marine**, **Anantara's Al Baleed Resort**, **Salalah**, **Arabian Fly**, **Grand Hyatt Muscat**, **Joana Mollet**, **MISTAL**, **Petrogas E&P** and **SeaOman**.

Raffle prizes were provided by **Al Bustan Palace Hotel**, **Alila Jabal Akhdar Hotel**, **Amouage**, **Anantara Al Jabal Akhdar Resort**, **Be Bedouin Boutique**, **Blue Flow Diving**, **Caravans**, **Crowne Plaza Muscat**, **Daymaniat Shells**, **JW Marriot**, **Mumtaz Mahal**, **Salaam Yoga**, **The Chedi Muscat**, **Verde & Green**, **Woodlands** and **W Hotel Muscat**.

There were also generous donations from corporate organisations including, **Ajit Khimji Group**, **Alizz Islamic Bank**, **Al Yousef Group**, **Bank Muscat**, **Dentons**, **Ernst and Young**, **Khimji Ramdas – Eshraqa**, **OCTAL**, **Oman British Friendship Association**, **Oman China Friendship Association**, **Petrogas E&P**, **Port of Duqm** and **Renaissance Services**.

We would like to thank everyone who joined us and those who so generously donated on the night. The support has motivated us to keep advocating for our environment and Oman's extraordinary wildlife.

Emily's Garden - Grown Through ESO

Emily Jewitt's family and friends have joined forces with ESO and in Emily's legacy they are supporting the Green School Initiative. Emily, who lived in Oman, was an active environmentalist who sadly passed away in 2018. She was fun, bright, happy and had a passion for life. We would like to thank **Emily's Garden Foundation** for continuing to raise funds through the Sunflower Run this year with special thanks to young volunteers Anna Minton, Athenais Jordan, Ella Hart and Rebekah Bourne who were involved in organising the run.

8th Annual ECO Bowl

Eight teams competed in ESO's 8th annual corporate bowling competition held to raise funds for ESO. Thanks to participation from **Alizz Islamic Bank, Bank Muscat, Central Bank of Oman, Ooredoo, Port of Duqm, Port of Salalah** and **Traccs**, ESO raised funds to support community outreach initiatives throughout Oman. A special mention to the winning teams; **Port of Salalah** in third place, **Ooredoo** in second place and **Central Bank of Oman** who came in first place, retaining their title as the champions! Prizes and support were provided courtesy of **Crowne Plaza Salalah, Mumtaz Mahal, Omanta Scuba, SeaOman** and **UFC Gym Oman**. We would like to thank all the companies who participated and look forward to the 2021 rematch!



Nature Oman Initiative

Launched by ESO to encourage members of the public to become involved in raising environmental awareness and funds for environmental causes within Oman, Nature Oman's first initiative is fundraising through sporting events. Athletes can enjoy the connection of fitness and the outdoors while showing their appreciation for the Sultanate by pledging to raise funds through their race. We would like to thank **Oman Sail** for their donations through the **Muscat Marathon** to support this initiative.

Coastline, Community and Conservation Exhibition

ESO was honoured to partner with artist **Joana Mollet** during her 'Coastline, Community and Conservation' Exhibition which took place in November 2020. The exhibition featured a selection of landscapes celebrating Oman's beautiful coastline, along with two installations made with children from local schools to raise awareness about beach litter and the importance of conserving our fragile marine habitat. The exhibition included an abstract representation of Masirah Island which **His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said**, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, co-signed and was donated for auction. We would like to thank **Khimji Ramdas – Eshraqa** for placing the highest bid to raise funds for ESO's continued operations. ESO would like to thank His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth for his patronage of the Coastline Exhibition, Joana Mollet, the artist for donating the piece, **Malik al Hinai** and the team at **Bait al Baranda** for hosting the exhibition and to **Hud Hud Travels** for sponsoring the event.



Awards, Grants and Donations

ESO would like to give special thanks to all those who have helped us achieve our goals in 2020. Our donors, sponsors and grant agencies are listed below in alphabetical order:

- **Ajit Khimji Group LLC** for free office space
- **Ajit Khimji Group, Alizz Islamic Bank, Al Yousef Group, Bank Muscat, Dentons, Ernst and Young, Khimji Ramdas – Eshraqa, OCTAL, Oman British Friendship Association, Oman China Friendship Association, Petrogas E&P, Port of Duqm and Renaissance Services** for donating to support ESO's Environmental Big Night In
- **Amran Marine, Anantara Al Baleed Salalah Resort, Arabian Fly, Grand Hyatt Muscat, Joana Mollet, MISTAL, Petrogas E&P and SeaOman** for providing auction items for ESO's Environmental Big Night In
- **Al Bustan Palace Hotel, Alila Jabal Akhdar Hotel, Amouage, Anantara Al Jabal Akhdar Resort, Be Bedouin Boutique, Blue Flow Diving, Caravans, Crowne Plaza Muscat, Daymaniat Shells, JW Marriot, Mumtaz Mahal, Salaam Yoga, The Chedi Muscat, Verde & Green, Woodlads and W Hotel Muscat** for providing raffle prizes for ESO's Environmental Big Night In
- **Alila Jebel Akhdar** for guest donations
- **Alizz Islamic Bank, Bank Muscat, Central Bank of Oman, Ooredoo, Port of Duqm, Port of Salalah and Tracccs Oman** for supporting the 8th Annual ESO ECO Bowl Fundraiser
- **Al Mouj** for their donations through the Muscat Marathon
- **Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar Resort** for guest donations
- **Arabian Fly** for guest donations
- **Bank Dhofar** for allowing their customers to donate to ESO via their mobile banking app
- **Bait Al Baranda Museum, Hud Hud Travels and the Ministry for Culture Youth and Sport** for supporting the Coastline, Community and Conservation Exhibition which included a charity auction to raise funds for ESO
- **Bea'h, Ecovision/Suma** for supporting ESO Renaissance Conservation Actions project
- **Booma Oman and COVID-19preneurs Oman** for producing an awareness video to support ESO
- **Brand Infiniti** for providing in kind support for ESO's Environmental Big Night In
- **British School Muscat** and their students for raising money to support ESO
- **Clyde and Co** for legal advice
- **Coral Muscat Hotel and Apartments** for guest donations
- **Crowe Mak Ghazali LLC** for auditing services
- **Crowne Plaza Salalah, Mumtaz Mahal, Omanta Scuba, SeaOman and UFC Gym Oman** for donating prizes for the 8th Annual ESO ECO Bowl Fundraiser
- **Disney Conservation Fund** for funding 'Chasing Oman's Endangered Vulture Populations' project
- **Emily's Garden and the Sunflower Run** for continuing to raise funds to support the Green Schools Initiative
- **HSBC** for supporting a plastics awareness campaign
- **iDrive** for guest donations
- **Joana Mollet** for donating a painting from her Coastline, Community and Conservation Exhibition to raise funds for ESO as well as a painted chest of drawers to ESO for auction to celebrate World Environment Day
- **Junky Helmets Interactive** for designing our 2020 Annual Report
- **Junoon Kanga** for donating a portion of their profits to support ESO
- **Khimji Ramdas – Eshraqa** for sponsoring the ESO Capacity Building Program and for a generous donation to ESO made via the Coastline, Community and Conservation Exhibition charity auction
- **Neal's Yard Remedies** for funding the Frankincense Community Outreach Campaign in Dhofar
- **Oman Arab Bank** for their sponsorship of the virtual fundraising event, ESO's Environmental Big Night In and for allowing Oman Arab Bank customers to donate to ESO via their mobile banking app
- **Omantel** for supporting donations to ESO from their customers either via the Omantel app or via SMS
- **Oman Flour Mills** for donating reusable bags
- **Oman Shell** for sponsoring the ESO Capacity Building Program
- **PDO** for supporting ESO's Community Outreach Program
- **Renaissance Services SAOG** for funding the Renaissance Conservation Actions Project
- **Sabco Art** for the design of our 2019 Annual Report
- **SEE Turtles and Turtle Island Restoration Network** for providing grant funding via the Summer Sea Turtle Sustainability Grant
- **The Chedi Muscat** for guest donations
- **The Cultural Club** for use of their facilities for the Dr Mohsin Al Aamri Memorial event
- **TRACCS Oman** for media and public relations support throughout the year
- **UMS** for website hosting support
- **US Fish and Wildlife Service** for funding the Turtle Research and Conservation Project
- **Veolia Oman** for sponsoring the ESO Capacity Building Program
- **Veolia Oman** for sponsoring the Green Schools Initiative
- **Violet Astor** for donating an original artwork to auction to raise funds for ESO
- **Verde & Green** for donating a portion of their profits to support ESO
- **Waterfront & Marina Services SAOC** for free berthing of the ESO boat



Tourism Donation Program

Oman's Visitors Giving Back

Tourism puts enormous pressure on the environment, but it can also have a positive impact. Through hotels and tour operators, and to assist with ESO's efforts, we are offering Oman's tourists the chance to support our projects and to give back to Oman and its environment by helping to protect our endangered wildlife and conserve our natural heritage.

Where do donations go?

Donations add much needed funds to support the administration of our conservation projects established to protect Oman's endangered biodiversity. These projects include: the Arabian Sea humpback whale, loggerhead turtles, Egyptian vultures and frankincense trees. These donations enable ESO to help protect these endangered species and give us the resources to ensure future generations can do the same.

We hope to encourage more hotels and tour operators to join this program and are grateful to the following hotels and tour operators who give their guests the opportunity to donate RO1 to ESO.



Local and International Highlights

1st Sustainability Fair - Oman American Business Centre

26 February, Muscat, Oman

ESO supported the Oman American Business Centre's first Sustainability Fair. The event brought together students, environmental groups, SMEs and the wider business community to raise awareness and further efforts towards sustainability. 9 schools exhibited their innovative ideas to promote a more sustainable future. ESO President, HH Sayyida Tania al Said, was the Guest of Honour and formed part of the judging committee for the event.

Release of Captive Bred Animals – Office for Conservation of Environment

3 March, Jaaluni, Al Wusta Wildlife Reserve, Oman

At the invitation of the Office for Conservation of Environment – Diwan of Royal Court, ESO attended the release of captive bred animals to the wild, part of the Diwan's Wildlife Rehabilitation Program. The event was attended by Bashar Zaitoon and Antonia Vegh and involved the release of 129 of animals including; Arabian oryx, Arabian gazelle and goitered gazelle. The event was attended by various stakeholders including the Environment Authority, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources, Ministry of Interior, Shura Council representatives and academic researchers.



Arabian Oryx, Antonia Vegh



Loggerhead turtle, Ghasi Al Farsi

Sea Turtle Presentation to Friends of Carr Refuge

21 August, Florida, USA (Online)

At the request of the 'Friends of the Carr Refuge' in Florida, Suaad Al Harthi, ESO Executive Director, prepared a presentation to highlight Oman's marine turtle conservation activities entitled 'Conservation Journey of Oman's Loggerhead Sea Turtles.' Suaad highlighted our Loggerhead Conservation Program, developed in 2008 as part of a joint partnership program between the Oman government and the US Department of State with funding secured from the US Fish and Wildlife Services Marine Turtle Conservation Act. In 2015 an assessment of loggerhead sea turtles by the IUCN Species Survival Commission assigned (Oman's) North-West Indian Ocean loggerhead subpopulation as critically endangered, thus facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild, highlighting the importance of taking action to minimize human induced threats. The presentation highlighted ESO's turtle monitoring work on Masirah Island, as well as fisheries engagement and community awareness.

BirdLife Middle East Partner Meeting

23 November, Amman, Jordan (Online)

The BirdLife Middle East Secretariat held its regional partnership meeting virtually and was attended by Suaad Al Harthi and Maïa Sarrouf Willson. Presentations showcased ESO's work and opportunities for partnership. Discussions took place on the conservation of birds and their habitats, improving capacity within the network, and addressing major threats to birds and their flyways. Presentations were shared for showcasing regional perspectives from several countries including Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia, among others.



Conferences, Lectures and Workshops attended in 2020

ESO is represented by volunteers, staff and board members at national, regional and international conferences and workshops. Below is a list of those attended in 2020:

UNESCO Biosphere Reserves and Geoparks Existing Programs, Classifications and Policies (Online)

Virtual Seminar on UNESCO Biosphere Reserves (Online)

BirdLife Middle East Regional Partnership Meeting; Amman, Jordan (Online)

Behavioural Insights to Public Policy, (Muscat Oman)

Oman American Business Center – 1st Sustainability Fair (Muscat, Oman)

Oman Shell Panel Discussion on Social Investments (Muscat, Oman)

CEFAS HSBC Fisheries and Aquaculture Climate Change Risk Assessment and Adaptation Workshop and Technical Seminar (Online)

Al Roya Environmental Forum (Muscat, Oman)

Green Growth Knowledge Partnership, Sustainability and Circularity in the Textiles Value Chain (Online)

Center for Sustainable Design, Circular Business Models and Circular Design related to Fishing Gear (Online)

ESO Public Lectures and Events

January	Oman Environment Day Zero Waste Picnic
February	Online lecture on 'Sustainability of irrigated organic cropping systems in Oman: Can we reduce environmental pollution from ruminants?' by Dr Amal Said Al Kindi Al Ansab Wetland Members Trip
May	ESO Members Virtual Quiz Night
June	Online lecture on 'Plastic is Not Fantastic' by Fahim Firfiray ESO Members Virtual Quiz Night Virtual movie screening of 'The Story of Plastic' documentary and panel discussion with Dr Farah Al Barwani and Dr Mohammed Al Kalbani
July	ESO Members Virtual Quiz Night
August	Panel Discussion on Plastic Free July movement with Paul Schenk, Alazza Al Hooti and Maida Montoto
September	Panel Discussion for the launch of the 'Raptors of Oman' booklet with Richard Porter, Chris Bowden, Dr Michael McGrady, Dr Farah Al Barwani and Violet Astor
October	Panel Discussion on 'Masirah Loggerhead Turtle Conservation Project' with Dr Manjula Tiwari, Andrew Willson, Dr Thuraya Al Sariri and Suaad Al Harthi



Dragon moray eel, Paul Flandinette

Membership

Membership Benefits

We are proud that in 2020 we partnered with the following companies to provide our members with discounts and benefits under the categories of beauty, veterinary care, hotels & resorts, activities & entertainment, and restaurants & cafés:

Beauty



Revive Salon & Spa for Men

A true sanctuary; premier salon & spa designed exclusively for men to discover. We offer care treatments through essential techniques that relax the mind and the body, harmonize the silhouette, revive the skin and preserve youth in a calm, tranquil environment. Join us at Revive Salon & Spa to discover a new concept in men's grooming. After all, it's not just a haircut or a massage, it's an experience!

Contact: 90356565

Website: www.reviveoman.com

Facebook: @revivesalonspaoman

Instagram: @revivesalonspaoman

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- ESO Members will enjoy 10% off on any spa service
- Offer not applicable during the week prior to Eid celebrations
- Offer not applicable during any other discount or promotion or with any other offer
- Offer not valid for pre-set packages
- Offer can be availed, subject to prior appointment reservation and availability



Ayana Spa

We are Oman's first organic, green spa, inspired by nature, using only premium organic products that are completely safe for the body and the environment. We have carefully selected luxurious treatments from around the world to rejuvenate and beautify your skin and hair, calm your mind and harmonize your soul. A relaxing ambiance of soothing music and the fragrance of pleasant organic aromatic oils fill your senses soon as you enter our doors.

Amber International LLC

2nd Floor Al Sarooj Plaza, Muscat, Oman

Telephone: 24693435

email: info@ayanaspaspa.com

website: www.ayanaspaspa.com

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- 10% discount on all regular priced spa & beauty services above RO7,000
- 10% discount is valid for Ayana Spa cash vouchers and service vouchers*
- Discount not valid on packages and monthly promotions
- Discount is valid only on Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday of the week.
- Discount is not valid throughout Eid periods.



Brow Bar Salon

Brow Bar, your one stop salon! Get pampered without compromising quality. Also try what nature has to offer with Brow Bar's special natural treatments.

Instagram: @browbarmuscat

Telephone: 24591943

Working Hours – 10am to 10pm

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- Buy 1 and get 20% off the next service of same or less amount
- This offer is not valid with any vouchers, promotions or peak and festive seasons

Veterinary



Capital Veterinary Centre

Capital Veterinary Centre LLC "CVC" established in February 2010 provides the highest level of veterinary care available in Oman. Our services include, early-age neutering, ophthalmic surgery, orthopedic surgery, dental and scaling and other dental procedures, x-rays, precaution vaccinations along with treatments of various illnesses and diseases. At CVC we even take care of the hygiene of your pets, by providing complete pet grooming

services which include washing, hair cutting, ear cleaning, nail clipping and even anal gland expression. In addition, we even take care of your pets when you are on leave by providing special accommodation. We are a complete centre, everything under one roof for all your pet's needs.

For more information visit www.vetoman.com

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- On purchase of one grooming service from the following packages (wash, blow dry, nail clipping and ear cleaning) or (haircut, washing blow dry, nail clipping and ear cleaning) receive the second service of equal or lower value free.
- On purchase of one day boarding service of cat/dog along with food, receive the second boarding day free.
- On purchase of one doctor consultation receive the second consultation free.
- 15% off dental and scaling under sedation
- 15% off dog spay or castration (neutering) operation
- 25% off for stray animals for any service
- 20% off rabies vaccine for cats and dogs
- 15% off DHPPL vaccine for dogs
- 15% off Tricat vaccine for cats
- 30% off microchip for cats and dogs



Al Qurum Veterinary Clinic

Al Qurum Veterinary Clinic, where your pets get the best Pet-erinary care in Oman. Visit us at our Main Hospital in Madinat Sultan Qaboos or at our branch in Azaiba.

Find our details on www.muscatvets.com or contact us on info@muscatvets.com. MSQ Hospital – +968 24607735 or Azaiba Clinic - +968 24121173.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- 10% discount on Vaccinations, Routine Consultations and Neuterings
- Discount valid in both branches (Al Azaiba and MSQ)

Hotels & Resorts



Park Inn by Radisson Hotel & Residence Duqm

Hotel & Residence Duqm is a 4-star located midway between the cities of Muscat and Salalah. It is an ideal accommodation choice when travelling in Oman. The 73 contemporary chalets and apartments are spread over a large area providing a feeling of space and privacy. The design and the character of all accommodation units and the public areas are inimitably Park Inn by Radisson, designed for today's new generation traveller. It features onsite restaurants and pool bar, 24-hour room service, free Wi-Fi access throughout the

hotel, laundry service, concierge, business centre, children's area, spa, tennis court, gym, outdoor pool and 2 modern & versatile meeting rooms for a variety of social and business events. The hotel location provides guests with easy access.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- We offer 15% discount for Park inn Duqm
- Not valid for any hotel promotions.



Park Inn by Radisson Muscat

A 4-star hotel centrally located hotel in Al Khuwair on Sultan Qaboos Street. It displays a modern, sophisticated décor with state-of-the-art facilities. The 175 tastefully furnished guest rooms including seven suites and handicapped rooms in the colourful and vibrant Park Inn style have been done keeping the business traveller in mind. Sama Terrazza rooftop lounge/bar, RBG Grill Restaurant, Palm Restaurant, rooftop pool, gym, sauna & steam rooms, salon, gift shop, free Wi-Fi, 5 meeting rooms, business centre and free parking.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- We offer 15% discount for Park inn Muscat
- Not valid for any hotel promotions.

*Both Park Inn by Radisson Hotels in Oman are Green Key, Safe hotels Premium Level and HACCP certified properties.

Activities & Entertainment



Wave Summit

Break your routine by joining our kayaking trips and enjoying spectacular views of Oman from a different angle.

Instagram: @wave_summit

Contact:
Bassam Al Jabri
97471484

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- 20% discount for ESO members up to 5 times per person on any 2 hour program
- Offer is not valid for full day trips
- Offer valid during week days only, from Sunday to Thursday
- Members have to book for their trip and wait for confirmation as we have to check weather forecast for sea conditions
- Members have to provide ESO membership number when booking a trip



Laser Maxx Tag

Laser Maxx from the Kingdom of Netherlands. It's Located at the Fun Zone - near the Qurum Natural Park, Muscat.

Contact Number: 95677480

Facebook: @LaserMaxxoman

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- 2 OMR instead of 3 OMR
- Not valid on Eid holidays



Europcar

One of the world's leading and largest mobility services provider representing an extensive network in 140 countries. Ajit Khimji group holds the franchise of Europcar in Oman since 1972. Being part of such a big and diverse group gives Europcar an access to all the resources required to successfully operate the car rental & leasing activities in Oman. Europcar is specialized in mobility services and provides a choice of alternatives to outright purchase. These include Short & Long-term rentals, Chauffeur & Transfer services, Flexi-Lease and International Reservations for your travel abroad.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- 15% off the best available rate displayed on the website www.europcar.com for renting the car in Middle East & Europe. ESO members can call Waseem on +968 97867424 or email on sales@europcaroman.net to avail of this offer.



UbCool Adventures

The fastest growing online adventure booking platform with 700+ companies in 70+ destinations.

Website: www.ub-cool.com

Instagram: [ub.cool](https://www.instagram.com/ub.cool)

Telephone: +968 71708777

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- \$30 discount per booking
- Use special ESO promo code "ESO2018"



InnerChi Centre

InnerChi Center is a unique Oman-based yoga studio which takes an innovative approach to providing a relaxing and holistically rejuvenating experience that will leave you feeling refreshed and renewed. We provide our clients with a variety of options when it comes managing their overall health and wellness. Make the positive lifestyle change you've been wanting; see what InnerChi Center has to offer you.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- Offer 30% on our yoga packages (valid for one time per member) and not valid with any other offer.
- Low season: 1st May – 31st September
- Applicable for ESO employees and members ONLY.
- ESO employees and members should be present for check in and holding the membership ID card.



Salaam Space Yoga

A beautiful seaside studio that provides experiential knowledge through the use of accessible yogic tools to initiate, shape and sustain your regular yoga practice. We meet you where you are within your Yogic journey and provide customized pathways for you to reach your goals. Whether you are healing from a temporary condition, living with a chronic illness, or preparing the body and mind to become stronger and more resilient, you will be guided towards your goal, and services will be tailored to your individual needs.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- 10% off on all classes and events booked in advance

Restaurant & Cafés



The Bank Restaurant

Instagram: [@thebankoman](https://www.instagram.com/thebankoman)

Facebook: [@thebankom](https://www.facebook.com/thebankom)

Telephone: 95299136

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- 10% off the final bill



Mumtaz Mahal

Mumtaz Mahal is one of the oldest fine dining restaurants in Muscat serving the best North Indian food, since 1984. It has won the prestigious title of 'Best Indian Restaurant' 10 times in the Oman Today Restaurant Awards. We owe our success to our valued patrons who come back to us for our exquisite cuisine and legendary hospitality. Every authentic preparation at Mumtaz Mahal dates back centuries to the erstwhile Mughal Empire. Each dish was once prepared in the royal kitchens of the Mughals and hence the use of only the finest is the norm. The cuisine has its distinct character in terms of aroma and flavors that leaves our guests craving for more. We welcome you to Mumtaz Mahal. We welcome you to dine like true royalty.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- 10% off on beverages and food



Woodlands

A restaurant located in Oman, serving a selection of Indian food that delivers across Ruwi.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- 10% off on beverages and food

Corporate Membership

ESO is grateful for the support of all our corporate members:

- Ajit Khimji Group LLC
- Al Anwar Holding SAOG
- Al Yousef Group LLC
- Alizz Islamic Bank
- Apergy
- Averda Waste Management
- Bank Muscat
- Central Bank of Oman
- CMS
- Daleel Petroleum
- Dentons
- Engie
- Ernst & Young
- Haya Water
- Khimji Ramdas – Eshraqa
- OCTAL
- Oman Arab Bank
- Oman British Friendship Association
- Oman China Friendship Association
- Oman Oil Marketing Company
- Oman Sail
- Oman Shell
- OMINVEST
- OMRAN
- Petroleum Development Oman
- Petrogas E&P LLC
- Port of Duqm
- Qurum Business Group
- Renaissance Services SAOG
- Travel Point LLC
- United Securities LLC

As an exclusive benefit to our corporate members, ESO has developed Oman-relevant guidelines for Greening Your Office and Organising Corporate Clean-Ups.

Collaboration with International Organisations

- United Nations Environment Program
- International Union for the Conservation of Nature – Regional Office for West Asia
- International Whaling Commission
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- US Department of Interior
- Wildlife Conservation Society
- National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration - South West Fisheries and Science Centre
- University of Exeter, Centre for Ecology and Conservation
- Durham University
- International Avian Research
- New England Aquarium
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Abu Dhabi Office)
- Arabian Sea Whale Network
- Wild Me
- Wildbook
- SharkWatch Arabia
- BirdLife Middle East
- Ornithological Society of the Middle East
- Wetlands International
- Anglo-Omani Society
- WWF-Pakistan
- Oceanswell
- Clear Blue Photo
- Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute
- Megaptera Marine Conservation
- African Aquatic Conservation Fund
- Université de Toliara, Institut Halieutique et des Sciences Marines
- University of New South Wales, Sydney

Crown jellyfish, Yaqaob Al Rashdi

Acknowledgements

There are many people we wish to thank for their support, hard work and dedication to ESO:

First and foremost, special thanks go to ESO's Patron, HH Sayyid Tarik bin Shabib Al Said, who has always supported the Society and has been instrumental in its success.

The Environment Authority, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Social Development continue to be staunch supporters of ESO and we thank them for their guidance and understanding of our work.

None of ESO's work would be possible without the much-needed funding we receive from our corporate members, sponsors and supporters. We thank all of them and hope that their generosity will continue for years to come.

The ESO staff are the backbone of the Society and its work, and we thank all that have been with us throughout the years. Given the financial challenges presented as a result of COVID-19, ESO sadly said goodbye to a number of staff in 2020. We would like to thank them for their significant contributions to Oman's conservation efforts. We were honoured to have had the opportunity to work side by side with Asma Al Balushi, Antonia Vegh, Aisha Al Ghallabi, Ghazi Al Farsi, Juma Al Arai, Juma Al Humaidi and Dr. Hamed Al Gheilani. They remain a part of the ESO family and continue to be our ambassadors in their future journeys.

We thank every one of our members for coming to events and dedicating their time and energy to supporting the conservation of Oman's environment.

Ajit Khmiji Group, who have given ESO free office space for many years and InterRent who provide staff vehicles.

Oman's media have been extremely supportive in making our efforts public, and ESO would like to thank all media houses for their continued coverage of our projects and successes. Special thanks go to TRACCS Oman for providing our PR services.

We are also very grateful to Joana Mollet, an artist who has supported ESO's fundraising drives by donating a painting for auction during ESO's Environmental Big Night In, a painted chest of drawers for auction on World Environment Day, and for organizing the Coastline, Community and Conservation Exhibition in which a painting was auctioned for ESO. We are also grateful to Violet Astor, wildlife painter, who donated an original painting of an Ibex to be auctioned by ESO this year, following her already significant contributions in 2019.

Thank you for Dr Danielle Cholewiak (NOAA Fisheries) and Dr Salvatore Cerchio (African Aquatic Conservation Fund) for loaning ESO a deep water Passive Acoustic Monitoring unit to record underwater cetacean sounds.

Volunteer Acknowledgements

Volunteers are a very important part of ESO's work as they strengthen our organization's mission to protect Oman's environment and wildlife. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 was a very challenging year for all and ESO could not involve as many volunteers as we aimed for. However, there were still many who were able to support us taking on new challenges, for which we are very grateful. In particular we would like to thank:

Ahmed Aidha Ghawas for his dedication, time and energy in planting frankincense trees in Thumrait.

Besma Missaoui and **Ahmed Al Khusaibi** for helping us reach a broader audience by translating our written documents.

Juma Ali Alfarsi, Ali Humaid Al Farsi, Mohammad Hanif, Shareef Miha, MD Shobouj Miha, Kaleshan, Shanger Gowdu and **Nizam**, for their continuous support during the Masirah net removal efforts.

Justine Kwaan for her dedication, support, time and energy in the design and production of ESO's Annual Report.

Eng Salah Ajeeb for supporting ESO's frankincense tree planting program in the Dhofar region.

Yasser Macki for supporting with photography during the ECO Bowl.

Karan Khimji for playing a supporting role with ESO Strategy.

Juhaina Al Ghafri interned with ESO in March, updating the contact details of recycling companies and assisted with all of the functions on a day-to-day basis at ESO. Her positive attitude and eagerness to learn made her a great asset to the team. Many thanks to Juhaina for her support and dedication.

We miss all of our volunteers and are grateful for the messages of support, encouragement and love that we have received over the past year. We have all done our best to adapt to new ways of working under very challenging circumstances - and an altogether new way of life.

Thank you to all the volunteers who may not be mentioned and have helped ESO in any way in 2020.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer at ESO, please email us on admin@eso.org.om



Bearded scorpionfish, Paul Flandinette



Wadi Mistal, Mohammed Al Mahrezi

