



ISSUE Q1 - January - March

# NEWSLETTER 2025

Environment Society of Oman  
[www.eso.org.om](http://www.eso.org.om)

Cover Photo:  
Egyptian Vulture  
(Neophron percnopterus),  
Ghasi Al Farsi



## ACHIEVEMENTS & EVENTS

A summary of our Q1 highlights across research, conservation, education and community engagement.



## PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Capacity Building: Empowering Oman's in Environmental Leadership



## MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITIES

Highlights from our membership programme and details of how to get involved!



## ACHIEVEMENTS & EVENTS



### Marine Turtle Conservation

ESO's Turtle Programme has lost a major funding source after the US Fish and Wildlife Service (under the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund), a key supporter since 2008, ceased funding in line with a recent U.S. Executive Order. ESO is looking for funds to continue surveying Masirah's loggerhead, green, hawksbill, and olive ridley turtles. To support ongoing efforts, our turtle awareness and activity booklets are now available for sale and have already received strong interest from schools and partners across Oman.



### Namat Competition

The fifth edition of the Namat Competition has officially launched, with 126 schools registered representing 10 governorates in Oman. After the registration period (14 February–16 March), 124 schools qualified, with the announcement made on 23 March. The competition is now in the implementation phase of their respective sustainability projects. ESO extends its sincere thanks to **Veolia Oman** for their continued support and funding, which has been instrumental in making this impactful project possible.



### Oman Environment Day

To mark Oman Environment Day, ESO held several engaging outreach activities. The team delivered a dedicated turtle awareness presentation in partnership with **Ara Petroleum**, engaging a group of 30 attendees in an interactive session. In addition, ESO participated in an awareness booth at the Oman Across Ages Museum, where young visitors explored key sustainability themes and learned more about ESO's environmental initiatives. These efforts reflect our ongoing commitment to education, awareness, and community involvement in preserving Oman's unique natural heritage.



### Light Pollution Conservation Efforts on Masirah

ESO recently met with the Wali of Masirah to discuss the island's beach regeneration project and the issue of light pollution affecting turtle nesting sites. As part of the mitigation efforts, the field team led meetings with local property owners to coordinate retrofitting solutions. Between February and March, capital work was completed to retrofit nine houses with wildlife-certified lighting, helping reduce light pollution along key coastal areas. These efforts are crucial to supporting a safer environment for nesting turtles on Masirah Island.



### ESO Sustainability Fair

ESO hosted the 2025 Sustainability Fair on February 25 at Sheraton Oman Hotel, taking over from the Oman American Business Council (OABC) as lead organizer. The event featured student-led projects from 11 private schools, with awards presented for Best Presentation, Most Innovative Idea, Most Practical Implementation, and Overall Winner. Special thanks to founder Maria Valdez for her continued support. We also thank Marafiq Business Group, Bauer Nimir, Five Elements, and Apex Publishing for their valuable sponsorship and partnership.



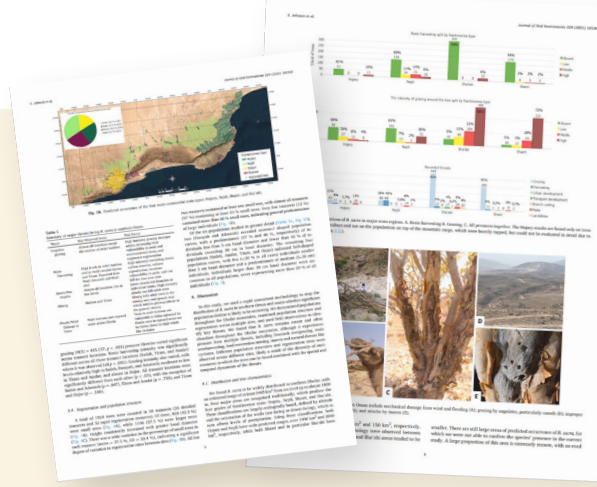
### Annual General Meeting

ESO held its Annual General Meeting on March 18, 2025, bringing together members, corporate partners, and the Board to review 2024 achievements and outline 2025 priorities. Highlights included the launch of ESO's 2024 Annual Report and screening of the ESO Awareness Video. An Extraordinary General Meeting was also held, where members approved a revision to corporate membership fees—the first since 2008. ESO extends its thanks to the Cultural Club for their continued support in hosting the AGM.



Whale Shark (*Rhincodon typus*),  
Nicholai Georgiou

## New paper on Frankincense Research now published and accessible on the ESO website



[Read the full paper here](#)

## PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

### CAPACITY BUILDING

#### Building a Legacy: Empowering Oman's in Environmental Leadership

A core part of ESO's long-term vision is ensuring that environmental conservation in Oman is led by those who call it home. In 2010, in response to the limited number of Omanis working in the environmental field, ESO's Board of Directors made a pivotal decision: to embed capacity building as a central pillar of its mission—training and equipping early-career Omanis in conservation, education, and NGO management.

Since then, ESO has supported and trained 18 young Omanis, many of whom continue to work in the environmental sector across ESO, government institutions, and the private sector. Several remain active ESO members and volunteers, championing sustainability as environmental ambassadors for Oman.

The 2025 Capacity Building Programme, supported by **Veolia Oman** and **Marafiq**, currently includes three talented early-career Omanis. While each one focuses on a key area, all participants gain cross-cutting exposure to:

- ESO Manage – NGO management and fundraising
- ESO Protect – Research and conservation
- ESO Advocate – Education and community outreach

#### This year's participants include:



**Rabab Al Lawati**, Conservation & Outreach Coordinator – actively involved in ESO's major research projects including sea turtles in Masirah, raptors, frankincense, and Arabian Sea humpback whales. Rabab also represents ESO in national and international platforms, including events supported by UNEP, developing her scientific expertise and expanding global networks in the conservation field.



**Jawaher Al Ghafrli**, Education Specialist – leading ESO's flagship programmes such as Namat and Green Campus, engaging hundreds of schools and universities across Oman. Jawaher is also expanding her skillset in environmental education and public engagement, positioning herself as a strong advocate for sustainability among Oman's youth.



**Ahmed Al Zadajali**, Communication and Membership Coordinator – driving ESO's advocacy work on key issues like single-use plastic reduction, while also playing a central role in enhancing corporate member engagement and awareness campaigns. Ahmed continues to grow his skills in public communication, digital strategy, and stakeholder coordination.

By investing in Omani talent, ESO is not only passing on its institutional knowledge — it is ensuring that Oman's environmental future is shaped by those deeply rooted in its land, culture, and communities.

## ESO MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We are proud to offer corporate and individual membership programs, providing the community in Oman with opportunities to engage with environmental initiatives and gain deeper exposure to sustainability topics. Through regular public talks and activities, we bring our members together to support environmental efforts and drive meaningful change. Stay updated on upcoming events by visiting our [website](#) or following us on [social media](#).



### February Activity

On 5th February, ESO members visited the Barka Wild Animals Breeding Centre to explore Oman's native wildlife up close and learn about the centre's vital conservation work. The visit offered meaningful insights into efforts to breed and protect endangered species. ESO extends its appreciation to the **Barka Wild Animals Breeding Centre** for their warm welcome and for offering our members such a memorable and informative experience.



### March - Annual General Meeting

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## Become a Member Today!

If you would like to become an ESO member or **renew your membership** click on:

NEW MEMBER

RENEWALS

\*STUDENT MEMBERSHIP **5<sup>RO</sup>**

Your support matters.

Thank you for believing in our commitment to conserve and protect the incredible biodiversity of Oman.

\*INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP **10<sup>RO</sup>**



\*CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP **1K<sup>RO</sup>**

#### FOR ENQUIRIES:

Individual Membership: [membership@eso.org.om](mailto:membership@eso.org.om)

Corporate Sponsorship / Membership: **Mai Abumughli**: [Mai.abumughli@eso.org.om](mailto:Mai.abumughli@eso.org.om)

\*Memberships are per year.

## Why support ESO!

Your support enables us to...

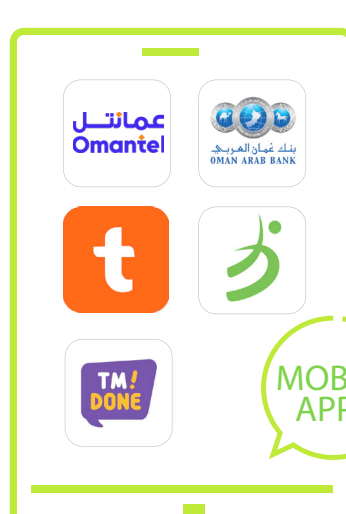
- Conduct **RESEARCH** on threatened and endangered species in Oman
- **EDUCATE** communities on the importance of adopting more sustainable lifestyles
- **ADVOCATE** for environmental sustainability
- **BUILD CAPACITY** within the environmental sector in Oman
- **CONSERVE** Oman's natural heritage for future generations

## How to support ESO in 2024

### 1. MAKE A DONATION VIA



Bank transfer, Bank Muscat  
#0315-0039-6351-0017



### 2. FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



### 3. JOIN OR RENEW ESO MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMME

MEMBERSHIP

### 4. SUPPORT OUR CHARITY INITIATIVES

LEARN MORE

ESO Annual Report 2024 now available on our [resources page](#)



Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), Paul Flanaherty

## DONATION PROGRAMMES

We are very grateful to all our donation partners, who kindly add an optional donation to guests bills. We are actively working to encourage more hotels and tour operators to join the program.



## THANK YOU!

- **Maria Valdez** for her volunteer work in driving the success of ESO Sustainability Fair
- **Barka Breeding Centre** for hosting the ESO Members
- **Cultural Club** for providing the space to host the AGM