



ISSUE Q1: January - March

NEWSLETTER 2026

Environment Society of Oman
www.eso.org.om

Cover Photo:
Spotted eagle ray,
Aetobatus narinari,
Paul Flandinette



ACHIEVEMENTS & EVENTS

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



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT
Oman Environment Day Beach Cleanup



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



ACHIEVEMENTS & EVENTS



ESO Sustainability Fair

ESO hosted the 2026 Sustainability Fair on February 10 at JW Marriott Hotel, taking over from the Oman American Business Council (OABC) as lead organizer. The event featured student-led projects from 10 private schools, with awards presented for Best Presentation, Most Innovative Idea, Most Practical Implementation, Overall Winner and a Special Award Winner. Special thanks to founder Maria Valdez for her continued support. We also thank **Marriot Business Group, Bauer Nimr, Siemens Energy, Voltamp, Apex Publishing and Makeen Design Studio** for their valuable sponsorship and partnership.



Turtle Mandoos

In partnership with TSO, ESO is proud to launch Turtle Mandoos, a new traveling educational initiative that brings hands-on, science-based sea turtle conservation workshops directly to schools. Through interactive activities and realistic sea turtle models, students step into the role of marine biologists by identifying turtle species, investigating threats, and exploring real-world conservation solutions. Turtle Mandoos empowers students to learn, question, and act, inspiring the next generation of conservationists. We are excited to have secured sponsors from **OQ** and **OQGN** and look forward to expanding the program in 2026.



Masirah Island Beach Cleanup

The annual dedicated net clean-up on Masirah took place from the 17th till the 25th January 2026, collecting around 60 tons of abandoned, lost and discarded fishing gear from 39 km of sensitive turtle nesting beaches on the island. Since 2017, ESO have removed 915 tons of fishing nets and other waste from beaches, protecting critical habitats. This achievement was made possible through the dedicated support of **The Masirah Municipality, Oman Environmental Services Holding Co., SAOC - be'ah, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources and Environment Authority**. With generous sponsorship from **Eshraqa Foundation**, this collective effort shows how partnerships can create real impact for Oman's wildlife and coastal ecosystems.



Celebrating our Women in Science

ESO is proud to see Maria Sarrouf Wilson featured in **BirdLife International's "Celebrating our Women in Science"** (Part II), a true reflection of her dedication to conservation. The International Day of Women and Girls in Science celebrates the invaluable contributions of women and girls to scientific discovery, innovation, and environmental stewardship. In collaboration with **BirdLife International**, this day highlights the vital role that women play in advancing biodiversity conservation, ecological research, and sustainable solutions.



Annual General Meeting (AGM)

ESO's Annual General Meeting (AGM) convened on March 30th at the **Cultural Club**, uniting representatives from the ESO board, staff, and members to reflect on the organization's accomplishments in 2025 and outline plans for 2026. This AGM marked a significant occasion as it entailed the election of new board members, with ESO receiving 12 nominations. The conclusion of the AGM was marked by extending a warm welcome to the incoming board members. We extend our gratitude to the previous board members for their invaluable support and eagerly anticipate a fruitful term ahead with the new members.



Oman Climate Dialogue: Biodiversity and Climate Neutrality

In celebration of Oman Environment Day, the Biodiversity and Climate Neutrality session of Oman Climate Dialogues took place at Ansab Wetland. Hosted by **NWS-Nama Water Services**, the event included a wetland tour and an engaging panel on biodiversity and climate action in Oman. The panel discussion was moderated by ESO Vice President Rumaitha Al Busaidi and included panelists: **Maia Sarrouf Wilson, Aziza Al Athoobi, Dr. Laila Al Harthi and Manal Al Kindi**. A Special thanks to **ASYAD Group, Nama Water Services**, and our expert panelists for their valuable contributions.



Collaboration with Abraj Energy

ESO and **Abraj Energy** signed an MOU which aimed to support community programmes that promote environmental awareness and empower future generations to adopt sustainable and responsible practices. This partnership reflects **Abraj Energy's** continued commitment to advancing initiatives that create lasting commitment.



Collaboration with Mint & Coco

We are delighted to highlight a wonderful new initiative from one of our dedicated donation partners, **Mint & Coco Restaurant**. The restaurant has created a special menu item, the 'Roar for a Cause' salad, from which a portion of the proceeds is donated directly to the Environment Society of Oman (ESO). This generous collaboration allows customers to support ESO's conservation efforts simply by enjoying a delicious meal.

BOOKLETS AVAILABLE FOR SALE

Discover the world of sea turtles and why they matter.

To purchase visit our office in Darsait

Visit our website for more resources www.eso.org.om



Oman Human Rights Commission

In celebration of Oman Environment Day, the **Oman Human Rights Commission** organized a public talk covering ESO's projects and awareness campaigns. The session was presented by **Hanan Al Muscati**, Partnership Manager at the ESO, who previewed ESO's efforts in education, awareness, and the conservation of biodiversity and protection of endangered species in the Sultanate of Oman.



Indian Siverbill, *Eudice malabarica*, Tarsten Pröhl

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Oman Environment Day Beach Cleanup

In celebration of Oman Environment Day, the Environment Society of Oman (ESO) organized a community-driven Beach Cleanup at Al Hai Beach with more than 300 participants and collected more than 450 kg of beach waste. This initiative aimed to raise environmental awareness, protect Oman's coastal ecosystems, and encourage citizens, residents, and businesses to take part in preserving our natural heritage. The event was a unique opportunity for companies to demonstrate their commitment to corporate social responsibility and environmental stewardship through direct engagement with the community.

The successful delivery of this event was made possible through the generous financial and in-kind contributions of our esteemed partners. **Abraj Energy** served as the Gold Sponsor, while **Voltamp** supported the event as Bronze Sponsors. We also gratefully acknowledge the valuable in-kind support provided by **Al Bustan Palace, JW Marriott, W Hotel, Kempinski** and **Purnity**. In particular, we offer special recognition to the dedicated student volunteers from **The Sultan's School** for their enthusiasm, commitment, and invaluable hands-on support throughout the event. We extend our sincere appreciation to all sponsors, supporters, volunteers, and participants whose contributions were instrumental in the event's success.



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](https://social-media).



February Activity

On 17th February, ESO members visited Oman's most remarkable **Ras Al Shajar Nature Reserve**. Ras Al Shajar is a protected nature reserve in the Wilayat of Qurayyah, Muscat Governorate, Oman, covering roughly 94 Km². The reserve is known for its rich biodiversity, with dense vegetation, especially **Acacia (Ghaf)** and other native species that thrive in the area. It provides habitat to native wildlife, including Arabian gazelles, mountain goats, foxes and Caracal.

ESO extends its appreciation to the **Ras Al Shajar Nature Reserve** for their warm welcome and for offering our members such a memorable and informative experience.



March - Annual General Meeting

ESO held its Annual General Meeting on March 30, 2026, bringing together members, corporate partners, and the Board to review 2025 achievements and outline 2026 priorities. Highlights included the launch of ESO's 2025 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.



Become a Member Today!

If you would like to become a member click on:

[NEW MEMBER](#) [RENEWALS](#)

*STUDENT MEMBERSHIP **5 RO**

*INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP **10 RO**

*CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP **2K RO**

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



FOR ENQUIRIES: Individual Membership: membership@eso.org.om
Corporate Sponsorship / Membership: Hanan.AlMuscati@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 2026

1. MAKE A DONATION VIA BANK TRANSFER

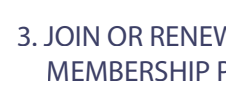
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Oman Arab Bank
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Sohar International Bank
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2. FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



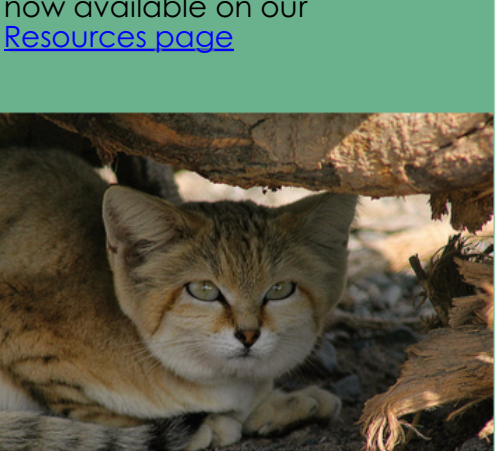
3. JOIN OR RENEW ESO MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMME



4. SUPPORT OUR CHARITY INITIATIVES



ESO Annual Report 2025 now available on our [Resources page](#)



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
- Ras Al Shajar Nature Reserve for hosting ESO members
- Cultural Club for providing the space to host the AGM
- Thank you to Dr. Mohammed Al-Kalbani and Dr. Nassir Al Maskari for the years they have served on ESO Board up to March 2026 and we wish them all the success.