



ISSUE Q2 - April - June

# NEWSLETTER 2025

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

Cover Photo:  
**Beetle**,  
(*Stalagmosoma cynanki*),  
Ghaniya Almajrafi



## ACHIEVEMENTS & EVENTS

A summary of our Q2 highlights across research, conservation, education and community engagement.



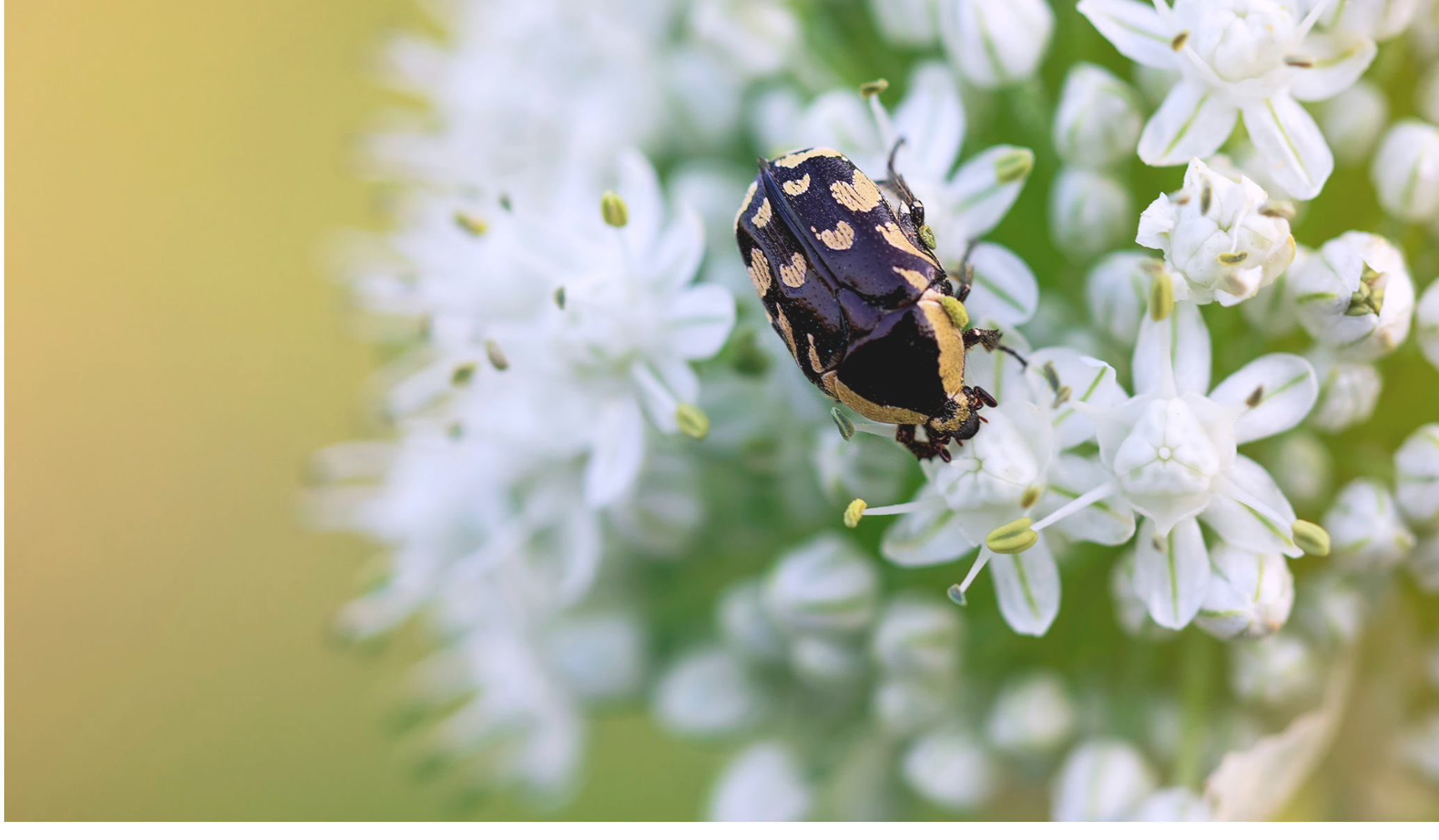
## PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Coral Reef Conservation Project and Capacity Building



## MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITIES

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



## ACHIEVEMENTS & EVENTS



### Oman Climate Dialogue: Green Transport in Oman

The Oman Climate Dialogues session on Mobility & Green Transport brought together key voices to explore sustainable solutions shaping the future of transportation in Oman. Moderated by Amira Al Yarubi, ESO Board Member, the session featured insights from Abdullah Al Busaidi, Mohammed Al Mujaini, Ali Al Khadhuri, Haider Adnan Al Zarabi, and Zaid El Helou. A special thank you to our sponsors **Asayd Group** and **Nama Water Services** for championing this initiative and supporting greener, more sustainable Oman.



### Green Campus Initiative

On the 16th of April ESO opened the door for registration in the Green Campus Initiative. This initiative aims to inspire the creation of eco-clubs within academic institutions, empowering students, faculty, staff, and local communities to become champions of environmental stewardship. A special thanks to our sponsor **National Finance** for their continued support.



### Oman Sustainability Week

ESO was proud to be an official supporter of Oman Sustainability Week, which took place from May 11th to May 15th. Our participation included exhibiting for all three days and sharing our mission and activities with visitors. Additionally, the team delivered two presentations on ESO's Research and Conservation Efforts and Connection with Communities for Conservation. We would like to extend our appreciation to the team from **CONNECT Events** for including ESO in this impactful event and for supporting its sustainability goals.



### Environmental Status of Frankincense Trees in Oman and Globally

On the occasion of International Day for Biological Diversity, ESO organised a conference titled "Environmental Status of Frankincense Trees in Oman and Globally" in collaboration with the **Centre Franco Omanais (CFO)**. The conference addressed the unique challenges facing frankincense trees both locally and worldwide, as well as the conservation efforts ESO is undertaking to protect this species.



### Oman Climate Dialogue: Energy Efficiency in Oman

The Energy Efficiency session at Oman Climate Dialogues sparked an insightful discussion on advancing sustainable energy practices across the Sultanate. Moderated by Ms. Rumaitha Al Busaidi, the panelists Dr. Abdulla Al Abri, Zainab Al Lawati, Mohsin Al Jabri and Alan Freeman shared diverse perspectives on cutting emissions and improving energy performance in key sectors, through collaboration, innovation, and policy. A special thanks to **Asayd Group** and **Nama Water Services** for sponsoring and supporting this event.



### Conservation of the Arabian Sea Humpback Whale

The regional workshop on 'Management, Protection, and Conservation of the Arabian Sea Humpback Whales' took place on May 27th. Organized by the Environment Authority in collaboration with the Environment Society of Oman, Future Seas, and the **International Whaling Commission (IWC)**. The event was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel with the participation of a distinguished group of international experts and researchers. The three-day workshop aimed to strengthen regional cooperation between the Sultanate of Oman and India to adopt a joint action plan, outline a framework for the management and conservation of this species, and addressing threats facing whales and their habitats.



### World Environment Day

In honour of World Environment Day, ESO joined hands with **OQ** to celebrate shared commitment to protect Oman's natural heritage. Together we explored the importance of sustainability, biodiversity, and everyday actions that can make a lasting impact on the planet. Thank you to **OQ** for being a valued partner in conservation.



Arabian Chameleon, (*Chamaeleo arabicus*), Amardeep Singh

## CHARITY RUN | 4 KM

Join us for Strides for Nature.

Saturday, 20th September 2025

Qurum Beach at 4:00 PM



Run for Nature

[REGISTER NOW!](#)



## PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

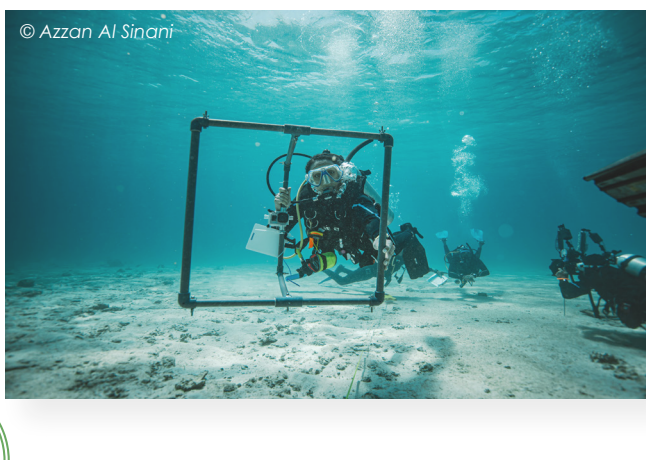
### Coral Reef Conservation Project and Capacity Building

The Environment Society of Oman (ESO)'s executive director, Suaad Al Harthi, has been awarded funding from the **National Geographic Society** to support a groundbreaking coral reef conservation and capacity-building project in Oman.

Suaad, a National Geographic Explorer and recipient of the Society's 2024 Wayfinder Award presented by Kia, will use her grant to further ESO's leadership in Oman's environmental conservation.

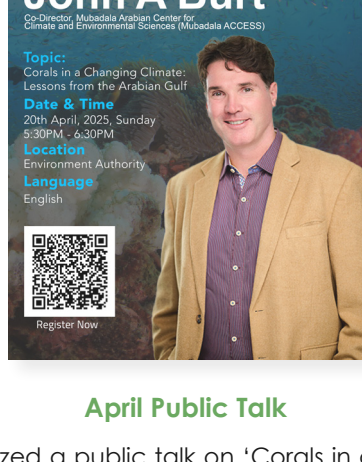
The grant supports two primary objectives: coral reef conservation and capacity building to ensure the long-term sustainability of these critical ecosystems. ESO researchers will assess the health, recovery, and resilience of coral reefs surrounding Muscat, including those within and beyond the Ad Dimaniyyat Islands Nature Reserve (DINR). The initiative also aims to empower female field scientists to lead in coral reef research and protection efforts. Technical support for the project is provided by **New York University Abu Dhabi (NYUAD)**.

Coral reefs are biodiversity hotspots vital to fisheries, tourism, coastal protection, and climate resilience. However, they are increasingly threatened by climate change, human activities, and natural disturbances that undermine their ability to provide crucial environmental and economic benefits. ESO's project will contribute critical data to inform sustainable conservation strategies. The project kicked off in April with a workshop organized in partnership with NYUAD and was attended by environmentalists, dive center experts and academic researchers to strengthen Oman's reef monitoring capacity. We thank **Oman Sail - Sea Oman** for providing us with the venue for the workshop and supporting dives at DINR and **Extra Divers** for supporting dive surveys at Bandar Khairan and Jissah Island.



## 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](#).



### April Public Talk

ESO organized a public talk on 'Corals in a Changing Climate: Lessons from the Arabian Gulf' delivered by John A Burt, Co-Director, Mubadala Arabian Center for Climate and Environmental Sciences (ACCESS), at New York University Abu Dhabi. The session was a deep dive on how coral reefs, vital to marine biodiversity and economics, face growing threats from climate change and explore ways to protect and conserve them.



### May Activity

ESO organized an exclusive membership activity at Al Qurum Beach on May 28th, offering members a sunset guided kayak experience. Our members enjoyed an unforgettable experience of paddling along the scenic Qurum Cliffs.



### June Activity

On June 18th ESO organized a membership talk titled 'Saving Earth's Largest Fish: Global Whale Shark Research and Conservation.' The talk was delivered by Simon Pierce, Executive Director of the Marine Megafauna Foundation. We extend our sincere gratitude to Simon for sharing his valuable updates from the newly launched Oman Whale Shark Project 2025.



## 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>

\*INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

10<sup>RO</sup>

\*CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

2K<sup>RO</sup>

### Your support matters.

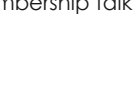
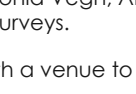
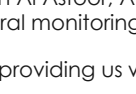
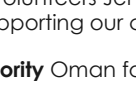
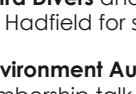
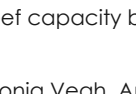
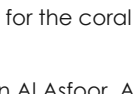
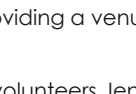
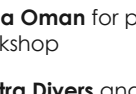
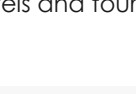
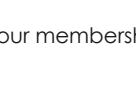
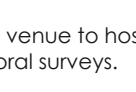
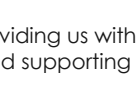
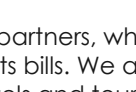
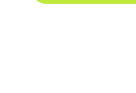
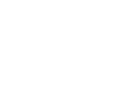
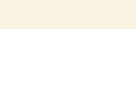
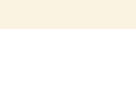
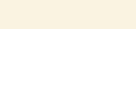
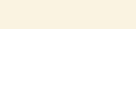
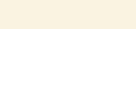
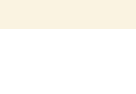
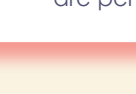
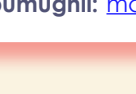
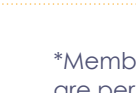
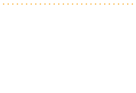
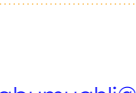
Thank you for believing in our commitment to conserve and protect the incredible biodiversity of Oman.

FOR ENQUIRIES:

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

Corporate Sponsorship / Membership: [mai.abumughil@eso.org.om](mailto:mai.abumughil@eso.org.om)

\*Memberships are per year.



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



Egyptian Vulture, (*Neophron percnopterus*), Environment Society of Oman

## 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!

- **Oman Sail** for providing us with a venue to host our membership talk and coral workshop, and supporting coral surveys.

- **Sea Oman** for providing a venue for the coral reef capacity building workshop

- **Extra Divers** and volunteers Jenan Al Asfour, Antonia Vegh, Angie and Neil Hatfield for supporting our coral monitoring surveys.

- **Environment Authority** Oman for providing us with a venue to host our membership talk