ISSUE Q3: July - September

NEWSLETTER 2026

Environment Society of Oman
www.eso.org.om

Cover Photo:
Arabian oryx.
Oryx leucoryx
Dr Hamed Al Ghellani

ACHIEVEMENTS & EVENTS
A summary of our Q3 highlights across research, conservation, education and community engagement.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT
Strides for Nature - ESO 2nd Edition Charity Run

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



ACHIEVEMENTS & EVENTS



National Finance partnership to support Green Campus

National Finance renewed their partnership with ESO to launch the second edition of Green Campus Competition. The agreement was signed by HH Sayyida Wasm Al Said, Chief Marketing, Corporate Communication and Sustainability officer at **National Finance** and Suaad Al Harthi, Executive Director of the Environment Society of Oman.



A High-Level Bilateral Discussion on Dhofar's Biodiversity

The Honourable Dr. Amor bin Nasser Al-Mamzari, President of the Environment Society of Oman, recently led a delegation to meet with the **Governor of Dhofar**, His Highness Sayyid Marwan bin Turki Al Said. The discussion focused on collaborative initiatives and strategies to elevate community awareness, aimed at safeguarding the rich and unique biodiversity of the Dhofar Governorate.



Meeting with Her Excellency Dr. Laila Al Najjar on Social Development Initiatives

A meeting was held with Her Excellency Dr. Laila Al Najjar, **Minister of Social Development** to discuss ESO's environmental conservation and awareness initiatives and consider mechanisms to continue to improve our operations, governance and financial sustainability.



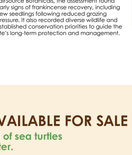
'July Without Plastic' campaign

As part of the 'July Without Plastic' campaign, ESO was pleased to join the **Ministry of Heritage and Tourism** for an awareness workshop held at their headquarters. The campaign highlighted the environmental impact of plastic pollution, the importance of reducing plastic waste, and the simple choices we can all make to protect our environment. A sincere thank you to the **Ministry of Heritage and Tourism** for the opportunity to contribute to this important conversation. Together, we can build a future with less plastic and more sustainable choices.



Oman Climate Week

ESO participated in Oman Climate Week from September 14th to 16th. Visitors had the opportunity to learn more about ESO's conservation efforts, ongoing research projects, and community programs, while discovering how they can play an active role in creating a more sustainable future for Oman. ESO Vice President, Rumaitha Al Busaidi, joined a panel discussion titled "National Deep Dive: Oman's NDC Implementation. This was followed by ESO's Board Secretary, Nashwa Al Rawahi, who delivered a presentation titled 'Innovation for Net Zero: Smart Mobility & Climate Technology Solutions'.



ESO Activities at Oman Climate Week

ESO, in collaboration with the **Ministry of Education**, launched the second edition of the Green Campus Competition (sponsored by **National Finance**) and the sixth edition of the Namat Competition (supported by **OQGN**) during Oman Climate Week, bringing together voices from Oman's maritime, environmental, and sustainability sectors. ESO also hosted a panel discussion exploring how ports can grow while supporting people, nature, and resilient coastal ecosystems. Moderated by ESO Vice President Rumaitha Al Busaidi, the session featured expert panelists Said Al Hinai, Dr. Ahlam Al Anbouri, Dr. Andrew Wilson, and Sajukmar Nair. Special thanks to **ASYAD Group** and **OQGN** for their continued support, to the panelists for their valuable contributions, and to Oman Climate Week for providing the venue.



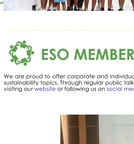
ESO Green Market

ESO hosted its first Green Market initiative to promote eco-conscious living, empower local sustainable enterprises, and strengthen community engagement in environmental conservation. The event brought together local artisans, eco-friendly small businesses, and community members, providing a platform to feature natural, plastic-free, and upcycled products alongside organic goods and sustainable home alternatives. In addition to supporting local Omani entrepreneurs, the Green Market served as an interactive outreach hub where visitors engaged with ESO volunteers to learn about the society's ongoing work, including its research programs, educational efforts, and practical ways to reduce their environmental footprint.



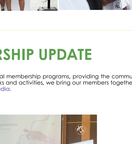
Loggerhead Turtle Nesting Season on Masirah

The Masirah field team have continued their surveys throughout the 2026 loggerhead turtle nesting season (May to September) across the island's beaches. In addition to monitoring nesting success, the team rescued **two hatchlings** that had become entangled, lost or disoriented. This season marked the 18th consecutive year of data collection, a remarkable achievement that reflects the team's perseverance and dedication. We extend our congratulations to everyone involved for their continued hard work. ESO is now seeking funding to support the programme through the 2027 nesting season.



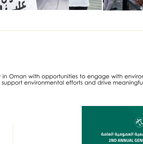
Arabian Sea Humpback Whale Conservation Management Plan (ASHW CMP)

The Arabian Sea Humpback Whale Conservation Management Plan (CMP) was formally endorsed by the IWC Commission during its meeting in Antalya, Türkiye, in October 2026. The ASHW CMP is a government-endorsed framework under the **International Whaling Commission (IWC)** and **Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)** that unites range states to coordinate research, monitoring, and conservation. Such regional action is essential, as threats cross political boundaries and demand government-level collaboration for ASHW, one of the world's smallest and most threatened whale populations.



Wadi Dawkah Baseline Environmental Assessment

The Environment Society of Oman has completed a baseline environmental assessment of Wadi Dawkah, documenting the ecological condition and vegetation of the surrounding active and inactive biodiversity. Funded by **Amouage** and conducted with Fairforce Botanicals, the assessment found early signs of frankincense recovery, including new seedlings following reduced grazing pressure. It also recorded diverse wildlife and established conservation priorities to guide the site's long-term protection and management.



Publications of Two Manuscripts on Arabian Sea Humpback Whales

Two publications were published in the renowned journal Frontiers in Marine Science on the Arabian Sea humpback whale (Megaptera novaeangliae, ASHW). The first, **No place like home** was published in June 2026. The study examined the population's spatial ecology using data from 14 satellite tags deployed on ASHWs off the Arabian Sea coast of Oman between February 2014 and December 2017.

The findings indicate that the whale's home ranges extend along the western Arabian Sea coastline of northern Yemen and southern Oman, with a core area in the Gulf of Masirah (Oman).

The widest-ranging individual (a female, tag longevity 120 days) completed a round trip across the Northwest Indian Ocean between the Gulf of Masirah and the Gulf of Aden (India). Access the paper on this link: Frontiers | No place like home: assessing the multidimensional habitat use of endangered Arabian Sea humpback whales (Megaptera novaeangliae, Borowski, 1781) with satellite telemetry

The second paper, **A whale apart**, published in September 2026, presents new genetic research which strengthens the case for recognising the Arabian Sea humpback whale as a distinct subspecies. The study analysed DNA sequences from a global dataset of 2,285 whales, indicating that the Arabian Sea lineage diverged between 43,000–113,000 years ago and has the lowest genetic diversity among the regions studied. Access the paper on this link: Frontiers | A whale apart: further evidence for genetic isolation of Arabian Sea humpback whales from other recognised subspecies

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



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Strides for Nature – ESO Second Edition Charity Run

In celebration of World Cleanup Day, the Environment Society of Oman (ESO) organized "Strides for Nature" charity run on the 19th of September to spread awareness on waste and inspiring collective action. The event saw an enthusiastic crowd of participants united in their shared passion for protecting the Sultanate's stunning natural environment.

The charity run was held along the picturesque marina at **Al Mouj Muscat** and led by Guinness World Record holder Fahad Al Abri—the celebrated Omani athlete, musician, and wellness advocate. Hundreds of runners joined with families and friends, supported by dedicated volunteers who managed logistics, ensured route safety, and cheered participants along the way. The event was made possible through generous contributions from sponsors and in-kind supporters, with **Renaissance Services SAOG** stepping in as the Gold Sponsor, **Oman LNG** as Silver Sponsor, alongside **Al Mouj Muscat**, **Development Bank**, and **Mohsin Haidar Darwish ITCS** as Bronze Sponsors.

A Special thanks go to in-kind supporters: **Aria Foods, Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Numa Health, Purunity, Sabaabeel Water** and **Sohar International.**

At its core, the run sought to raise funds for ESO's expanding portfolio of initiatives, which include scientific research, community outreach, educational programs, and partnerships with government and private sector entities. These efforts are dedicated to conserving Oman's unique biodiversity, safeguarding fragile ecosystems, and inspiring a collective sense of responsibility for environmental stewardship in alignment with the nation's long-term sustainability goals.

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.

July Activity

Mandaos Turtle Workshop
A special family event where members explore the fascinating world of Oman's sea turtles.

September Activity

2nd Annual General Meeting
ESO Held the 2nd Annual General Meeting online to showcase ESO's on going activities and achievements for the year 2026.

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 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: **Hannan Al Muscati**: hannan.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

Bank Muscat
#0315-0039-6351-0017

Oman Arab Bank
#3160651103500

Sohar International Bank
#0010201129673

SEND DONATE 90108

MOBILE APPS

2.FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

3. JOIN (OR RENEW) ESO THE MEMBERSHIP PROGRAME

MEMBERSHIP

4. SUPPORT OUR CHARITY INITIATIVES

LEARN MORE

ESO Annual Report 2025 now available on Our resources page

Arabian Gazelle, Gazella arabica - Ali Al Riyami

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.

THE CHEDI | ANANTARA

PANORAMA | Hud Hud Travels

THANK YOU!

-Thank you to **Oman Climate Week** and **OITF** for providing venue to host the launch of Green Campus and Namat

-A special thanks to **Andrea Pardo** for designing Strides for Nature logo

-Thank you to the volunteers who joined Strides for Nature, **Sabrina Al Najahi**, **Maryo Al Habsi**, **Aimon Al Hamsi**, **Nimala Prathap Nair**, **Al Anwar Al Batashi**, **Ahmed Al Habsi**, and **Mazin Al Abrak**

-Thanks to **Dentons** for providing in-kind support towards the development of ESO's Child Protection Policy.