ISSUE Q4: October - December

NEWSLETTER 2025

Environment Society of Oman
www.eso.org.om

Cover Photo:
Arabian red fox,
Vulpes vulpes arabica,
Amardeep Singh.

ACHIEVEMENTS & EVENTS
A summary of our Q4 highlights across research, conservation, education and community engagement.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT
Green Campus Competition
National initiative

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

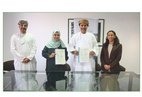
ACHIEVEMENTS & EVENTS

Oman Climate Dialogue: Green Entrepreneurship Workshop

The Oman Climate Dialogues Green Entrepreneurship Workshop brought together passionate youth, innovative entrepreneurs and sustainability leaders to explore how Entrepreneurship can drive meaningful environmental impact. Florian Schmitt, Senior Lecturer at **Berlin University Alliance**, gave a talk on "The Future of Green Business" and a panel discussion was moderated by Khalid Al Hurabi and included panelists: Sadiya Al Baiei, Shanfa Al Kalbani, Michael Loermann, and Dr. Dina Belal. Thank you to our sponsors, **Asyad Group**, our supporting partner **Nama Water Services**, our collaborators, **Muscat University** and the **EU Delegation to Oman**.

IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025

ESO participated at the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025. Suaad Al Harthi, Executive Director of ESO, presented on "The Conservation Journey of Oman's Loggerhead Sea Turtles" and ESO member Rabab Al Lawati delivered a talk on "Researching Oman's Endangered Vulture Populations". They both highlighted Oman's role in advancing regional and global conservation efforts, from protecting iconic marine species to safeguarding vital raptors populations.



Collaboration with Oman Road and Safety Association

ESO has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Oman Road and Safety Association, marking a new step toward promoting sustainability and environmental responsibility within Oman's infrastructure and development sectors. Together, we aim to advance awareness, conservation initiatives and eco-friendly practices that support Oman's vision for a sustainable future.

Researching Oman's Endangered Vulture Population

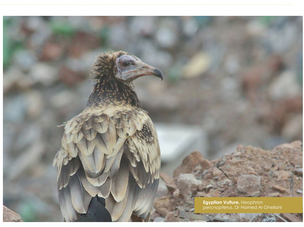
The Environment Society of Oman (ESO) secured funding from the Ornithological Society of the Middle East, the Caucasus and Central Asia (OSME) to conduct breeding surveys for Endangered Lappet-faced vultures in Oman. In 2025, 20 nests were monitored, 10 of which were newly discovered and 10 were previously recorded and resurveyed.

Oman Climate Dialogue: AI for Net Zero Workshop

The AI for Net Zero Workshop at Oman Climate Dialogues successfully brought together experts and enthusiasts, sparking insightful discussions on how AI can accelerate Oman's future. Dr. Naser Al Fannah gave a talk about AI for Net Zero: Oman's Path Forward and a Keynote on Oman's Path to Digital Leadership. A panel discussion was moderated by ESO Executive Director Suaad Al Harthi and included panelists: Haider Al Lawati, Ahmed Al Hassani, Dr. Muhammad Qayum and Hamdan Al Alawi. A special thanks to **Asayd Group** and **Nama Water Services** for sponsoring and supporting this event.

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 Nama Water Services, the event included a wetland tour and an engaging panel on biodiversity and climate neutrality. The session was moderated by Rumaitha Al Busaidi Vice President of ESO, and included panelists: Maia Samuil Willson, Adas Al Athadi, Manal Al Kindi, and Dr. Laila Al Harthi. Special thanks to **ASYAD Group**, **Nama Water Services**, and our expert panelists for their valuable contributions.


Egyptian Vulture, Neophron percnopterus, © Hamad Al Ghadani

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

Green Campus Competition

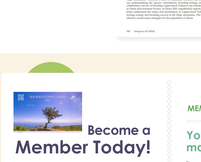
The Green Campus Competition is a national initiative aimed at promoting environmental awareness, innovation, and sustainable practices within higher education institutions across Oman. The 2024-2025 edition, themed "Target Net Zero," aligns with Oman's Vision 2040 and the National Strategy for Climate Change and Circular Economy, challenging students to design and implement actionable projects that reduce their campus carbon footprint. Participating teams focused on six key sub-themes: Waste Reduction & Recycling, Energy Efficiency, Water Conservation, Carbon Offsetting, Sustainable Agriculture, and Awareness & Advocacy.

The competition was sponsored by **National Finance** and was officially launched in April, following an introductory press conference at **Kempinski Hotel Muscat** at the end of 2024. A total of 62 applications were received from 16 universities and colleges across five governorates, with 20 teams shortlisted for the final stage. Participants received guidance throughout the process, including preparation for presentations evaluated by a panel of expert judges based on innovation, impact, effectiveness, community engagement, teamwork, and pitch quality. The top-performing teams were recognized during the award ceremony held on December 1 as part of the patronage of HH Sayyida Tania Al Said, emeritus board member of ESO.

First place winner was Ruwad Al Siddama **Military Technological college**, Second place winner was Green Shift from **Military Technological college**, Third Place winner was EcoPlast from **Military Technological college**.

Namat Schools Competition

The Namat Schools Competition, now in its fifth edition, continues to inspire government schools across Oman to take action toward sustainability. Designed for students from grades five to twelve, the competition serves as a collaborative platform that brings together students, teachers, parents, and local communities to create positive environmental change within schools and their surrounding areas. Sponsored by **Veolia Oman** and implemented in close collaboration with the **Ministry of Education**, the program challenges participants to reduce their ecological footprint through innovative and practical initiatives.



The winning schools were honored during a dedicated closing ceremony in recognition of their outstanding efforts: 1st Place, **Sheikh Majid bin Khamis Basic Education School**; 2nd Place, **Al-Hasan bin Ali Basic Education School**; 3rd Place, **Azzan bin Qais Basic Education School**. In addition, special awards were presented as follows: Excellence in Environmental Innovation, **Umamah bint Hamza bint Abdulmuttalib School**; Excellence in Environmental Responsibility, **Samaah School**; Excellence in Sustainable Entrepreneurship Projects, **Ma'wulah bin Shams Basic Education School**.

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.

Nesting ecology and territory distribution of Lappet-faced Vulture Torgos tracheliotos in Oman

A paper entitled Nesting ecology and territory distribution of Lappet-faced Vulture Torgos tracheliotos in Oman was published in winter edition of the Sandgrouse journal, and can be accessed through this link. It describes the nesting distribution, ecology and breeding success of the species in the Mountains of Oman, through surveys completed between 2021 and 2024.

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: **Moi Abumughli**: moi.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 susainable 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 2025

1. MAKE A DONATION VIA BANK TRANSFER

Bank Muscat
#0315-0039-6351-0017

Oman Arab Bank
#316065110350O

Sohar International Bank
#0010201029673

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SEND DONATE
90108

MOBILE APPS

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.

Arabian Leopard, Panthera pardus nimr, Hadi Al-Hakmani

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 MUSCAT | AL JISSAH & AL SARAB RESORT | ANANTARA AL JABAL AL AKHDAR RESORT | PANORAMA FALAJ | Hilton Garden Inn Muscat Al Ghubra | JUMEIRAH MUSCAT BAY | BURJAN HOTELS & RESORTS

THANK YOU!

- **Modern College** for providing us with a venue to host our Climate Dialogue Series
- **Oman Desert Marathon** for donating 1 RO per participant from their Charity Night Run
- **Oman National Commission for Education, Culture, and Science** for joining our judging panel for the Namat Schools Competition
- **Dr. Robert Whitcombe** and **Ms. Jenny Ryle** for organizing proceeds of sale of Honeybees in Oman painting, and **Ms. Reem Abdul Rehman** for her contributing donations.