



# Annual Report 2021





His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said



His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik

# Table of Contents

|  |           |  |           |
|--|-----------|--|-----------|
| <b>MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT</b>                                | <b>6</b>  | <b>LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS</b>  | <b>42</b> |
| <b>INTRODUCTION</b>  | <b>8</b>  | OSME Winter Meeting  |           |
| <b>SUPPORTING OMAN'S VISION 2040 AND UN SUSTAINABILITY GOALS</b> | <b>10</b> | UNESCO Webinar Series  |           |
| <b>2021 YEAR IN NUMBERS</b>                                      | <b>11</b> | World Sea Turtle Day (WSTD) Celebrations   |           |
| <b>ESO BOARD</b>   | <b>12</b> | Frankincense & CITES Workshop  |           |
| <b>ESO STAFF</b>   | <b>16</b> | A Road Map to tackle Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Birds (IKB) in the Middle East |           |
| <b>MARINE CONSERVATION PROJECTS</b>                              | <b>17</b> | Conferences, Lectures and Workshops  |           |
| Turtle Research and Conservation                                 |           | ESO Public Lectures and Events   |           |
| Renaissance Whale and Dolphin Conservation                       |           |  |           |
| <b>TERRESTRIAL CONSERVATION PROJECTS</b>                         | <b>24</b> |  |           |
| Raptor Research and Conservation                                 |           |  |           |
| <b>COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT</b>                  | <b>26</b> |  |           |
| Omani Women's Association Outreach                               |           |  |           |
| Responsible Whale, Dolphin and Whale Shark Watching Guidelines   |           |  |           |
| Barr Al Hikman Workshop and Field Visit                          |           |  |           |
| Earth Hour   |           |  |           |
| ESO 'It's Time Oman' Campaign                                    |           |  |           |
| <b>EDUCATION ACTIVITIES</b>                                      | <b>32</b> |  |           |
| Green Schools Initiative   |           |  |           |
| Environmental Hereos   |           |  |           |
| Wa'ai Competition  |           |  |           |
| <b>CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM</b>                                 | <b>36</b> |  |           |
| <b>OTHER ACTIVITIES AND FUNDRAISERS</b>                          | <b>38</b> |  |           |
| Dareen Mehdi Memorial Tree Planting Initiative                   |           |  |           |
| ESO's 2021 Environmental Big Night In                            |           |  |           |
| Emily's Garden – Grown Through ESO                               |           |  |           |
| Oman Sailing Festival  |           |  |           |
| Secret Seas  |           |  |           |
| Awards, Grants and Donations                                     |           |  |           |
| Hotel Donation Program   |           |  |           |
|  |           | <b>MEMBERSHIP</b>  | <b>46</b> |
|  |           | Membership Benefits  |           |
|  |           | Corporate Membership   |           |
|  |           | Collaboration with International Organisations   |           |
|  |           | <b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>  | <b>50</b> |



Cattle egret, Oman In Focus

PO Box 3955  
PC 112 Ruwi  
Sultanate of Oman  
T +968 2470 0945  
F +968 2479 0986

# Message from the President

As 2021 continued to challenge the world and businesses looked at ways to transform and recover, we at ESO did the same. The steps we took in 2020 to ensure the resilience of our organisation proved invaluable in the face of another financially challenging year. Against the backdrop of limited resources our achievements were plentiful.

2021 has seen us undertake more than 20 weeks of turtle surveys on Masirah Island and 2 marine surveys monitoring whales and dolphins, activities that continue to bolster our growing database of research supporting the conservation of so many endangered marine species found in Oman's waters. On the terrestrial side, we completed several vulture surveys, visiting a total of 89 sites in 7 governorates to monitor the breeding, nesting and potential threats to endangered vulture species in Oman. Our research has allowed us to contribute to 6 scientific publications and develop 2 additional conservation awareness brochures.

With school children returning to classrooms, we closed the first phase of our Green Schools Initiative, with 31 schools from 9 governorates enrolled. Wider community outreach efforts focused on encouraging communities to adopt more sustainable habits at home and in the work place and through our collaboration with the European Union, over 140 people joined our online plastic awareness sessions. We also continue to be committed to developing the next generation of Oman's environmental ambassadors and were pleased to hire two new graduates under our Capacity Building Program.

The global lockdowns of 2020 proved to us all the environment's incredible ability to rebuild when given the space to do so. It also showed us that humans are capable of making swift changes in the face of adversity, changes that can benefit our natural environment and the biodiversity it supports. We have been very pleased to see an increase in public interest in the environment, evidenced by the community's support for the ESO It's Time Oman Campaign. Individuals and businesses alike are taking the opportunity to consider how we move forward in the future, keeping in mind our ability to minimize environmental degradation. Oman's Ministerial Resolution 23/2020 to ban single-use shopping bags in January was a positive first step. There is however, much more still to do.

At ESO, we will continue to advocate for more policy changes to enforce environmentally sustainable initiatives but I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that we have a shared responsibility for the protection of our environment. Individual commitments to live a more environmentally sustainable life can affect positive social change in our communities.

Our organisation was founded to help protect the environment in Oman and influence environmentally sustainable behaviour through education, awareness and conservation. I am extremely proud of the work we have delivered over the past 17 years, and of the team that we have developed during this time. I am determined to continue our endeavours to conserve and protect one of Oman's greatest assets: our incredible natural heritage.

Our work is made possible by the generous support we receive from our corporate sponsors, donation partners, members and all those who donate funds or in-kind support to enable our work. Your belief in our work is humbling. We are also grateful to our committed volunteers and to the government of Oman who continues to support our work.

**Tania S Al Said**  
President



Green turtle, Paul Flandinette

# Introduction



2021 has been an interesting year, as we continue to operate in a pre/post Covid-19 hybrid environment, finding a balance between returning to work safely and ensuring projects move forward.

Our public lecture series remained online this year, which allowed access to specialist speakers and panellists from around the world, elevating our discussions and covering topics from Whale Watching Guidelines, Whale Sharks of the Arabian Gulf, Connectivity of Oman's Green Sea Turtles, and Frankincense and Raptor Conservation. We also had the opportunity to collaborate with the European Union hosting a series of well attended webinars addressing plastic pollution in Oman and various policy instruments that might help fight the challenges caused by plastic waste. All these events were well attended, with over 500 participants joining our lectures in 2021. We were also able to attend and participate in international events including the International Whaling Commission Scientific Committee Meeting, Birdlife Middle East Partnership Meeting and International Illegal Killing, Taking and Trading of Birds (IKB) webinars, the Ornithological Society of the Middle East's Winter Meeting, as well as several UNESCO webinars.

Many of you are familiar with our long-standing marine research on whales, dolphins and sea turtles in the Sultanate. Whilst research and monitoring are still ongoing, we now have sufficient scientific information to inform conservation actions and have been shifting conversations towards advocacy and mitigation options.

Following 20 years of research on whales and dolphins found in Oman and with local and international collaborations, we are very proud to have launched the 'Marine Mammal Atlas of Oman' as a publicly available resource providing information in one location to be used by members of the public or policymakers. We continue to engage with the Environment Authority and Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources, as well as other relevant government bodies, to advocate for mitigation strategies aiming to minimize net entanglements and ship strikes on whales and dolphins. On Masirah Island, we have launched a community engagement lighting pollution project to address threats on turtle nesting beaches, advocating for turtle-friendly lighting solutions with various stakeholders. We look forward to launching a 'Masirah Turtle Atlas' in 2022 which would be used as an advocacy communication tool.

Through our education programs, we continue to be inspired by student-led sustainable school projects which have recycled ablution waters for irrigation and gardening, reduced and recycled waste and reduced their electricity consumption through the introduction of renewable energy sources and community partnerships for energy efficiency. We look forward to launching additional programs in 2022 encouraging sustainability in schools in ongoing collaboration with the Ministry of Education.

As the only non-profit organisation in Oman dedicated to conserving the environment, ESO is entirely dependent on sponsorship, membership fees and donations, largely secured during fundraising events to deliver our mission. For the second year running, we were unable to host any fundraising events in person, instead relying on a single online event. We received tremendous support from the community and private sector for ESO's Second Environmental Big Night In. It was humbling to see the generosity and continued belief in ESO from corporates, friends of ESO and our international supporters.

Thus, we close the year proud of what ESO has achieved and optimistic for an even stronger 2022. We hope you will join us in making a commitment to support Oman's incredible natural heritage!

**Suaad Al Harthi**  
Executive Director



Ghost crab, Oman In Focus

# Supporting Oman's Vision 2040 and UN Sustainability Goals

"In line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, Oman's 2040 Vision is focused on achieving development that meets the needs of the present without sacrificing the requirements of the future, a balance between development and the environment, between production and consumption and between the environment's ability to give and its ability to endure."

HE Dr Abdullah bin Ali al Omari, President of the Environment Agency

Under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Al Said and His Majesty Sultan Haitham Al Said, Oman's Vision 2040 provides strong foundations for a development agenda that recognizes the importance of protecting the nation's natural resources and the outstanding environment of Oman. At ESO we strongly advocate for national initiatives that promote sustainable development and mitigate, if not eliminate, negative behaviour detrimental to Oman's environment and rich biodiversity. Our projects seek to respond to the overarching aim to protect Oman's natural heritage for future generations by focusing on:

- Research and conservation to support endangered species in Oman
- Educating communities on the importance of adopting more sustainable lifestyles
- Building capacity in the environmental sector.

We also believe that it is important to closely align our projects to the priorities outlined by the UN's Sustainability Goals.



## 2021 Year in Numbers



The following Board Members were elected in April 2020 for a two-year duration:

President

**HH Sayyida Tania bint Shabib Al Said** holds a BSc in Marine and Freshwater Biology from University of London and a Diploma in Early Childhood Education from the American Montessori Society. She is a founding member of ESO and has served as the President of the Board of Directors since ESO's establishment in 2004. In addition to representing ESO in the media, Sayyida Tania also leads ESO's advocacy efforts with the government as well as the organisations fundraising initiatives, including the annual fundraising ball and other corporate fundraising events. Passionate about reducing societies reliance on single use plastics, Sayyida Tania initiated ESO's Say No to Plastic Bags campaign and continues to play a central role in ESO's Say no to Plastic agenda. Sayyida Tania won the GCC Award for the best environmental personality in the Arabian Gulf Region in 2009 and was honoured at the Sheikh Issa bin Ali al Khalifa Awards for Voluntary Work as one of the leading volunteers in the Arab world, in October 2012.

Vice President

**Dr Amor Nasser Al Matani** holds a BEng (Hons), an MBA and a PhD in Sustainability. After graduating from Teesside University, UK in 1990 as an Instrumentation and Control Engineer, he joined Petroleum Development Oman in upstream operations and commissioning. In 1993 he moved to the Ministry of Health where he occupied several executive positions, including Deputy Director General for Administration and Finance at the Royal Hospital, Oman's largest hospital for specialised medical care. He completed his MBA (Newcastle) in 1997 before being appointed Director General for Sur Industrial Estate in the Public Establishment of Industrial Estates. He joined Oman LNG in 2002 as Deputy CEO and in June 2020, he was appointed CEO of Oman LNG foundation. Dr Al Matani has a passion for improving working and safe environments and is a proactive leader, striving for a more sustainable Oman. He has a keen interest in education and is a member of several university and technical college boards. He is Chairman of the Board of Trustees for OLANG's HAS International School and many others.

Director

**Ms Rumaitha Omar Al Busaidi** is an Omani marine scientist and an advocate for environmental youth leadership and women's rights. An award-winning radio presenter and sportswoman, Rumaitha was the first female soccer analyst in the Arab World and the youngest Omani to step foot on the South Pole. Rumaitha currently works with the Omani government on implementing strategies to maximize social and environmental benefits in its diversification plans, and internationally with Clean Energy for America advising the Biden administration on developing a climate resilience standard for US foreign aid focusing on empowering women as a form of climate mitigation. Rumaitha was recently named a member of the first-ever Arab Youth Council on Climate Change. She also serves as co-chair for the world Economic Forum's Davos Lab Taskforce, where she has co-authored the youth recovery plan featuring policy recommendations from over 2 million young people across the globe. Rumaitha completed her MPA at Harvard, graduating from the John F. Kennedy School of Government with a focus on enabling government executives towards innovation.

Treasurer

**Dr Andrew Spalton** is a wildlife biologist who came to Oman in 1987 to join a team who were reintroducing the Arabian oryx. He has long experience of many aspects of wildlife conservation in Oman including overseeing protected areas and working with the iconic Arabian leopard as well as species, such as bats, that are less understood. He has worked on issues such as wildlife trade, poaching, overgrazing and climate change. Andrew holds a BSc in Environmental Science and PhD in Zoology. He serves on several IUCN specialist groups and on other international technical committees. Andrew is a founding member of ESO and served as Advisor for Environmental Affairs at the Diwan of Royal Court until he retired at the end of 2020.



Secretary

**Mrs Amira Mohammed Al Yarubi** holds a BSc in Management Information Systems from Sultan Qaboos University and a 2019 IEMA (Environmental Management Certification). Amira is a certified Lead Auditor in Environmental Management Systems and a Sustainability Practitioner. She began her career as CSR specialist at the Information Technology Authority before joining the QHSE team to handle the Environment Management System at the Ministry of Technology & Communication (MTC). Amira initiated environmental programs such as waste reduction campaigns aimed at reducing paper and plastic consumption and worked closely with the event team to ensure environmentally friendly practices were adopted. As an ESO member, Amira participated in the Eco-thon as a mentor for the student groups and continues to spread conservation messages through her social media accounts. As a mother, she continually strives to raise environmentally aware children by educating them on saving the planet and engaging them in clean-up campaigns

PR Officer

**Mrs Laila Saleh Al Zakwani** is an Executive Director at Apex Media heading their HR and Events functions, playing an integral role in establishing one of the nation's leading publishing houses. She is armed with a major in Psychology and an associate degree in Business from the University of Missouri, St. Louis, USA. Laila has been a proud member of ESO for the last 15 years and as a board member brings extensive media experience to help guide ESO's communications strategy. She also carries across her knowledge in CSR campaigns like those spearheaded by Apex Media to reduce litter, recycle paper and change existing behaviours in a push for responsible waste disposal.

## Board Member

**Dr Mohammed Saif Al Kalbani** holds a PhD in Environmental Sustainability from the University of Aberdeen, UK. He holds an MSc and BSc in Environmental Engineering Sciences and Management. He worked as a Research Assistant at Sultan Qaboos University and most recently as Director of Environment and Sustainable Development, where he is entrusted to carry out duties as Director General of Environmental Affairs at the Environment Authority. Dr Al Kalbani regularly participates in research projects related to integrated environmental assessment, environmental preservation, biodiversity conservation, climate change, environmental management, and legislation. He has published several papers and participated in the 4th - 6th Global Environmental Outlook Reports for UNEP and the Arab Environmental Outlook Report for the Arab League. He has presented papers at international conferences, symposiums, and workshops; and has participated in numerous meetings related to environmental conventions and protocols. Serving on ESO's board for the last 4 years, Dr Al Kalbani has represented ESO internationally and has worked on the organisation's Green Schools Campaign, Eco-thon, Inter-College Environmental Speaking Competition, research and conservation projects and community outreach programs.

## Membership Officer

**Mr Omar Salim Al Riyami** holds a master's degree in Environmental Impact Assessment and Management from the University of Manchester, UK and a BSc in Marine Science and Fisheries from Sultan Qaboos University. He was a former ESO employee from 2009 to 2013 and occupied positions including: Marine Projects Assistant Manager, Membership and Volunteerism Manager and Community Outreach Manager. Omar has represented ESO at high-level environmental committees and work teams both locally and internationally. He joined the International Visitors Leadership Programme on 'National Parks, Biodiversity and Ecotourism' sponsored by the US Department of State in 2011. He also represented Omani and Arab youth in the UNESCO's conference on the 40th Anniversary of the World Heritage Convention, Kyoto, Japan 2011. Omar has worked in the environment field in different organisations in Oman including PDO and Duqm Refinery and Petrochemical Industries. He currently works as Lead Sustainability Business Partner in OQ. In 2020, Omar led the development of the 'Environment and Natural Resources' priority in the 10th Development Plan for the implementation of the Oman Vision 2040.

## Board Member

**Mr Ahmed Issa Al Rashdi** holds an MBA in Business Administration and Management from the University of Bedfordshire. He is an environmental activist passionate about Oman's vegetation and a co-founder of the Civil Initiative for the Cultivation of Native Plants in Jabal Al Akhdar. He has a keen interest in promoting and standardizing organic farming in Oman. Ahmed has more than 14 years experience in asset management in the private sector. Currently, Ahmed works within Lead Asset Planning at Oman Broadband. He had the chance to participate in the mobile Environment Research Unit - Hajar Mountains Biodiversity Survey in 2015. As a board member with ESO for the last 6 years, Ahmed has played a key role in HR, education, and community outreach initiatives. His interests have taken him to Buraimi, Masirah and Dhofar to carry out awareness campaigns and local community meetings. Ahmed also represented ESO in the development of Oman Vision 2040.



Little owl, Arjun S Unnithan



- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <b>Suaad Al Harthi</b><br>Executive Director                     | 6. <b>Jawaher Al Ghafri</b><br>Education Coordinator                      |
| 2. <b>Bashaar Zaitoon</b><br>Administrative Manager                 | 7. <b>Atika Ahmed</b><br>Accountant                                       |
| 3. <b>Maïa Sarrouf Willson</b><br>Research and Conservation Manager | 8. <b>Rabab Al Lawati</b><br>Conservation Outreach Coordinator            |
| 4. <b>Said Al Jabri</b><br>Public Relations Officer                 | 9. <b>Juhaina Al Ghafri</b><br>Communications and Fundraising Coordinator |
| 5. <b>Olivia Dalziel</b><br>Communications and Fundraising Manager  |   |

## Turtle Research and Conservation

The global importance of Oman to the survival of sea turtles has been definitively established through surveys and research conducted within the Sultanate over the past 40 years. For over 10 years, ESO, in collaboration with the **Environment Authority** and senior international scientists, has played a lead research role, accelerating our knowledge and understanding of turtle biology, ecology and conservation needs and raising the international profile of Oman's turtles.

## Nesting Surveys and Data Analysis

For the 13th consecutive year, ESO has conducted monitoring surveys of nesting loggerheads on Masirah Island. Outside of the loggerhead nesting season, field assistants monitor green, hawksbill and olive ridley turtles. Masirah Island's loggerhead nesting population is the second largest nesting rookery in the world, suffering a 79% decline since the late 1970s. The major threats that impact both habitat and population numbers are land-use disturbances, such as extensive coastal development, light pollution, and beach driving; and sea-based disturbances such as turtles being caught in fishing nets by mistake (bycatch). This assessment was published in a peer-reviewed journal in August 2020.

ESO strives to communicate its findings to the general public and to decision makers in Oman and has commissioned the analysis of field turtle data collected from 2017 onwards in the form of a 'Masirah Island Turtle Atlas'. Work on the atlas is ongoing and will be completed in late 2022.



Loggerhead turtle, Ghasi Al Farsi

Light Pollution Assessment

To address threats on important nesting beaches, a lighting pollution project was initiated in 2021 as a direct conservation action to reverse the decline of the loggerhead population on Masirah Island. Lighting pollution is well documented to cause disruption to the nesting behaviour of adult females and the orientation of hatchlings to the sea after emergence from the nest. The impact on hatching orientation was previously reported as early as 1997. This study uses socio-economic tools to address changes in domestic lighting on the island. Community engagement is at the heart of the initiative, in addition to the completion of a lighting ordinance, stakeholder communication, and a pilot project to replace lighting fixtures. An infographic has been developed to provide community members with various options for lighting modifications.

The project launched in August, where representatives from ESO and **Future Seas Global SCP** visited various authorities and organisations on Masirah Island, advocating for turtle-friendly lighting modification and solutions. Stakeholders included the **Wali of Masirah**, **Omani Women's Association (Masirah)**, and the **Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources (Masirah)**, with support from the **Environment Authority**. The study will be completed in 2022.



Olive ridley turtle, Ghasi Al Farsi



Loggerhead turtle, Ghasi Al Farsi

Publications

ESO is proud to have contributed towards various publications related to sea turtles of Oman, listed below.

**Stable Isotope (13C and 15N) Analysis of Olive Ridley Turtles from Masirah Island, Oman: A Preliminary Investigation**

A F Rees, N Swain-Diaz, J Haywood, M Sarrouf Willson, T Al Sariri, A Willson, A C Broderick, B J Godley

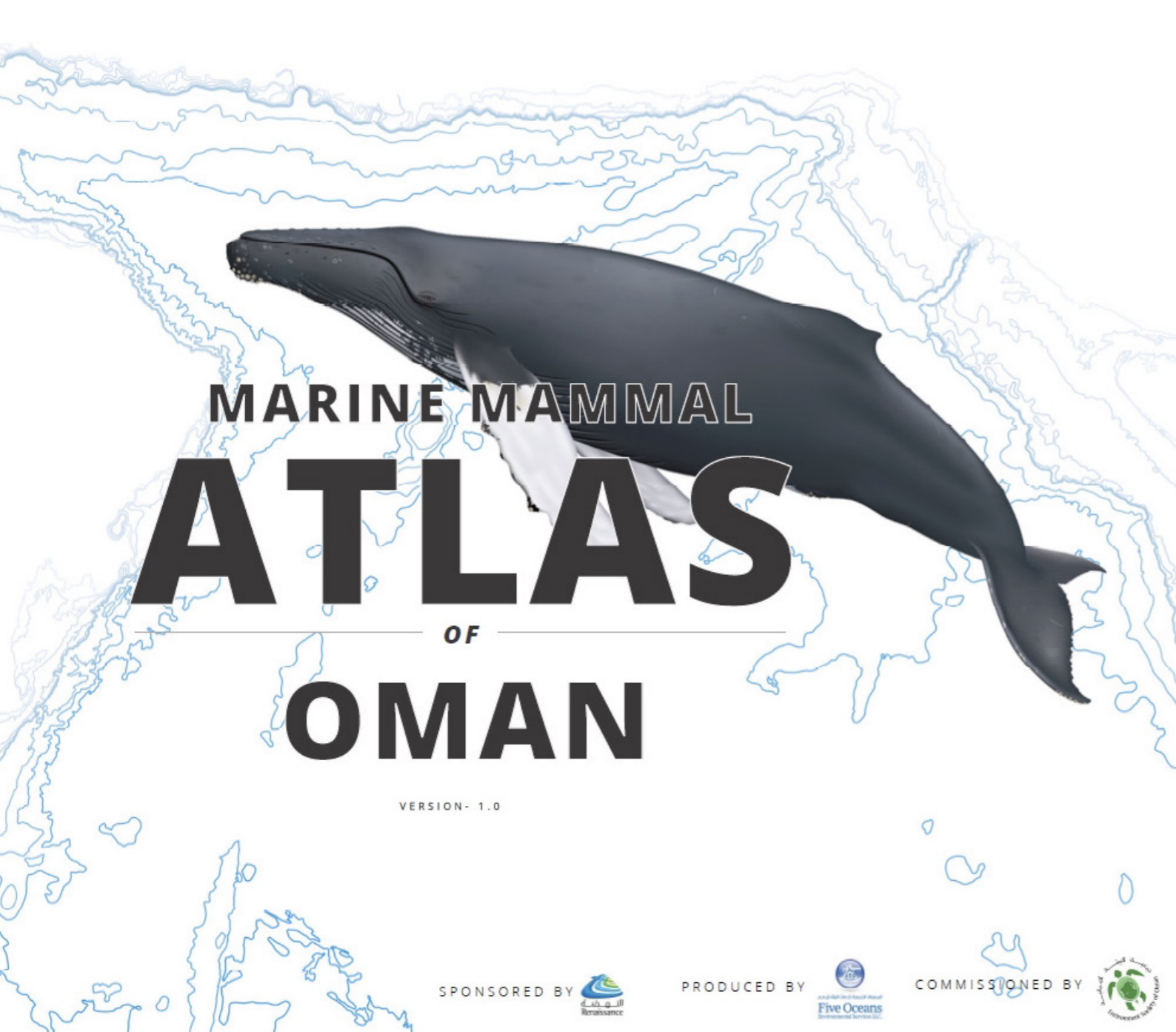
Stable isotope analysis is a tool utilised in ecological studies to understand spatial, foraging (or feeding) and reproductive behaviour. In this study, scientists tried to establish a link between the body size of olive ridley turtles from Masirah Island and foraging sites. The analysis showed no direct inferences, potentially due to several factors (low sample size, no specific diet signature/site or no different isotope ratios/site). This paper was published in the **Indian Ocean Turtle Newsletter** in July 2021.

**IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group Annual Regional Report 2021 for Sea Turtles in the Middle East and South Asia Region – Oman Chapter**

M Sarrouf Willson, K Al Azri, S Al Harthi, R Baldwin, E Possardt, M Tiwari, A Willson, T Al Sariri

The Oman chapter builds on the 2020 report and summarises existing published information on the four turtle species that nest in Oman, under the North-West Indian Ocean Regional Management Unit (NWIO RMU): green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*), hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and olive ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*). Summarised information covers distribution, abundance and trends, threats and ongoing conservation and research efforts. This report is under publication.





## Renaissance Whale and Dolphin Conservation

### Marine Mammal Atlas of Oman

Thanks to the renewed support of **Renaissance Services SAOG**, the Renaissance Whale and Dolphin Conservation Project, which began in 2011, has continued throughout 2021 in coordination with the **Environment Authority** and the **Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources**. The funds were used to complete the 'Marine Mammals Atlas of Oman', providing a detailed biogeographical account of all marine mammals recorded in the Sultanate of Oman to date. The information is derived from evidence that has been assembled and assessed through scientific processes, including records of whales and dolphins collected during dedicated scientific field surveys, as well as incidental records from third parties. The Atlas, which can be freely downloaded from the 'Resources' section on the ESO website, is aimed at whale and dolphin enthusiasts, scientists, environmental consultants, policymakers or developers, and provides tools to complement and build existing knowledge of cetaceans.

## Whale and Dolphin Field Surveys

A 2-week survey was conducted in March at Hallaniyat Bay, with the main objectives of recovering and redeploying a moored passive acoustic monitoring unit deployed in 2020, aiming to detect blue whale song. Additionally, the body condition of humpback whales was assessed using Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs/drones). Vessel-based survey efforts yielded multiple sightings of seven species of cetaceans. However, neither Arabian Sea humpback whales nor blue whales were detected. Warmer surface waters (an increase of 1.5°C sea surface temperature) were recorded in 2021, and a hypothesis for the unusual absence of humpback whales in the area at this time of year is related to these changing oceanographic conditions.

A 3-week survey was also conducted in November in the Gulf of Masirah. The main objective included the use of drones to remotely and non-invasively assess the health of Arabian Sea humpback whales by quantifying body condition. Body condition is assessed by remote aerial photogrammetry techniques, which generate specific body morphometrics and reveal health indicators. Only two species were observed in the area during the survey (humpback and Bryde's whales), and around 30 encounters were made with individual Arabian Sea humpback whales during the survey. Photo-IDs, biopsies and photogrammetry data were collected to assess population status parameters and the health of this isolated population.





Whale shark, Paul Flandinette

## Publications

ESO is proud to have contributed towards various publications related to whales and dolphins, listed below.

**Oman Research Update: Preliminary survey results and update on deep water acoustic deployments**

A Willson, G Minton, F Christiansen, S Cerchio, D Cholewiak, R Baldwin, T Collins, D MacDonald, M Sarrouf Willson, S Al Harthi

This study summarises the findings of a 2-week survey at Hallaniyat Bay, a hotspot for marine mammals in the waters of Oman. Thirteen consecutive days of small vessel-based survey effort yielded multiple sightings of common dolphins, Bryde's whales, Risso's dolphins, Indian Ocean humpback dolphins, Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins, and false killer whales, as well as a single sighting of dwarf sperm whales. Neither Arabian Sea humpback nor blue whales were detected during the survey. Reasons for the absence of Arabian Sea humpback whales in the study area is currently unknown but could be related to warmer water temperatures potentially influencing their prey species and hence distribution. This paper was submitted to the **International Whaling Commission Scientific Committee Meeting** in April/May 2021.

**Monthly movements and historical catches of pygmy blue whale populations inferred from song detections**

T Branch, C Monnahan, A Sirovic, S Al Harthi, C Allison, N Balcazar, D Barlow, S Calderan, S Cerchio, M Double, R Dreio, A Gavrilov, J Gedamke, K Hodge, K Cu

Multiple populations of blue whales inhabit the Southern Hemisphere and northern Indian Ocean. Each population produces repeated songs that are stable over decades and have been used to identify the regions they inhabit. While Antarctic blue whales and south-east Pacific Ocean (SEPO, Chile/Peru) blue whales inhabit discrete regions and are easier to assess, the remaining five populations of "pygmy blue whales" inhabit overlapping regions and are harder to separate and assess. In this study, scientists collated all available acoustic song recording location data, and fit spatial models to predict where each population occurs by month. This paper was submitted to the **International Whaling Commission Scientific Committee Meeting** in April/May 2021.

**Assessing continued isolation of the Arabian Sea humpback whale population and continuity across the Arabian Sea through geographic variation in song**

S Cerchio, A Willson, S Al Harthi, K Ashok, R Baldwin, R Collins, H Gray, D MacDonald, G Minton, C Muirhead, M Sackett, M Sarrouf Willson

Arabian Sea humpback whale song recorded off the coast of Oman between 2011 and 2018 were used to assess the degree of change over an eight-year period, and whether there was indication of novel song introduction that would infer connectivity with Southern Hemisphere populations. The Oman song maintained its relatively slow and gradual change with only a few exceptions, which is atypical compared to other global populations of humpback whales. This suggests an absence of large-scale cultural diffusion events in which the entire song is replaced by the song of immigrant whales (observed in Southern Hemisphere populations). The results reinforce the understanding that this population is isolated as indicated by population genetic studies, and unique in behaviour and life history patterns. This paper was submitted to the **International Whaling Commission Scientific Committee Meeting** in April/May 2021.

**Addressing marine wildlife entanglement in derelict fishing nets using Community-Based Social Marketing: case study and lessons learned**

M Sarrouf Willson, C Turley, L A Daar, H Al Masroori, H Al Muscati, M Al Afi, A Al Bulushi, S Al Harthi, A Willson

Entanglement of marine species, particularly endangered sea turtles and cetaceans, in abandoned and discarded fishing gear is a major conservation concern. This case study applies Community-Based Social Marketing (CBSM) to reduce marine wildlife net entanglement in the waters surrounding Masirah Island. The responsible disposal of derelict nets in skip bins was selected as the target behaviour and three bins were installed accompanied by awareness, education and one-to-one engagement with fishermen and key decision makers. The study took place over 23 weeks, with results pointing to a low level of behaviour adoption rate by fishermen. Conclusions point to a specific behaviour change focus being a resource and time demanding method for solving pressing conservation problems, particularly ones generated by complex industries such as fishing. This study was published in **Social Marketing Quarterly** in November 2021.

## National and Regional Collaborations

ESO is a member of the **Arabian Sea Whale Network**, with members including representatives from the UAE, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Iran and India, as well as international research partners. The network updates members on new sightings and strandings, helping to further understand whale distribution. An online regional data platform was launched in 2019 to share data and research protocols among members.

In February 2020, the 'Concerted Action' for humpback whales of the Arabian Sea was awarded a three-year extension at the CMS Conference of Parties. The extension focuses on continuing to address knowledge gaps and monitoring of the Arabian Sea humpback whale population, raising awareness and capacity in the region, and working towards more formal government participation and support in regional conservation initiatives. ESO is engaged in advocacy efforts with local authorities to help facilitate a capacity-building workshop for industry and government stakeholders in the country.

At a local level, ESO is a member of the **National Stranding Response Committee**, led by the **Environment Authority** in association with several key stakeholders including: the **Coast Guard – Royal Oman Police**, **Sultan Qaboos University**, the **Diwan of Royal Court**, the **Ministry of Health**, **Muscat Municipality**, the **Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources**, the **Royal Navy of Oman**, the **Ministry of Tourism**, the **Museum of Natural History** and the **Oman Plant and Animal Genetic Resources Centre**. ESO is also a member of the Technical Committee, providing advice and recommendations to the National Stranding Response Committee.

ESO representatives were invited by the **Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources** to be part of a national team aimed at implementing the goals of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021 – 2030), organised by the **Intergovernmental Oceanic Commission of UNESCO**. This initiative aims to support efforts in reversing decline in ocean health through gathering various stakeholders worldwide. The national team includes representatives from various entities, including the **Environment Authority**, the **Office for Conservation of the Environment – Diwan of Royal Court**, the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**, the **Ministry of Transport, Communication and Information Technology**, the **Ministry of Education** and **Sultan Qaboos University**, among others. Meetings were held in September and October to discuss the aims of the national team and the work achieved by various entities to date.

# Terrestrial Conservation Projects

## Raptor Research and Conservation

Raptors, or birds of prey, such as eagles, falcons, vultures, hawks, and owls are key indicators of the overall health of ecosystems. Sitting at the top of the food chain, they provide many ecosystem services. For example, some species eat millions of insects, which, if left unchecked, could threaten agriculture. Others consume animal carcasses, helping to prevent the spread of disease. Over the last few decades, human activities have contributed to the fragmentation and destruction of raptor habitats. In addition, the intensification of agriculture and other land-use practices; electrocution and collision with power infrastructure; shooting, poisoning, and trapping; and reduced breeding success due to pesticides and other contaminants, are threatening raptors leading to reduced population levels and limited geographic ranges.

Despite the pandemic constraints, and with support from the **Disney Conservation Fund**, ESO completed vulture breeding surveys from February to August. As a result, 12 nesting pairs of Egyptian Vultures were identified on Masirah Island, and a total of 77 sites were visited to identify Lappet-faced vulture nests in the Hajar Mountains. Nest failure at the egg stage was higher than anticipated and will be further investigated in 2022. The breeding survey of Lappet-faced vultures is the first ever to be conducted in Oman. 12 medium-voltage powerlines surveys were conducted along lines close to landfills and 17 dumpsites were additionally surveyed. Al Tahwa landfill showed incredible sightings of 117 juvenile, sub-adult and adult Egyptian vultures.

In May, a camera trap was donated to ESO and fitted next to a Lappet-faced vulture nest in Qahwan area in South Al Sharqiya. The camera captured a juvenile Lappet-faced vulture leaping in the nest and flapping its wings in advance of fledging. Such behaviour builds up the necessary muscle strength for flying and this research adds to our understanding of raptor behaviour.



Lappet-faced vulture chick, Antonia Vegh

During the 2021 breeding monitoring season, five Lappet-faced vulture juveniles were fitted with unique and traceable identity rings. This initiative was a collaboration between ESO, the **Environment Authority**, the **Office for Conservation of the Environment – Diwan of Royal Court** and **International Avian Research**. A ringed dead bird was subsequently recovered in October in Al Sareen Nature Reserve, with the death most likely caused by electrocution.



The local community played a crucial role in this project. A total of 45 people were approached to seek information about Lappet-faced vulture breeding territories by the team, including representatives from the local authorities, the **Environment Authority**, the **Office for Conservation of the Environment – Diwan of Royal Court**, **Be'ah**, **Eco-vision** and **Haya Water**.



# Community Outreach and Education Projects

## Community Outreach and Public Engagement

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to restrict the planning and execution of community outreach events in 2021. Various presentations were however delivered on online platforms, as listed below, and ESO's social media platforms continued with regular messaging to encourage environmental awareness throughout the year.

In July, ESO was invited to participate in a webinar hosted by the **Environmental Centre for Arab Towns** (an initiative by Dubai Municipality) to introduce the society and its efforts. The webinar was attended by Arab organizations from 12 different countries and had a strong focus on education, youth empowerment and SDG implementation. In October, a lecture was given to **Oman Tourism College** to introduce responsible tourism of whale shark and marine mammal watching in Oman. These creatures face a variety of natural and anthropogenic threats, including the adverse impacts of marine tours operators. ESO was also invited to present on our activities at the **Intergovernmental Oceanic Commission** of **UNESCO** national team by the **Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources**. Focusing on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, discussions centered on ocean health and sustainability.

## Omani Women's Association Outreach

The active engagement of local authorities and community members plays a crucial role in conservation projects, assisting in identifying key issues and implementing solutions that benefit both people and wildlife. As such, ESO continues to ensure active engagement with the **Omani Women's Association (OWA)**. As part of the Masirah Lighting Surveys and Solutions Project, ESO and **Future Seas Global SPC** representatives visited Masirah's OWA in August to discuss turtle conservation. Light pollution poses a considerable threat to the Critically Endangered subpopulation of Loggerhead turtles nesting on the island, calling for urgent conservation interventions.



## Responsible Whale, Dolphin and Whale Shark Watching Guidelines

We are privileged to have 20 species of whales and dolphins that live in, or migrate through, our waters, providing us with unique opportunities to watch and learn about these marine mammals in their natural environment. It is important, however, that these marine visits do not harm or disturb these species. ESO's whale and dolphin watching guidelines consist of simple instructions that can be followed when approaching cetaceans. Factsheets produced by the **International Whaling Commission** on the 10 most common species of whales and dolphins found in Oman are included, in addition to a brief introduction to the marine food web, dolphin anatomy and the threats that whales and dolphins face.

Whale sharks (*Rhincodon typus*) are listed as Endangered under the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and can be seen seasonally passing through the Sultanate between May and September. This summer saw more residents spending time exploring Oman's waters, with anecdotal reports from tour operators of a longer season and a higher density of whale sharks being sighted. Recognising the importance of sharing information with both the tourism industry and the public on how to safely approach and observe these magnificent animals, ESO, in partnership with **SharkWatch Arabia**, **Wildbook**, **Five Oceans Environmental Services** and the **Environment Authority**, produced 'Guidelines for Sustainable Whale Shark Watching in Oman'. The guidelines were shared on social media and distributed to 18 different marine



operators at **Marina Bandar Rawdha** and **Al Mouj Marina**. We encourage the use of these resources by both operators and visitors to ensure a safe, responsible and enjoyable experience for families, friends and marine species alike.

## Barr Al Hikman Workshop & Field Visit

Al Wusta Wetland Reserve online workshop co-hosted by the **Environment Authority** and **Wetlands International** took place in March. A presentation was delivered by ESO emphasizing the marine significance of the waters surrounding Barr Al Hikman (BAH) and the Gulf of Masirah, considered to be a hotspot area for the Arabian Sea humpback whale, in addition to confirmed sightings of 13 different species of whales and dolphins. The area hosts important bays with mangroves, seagrass meadows, intertidal mudflats utilised by a variety of wildlife from sea turtles to shorebirds. Notably, the waters off BAH also host the largest single species of coral reef in the region (almost exclusively *Montipora* sp.). Presentations were delivered by the **Environment Authority**, **Wetlands International** and the **Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS)** on the ecosystem importance of the reserve.

**Fisheries Development Oman SAOC** invited ESO to attend a 2-day workshop on shrimp farming at Barr Al Hikman. It was attended by representatives from the **Environment Authority**, the **Office for Conservation of the Environment – Diwan of Royal Court**, and the **Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources**. Fisheries Development Oman representatives introduced the planned shrimp farming project and associated coastal sites at BAH, encouraging the various entities to share their knowledge and opinions on the topic. We encourage developers to keep the environmental sensitivity and protection of the area at the forefront of discussions moving forward.



## Earth Hour

Earth Hour is a worldwide movement which encourages individuals, communities, and businesses to turn off non-essential lights, for one hour on the last Saturday of March, as a symbol of commitment to our planet. ESO celebrated Earth Hour this year with a month-long social media campaign, posting daily challenges to encourage the adoption of sustainable behaviours. We were also pleased to collaborate with **talabat**, the **Authority for Public Services Regulation** and **Mazoon Electricity** on various awareness initiatives. It was fantastic to see how people and organisations from across Oman came together in solidarity for this global movement.



## ESO 'It's Time Oman' Campaign

The ESO 'It's Time Oman' Campaign was launched in 2021 to promote the adoption of environmentally sustainable community behaviours across Oman. With the support of the campaign sponsors, **Oman LNG** as well as donations from the **Al Bustan Palace Hotel**, **CGG**, **Petrogas** and **Sabco Group**, the campaign focused on 3 core themes: (i) reducing the use of single use plastics, (ii) addressing littering and (iii) promoting recycling. Social media content relating to themes was shared each month with additional activities delivered throughout the year including:



## The Great Global Clean-up Campaign

In the run up to Earth Day on 22nd April, ESO encouraged communities to join the Great Global Clean-up Campaign, publishing COVID secure guidelines to support individuals conducting clean-ups in their local environment. These guidelines continue to be available on the ESO website.



## Ramadan Food Waste Campaign

ESO partnered with **Be'ah** during Ramadan to deliver a social media campaign that aimed to raise awareness about the environmental impact of food waste and to encourage citizens to think about how food waste can be reduced in the home.



ESO/European Union/European Environmental Bureau – Environmental Webinar Series

ESO partnered with the **European Union** and the **European Environmental Bureau** to deliver a series of workshops aimed at sharing experiences on the problem of plastic pollution. Plastic is one of the fastest-growing pollutants in Oman and whilst measures are being taken to address this issue, such as the ban on single-use plastic bags, there is still much more to do. This webinar series aimed to increase public awareness and help to promote change by encouraging people to avoid plastic waste in their lives. The workshops also explored concrete measures in sustainable production and consumption, retail, and waste management. The two public events were recorded and are available to watch on the ESO YouTube channel.



Plastic Free July

Building on our efforts to promote sustainable behaviours in Oman, ESO joined the global 'Plastic-Free July' movement to raise awareness about the impact of single-use plastics on the environment as well as our own human health; and to encourage people, whether as consumers or producers, to help tackle the problem. A month-long social media campaign, animated videos, and a calendar of virtual events were delivered throughout the month.



World Clean-up Day

On 18th September ESO members and volunteers came together to mark World Clean-up Day. Young and old, 42 volunteers worked tirelessly to clear an estimated 927 kgs of litter from Seeb beach. We would like to thank **OMRAN** for collaborating with us on this initiative and **Be'ah** for providing logistical support.



# Education Activities

## Green Schools Initiative

The Green School Initiative (GSI) was designed to encourage environmental awareness and promote a conservation culture and sustainable practices within schools across the Sultanate. With funding provided by **Veolia** and **Emily's Garden**, GSI was launched in September 2019. 450 schools across the Sultanate attended the initial briefing visits in their respective governorates and 118 schools registered to participate, with 45 submitting proposals. Following a review by ESO staff, 33 proposals were shortlisted to move forward into the competition: 13 competing in the Waste Management, 11 in the Water Management and 9 in the Energy Management categories. After an unanticipated delay due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the judges were finally able to identify and announce the 9 winning schools in March 2021.

Participating schools were asked to form an environmental team consisting of students, school staff and a member of the parents' council, with the aim of conducting activities and events to promote sustainability in schools and their surrounding communities. Schools were asked to select one of the following 3 themes for their application: water, waste, or energy management. A dedicated website was launched, and schools submitted their final reports in February 2021. A panel of judges included representatives from ESO, **Veolia**, and **Oman's National Commission for Education, Culture, and Science**.



9 winning schools from 6 different governorates were announced in March 2021 and awarded cash prizes from 300 OMR up to 1,000 OMR along with certificates and plaques. The award ceremony can be viewed on our social media and YouTube channels. Congratulations to the following schools for their winning projects:



- 1<sup>ST</sup>** **Al Amal School**  
Muscat  
Recycling ablution water for irrigation and afforestation of miniature 'garden of hope'
- 2<sup>ND</sup>** **Al Khalil bin Shazan School**  
South Al Batinah  
Reusing ablution water to provide irrigation for trees
- 3<sup>RD</sup>** **Al Hasan bin Al Haitham School**  
Al Dhahira  
Establishing a volunteer water project to minimise water consumption and make use of grey water to irrigate crops



- 1<sup>ST</sup>** **Suliman bin Abbad School**  
North Al Batinah  
Reduced and reused school waste materials in innovative and creative ways
- 2<sup>ND</sup>** **Raihana bint Zaid School**  
North Al Batinah  
Developed new ideas to recycle waste as an economic benefit to both the school and local community
- 3<sup>RD</sup>** **Gufaila School**  
North Al Sharqiyah  
Spreading environmental and health awareness in both the school and local community



- 1<sup>ST</sup>** **Wadi bani Omar School**  
North Al Batinah  
Reducing electricity consumption by 25% through renewable energy sources
- 2<sup>ND</sup>** **Hafsa bint Omar School**  
Al Dakhiliya  
Using applications and programs aimed at helping individuals and the local community to improve energy efficiency
- 3<sup>RD</sup>** **Khawla bint Thalaba School**  
South Al Batinah  
Establishing a renewable energy management policy and sustainable culture within both the school and local community

## Online Workshops and Competitions

### Environmental Heroes

Sponsored by **Oman Shell**, Environmental Heroes was a free Arabic online interactive workshop designed to inspire a green generation of children aged between 9-13 years old. Discussing current issues such as climate change, pollution, and habitat degradation, the program was designed to explore how the attendees could play a role in protecting and improving their surrounding environment and to inspire the children to become true Environmental Heroes.



## Wa'ai Competition

The Wa'ai online awareness competition was launched in June 2021, sponsored by **Oman Shell**, and designed to encourage individuals (aged between 15-25 years old) to develop public environmental awareness content through the submission of short films, stories, or infographics. The competition was designed to reflect three key issues affecting the Sultanate's environment and its communities, drawn from the ESO IT's Time Oman awareness campaign. Themes included: Litter, Single-use plastics and Recycling.



مُسَابَقَة وَاعِي  
Wa'ai Competition



It's Time



عُمان شل  
Oman Shell



Take off with  
your creative ideas

### About the Competition

The 'Wa'ai' competition aims to encourage individuals between the ages of 15-25 to be creative at developing informative environmental content to encourage sustainable behaviors and lifestyles through short films, short stories, and infographics in support of the ESO It's Time campaign.

### Competition Categories

**Short film**

Create a short movie no longer than 120 seconds

**Short story**

Write a short creative story not exceeding 2000 words

**Infographic**

Raise awareness by making creative designs about the competition themes

### How to participate

You can choose one theme or allow your creativity to take you further and combine more than one theme.

Select only one competition category

Fill out the registration form via the link <https://forms.gle/CcJhgrDamimcKqtk8>

#### Registration deadline

June 30 2021

#### Prizes

Valuable prizes for the first-place winners of each of the competition categories.

The public will have the opportunity to vote and determine the winner.

For more information: [91216439](tel:91216439) [education@eso.org.om](mailto:education@eso.org.om)

### Competition Themes



**Littering**



**Recycling**



**Single-use plastics**

89 project submissions were received and reviewed by a dedicated judging panel made up of the project sponsors, volunteers with relevant experience and ESO representatives. After shortlisting 3 submissions from each category, our social media followers voted to decide the final winners. The winning submissions in each of the categories are listed below:



تَوَقَّطْهُ  
It's Time



عُمان شل  
Oman Shell



مُسَابَقَة وَاعِي  
Wa'ai Competition

## مبروك لجميع الفائزين Congratulations to all the winners



الإنفوجرافيك  
No Planet B

1201



القصة القصيرة  
البلدة الجميلة

310



الأفلام القصيرة  
أفلاجنا مرآة حضارتنا

483



Longfin batfish, Paul Flandinette



### قصة قصيرة بعنوان: البلدة الجميلة

في بلدة جميلة، كان كل شيء على ما يرام. الطبيعة خلابة، والهواء نقي، وحالة القوة التي يمتلكها العم صالح لا ينقطع عنها الزوار الذين يرتادون المكان... كان كل الناس في البلدة سعداء بما فيهم العم صالح الذي كان يكسب قوت يومه من المال الذي تدره عليه حانة القهوة...

كانت البلدة هي الخيار الأول للسائحون الذين يقضون المسافات الطويلة عنوة ليصلوا إلى تلك البلدة المدهشة، إما لا؟ فالبلدة تستحق أن يتكبد الناس مشقة الطريق ليصلوا إلى ذلك الجمال المنير.




لم يكن أحد ليتوقع أن البلدة الجميلة سوف تتحول يوماً من مكان يضحك بالناس والسعادة والجمال إلى مكان موحش يفر الجميع منه بما فيهم ساكني البلدة أنفسهم.. لكن ما الذي حصل؟ كان ازدياد الناس في البلدة قد سبب الكثير من الأضرار، لأن لا أحد يلقي بالألئاث والنفائات التي تتركهم يوماً بعد يوم.. كانت سيئات السائحون تملأ الشوارع جميعها وتدهس الأعشاب الجميلة مما أدى إلى موت ذلك الغطاء النباتي الأخضر الجميل، والذي يساعد على تقليل الغازات المنارة من الهواء كثاني أكسيد الكربون، كما أن دخان المركبات أدى إلى تحويل الهواء النقي في البلدة إلى هواء ملوث يحمل الكثير من السموم التي تجلب الأمراض.. وما يؤسف أن مرئادي البلدة لم ينتبه أحد منهم إلى المخلفات البلاستيكية والمخلفات الأخرى التي يتركها الناس على الأرض بعد قضاء أوقاتهم الممتعة.

# Capacity Building Program

In 2010, due to a lack of Omanis in the field of environment within the country, it was agreed by the ESO Board that a central part of ESO's mandate would be to hire and train Omani graduates in conservation strategies, community engagement and NGO management, giving them an opportunity to pursue a career with ESO or take on environmental roles in the public or private sector.

Over the last 11 years, ESO has successfully trained 15 young Omanis, some of whom are still with ESO and some who have gone on to work in both the public or private sector, spreading their knowledge and experience. Many of these graduates are very active members and volunteers of ESO and continue to be environmental ambassadors for Oman.

In 2021 the Capacity Building Program was sponsored by **Veolia, Oman Shell, Khimji Ramdas – Eshraqa, Renaissance Services SAOG, Tawoos LLC** and **TotalEnergies** with three Omanis being supported through the program. Although graduates are trained in a specific area of NGO management, each are given exposure to the following areas:

- ESO Manage - NGO Management and Fundraising
- ESO Protect - Research and Conservation
- ESO Advocate - Education and Community Outreach



### Rabab Al Lawati

Rabab Al Lawati holds a bachelor's degree in science, majoring in Wildlife and Conservation Biology, from La Trobe University in Melbourne, Australia. She joined ESO as a Conservation Outreach Coordinator in February 2021, where she has been involved in data processing, reporting and active engagement with local authorities. Rabab has also played a role in the development and delivery of ESO's research and conservation presentations, including those on raptors, sea turtles, marine mammals, and frankincense. She has completed online courses focusing on citizen science projects, sustainable development and gender equality, and large marine ecosystems assessment and management. While COVID-19 has limited the number of field work opportunities, Rabab has had the opportunity to join ESO's 2021 Lappet-faced vulture breeding and dumpsite surveys, take part in marine mammal vessel surveys at sea, and visit Masirah Island for the Loggerhead turtle nesting season and lighting pollution project.



### Jawaher Al Ghafri

Jawaher Al Ghafri holds a Bachelor of Communication Studies from Sur College of Applied Sciences and joined ESO as an Education Coordinator in 2016. She has subsequently taken over the leadership of ESO's Education Programs targeting school children as well as college and university students in different regions of the Sultanate. In 2019, Jawaher set up a 24-hour Green Innovation Eco-thon, encouraging the development of solutions to environmental challenges by college and university students. Building on the events success, Jawaher looks forward to following this up with a Youth Summit in 2022. Launching the Green Schools Initiative in 2019 with great success, Jawaher worked with schools to form teams aiming to minimise their ecological footprint and improve sustainability within their schools and communities. The COVID-19 pandemic posed a challenge for education programs due to social-distancing restrictions, however, Jawaher was able to quickly adapt to the development of online events, workshops and activities for school aged children and created the Wa'ai Award and Environmental Heroes in 2021, acknowledging and celebrating their achievements.



### Juhaina Al Ghafri

Juhaina Al Ghafri holds a Bachelor in Bioscience from La Trobe University in Melbourne, Australia. After volunteering with ESO for three months, she joined the team as Communication and Fundraising Coordinator in February 2021. Juhaina has quickly taken on the management of ESO's Membership program, welcoming new members, organising membership events, such as clean-up initiatives and managing the delivery of ESO's monthly lecture series. Juhaina has also played a role in the development and delivery of ESO's communication initiatives and now manages all social media platforms with a reach of over 25,000 followers. She has completed online courses focusing on citizen science projects and sustainable development, whilst participating in industry workshops on communication and emergency response planning. While COVID-19 has limited the number of field work opportunities, Juhaina has enjoyed participating in field work to support both our Turtle Conservation project and Whale and Dolphin research program. Juhaina looks forward to building more experience in 2022.



Arabian red fox, Oman in focus

# Other Activities and Fundraisers

## Dareen Mehdi Memorial Tree Planting Initiative

In collaboration with **Oman Botanic Garden (OBG)**, the **Royal Oman Police**, the **Office of the Wali of Jabal Al Akhdar** and **Jabal Al Akhdar Municipality**, ESO planted 30 juniper trees in Jabal Al Akhdar in memory of Dareen Mehdi, a Board Member of ESO who passed away in July 2020. We are grateful to the **Alila Jabal Akhdar Hotel**, **Anantara Al Jabal Akhdar Resort** and **dusitD2 Naseem Resort Jabal Akhdar** for supporting this initiative. The planting was part of a larger event to celebrate her life and legacy, which included a memorial service held in November, hosted by **dusitD2 Naseem Resort Jabal Akhdar** and attended by her colleagues, friends and family. Dareen was a powerful public figure who dedicated her life to raising environmental awareness and empowering young people. She was vibrant, brave, and a role model to all who knew her. It is our hope that by honouring her in this way, we carry on her legacy and fulfil some of the work that she so passionately sought to achieve.



## Emily's Garden - Grown Through ESO

Emily Jewitt's family and friends have joined forces with ESO and, in Emily's legacy, they are supporting the Green School Initiative. Emily, who lived in Oman, was an active environmentalist who sadly passed away in 2018. She was fun, bright, happy and had a passion for life. We would like to thank **Emily's Garden Foundation** for continuing to raise funds to support the work of ESO.

## ESO's 2021 Environmental Big Night In

For the second year in a row, ESO's fundraising events were virtual. Hosted by ESO Board Member Rumaitha Al Busaidi, 'ESO's 2021 Environmental Big Night In' drew local and international friends and supporters for an evening of fun online events, raising awareness and vital funding for ESO following the economic impact of COVID-19. The event hosted several guest speakers including **Kristian Teleki**, Director of Friends of Ocean Action, **Talal Hassan**, Carbon General of 44.01, and Omani media personality, **Ibtihal Al Zadjali**, all of whom spoke on their collective belief in the importance of preserving Oman's unique biodiversity as well as the community's shared responsibility to protect the environment for the next generation. Sponsored by **Oman Arab Bank**, the event included video's celebrating ESO's past and ongoing work, a raffle and silent auction, as well as musical performances from artists **Maestro Al Kindi**, **Amal Waqar** and **Pulse and Soul**.

Auction prizes were provided by **Alila Hinu Bay**, **Al Shariqiya Aviation (ASA)**, **Fly Bali Heli**, **Issam Sultan**, **Mistal**, **Oman Sail**, **Villa Seascape**, **Violet Astor**, **W Bali Seminyak** and **SalamAir**.



Raffle prizes were provided by **Al Bustan Palace Hotel**, **Alila Jabal Akhdar Hotel**, **Anantara Al Jabal Akhdar Resort**, **Be Bedouin Boutique**, **Blue Flow Diving**, **Crowne Plaza Muscat**, **Eihab Travel**, **EKLEEL**, **Luban**, **Mumtaz Mahal**, **OMANTA SCUBA**, **The Flower Shop**, **The Chedi Muscat**, **The Man Cave**, **Verde & Green**, **Villa 29**, **Wave Summit**, **Woodlands**, and **W Hotel Muscat**.

There were also generous donations from corporate organisations including, **Ajit Khimji Group**, **Bank Muscat**, **Central Bank of Oman**, **Ernst and Young**, **National Finance**, **OCTAL**, **Oman Arab Bank**, **Oman Sail**, **Ominvest**, **Port of Duqm Company** and **Tawoos LLC**.

We would like to thank everyone who joined us and those who so generously donated on the night. The support has motivated us to keep advocating for our environment and Oman's extraordinary wildlife.

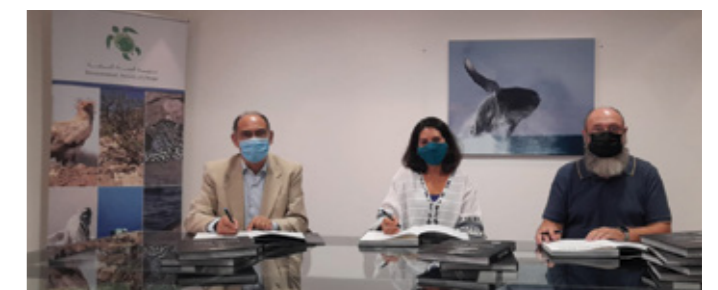
## Oman Sailing Festival



ESO partnered with **Oman Sail** to support their nationwide sailing initiative, '**Oman Sailing Festival**'. Developed to encourage communities across Oman to try sailing and windsurfing, whilst encouraging the adoption of environmentally conscious behaviours, this social initiative included beach clean-up operations at each location to highlight the importance of preserving Oman's natural beauty and marine life for future generations. ESO delivered environmental awareness training to the Oman Sail staff supporting the event as well as a presentation to both the local and international participants about the work of ESO and the issue of plastic waste.

## Secret Seas

Paul Flandinette and Michele Claereboudt, the authors of 'Secret Seas,' Oman's first underwater photography book, have donated 25% of the sales made to ESO members back to ESO to support our work. The stunning book brings together images of over 160 different species and insightful narratives that allow everyone the opportunity to explore and appreciate the diversity of Oman's abundant marine life. A book signing with ESO President, HH Sayyida Tania Al Said was held with the authors to celebrate.



# Awards, Grants and Donations

ESO would like to give special thanks to all those who have helped us achieve our goals in 2021. Our donors, sponsors and grant agencies are listed below in alphabetical order:

- **Aahus Institute of Advanced Studies, Europcar, Five Oceans Environmental Services LLC, Future Seas Global SPC, Marina Bandar Al Rowdha, Megatera Marine Conservation, NOAA North East Fisheries Science Centre, Oman In Focus, the African Aquatic Conservation Fund, the Environment Authority and the International Whaling Commission** for supporting our Marine Mammal Surveys
- **Ajit Khimji Group LLC** for providing free office space
- **Ajit Khimji Group, Bank Muscat, Central Bank of Oman, Ernst and Young, National Finance, OCTAL, Oman Arab Bank, Oman Sail, OMINVEST, Port of Duqm and Tawoos LLC** for donating to support ESO's 2021 Environmental Big Night In
- **Alila Hinu Bay, Al Sharqiya Aviation, Fly Bali Heli, Issam Sultan, MISTAL, Oman Sail, SalamAir, Villa Seascapes, Violet Astor and W Bali Seminyak** for providing auction items for ESO's 2021 Environmental Big Night
- **Al Bustan Palace Hotel** for sponsoring the ESO It's Time Oman Campaign
- **Al Bustan Palace Hotel, Alila Jabal Akhdar Hotel, Anantara Al Jabal Akhdar Resort, Be Bedouin Boutique, Blue Flow Diving, Crowne Plaza Muscat, Eihab Travel, EKLEEL, Luban, Mumtaz Mahal, OMANTA SCUBA, The Flower Shop, The Chedi Muscat, The Man Cave, Verde & Green, Villa 29, Wave Summit, Woodlands and W Hotel Muscat** for providing raffle prizes for ESO's 2021 Environmental Big Night In
- **Alila Jebel Akhdar** for guest donations
- **Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar Resort** for guest donations
- **Arabian Fly** for guest donations
- **Authority for Public Services Regulation and talabat** for collaborating with us to deliver our 2021 Earth Hour campaign
- **Bank Dhofar** for allowing their customers to donate to ESO via their mobile banking app
- **Barka Desalination Company** for supporting ESO through their purchase of Secret Seas
- **British Embassy** for providing grant funding to support the delivery of two conservation programs, (i) the Collection and Recycling of Abandoned Fishing Nets on Masirah Island and (ii) a Population Assessment of Frankincense Trees in Oman
- **CGG** for supporting the ESO It's Time Oman Campaign by purchasing ESO Jute Bags and donating a portion to ESO
- **Coral Muscat Hotel and Apartments** for guest donations
- **Disney Conservation Fund** for funding 'Chasing Oman's Endangered Vulture Populations' project
- **dusitD2 Naseem Resort Jabal Akhdar** for providing a location for our memorial event to honour the memory and legacy of our friend and Board Member, Dareen Mehdi, may her soul rest in peace
- **Emily's Garden** and the **Sunflower Run** for continuing to raise funds to support the Green Schools Initiative
- **Ernst and Young** for auditing services
- **Europcar, Future Seas Global SPC, Ocean Ecology Network, the Environment Authority and NOAA North East Fisheries Science Centre** for supporting the Turtle Research and Conservation Project
- **Go Green** for selling ESO Jute Bags
- **HSBC** for sponsoring two programs dedicated to the conservation of the Arabian Sea humpback whale: a project to deliver a conservation management plan and a project dedicated to building capacity for marine conservation for young Omanis
- **iDrive** for guest donations
- **International Avian Research, the Environment Authority and the Office of Conservation for the Environment, Diwan Royal Court** for supporting ESO's field work to monitor the breeding of both Egyptian and Lappet-faced vultures nesting in Oman
- **Just Khao Suey, Mumtaz Mahal, Rice n Roll and Sprout** for being our meal partners for ESO's 2021 Environmental Big Night In
- **Khimji Ramdas – Eshraqa** for sponsoring the ESO Capacity Building Program
- **Marine Turtle Conservation Fund – US Fish and Wildlife Service** for funding the Turtle Research and Conservation Project
- **Michele Claereboudt and Paul Flandinette**, authors of Oman's first underwater photography book, for donating 25% of the proceeds of sales to ESO members
- **Oman Arab Bank** for their sponsorship of the virtual fundraising event, ESO's Environmental Big Night In and for allowing Oman Arab Bank customers to donate to ESO via their mobile banking app
- **Oman Be'ah** for collaborating with us to deliver a Ramadan campaign to highlight the environmental impact of food waste and providing logistical support for our 2021 World Clean-up Day event
- **Oman LNG** for sponsoring the ESO It's Time Oman Campaign
- **Omantel** for supporting donations to ESO from their customers either via the Omantel app or via SMS
- **Oman Shell** for sponsoring the ESO Capacity Building Program and supporting the implementation of the Wa'ai Awards and Environmental Heroes Initiative
- **OMRAN** for collaborating with us to deliver our 2021 World Clean-up Day event
- **Panorama Travel** for guest donations
- **Petrogas** for supporting the ESO It's Time Oman Campaign by purchasing ESO Jute Bags and donating a portion to ESO
- **Royal Airforce of Oman** for providing flights to support our conservation efforts on Masirah Island
- **Renaissance Services SAOG** for sponsoring the ESO Capacity Building Program
- **Sabco Group** for sponsoring the ESO It's Time Oman Campaign
- **Sultan Qaboos University – College of Commerce** for their donation from the second-hand book fair
- **talabat** for allowing their customers to donate to ESO via their food delivery app
- **Tawoos LLC** for sponsoring the ESO Capacity Building Program
- **The Chedi Muscat** for guest donations
- **TMDone** for allowing their customers to donate to ESO via their food delivery app
- **TotalEnergies E&P Oman** for sponsoring the ESO Capacity Building Program
- **TRACCS Oman** for media and public relations support throughout the year
- **UMS** for website hosting support
- **Veolia Oman** for sponsoring the ESO Capacity Building Program and the Green Schools Initiative
- **Verde & Green** for donating a portion of their profits to support ESO
- **Waterfront & Marina Services SAOC** for free berthing of the ESO boat
- **WHSmith** for supporting us in collecting donations from Muscat International Airport



Wakan, Mohammed Al Mahrezi

## Tourism Donation Program

### Oman's Visitors Giving Back

Tourism puts enormous pressure on the environment, but it can also have a positive impact. Through hotels and tour operators, and to assist with ESO's efforts, we are offering Oman's tourists the chance to support our projects and to give back to Oman and its environment by helping to protect our endangered wildlife and conserve our natural heritage.

### Where do donations go?

Donations add much needed funds to support the administration of our conservation projects established to protect Oman's endangered biodiversity. These projects include: the Arabian Sea humpback whale, loggerhead turtles, Egyptian vultures and frankincense trees. These donations enable ESO to help protect these endangered species and give us the resources to ensure future generations can do the same.

We hope to encourage more hotels and tour operators to join this program and are grateful to the following hotels and tour operators who give their guests the opportunity to donate RO1 to ESO.



# Local and International Highlights

## OSME Winter Meeting

The **Ornithological Society of the Middle East** hosted its Winter Meeting in January 2021 and invited ESO to participate. ESO Executive Director, Suaad Al Harthi delivered a presentation titled '*Barr Al Hikman – Wetland Jewel of the Arabian Peninsula*'. The presentation highlighted the local, regional, and international significance of Barr Al Hikman, considered the most important wintering ground for shorebirds in the Middle East and the Asia-East African Flyway due to the number of birds and species diversity. The peninsula and its surrounding water host several important habitats from mangroves, coral reefs, seagrass meadows, mudflats, salt flats and algal communities, making it an important feeding and breeding area for marine life such as whales, dolphins and sea turtles, as well as a nursery ground for commercially important fish, crab and shrimp species. The various ecosystems are inter-linked and are vulnerable to human impacts.

## World Sea Turtle Day (WSTD) Celebrations

ESO celebrated World Sea Turtle Day and the **IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary** by participating in a virtual event organized by the **Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)**. The program included round-the-clock presentations from 20 countries streamed live on YouTube and viewed by several hundred people from around the world. ESO's presentation focused on the early and current turtle research and conservation work undertaken in Oman, including ESO's long-term population monitoring and satellite tagging efforts. The four species of sea turtles nesting on Oman's beaches were also introduced, alongside the threats they face and how communities can work together in protecting sea turtles.

A presentation, delivered by Rabab Al-Lawati and focusing on turtles in Oman was also given to The Champions of Earth, an eco-club at **Azzan Bin Qais International School**, in celebration of World Environment Day in June.



Green turtle, Paul Flandinette



Arabian leopard, Dr Hamed Al Gheilani

## UNESCO Webinar Series

The **UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science for the Arab States**, in partnership with **Egypt Japan University of Science and Technology (EJUST)**, organised a webinar series titled 'Inclusive and Integrated Management of Natural Hazards'. The webinars covered a range of insightful topics, where ESO representatives attended two sessions: 'Life threatening natural hazards in the Arab Region' and 'The A, B, C of Climate change: Is humanity doomed?'

## Frankincense & CITES Workshop

In September 2021, Maia Willson and Rabab Al-Lawati attended a workshop held by the **Environment Authority** to discuss the listing of *Boswellia sacra*, Oman's endemic frankincense species, under the **CITES** agreement. CITES, or the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, is an international agreement between international governments that ensures that the trade of wild animal and plant specimens does not threaten the survival of the respective species. The meeting was attended by various parties in Oman, and included presentations by representatives from the **Environment Authority**, **University of Dhofar**, the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, **Amouage**, and other individuals involved in the frankincense trade.



## A Road Map to Tackle Illegal Killing, taking and trade of Birds (IKB) in the Middle East

In October, Ali Al Rasbi, ESO consultant, participated in a high-level workshop at the Dead Sea in Jordan on the illegal killing, taking and trade of birds in the Middle East. The overall objective of the workshop was to assemble key governmental and civil society stakeholders in the Middle East to further regional understanding of this problem, to assess the current situation in the region and to suggest solutions. The workshop was hosted by **The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN)** along with support from the **EU Life Programme**, **A.G. Leventis Foundation**, **CMS Raptors MoU**, **Safe Flyways**, **BirdLife International**, **GEF**, **UNDP** and **OSME**.



Conferences, Lectures and Workshops attended in 2021

ESO is represented by volunteers, staff and board members at national, regional, and international conferences and workshops. Below is a list of those attended in 2021 (the majority took place online):

- OSME Winter Meeting, Ornithological Society of the Middle East (OSME)
- Arabian Sea Whale Network Webinars (ASWN)
- Global Frankincense Alliance (GFA)
- Steppe Eagle Ecology and Conservation in the Sultanate, The Anglo-Omani Society; London
- United Nations Food Systems Summit, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources; Muscat
- Al Wusta Wetland Reserve 'Bar Al Hikman' Webinar, Environment Authority; Muscat
- Workshop on Environmental Awareness, Environment Authority; Muscat
- Powerlines and birds: Experiences from electricity companies in the Mediterranean, Birdlife International,
- Middle East Partnership Secretariat
- Illegal hunting methods in the Mediterranean, Birdlife International, Middle East Partnership Secretariat
- International Whaling Commission (IWC) Annual Scientific Committee Meeting, IWC
- World Sea Turtle Day Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia (IOSEA) Celebration, Convention on Migratory Species
- Team BEACH Presentations, Be A Change-maker (Oceanic Society, SWOT, DCF)
- Life Threatening Natural Hazards in the Arab Region, UNESCO Cairo – EJUST Alexandria; Cairo
- Environmental Centre for Arab Towns Webinar, Environmental Centre for Arab Towns; UAE
- What does a life-cycle approach applied to address marine litter and plastic pollution look like? United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- The A, B, C of Climate Change: Is Humanity Doomed? UNESCO Cairo – EJUST Alexandria; Cairo
- Oman Sea Turtle Conservation Workshop, Environment Authority; Muscat
- Google workspace for education, The Omani Society for Educational Technology; Muscat
- Leadership, problem analysis and decision making, IDLAL Platform
- Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC) Oman National Team Meeting, Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources; Muscat
- Listing of Frankincense under CITES Agreement, Environment Authority; Muscat
- A roadmap to tackle Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Birds (IKB) in the Middle East Workshop, Birdlife International
- Arab Man and Biosphere Youth Forum 2021, UNESCO; Cairo
- Birdlife Middle East Partnership Meeting, Birdlife Middle East; Jordan
- Conservation of Wildlife in Oman as Experienced by 'Oman in Focus', Oman In Focus; Muscat
- Incident Command System (ICS-300), PDO Corporate Emergency Management & Shell; Muscat
- Governance for NGOs, Oman Centre for Governance and Sustainability and PDO; Muscat

ESO Public Lectures and Events

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| January   | Lecture: Impacts of Fishing Gear on The Marine Environment by Dr Hussein Al Masroori  |
| February  | Panel Discussion: Introduction to the IWC Whale Watching Handbook with Dr Rebecca Lent, Dr Gianna Minton and Ms Suaad al Harthi   |
| March     | Lecture: The Future of Frankincense in a Changing World by Professor Frans Bongers  |
| April     | Panel Discussion: Overview of Raptor Conservation in Oman with Dr Mansoor Al Jahdhami and Dr Michael McGrady  |
| May       | Lecture: Whale Sharks in the Arabian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman by Dr David Robinson   |
| June      | Lecture: Near and Far: Tales of Habitat Connectivity by Oman's Green Turtles by Dr Nicolas Pilcher<br><br>ESO/European Union/ European Environmental Bureau- Environmental Webinar Series:<br>Webinar 1: Lets End the Plastic Pollution Crisis – Its Current State and Paths Towards Solutions<br>Webinar 2: Policy Approaches and Instruments to Address Plastic Pollution at Source |
| July      | Plastic Free July:<br>Event 1: ESO Awareness Session on Plastic Pollution<br>Event 2: Plastic Free July Quiz Night  |
| August    | Lecture: Spatial Ecology of Arabian Sea Humpback Whales by Dr Andrew Willson  |
| September | World Clean-up Day Beach Clean-up<br><br>Panel Discussion: Celebrating Oman’s Whales and Dolphins: Launch of the New Marine Mammal Atlas with Edith Shum, Dr Andrew Willson, Dr Gianna Minton, Tim Collins, Aida Al Jabri and Robert Baldwin  |
| November  | Lecture: Plant Conservation in Oman – Updates from Oman Botanic Garden by Dr Laila Said Al Harthy   |
| December  | Lecture: ESO's Raptors Conservation Project by Dr Michael McGrady   |



Agamid lizard, Rabab Al Lawati

# Membership

## Membership Benefits

We are proud that in 2021 we partnered with the following companies to provide our members with discounts and benefits under the categories of beauty, veterinary care, hotels and resorts, activities and entertainment, and restaurants and cafés:

### Beauty



#### Revive Salon & Spa for Men

A true sanctuary; premier salon & spa designed exclusively for men to discover. We offer care treatments through essential techniques that relax the mind and the body, harmonize the silhouette, revive the skin and preserve youth in a calm, tranquil environment. Join us at Revive Salon & Spa to discover a new concept in men's grooming. After all, it's not just a haircut or a massage, it's an experience!

Contact: 90356565

Website: [www.reviveoman.com](http://www.reviveoman.com)

Facebook: @revivesalonspaoman

Instagram: @revivesalonspaoman

#### TERMS & CONDITIONS

- ESO Members will enjoy 10% off on any spa service
- Offer not applicable during the week prior to Eid celebrations
- Offer not applicable during any other discount or promotion or with any other offer
- Offer not valid for pre-set packages
- Offer can be availed, subject to prior appointment reservation and availability



#### Ayana Spa

We are Oman's first organic, green spa, inspired by nature, using only premium organic products that are completely safe for the body and the environment. We have carefully selected luxurious treatments from around the world to rejuvenate and beautify your skin and hair, calm your mind and harmonize your soul. A relaxing ambiance of soothing music and the fragrance of pleasant organic aromatic oils fill your senses soon as you enter our doors.

Telephone: 24693435

email: [info@ayanaspa.com](mailto:info@ayanaspa.com)

website: [www.ayanaspa.com](http://www.ayanaspa.com)

#### TERMS & CONDITIONS

- 10% discount on all regular priced spa & beauty services above RO7.000
- 10% discount is valid for Ayana Spa cash vouchers and service vouchers\*
- Discount not valid on packages and monthly promotions
- Discount is valid only on Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday of the week.
- Discount is not valid throughout Eid periods.



#### Brow Bar Salon

Brow Bar, your one stop salon! Get pampered without compromising quality. Also try what nature has to offer with Brow Bar's special natural treatments.

Instagram: @browbarmuscat

Telephone: 24591943

Working Hours – 10am to 10pm

#### TERMS & CONDITIONS

- Buy 1 and get 20% off the next service of same or less amount
- This offer is not valid with any vouchers, promotions or peek and festive seasons

### Veterinary



#### Capital Veterinary Centre

Capital Veterinary Centre LLC "CVC" established in February 2010 provides the highest level of veterinary care available in Oman. Our services include, early-age neutering, ophthalmic surgery, orthopedic surgery, dental and scaling and other dental procedures, x-rays, precaution vaccinations along with treatments of various illnesses and diseases. At CVC we even take care of the hygiene of your pets, by providing complete pet grooming services which include washing, hair cutting, ear cleaning, nail clipping and even anal gland

expression. In addition, we even take care of your pets when you are on leave by providing special accommodation. We are a complete centre, everything under one roof for all your pet's needs.

For more information visit [www.vetoman.com](http://www.vetoman.com)

#### TERMS & CONDITIONS

- On purchase of one grooming service from the following packages (wash, blow dry, nail clipping and ear cleaning) or (haircut, washing blow dry, nail clipping and ear cleaning) receive the second service of equal or lower value free.
- On purchase of one day boarding service of cat/dog along with food, receive the second boarding day free.
- On purchase of one doctor consultation receive the second consultation free.
- 15% off dental and scaling under sedation
- 15% off dog spay or castration (neutering) operation
- 25% off for stray animals for any service
- 20% off rabies vaccine for cats and dogs
- 15% off DHPPL vaccine for dogs
- 15% off Tricat vaccine for cats
- 30% off microchip for cats and dogs



#### Al Qurum Veterinary Clinic

Al Qurum Veterinary Clinic, where your pets get the best Pet-erinary care in Oman. Visit us at our Main Hospital in Madinat Sultan Qaboos or at our branch in Azaiba.

Find our details on [www.muscatvets.com](http://www.muscatvets.com) or contact us on [info@muscatvets.com](mailto:info@muscatvets.com) . MSQ Hospital – +968 24607735 or Azaiba Clinic - +968 24121173.

#### TERMS & CONDITIONS

- 10% discount on Vaccinations, Routine Consultations and Neuterings
- Discount valid in both branches (Al Azaiba and MSQ)

### Hotels & Resorts



Sama Properties: Sama Heights (Jabel Al Akhdar), Sama Al Wasil (Ibra, Al Sharikiyah) and Sama Ras Al Jinz

#### TERMS & CONDITIONS

- 15% discount on room rate which are on half board. This offer cannot be combined with any other promotions. Reservation must be made prior to arrival and a confirmation voucher along with membership card must be presented upon check in. Any extras will be an additional charge.

### Activities & Entertainment



#### Wave Summit

Break your routine by joining our kayaking trips and enjoying spectacular views of Oman from a different angle.

Instagram: @wave\_summit

Contact: Bassam Al Jabri

97471484

#### TERMS & CONDITIONS

- 20% discount for ESO members up to 5 times per person on any 2 hour program
- Offer is not valid for full day trips
- Offer valid during week days only, from Sunday to Thursday
- Members have to book for their trip and wait for confirmation as we have to check weather forecast for sea conditions
- Members have to provide ESO membership number when booking a trip



#### Europcar

One of the world's leading and largest mobility services provider representing an extensive network in 140 countries. Ajit Khimji group holds the franchise of Europcar in Oman since 1972. Being part of such a big and diverse group gives Europcar an access to all the resources required to successfully operate the car rental & leasing activities in Oman. Europcar is specialized in mobility services and provides a choice of alternatives to outright purchase. These include Short & Long-term rentals, Chauffeur & Transfer services, Flexi-Lease and International Reservations for your travel abroad.

#### TERMS & CONDITIONS

- 15% off the best available rate displayed on the website [www.europcar.com](http://www.europcar.com) for renting the car in Middle East & Europe. ESO members can call Waseem on +968 97867424 or email on [sales@europcaroman.net](mailto:sales@europcaroman.net) to avail of this offer.




#### Salaam Space Yoga

A beautiful seaside studio that provides experiential knowledge through the use of accessible yogic tools to initiate, shape and sustain your regular yoga practice. We meet you where you are within your Yogic journey and provide customized pathways for you to reach your goals. Whether you are healing from a temporary condition, living with a chronic illness, or preparing the body and mind to become stronger and more resilient, you will be guided towards your goal, and services will be tailored to your individual needs.

#### TERMS & CONDITIONS

- 10% off on all classes and events booked in advance

Restaurant & Cafés



THE BANK

**The Bank Restaurant**

Instagram: @thebankoman

Facebook: @thebankom

Telephone: 95299136

**TERMS & CONDITIONS**

- 10% off the final bill



**Mumtaz Mahal**

Mumtaz Mahal is one of the oldest fine dining restaurants in Muscat serving the best North Indian food, since 1984. It has won the prestigious title of 'Best Indian Restaurant' 10 times in the Oman Today Restaurant Awards. We owe our success to our valued patrons who come back to us for our exquisite cuisine and legendary hospitality. Every authentic preparation at Mumtaz Mahal dates back centuries to the erstwhile Mughal Empire. Each dish was once prepared in the royal kitchens of the Mughals and hence the use of only the finest is the norm. The cuisine has its distinct character in terms of aroma and flavors that leaves our guests craving for more. We welcome you to Mumtaz Mahal. We welcome you to dine like true royalty.

**TERMS & CONDITIONS**

- 10% off on beverages and food



**Woodlands**

A restaurant located in Oman, serving a selection of Indian food that delivers across Ruwi.

**TERMS & CONDITIONS**

- 10% off on beverages and food

Stores



**Go Green**

A grocery store located in Oman, the first package free grocery store in Oman and they are committed to providing products that are organic, healthy and zero waste products.

Telephone: 95671090

Instagram: @gogreenoman / Facebook: Go Green Oman

**TERMS & CONDITIONS**

- 10% discount for ESO members on their shopping at Go Green (to clarify the discount is not applicable for any online shopping apps)
- 10% sale is not applicable on items already on sale or items on promotion.

Corporate Membership

- Al Bustan Palace Hotel
- Ajit Khimji Group LLC
- Al Yousef Group LLC
- Alizz Islamic Bank
- Averda Waste Management
- Bank Muscat
- Barka Desalination Company
- Central Bank of Oman
- CMS
- Dentons
- Engie
- Ernst & Young
- Khimji Ramdas – Eshraqa
- National Finance
- OCTAL
- Oman Arab Bank
- Oman British Friendship Association
- Oman China Friendship Association
- Oman Oil Marketing Company
- Oman Sail
- Oman Shell
- OMINVEST
- OMRAN
- OQ
- OQ8
- Petrogas E&P LLC
- Port of Duqm
- Renaissance Services SAOG
- Sabco Group
- Sohar Aluminium
- Tawoos LLC
- TotalEnergies E&P Oman Development B.V. - Oman Branch

As an exclusive benefit to our corporate members, ESO has developed Oman-relevant guidelines for Greening Your Office and Organising Corporate Clean-Ups.

Collaboration with International Organisations

- United Nations Environment Program
- International Union for the Conservation of Nature – Regional Office for West Asia
- International Whaling Commission
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- US Department of Interior
- Wildlife Conservation Society
- National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration - South West Fisheries and Science Centre
- University of Exeter, Centre for Ecology and Conservation
- Durham University
- International Avian Research
- African Aquatic Conservation Fund
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Abu Dhabi Office)
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Office)
- Arabian Sea Whale Network
- Wild Me
- Wildbook
- SharkWatch Arabia
- BirdLife Middle East
- Ornithological Society of the Middle East
- Wetlands International
- Anglo-Omani Society
- WWF-Pakistan
- Oceanswell
- Clear Blue Photo
- Megaptera Marine Conservation
- University of New South Wales, Sydney
- Ocean Ecology Network
- Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies
- Disney Conservation Fund
- Global Frankincense Alliance
- Environmental Centre for Arab Towns (Dubai)
- European Environmental Bureau
- Circular Together
- Equinoccio
- European Union

Arabian oryx, Oman in focus



Arabian partridge, Arjun S Unnithan

# Acknowledgements

There are many people we wish to thank for their support, hard work and dedication to ESO.

First and foremost, special thanks go to ESO's Patron, HH Sayyid Tarik bin Shabib Al Said, who has always supported the Society and has been instrumental in its success. We also thank the ESO Board 2020-2022 for their voluntary commitment and dedication over this term.

The Environment Authority, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources, the Ministry of Education, Office for Conservation of the Environment – Diwan of Royal Court and the Ministry of Social Development continue to be staunch supporters of ESO, and we thank them for their guidance and understanding of our work.

None of ESO's work would be possible without the much-needed funding we receive from our corporate members, sponsors, and supporters. We thank all of them and hope that their generosity will continue for years to come.

We thank every one of our members for attending our events and dedicating their time and energy to supporting the conservation of Oman's environment.

Ajit Khmiji Group, who have given ESO free office space for many years and InterRent who provide staff vehicles.

Oman's media have been extremely supportive in making our efforts public, and ESO would like to thank all media houses for their continued coverage of our projects and successes. Special thanks go to TRACCS Oman for providing our PR services.

We would like to thank the Oman Botanic Garden, the Jabal Akhdar Municipality, the Office of the Deputy Wali in Jabal Akhdar and the Royal Oman Police for supporting our memorial tree planting initiative in Jabal Akhdar for the late Dareen Mehdi, may her soul rest in peace.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge the dedication of our staff who are the backbone of the Society and its work. Given the financial challenges presented due to COVID-19, ESO sadly said goodbye to a number of staff in 2020. Despite the reduced headcount, our remaining team have worked tirelessly throughout 2021 to ensure that our mission continues to be delivered.

## Volunteer Acknowledgements

Volunteers are a very important part of ESO's work as they strengthen our organization's mission to protect Oman's environment and wildlife. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 2021 was a very challenging year for all, and ESO was unable to involve as many volunteers as we aimed for. However, there were still many who supported us taking on new challenges, for which we are very grateful. In particular, we would like to thank:

**Hani Thabet** and **Lamees Daar**, for their dedication, support, time and energy in the design and production of ESO's Annual Report.

**Talal Hasan**, **Kristian Teleki** and **Ibfihal Zadjali** for being part of ESO's 2021 Environmental Big Night In.

**Amal Waqar**, **Maestro Al Kindi** and **Pulse and Soul** for sharing their musical talents during ESO's 2021 Environmental Big Night In.

**Mai abo Maghlai**, **Ameera Al Yarubi**, **Omama Mustafa** and **Fayhaa Al Musalami** for volunteering their time to support the ESO 2021 Wa'ai Awards.

**Huda Al Harthy**, **Yusra Al Kindi**, **Shifa Al Kiyumi**, **Yann Bourles** and **Anouka Lepretre** for volunteering their time to support our 2021 World Clean-up Day event.

**Hamed Al Gheilani**, **Mohammed Al Mahrezi**, **Nicholai Georgiou**, **Paul Flandinette**, **Yaqoob Al Rashdi** and **Twizted Myrtle** for allowing us to use their beautiful images throughout 2021.

**Shaymaa Al Kharusi** for volunteering her time and skills to design our 2021 quarterly newsletters.

We miss all our volunteers and are grateful for the messages of support, encouragement and love that we have received over the past year. We have all done our best to adapt to new ways of working under very challenging circumstances - and an altogether new way of life.

**Thank you to those volunteers who may not be mentioned and have helped ESO in any way in 2021.**

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer at ESO, please email us on [admin@eso.org.om](mailto:admin@eso.org.om).



Arabian gazelle, Dr Hamed Al Gheilani

