



ACHIEVEMENTS & EVENTS

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



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Turtle Research & Conservation: ESO's Efforts to Combat Light Pollution for Loggerhead Sea Turtles on Masirah Island.



MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITIES

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



ACHIEVEMENTS & EVENTS



Frankincense Research & Conservation

In February, a collaborative frankincense field survey was successfully completed in Dhofar, thanks to the joint efforts of the **Environment Authority**, **Wageningen University**, **FairSource Botanicals LLC**, and **Mendel University** in Brno. Employing drone technology, the team conducted numerous flights over various regions of Dhofar to map frankincense populations. The team is currently analyzing the data collected to determine tree numbers, density, and distribution. Concurrently, the Environment Society of Oman organized a capacity-building initiative on frankincense monitoring and research at the Environment Authority's Dhofar Office. Nineteen individuals participated in the event, which featured presentations covering topics of frankincense introduction, global threats, management strategies, inventory techniques, monitoring methods, and mapping. The workshop also facilitated engaging discussions and a Q&A session, enhancing the overall experience. We extend our gratitude to **Oman Shell** for their sponsorship of the Frankincense Research & Conservation Programme, enabling us to carry out these essential activities.



Raptors Research & Conservation

We have successfully concluded the initial phase of an Egyptian Vulture breeding survey on Masirah Island. This survey, a follow-up to the 2012 assessment, reaffirmed the presence of breeding pairs on the island. Over the course of 9 days, the team meticulously inspected all territories identified in 2012. Currently, the collected data is undergoing analysis to assess changes in the number of territorial pairs, the ratio of non-breeding adults to immatures, and to estimate the breeding population. We are grateful for the funding provided by **Renaissances Services SAOG** to support this important project.



Annual General Meeting 2024

ESO's Annual General Meeting (AGM) convened on March 27th at the **Cultural Club**, uniting representatives from the ESO board, staff, and members to reflect on the organization's accomplishments in 2023 and outline plans for 2024. Dr. Amor Al Matani, ESO's newly appointed President, delivered a welcoming address, offering insights from his inaugural year in office. This AGM marked a significant occasion as it entailed the election of new board members, with ESO receiving 11 nominations. The conclusion of the AGM was marked by extending a warm welcome to the incoming board members. We extend our gratitude to the previous board members for their invaluable support and eagerly anticipate a fruitful term ahead with the new members.



ESO Art

ESO launched its art event in partnership with local and international artists. Held on February 25th at the Crowne Plaza Qurum, this event showcased the collaboration between artists and the Environment Society of Oman (ESO). Twenty-one artists pledged to contribute 50% of their artwork sales to ESO. The society appreciates the support from buyers and artists, which helped promote environmental stewardship and made the event successful. Special thanks to **Anna Duchengo** for leading and coordinating the event.



The Environmental Sustainability Conference

The Environmental Sustainability Conference, held from February 26th to 28th 2024, was honored by the patronage of Sayyid Asaad bin Tariq Al Said and organized by the **Environment Authority** in collaboration with the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**. During the event, the ESO team showcased their initiatives in the exhibition section. Additionally, Suqad Al Harthi led a side event focusing on Nature-Based Solutions and Climate Change. The panelists, representing various backgrounds, shared insights and experiences from ecosystem restoration projects in Oman, Malaysia, India, and Egypt.



2024 Sustainability Fair with OABC

ESO served as honorary to serve as honorary environmental supporters at the 2024 Oman Sustainability Fair, hosted by the **Oman American Business Council (OABC)**. Held on February 27th 2024 at the W Muscat, the event showcased a wide array of sustainability initiatives developed by students from various private schools in Oman. Dr. Ali Akcak, one of our board members, had the privilege of serving as a judge, evaluating the innovative projects presented by the students. This event provided an excellent platform for engaging with other organizations that share our commitment to environmental protection and sustainability. We extend our gratitude to the **OABC** for inviting us to participate in this impactful event.



Blue tail trunkfish (Cistrion cyanurus), ESO

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Turtle Research & Conservation: ESO's Efforts to Combat Light Pollution for Loggerhead Sea Turtles on Masirah Island

The Environment Society of Oman (ESO) recently organized a "Lighting Pollution Community Workshop" on Masirah Island, aimed to thank the local community for their efforts to safeguard sea turtles on Masirah, with particular emphasis on the loggerhead species.

Sea turtles, predominantly residing in open ocean, rely on beaches for nesting, with females visiting at night during nesting seasons. However, artificial lights disrupt this process, disorienting females and deterring hatchlings from reaching the sea. This pollution stems from lights near nesting beaches, including those from roads and residential areas. In 2021, ESO initiated a pilot project to combat light pollution, retrofitting residential

properties with turtle-friendly light bulbs. Seven properties initially participated, with more expressing interest. The workshop highlighted the pivotal role of the coastal community in mitigating the impact of light pollution on these turtles, and participants were thanked for joining this pilot project. Other members of the community were encouraged to voluntarily participate and install turtle-friendly light bulbs in their homes situated on turtle nesting beaches. This collaborative initiative involves partnerships with the **Environment Authority** and **Future Seas Global SPC**, funded by **The US Fish & Wildlife Service**.

Dr. Amor Almatani, ESO's President, expressed gratitude to participants and government entities for their support, stressing

the critical need to preserve Masirah's loggerhead turtle population. Dr. Andrew Wilson, Founding Director of Future Seas Global SPC, emphasized the global challenge posed by artificial lighting to wildlife, underscoring the importance of tailored solutions for Masirah's unique turtle population.

Under the patronage of Sheikh Abdulhamid Ali Al Abri, Deputy Wali of Masirah, and in the presence of Dr. Amor Almatani, the workshop aimed to acknowledge participants' contributions and encourage broader community involvement. Additionally, this event was an opportunity to release an infographic detailing Masirah's four nesting sea turtles, freely available in English and in Arabic on ESO's website.



Green turtle (Chelonia mydas), ESO



ESO MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We are proud to offer both corporate and individual membership programmes, providing the community in Oman the opportunity to get closer to the work of ESO. We organise regular lectures and events allowing our members to come together in support of the environment. Upcoming events are listed on our website ([link](http://www.eso.org.om)), with recordings of previous events available on the ESO YouTube channel ([ESO Media Channel](http://www.eso.org.om)).



FEBRUARY ACTIVITY

ESO recently arranged an exclusive membership activity at the Barka Wild Animals Breeding Centre on February 6th, offering members a unique opportunity to view and appreciate their appreciation for wildlife and endangered species. We extend special appreciation to the **Barka Wild Animals Breeding Centre** for facilitating this visit.



FEBRUARY TALK

On February 25th, 2024, ESO organized a membership talk titled 'Conservation of Boswellia sacra in Oman: Balancing Nature, Culture, and Development for the Luban Tree.' The talk was delivered by Stephen Johnson, an interdisciplinary ecologist and technical advisor specializing in the conservation of wild plants. We extend our sincere gratitude to Stephen for sharing his valuable insights on these iconic species, cherished by Omani heritage.



MARCH ACTIVITY

ESO held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) to review the past year's achievements and discuss plans for the upcoming year. We extend special thanks to all the members who attended and actively participated in the meeting. This year's AGM also involved the election of new board members, with both physically present and online members participating in the selection process. We express gratitude to the **Cultural Club** for graciously hosting us and providing the venue for the meeting.



If you would like to become an ESO member or **renew your membership** click on:



*STUDENT MEMBERSHIP **5 RO**

*INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP **10 RO**

*CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP **1K RO**

Your support matters.

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

FOR ENQUIRIES:
Individual Membership: membership@eso.org.om
Corporate Sponsorship / Membership: Ghaniya Al Maawali: ghaniya.almaawali@eso.org.om

*Memberships are per year.

Why support ESO!

Your support enables us to...

- Conduct **RESEARCH** on threatened and endangered species in Oman
- EDUCATE** communities on the importance of adopting more sustainable lifestyles
- ADVOCATE** for environmental sustainability
- BUILD CAPACITY** within the environmental sector in Oman
- CONSERVE** Oman's natural heritage for future generations

How to support ESO in 2023

1. MAKE A DONATION VIA

Bank transfer, Bank Muscat
#0315-0039-6351-0017



2. FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



3. JOIN OR RENEW ESO MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMME



4. SUPPORT OUR CHARITY INITIATIVES



DONATION PROGRAMMES

We are very grateful to all our donation partners, who kindly add an optional donation to guests bills. We are actively working to encourage more hotels and tour operators to join the program.



THANK YOU!

- Anna Duchengo** for supporting us to launch ESO Art
- Barka Wild Animals Breeding Center** for hosting our membership activity
- Cultural Club** for providing us with the venue to host the AGM
- E&Y Oman** for providing us with in kind auditing services
- Masirah Sports & Cultural Club** for providing us with the venue to host the Turtle Lighting Workshop
- TRACCS** for their ongoing in-kind media services



Turtle hatchling, ESO