



ISSUE Q3 | JULY - SEP

# NEWSLETTER 2023

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

Cover Photo:  
Ali Al Rasbi



## ACHIEVEMENTS & EVENTS

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



## PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

ESO's Namat Competition inspires sustainable education in Oman



## MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITIES

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



## Achievements and Events



### Namat Awards Ceremony

The 2022/2023 edition of the Namat Competition concluded on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September with a successful Award Ceremony welcoming over 9 national schools from 4 governorates. Under the patronage of His Excellency Abdullah bin Khamis Ambusaidi Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education, and representatives from the Oman National Commission for Education, Culture and Science, the event commenced with an exhibition showcasing student projects which implemented sustainable solutions within their schools and community. The guests and media were impressed by the innovative ideas and this was followed by the Award Ceremony. More about the project is mentioned in the project spotlight below.



### Marine Turtle Research and Conservation Programme

We have been engaged in sea turtle research and conservation on Masirah Island since 2008. This year's field season took place between May and September, monitoring nesting population trends and implementing conservation actions to protect the critically endangered Northwest Indian Ocean subpopulation of Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) that nest there. The Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) nesting surveys have now begun, and will continue until the end of November. We would like to thank the Environment Authority, the USFWS Marine Turtle Conservation Fund, Ocean Ecology Network, the Wali of Masirah and Future Seas Global SPC for supporting this work.



### ESO Charity Ball

After a 4-year halt due to COVID19 restrictions, we have recently held the thirteenth edition of the ESO Charity Ball. The event successfully brought together more than 240 corporates, entrepreneurs, and other stakeholders, interested in supporting environmental causes that make a real difference. The event also helped raise awareness of ESO's excellent track record for environmental successes it has achieved throughout the years via education, awareness, and conservation. A sincere thank you goes to all that contributed to the success of the event, sponsors to donors, auction sponsors and in-kind supporters.



### Raptors Field Surveys

We wrapped up the Disney Conservation Fund and completed all sponsor requirements. Our team is actively looking for further funding to carry out additional breeding surveys in 2024.



### Dimaniyat Islands Nature Reserve-Awareness Raising Campaign

Two awareness materials have been developed on the Dimaniyat Islands Nature Reserve; a marine protected area declared in 1996. These will be published on our website soon. The materials present an overview of the islands, the diverse marine and terrestrial fauna and flora that occur within the reserve, major threats and actions for preserving the islands and their biodiversity. The distribution of these materials will be coupled with a community engagement campaign delivered in October and November, targeting public schools, Omani Women's Associations, Walls, fishermen, marinas and universities, in Barka, Al Mussanah, Al Seeb and Bousher.



### Whale and Dolphin Research and Conservation- Capacity Building Programme

A one-year capacity building programme - that was previously funded by HSBC and now under the umbrella of Sohar International - focusing on cetacean research and conservation and the development of the next generation of local conservationists is currently being implemented. In September, the final programme module was delivered, concluding the programme's six theoretical modules. The programme also includes a field element, and candidates have had the opportunity to join vessel-based surveys, gaining field experience in boat-based data collection, data download and entry, and basic mapping of survey results.

## Project Spotlight

### ESO's Namat Competition Inspires Sustainable Education in Oman

Oman's youth play a pivotal role in driving environmental awareness for a sustainable future. ESO is at the forefront of this effort by engaging schools, colleges, and universities to promote eco-conscious behaviors. In this quarter's project spotlight, we showcase our flagship educational initiative, the 'Namat' Competition.

The Namat Competition aligns with Sustainable Development Goals for sustainable education and Vision Oman 2040. It educates students and teachers about environmental issues, fostering knowledge transfer to the local community. The initiative empowers the new generation to make informed decisions for the environment's preservation.

Students in this competition form teams and engage in activities that promote sustainable development behaviors, principles,

and values. The competition reaches government schools, involving students, staff, and parent councils. Winners are celebrated at a national level ceremony.

ESO's Namat Competition encourages sustainability projects in schools. Teams tackle waste, water, or energy management themes, with cash prizes awarded to the top three teams in each category.

Sponsored by Veolia Oman and under the supervision of Ministry of Education, the 2022/23 Namat Competition involved 85 schools from 11 governorates across Oman, reaching a total of 470 schools since inception in 2019. A judging panel evaluated submissions, and nine schools from four governorates moved to the final round.

Under the patronage of H.E. Dr Abdullah bin Khamis Ambusaidi Undersecretary of Ministry of Education, an award ceremony was held on September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023, with a dedicated exhibition for all shortlisted schools.

These winning teams achieved impressive results. Projects included using grey water for agriculture, significant waste reduction, and energy awareness advocacy.

ESO continues to inspire youth to be active environmental citizens. With support from Veolia Oman, Namat 2023/24 promises to be even more exciting.



## 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, with recordings of previous events available on the ESO YouTube channel (ESOMediaChannel).



### July Lecture

"The Future of Microplastics in the Environment" delivered by Sumaiya Al Siyabi known to be an Innovation and Science Olympiad Specialist who supervises scientific innovations within the region, in addition to conducting courses in the field of scientific research and innovation for students and teachers. A special thank you to Sumaiya Al Siyabi for sharing her incredible passion and expertise with us.



### August Lecture

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Panel Discussion from the Oman Climate Dialogues titled "Climate Adaptation: Role of Nature-Based Solutions", took place this quarter. This series is sponsored by Asyad Group and the event was moderated by Rumaitha Al Busaidi, along with guest panellists: Suad Al Harthi – ESO, Dr. Thuraia Al Sareeri – Environment Authority and Hatim Al Abdissalam – Estiqama TV. The event covered the importance of nature, in fighting climate change, the connection between human well-being and nature-based solutions and Oman's efforts in adopting these solutions. Special thanks to all the speakers for their valuable contribution during the session. Recordings of all the delivered Climate Dialogues sessions can be found on our YouTube Channel (ESOMediaChannel).



Arabian chameleon, Amardeep Singh



Flamingo, Labid Al Amri



### September (World Cleanup Day)

In celebration of World Cleanup Day, ESO organized a cleanup at Al Hall beach which was supported by Petrogas E&P (for t-shirts & caps production), Kempinski Hotel Muscat (snacks) and beah (bags & logistical support). The cleanup took place on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September at Al Hall beach. An estimated 1680 kgs of litter was collected with 250 participants joining the cleanup. Special thanks to all the volunteers and valuable sponsors who contributed to the success of the event.



## Become a Member Today!

If you would like to become an ESO member or renew click:

NEW MEMBER

RENEWALS

\*STUDENT MEMBERSHIP 5<sup>RO</sup>

### Your support matters.

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

\*INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP 10<sup>RO</sup>



\*CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP 1K<sup>RO</sup>

FOR ENQUIRIES:

Individual Membership:  
Corporate Sponsorship / Membership

Juhaina Al Ghafri - [membership@eso.org.om](mailto:membership@eso.org.om)  
Ghaniya Al Maawali: [ghaniya.almaawali@eso.org.om](mailto:ghaniya.almaawali@eso.org.om)

\*Memberships are per year.

## Why support ESO!

Your support enables us to...

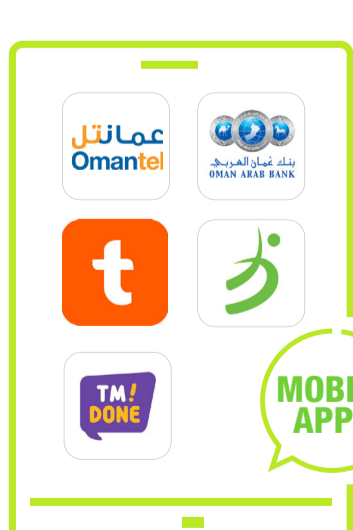
- Conduct **RESEARCH** on threatened and endangered species in Oman
- EDUCATE** communities on the importance of adopting more sustainable lifestyles
- ADVOCATE** for environmental sustainability
- BUILD CAPACITY** within the environmental sector in Oman
- CONSERVE** Oman's natural heritage for future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

## How to support ESO in 2023

### 1. MAKE A DONATION VIA

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

SEND DONATE  
90108



### 2. CLICK & FOLLOW US



### 3. CLICK TO JOIN OR RENEW ESO MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP

### 4. SUPPORT ESO OUR CHARITY INITIATIVES

LEARN MORE

## 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!

- Ominvest for supporting the ESO Ball as a Pearl Sponsor.
- Oman LNG for supporting the ESO Ball as a Pearl Sponsor.
- Al Jeneibi International Automobiles for supporting the ESO Ball as Coral Sponsor.
- ESO Ball Auction Supporters: Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar, Hudhud Tourism, Petrogas E&P and Al Sharqia Aviation.
- All the in-kind support and generous donations received at the ESO Ball.
- SABCO Sports for the donation received from Al Mouj Muscat Marathon Charity Run.
- Rumaitha Al Busaidi for leading and moderating the Climate Change Series.
- TRACCS for their ongoing in-kind media services.
- Maryam Al Farsi for supporting the Research & Conservation Team as an intern.
- Bader Al Yazidi for his ongoing support towards Namat Competition.
- Aruba Saeed for supporting the Communication Team as an intern.



Common cuckoo, Amardeep Singh