

ACHIEVEMENTS & EVENTS

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



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT Turtle Research and Conservation



MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITIES

Highlights from our membership programme and details of how to get



ACHIEVEMENTS & EVENTS



Marine Turtle Research and **Conservation Programme**

As part of our Marine Turtle Research and Conservation Project, a Citizen Science Engagement Programme aimed at university students and recent graduates with an environmental biology degree took place in July. The purpose of this project was to expose the students to various aspects of our ongoing conservation efforts and discuss ongoing conservation efforts and discuss he decline of the Critically Endangered loggerhead nesting population Masirah Island. We would like acknowledge the fantastic engagement and performance of the 7 students who completed the programme in July. We would like to thank the **Environment** Authority, the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund, Ocean Ecology Network, the Wali of Masirah and Future Seas Global SPC for

supporting this work.



Building on our efforts to promote sustainable behaviours in Oman, ESO joined the global movement 'Plastic-Free July' to raise awareness about the impact of single-use plastics on the environment and our health, and to encourage people, whether as consumers or producers, to help tackle the problem. Our month-long social media campaign encouraging the community to take a pledge to replace their single use plastic with more sustainable alternatives. We also hosted our members for a private movie screening of "A Plastic Ocean". We would like to thank everyone who joined us to support this year's campaign!



ESO, in collaboration with the Environment **Authority** hosted three international vulture experts, together with key stakeholders across Oman to discuss vulture and raptor-focused conservation within the Sultanate. 74 participants, representing 19 different organizations came together to learn about the important vulture research ESO have been undertaking can play in the conservation of this endangered species. We congratulate everyone involved for their commitment to this important topic and look forward to building on the conservation efforts with local partners in the future. This workshop was part of ESO's "Chasing Oman's Endangered Vulture Populations" project, funded by the **Disney Conservation Fund**.



Namat Schools Competition

The second round of ESO's Namat Competition is coming to a close! 81 schools from across Oman entered projects related to the themes of managing waste, water and energy. In May, a panel of judges selected 11 schools to move forward to the final round of this environmental awareness competition. In September, our judging ach of the 1 to undertake the final assessments. We have been so impressed by the scope and achievements of our finalists and are excited to announce the winning projects during October's ceremony. We would like to thank **Veolia** Oman and Emily's Garden for their continued sponsorship of this important education initiative.



On 18th September ESO members and

World Cleanup Day

volunteers came together to mark World 125 volunteers worked Cleanup Day. tirelessly to clear 136 bags, an estimated 1,523kgs of litter from Seeb beach. We would like to thank **Sustainable City Yiti**, OMRAN and Diamond Developers for collaborating with us on this initiative, the Intercontinental for providing snacks, FRIENDI mobile for donating giveaways and Be'ah for providing logistical support. Thank you for helping us keep our environment



Ghost Fishing Animation

As part of our long-term mission to reduce the entanglement of marine and coastal wildlife in abandoned fishing nets, and with funding provided by the **British Embassy Muscat**, we launched in July a short-animated video to highlight the threats posed to marine life by marine debris. We hope this animation will serve as a reminder of our shared responsibility to keep our oceans clean. Click below to watch it!

■ WATCH



Turtle Research and Conservation Programme

The global importance of Oman to the survival of sea turtles has been established through surveys and research conducted within the Sultanate over the past 40 years. Not only does Oman host the second largest nesting population of loggerhead sea turtles in the world, but of the seven different species of sea turtles, four are returning annually to nest on the same stretch of coastline where they hatched. These are the loggerhead (Caretta caretta), green (Chelonia mydas), hawksbill (Eretmochelys imbricata) and olive Ridley (Lepidochelys olivacea).

All of these species are endangered to various degrees on the IUCN Red List and face high risk of extinction in the wild. Threats including extensive coastal development, light pollution and beach driving (on land), and bycatch, ghost fishing, plastic pollution and climate change (at sea) are putting significant nesting population of loggerhead turtles on the island of Masirah For the last 14 years, ESO, in collaboration with the Environment Authority, has been trying to

pressure on the survival of sea turtles. In Oman,

ESO's research evidences a 79% decline in the

counteract this loss, for the sake of conserving the species, of maintaining a healthy marine environment, and of preserving the socioeconomic balance of communities. This longterm programme has been funded by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and implemented with the help of international and local collaborators including Ocean Ecology Network, Five Oceans Environmental Services LLC and Future Seas SPC. Through dedicated field surveys our field

teams monitor seasonal nesting activities beach disturbances,

and conservation needs. This program has also spearheaded a range of activities to tackle the threats these turtles face including (i) dedicated net clean-ups ahead of turtle

us to accelerate our knowledge and

understanding of turtle biology, ecology

threat of entanglement and ingestion during nesting and hatchling (685 tons of fishing gear and other debris has been cleared since 2017), (ii) awareness videos (designed to raise awareness about the correlation between a

nesting seasons in an attempt to mitigate the

healthy ocean and a healthy community) and

(iii) community outreach programmes (with children, women's groups, fishermen and other community leaders). In 2022 we have expanded our work to include work on light

pollution and initiated a Citizen Science Programme for university students and recent graduates with an environmental biology degree aimed at exposing them to conservation-relevant science.

On the ground, we have assembled a field team of Masirah Island residents to monitor and protect populations, part of the ESO mandate to train and hire Omanis in conservation strategies, community engagement and NGO management, as well as supporting the livelihood of local communities.

With all the challenges involved in supporting these animals, we are seeing positive results from our efforts and hope that our beaches continue to be an inviting home to the different sea turtle species for generations to











We are proud to offer both corporate and individual membership programs, offering anyone passionate about environmental conservation the chance to support the work of Oman's only environmental NGO. Following 2 years of online activities, we are excited to be building back our membership calendar for 2022 and would like to express our gratitude to all our members for their ongoing support.



Our July lecture was delivered by

Talal Hasan, founder of 44.01 and an technologist environmental for leveraging innovation to help fight climate change. The lecture, titled "How Carbon Removal Technologies can help us fight climate change," explored carbon capture and storage technologies and the work 44.01 is doing to help decarbonise Oman's energy sector. We would like to thank PDO EcOman Centre for hosting us for this event.



The documentary explores the fragile state of our oceans and uncovers the truth about the consequences of our disposable lifestyle. We would like to thank PDO EcOman Centre for hosting us



Virtual Lecture

by Dr Mark Meekan, a Senior Principal

Research Scientist at the Australian Institute of Marine Science based in Perth, Western Australia. The lecture titled "The Evolution of Size in Whale Sharks", explored the body structure and evolution of whale sharks through time.



together to learn about vulture

conservation in Africa from visiting expert Andre Botha, a Programme Manager with the Endangered Wildlife Trust. The lecture titled "Making progress in the conservation of African vultures", discussed the plight of African vultures and the plans being implemented for their conservation. We would like to thank PDO EcOman Centre for hosting us for this event.



Cuellar Soto, Assistant Professor at Sultan Qaboos University discuss, "Community involve-

SEPTEMBER - 2022

ment in long-term Nature Conservation, a trip from South America to Oman". This event explored how community- based conservation approaches can promote long-term biodiversity protection. We would like to thank PDO **EcOman Centre** for hosting us for this event.

A second lecture in September saw **Dr Erika**



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SEPTEMBER - 2022

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ESO members came together to mark World



ESO member or renew click:

RENEWALS



the incredible biodiversity of Oman.

FOR ENQUIRIES:

Individual Membership:

*CORPORATE



















Why

support

NEW MEMBER

How to support ESO in 2022

1. CLICK & FOLLOW US

Corporate Sponsorship / Membership

*Memberships

are per year.



importance of adopting more sustainable lifestyles ADVOCATE for environmental sustainability

SOLUTION BUILD CAPACITY within the environmental sector in Oman,

- **PROTECT** Oman's natural heritage for future generations.

Via our website www.eso.org.om

2. CLICK TO JOIN OR RENEW ESO **MEMBERSHIP**

MEMBERSHIP

Via an SMS with Omantel send 'Donate' to 90108 to donate 1 OMR per month

3. MAKE A DONATION





#0315-0039-6351-0036

Via any of these apps:







Thank you to PDO's EcOman Centre for hosting our monthly

Thank you to **Ernst and Young** for conducting our annual audit. Thank you to ESO volunteers, Kawther Al-Harrasi and Sulaiman Al Rahbi, for giving up their time to support our Vultures in Oman

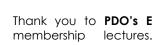
National Commission for Education, Culture and Science and ESO volunteer, Hawa Al Shraiqi, for giving up their time to be part of team visiting the Namat School finalists.

THE CHEDI

DONATION PROGRAMMES We are very grateful to all our donation partners, who kindly add an optional 1 OMR donation to guests bills.

ANANTARA

We are actively working to encourage more hotels and tour operators to join the programme.



THANK YOU!

Thank you to **Zuhair Al Farsi** and **Ibrahim Al Shamsi** from The Omani

Thank you to **Hawkwatch International** for donating satellite tags to support our Raptor Conservation Programme.