



Annual Report 2022





His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said



His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik

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Message from the President

The Environment Society of Oman (ESO) embarked on a journey almost two decades ago to help protect the natural environment in Oman. We wanted to conserve Oman's incredible biodiversity and encourage the adoption of environmentally sustainable behaviours to ensure that our natural heritage would remain for future generations.

Our original goals of conservation, collaboration, and giving back to our communities remain true today. It has been my honour and privilege to have served as ESO's President since its inception in 2004. As we move into our 20th year, however, the time has come for me to pass the baton to a new President. I am confident that my successor will drive forward our organisation's mission to protect Oman's natural environment and hopeful that ESO's achievements will continue to grow.

All of those involved in founding ESO shared a deep passion for Oman's rich biodiversity and a collective desire to protect it. I personally never imagined that almost 20 years later we would have achieved so much.

We are proud to have supported pioneering marine and terrestrial research integral to the conservation of threatened and endangered species in Oman.

One of our most impactful programmes has been the consistent sea turtle monitoring surveys on Masirah Island. The alarming statistic evidenced through our research of a 79% decline in the population of nesting Loggerhead turtles has driven us to raise awareness about the threats to the species and successfully deliver initiatives designed to protect them. We praise the Environment Authority's National Sea Turtle Action Plan in 2022 and commend their efforts in addressing industry related challenges impacting populations.

Collaborating with our partners we now also have a better understanding of the movements and behaviour of the Arabian Sea humpback whale (ASHW). Thanks to our ground-breaking research and satellite tracking, the importance of this species is now recognized. We consider the development of the Conservation Management Plan for the conservation of ASHWs delivered in 2022 in collaboration with the Environment Authority to be a significant turning point in the efforts towards their conservation.

On the terrestrial side, we have established the first dedicated surveys for endangered Egyptian and Lappet-faced vultures in Oman, species that are in decline globally but seemingly stable in Oman and that provide important ecosystem services for us. Let us also not forget about our research that allowed us to hold rapid population assessments of frankincense in Dhofar, and publish sustainable tapping guidelines to ensure this native population is not over harvested as it holds both environmental and cultural prominence to our nation.

I have always been a firm believer in the importance of investing in and empowering our youth to take on challenges and transform them into opportunities. In response, we have established a number of educational programmes designed to raise environmental awareness and encourage stewardship among our youth.

Perhaps the greatest achievement is the incredible team that we have formed during my tenure. I owe my greatest debt to all of them, as well as to our Board members, ESO members, sponsors, partners and to our volunteers who have helped turn our ideas and initiatives into a wonderful reality and one that we can be proud of.



Last but not least, our achievements and actions have only been possible thanks to the generous support of companies and individual donors alike, as well as the unwavering support of the Government of Oman. To all of you, I give my sincere thanks and gratitude.

I am confident that under the guidance of the new President, ESO will continue to operate in the most professional and transparent manner, to support environmental conservation efforts now and into the future. I would like to wish current and future members, partners, as well as volunteers the best of luck.

Continue to thrive with our environment.

Tania S Al Said
President



Arabian red fox (*Vulpes vulpes arabica*), Oman In Focus

Introduction



2022 wrapped up with the UN Convention on Biological Diversity Conference of the Parties (COP-15) taking place in December after a delay of nearly 2 years due to Covid. The outcome of the meeting had parties agreeing to halt and begin to reverse the loss of biodiversity and making a commitment to conserve at least 30% of terrestrial, inland water and coastal and marine areas with special attention to areas of biodiversity importance. Targets have been set to scale up the conservation of species and the preservation of important ecosystems. Likewise, the UN Climate Change 27th Conference of the Parties (COP-27) which took place in Egypt highlighted the important role that healthy ecosystems play in tackling climate change, recognizing that the loss of biodiversity weakens our resilience. Going hand-in-hand with emission reductions, the importance of biodiversity conservation and nature-based solutions remain at the forefront of discussions with a growing understanding that natural ecosystems play a key role in not only capturing carbon but also minimizing the risk of disasters in the face of increasing storms and weather conditions.

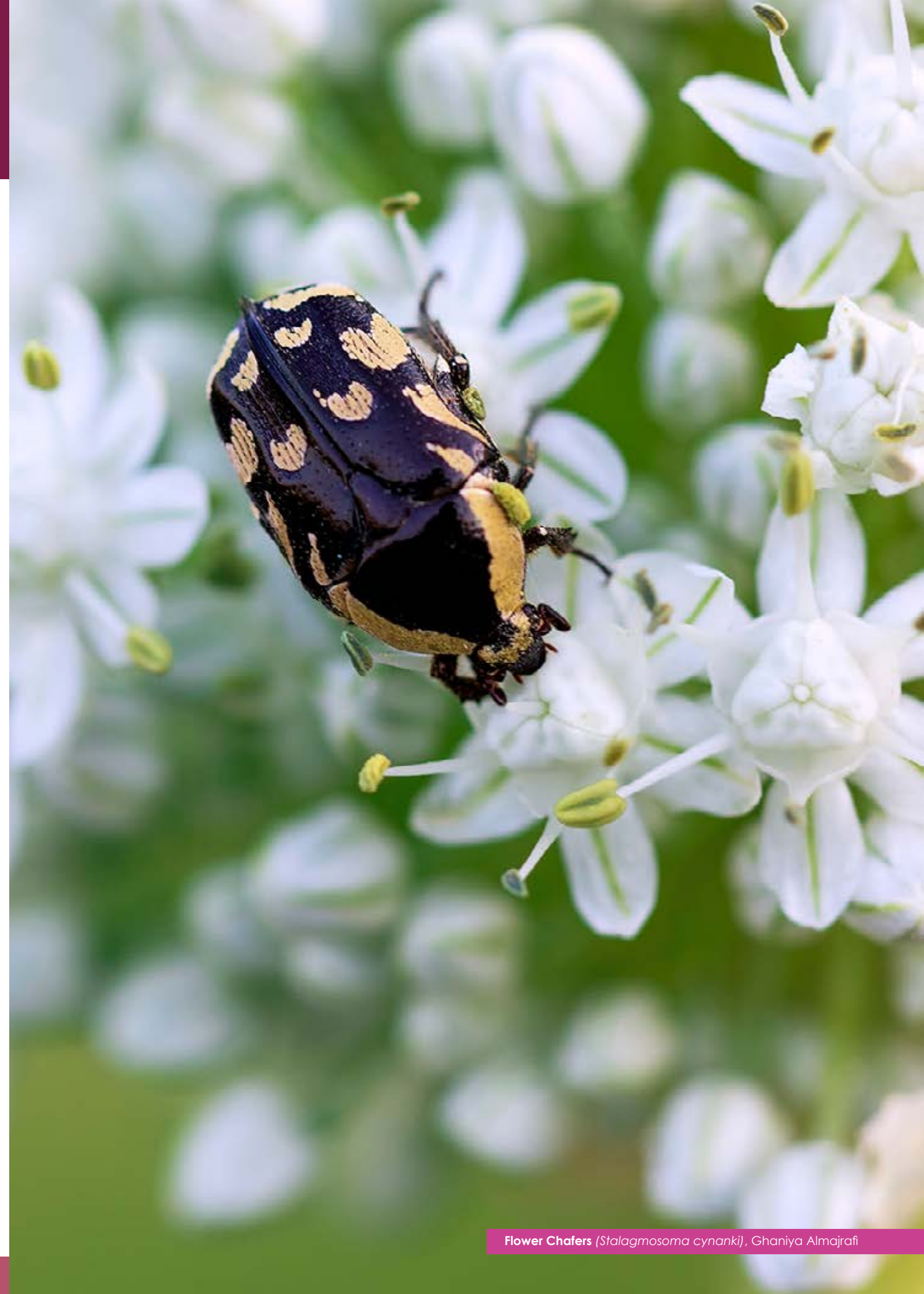
At ESO we continue to work towards the conservation of biodiversity, through research to understand significant species and necessary conservation measures, to spread awareness on their importance within communities and to raise awareness with our next generation and future leaders through education programmes.

This year, we have co-hosted with the Environment Authority two key conservation management workshops and participated in a third. The first workshop focused on the need for a National Action Plan for raptor conservation in Oman, an identification of existing conservation mechanisms and the threats faced by raptors such as poisoning and collision. The second workshop focused on the development of a Conservation Action Plan for the Arabian Sea humpback whale and brought together local authorities and international experts to share their experiences on complementing development needs such as shipping, tourism and fishing with conservation needs. The last workshop was hosted by the Environment Authority and focused on the development of a nationwide Sea Turtle Conservation Action Plan. All three of these workshops had strong attendance and engaging participation from local authorities, and we remain optimistic that through this integrated and inclusive approach we will jointly be able to develop and implement conservation actions for the benefit of Oman's natural heritage.

We have had over 1,000 government school students engaged in the Namat Competition this year, and they continue to impress us through the implementation of programmes not only in their schools but within their communities to minimize food and plastic waste and encourage composting, collecting and re-using gray water for irrigation, and implementing the use of solar and hydropower. Additionally, we reached out to over 1,000 students to raise awareness of raptors and marine turtle species in Oman.

We would like to thank all of our individual and corporate members, sponsors and donors who continue to support us, our efforts would not be possible without your support! We look forward to continuing our conservation journey in 2023!

Suaad Al Harthi
Executive Director



Flower Chafers (*Stalagmosoma cynanki*), Ghaniya Almajrafi

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 Amari, President of the Environment Agency

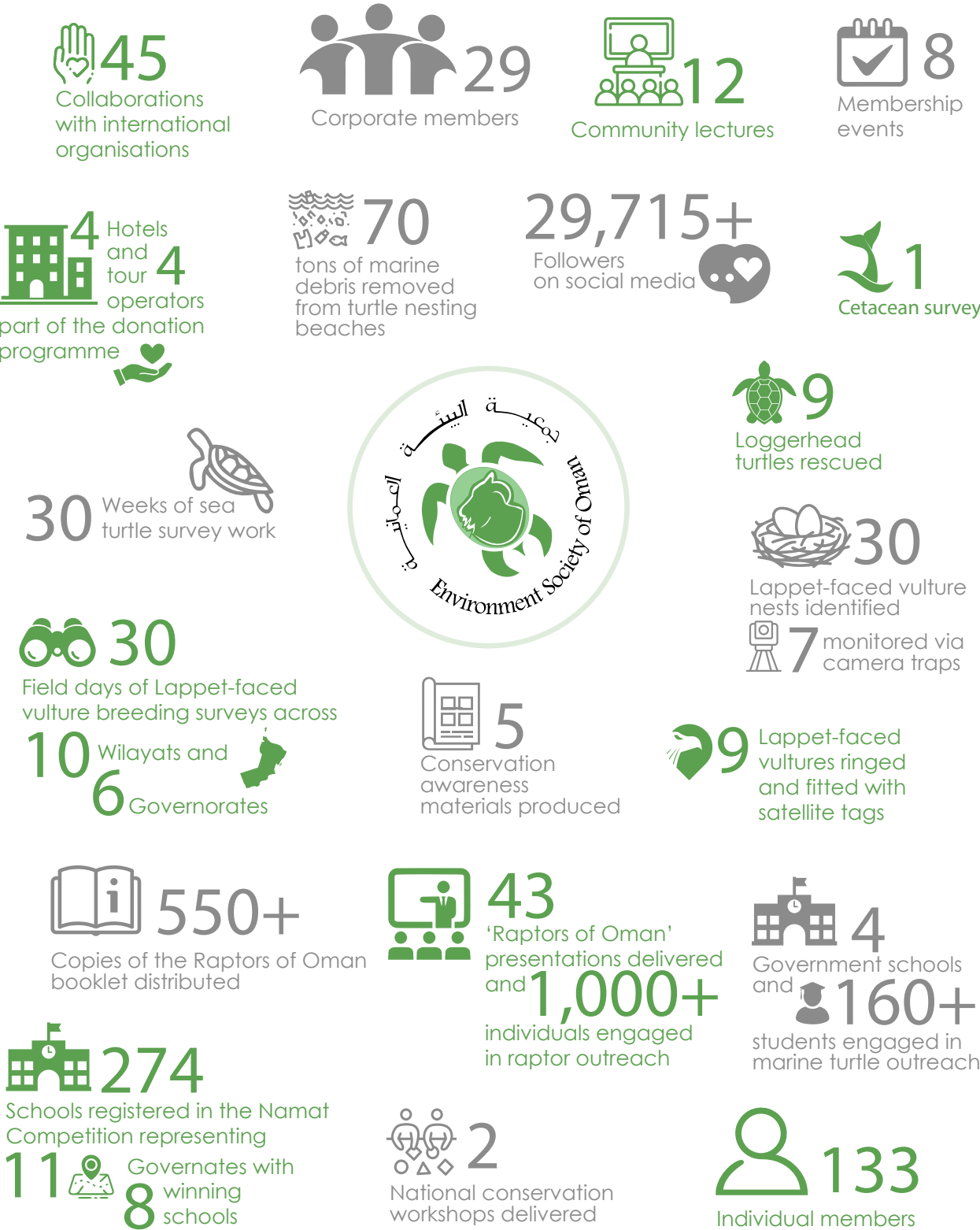
Under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Al Said and His Majesty Sultan Haitham Al Said, Oman's Vision 2040 provides strong foundations for a development agenda that recognizes the importance of protecting the nation's natural resources and the outstanding environment of Oman. At ESO we 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 threatened and 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.



2022 Year in Numbers



ESO Board

The following Board Members were elected in March 2022 for a two-year duration:

President

HH Sayyida Tania 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 Board's President since its establishment in 2004. In addition to representing ESO in the media, Sayyida Tania leads ESO's government advocacy efforts and fundraising initiatives, including the annual ball and other corporate events. Passionate about reducing society's 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. In 2022, Sayyida Tania was awarded the Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice for her work in the field of environmental sustainability.

Vice President

Dr Amor 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. 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 the Chief HR Executive Officer. In June 2019 Dr Al Matani was appointed CEO of the Oman LNG foundation. Dr Al Matani has a passion for improving work 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 Rumaiitha Al Busaidi is a marine scientist and an advocate for environmental youth leadership and women's rights. An award-winning radio presenter and sportswoman, Rumaiitha was the first female soccer analyst in the Arab World and the youngest Omani to step foot on the South Pole. Rumaiitha currently works with Oman's 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. Rumaiitha 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 two million young people across the globe. Rumaiitha 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 that was 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 less understood species, such as bats. 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 Al Yarubi holds a BSc in Management Information Systems from Sultan Qaboos University and a 2019 IEMA (Environmental Management Certification) and is currently part of Oman Vision 2040 office in the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology. 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. Amira initiated environmental programmes 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 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 since 2006 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 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 since 2017, 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 programmes.

Membership Officer

Mr Omar 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 the Sultan Qaboos University. He was a former ESO employee from 2009 to 2013, representing 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 at UNESCO's conference on the 40th Anniversary of the World Heritage Convention in Kyoto, Japan in 2011. Omar has worked in the Environment and Sustainability field at different organisations in Oman including PDO and Duqm Refinery and Petrochemical Industries and OQ. He currently works as Head of Sustainability in OQ Gas Network. 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

Dr Ali Akaak is an academic and professional in business and tourism management. He has a PhD in Management Studies (Tourism Management and Development) from the University of Exeter Business School in the UK, and over 15 years of experience in academic and administrative positions in public and private universities. Dr Akaak is the head of the human resource management department at the University of Technology and Applied Sciences in Salalah. Previously, he worked as a lecturer and Assistant Director of Admissions and Registration at Dhofar University. He has published and presented papers at conferences regarding strategic planning, destination management, tourism development, labour unions, and social entrepreneurs. Dr Akaak has been a member of several societies, including the Omani Society of Human Resources, the Tour Guiding Committee at the General Directorate of Heritage and Tourism in Dhofar, the Green Destination Organization, and the New Generation Group at the Anglo-Omani Society.



Lappet-faced vulture (*Torgos tracheliotos*), Othman Al Jabri



Turtle Research and Conservation Programme

The global importance of Oman to the survival of sea turtles has been definitively established through surveys and research conducted within the Sultanate since the 1970s. Since 2008, ESO, in collaboration with the **Environment Authority (EA)** 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.

Masirah Island is the second largest nesting rookery for loggerhead turtles in the world. Research evidences that this population has suffered 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.

Nesting Surveys

For the 14th consecutive year, ESO conducted monitoring surveys of nesting loggerheads on Masirah Island. Outside of the loggerhead nesting season, field assistants monitor green, hawksbill and olive ridley turtles. This effort is supported by a five-year funding plan from the **US Fish and Wildlife Service**. The core part of this work is to complete track count surveys in support of the long-term trend assessment, useful to understand the conservation status of these populations.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Suaad Al Harthi
Executive Director | 7. Atika Ahmed
Accountant |
| 2. Bashaar Zaitoon
Administrative Manager | 8. Rabab Al Lawati
Conservation Outreach Coordinator |
| 3. Maïa Sarrouf Willson
Research and Conservation Manager | 9. Juhaina Al Ghafri
Communications and Membership Coordinator |
| 4. Said Al Jabri
Public Relations Officer | 10. Mai Abumughli
Communication and Events Coordinator |
| 5. Olivia Dalziel
Communications and Fundraising Manager | 11. Juma Al Arai
Masirah Field Coordinator |
| 6. Jawaher Al Ghafri
Education Coordinator | |



Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), Hamed Al Gheilani

Data Analysis and Advocacy Efforts

The team continues to use data collected from surveys to coordinate the management of nesting beaches with authorities. Working closely with the **EA** and **Wali's office on Masirah**, ESO and its collaborators have been highlighting conservation concerns and working with the community to develop solutions. In 2022, over ten advocacy meetings were held with authorities in both Muscat and Masirah to discuss the various threats faced by the nesting turtles on Masirah. Much of the evidence and material communicated in these meetings have been derived from the 'Masirah Island Turtle Atlas', commissioned in 2021. The Atlas is currently in its final design phase and will be published in early 2023 with the main aim of communicating the conservation project findings to the public.



Light Pollution Assessment



Maximising the recruitment of loggerhead turtles (new individuals added to a population either by birth or maturation) has been identified as one of the most important conservation activities for addressing the loggerhead turtle population decline on Masirah. The Lighting Solutions Project was launched to address reduced turtle nesting on beaches due to the disturbance of adults and misorientation of hatchlings caused by artificial light sources from public infrastructure and private buildings. The project was initiated in 2021 by identifying the most serious light pollution areas and initiating dialogue with authorities on the Island.

Our team's advocacy has proven fruitful, and the collaborative effort has resulted in an initiative to turn off streetlights close to nesting beaches on the Island, from Masirah Police Station to Al Aiygah, and a set of streetlights at the southern tip of the Island, after 10 pm. Further considerations for the implementation of turtle friendly lighting options are being considered in other municipal areas including other areas of street light pollution. This should be celebrated as a conservation success, and we would like to thank the **Wali of Masirah, Masirah Municipality, EA, Ocean Ecology Network, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Future Seas Global SPC** for supporting this critical achievement in turtle threat mitigation on Masirah.

Additionally, over the past year, private property owners near nesting beaches have agreed to participate in an experiment to modify existing residential lights, and subsequently new lighting products have been ordered for installation in early 2023.

Hatching Success Workshop

ESO participated in a Hatching Success Workshop organised by the **Environment Authority** in collaboration with **Future Seas Global SPC, Ocean Ecology Network** and the **US Fish and Wildlife Service**. The workshop discussed past and present marine turtle research and conservation work on Masirah Island, including turtle behaviour, biology, threats and required conservation actions. Workshop participants received class and field-based training on a process for evaluating hatching success (the proportion of eggs from which hatchlings emerge and successfully make it to sea). Determining the hatching success for these threatened species can inform threat mitigation and habitat management, and therefore, conservation actions.

A second training workshop was attended by **EA** rangers, ecosystems specialists and technicians, and other members of staff, representing the regional offices of Muscat, South Al Sharqiyah, South Al Batinah, North Al Batinah, Al Wusta and Dhofar. The aim was to develop the engagement skills of conservation teams, helping them to engage with members of the community and address the serious threat of waste on nesting beaches.



Fishing Net Collection and Recycling

ESO's project focusing on the collection and recycling of abandoned fishing nets aims to reduce wildlife entanglement on Masirah Island while accelerating a circular economy initiative. The project took place between January and March 2022 and was implemented in partnership with **Future Seas Global SPC** and **Wakud International LLC**, and in collaboration with the **Environment Authority, be'ah**, the **Wali of Masirah**, and the **Masirah Municipality**, with funding from the **British Embassy's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)**.

In total, 84 kilometres of nesting beaches were cleaned of nets, with an estimated 70 tons of abandoned, lost, and discarded fishing gear collected and transferred to a dumpsite. The **Wakud** team sorted and cleaned 30 tons of fishing nets according to European guidelines and transferred them to their store in Barka. Following coordination with fishing-net recycling companies in Eastern Europe, in April, the first Omani fishing net shipment was successfully sent to Slovenia. Unfortunately, the significant increase in shipping prices due to the current geopolitical situation in Europe, the high cost of sorting and cleaning nets, and low purchasing values has meant that the total cost of the project remained relatively high. However, the exercise allowed for a positive hands-on experience, resulting in both cleaner beaches and increased community awareness. It also brings to our attention the significance of discarding fishing nets appropriately at their source and the need to properly plan the lifecycle of similar initiatives in advance.



Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*), ESO

Whale and Dolphin Research and Conservation Programme

20 different species of whales and dolphins (cetaceans) can be found in Oman's waters, including 4 species of great whales. ESO has been engaged in whale and dolphin research in Oman since ESO's inception in 2004, with a particular focus on the Arabian Sea humpback whale. Dedicated research on Arabian Sea humpback whales has confirmed that this unique sub-population is small (possibly fewer than 100 individuals off the coast of Oman), resident in the Arabian Sea year-round, and isolated from other humpback whale populations. In 2008 the population was designated as Endangered on the IUCN Red List of threatened species. The conservation of this unique population across its regional range is critical to its survival.

Whale and Dolphin Field Surveys

A three-week survey was conducted in November in the Gulf of Masirah. Drones were used to remotely and non-invasively assess the health of Oman's Arabian Sea humpback whales through remote aerial photogrammetry techniques, revealing body condition and health indicators. Photo-IDs, biopsies and photogrammetry data were also collected to assess the health and population status of this isolated population.



Capacity Building for Cetacean Research & Conservation

Recognising the need to increase the local capacity for cetacean research and conservation, ESO, with funding from **HSBC Oman**, has developed a capacity building programme. This will be delivered over the course of one year and includes ESO staff, as well as those from government agencies and other candidates who have expressed both an interest and capacity to work long-term in this field.

Beginning in September 2022, the immediate goal is to form an Omani team that can contribute to future cetacean research activities in Oman. The programme provides candidates with opportunities to explore their interest in various disciplines, and learn about cetacean biology, ecology, research methodology and protocols, photo-identification, data collection, and communication. It will also allow them to build a network of contacts that would provide exposure to progress further in science or science communication.



Complementing Development with Conservation Workshop

In November, ESO, in collaboration with the **Environment Authority**, hosted a workshop focusing on the conservation and development of a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the Arabian Sea humpback whale. The workshop was held due to the need for cross-cutting conservation action to be taken at the government level to address the critical threats faced by these whales and other marine mammals in Oman. These threats include; shipping collision, noise pollution, unsustainable tourism and entanglement in fishing nets. The two-day workshop was attended by over 60 participants representing 30 local and international organisations. An overview on CMPs and their implementation was introduced, in addition to testimonials from representations of the shipping, tourism, fisheries and oil and gas industries. Engagement with various stakeholders, locally and internationally, will be crucial to the success of the CMP and its implementation.



Marine Mammal Atlas of Oman

The **Environment Authority** commissioned ESO to translate the Marine Mammal Atlas of Oman into Arabic which was completed this year. The Atlas is now in the final design stage and will be published online in 2023.

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 Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Conference of Parties. The extension focuses on continuing to address knowledge gaps and monitoring of Oman's 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.

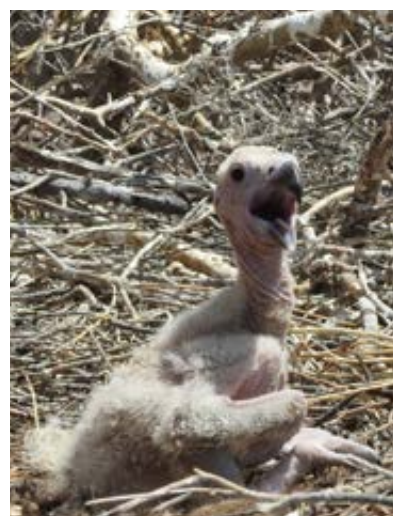
At a local level, ESO is a member of the **National Stranding Response Committee**, led by the **Environment Authority** in association with several key stakeholders including: **Coast Guard – Royal Oman Police, Sultan Qaboos University, Ministry of Health, Muscat Municipality, Ministry of Agriculture,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

Terrestrial Conservation Projects

Raptor Research and Conservation Programme

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; 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.

Vulture Field Surveys



ESO continues its research efforts on the globally endangered Lappet-faced vulture, with support from the **Disney Conservation Fund**. In 2022, a total of 41 Lappet-faced vulture nests were surveyed, including 22 new sites. ESO, in collaboration with the **Environment Authority** and **International Avian Research**, fitted unique identity rings and satellite tracking devices on nine Lappet-faced vultures. The vultures' movement and survivorship are being closely monitored on a regular basis, and updates can be found at www.lappetsoman.blogspot.com.

Four of these nine vultures were rescued due to sickness or injury or were confiscated from individuals keeping them illegally. Following their assessment, ringing, tagging and release, they are now being monitored and tracked via satellite. Two of the four vultures have successfully acclimatised back into the wild, one was taken back into captivity, and one did not survive. In addition, seven nests were monitored via camera traps to gain insight into the species' nesting activity and behaviour. Nest failure at both the egg and chick stage continue to be observed, and the explicit causes for offspring loss requires further investigation.

The local community played a crucial role in this project. Around 55 people contributed information about Lappet-faced vulture breeding territories, including volunteers, and representatives from the local authorities such as the **Environment Authority**, **be'ah**, **Eco-vision**, **Oman Water** and **Wastewater Services Company**.

Vulture Conservation in Oman Workshop

In September, ESO, in collaboration with the **Environment Authority**, hosted international vulture experts and key stakeholders across Oman to discuss raptor and vulture-focused conservation within the Sultanate. Sixteen of the 23 species of vultures found worldwide are at risk of extinction, and Oman is a stronghold for two of them, the Lappet-faced and Egyptian vultures, presenting the opportunity to take important steps to support their survival. The two-day workshop was part of ESO's 'Chasing Oman's Endangered Vulture Populations' project, funded by the **Disney Conservation Fund (DCF)**, and was attended by 74 participants, representing over 19 different local and international organisations. Topics included the international significance of vultures, the existing global and regional conservation frameworks in place, and an overview of the threats the species face in Oman, including poisoning, collision and a decline in food and habitat availability. In the workshop closure, ESO, EA and other relevant stakeholders agreed on the importance of drafting a National Action Plan for the conservation of raptors in Oman, which will facilitate raptor conservation both locally and regionally.



Lappet-faced vulture (*Torgos tracheliotos*), Othman Al Jabri



Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*), ESO

Illegal Trafficking of Birds in the Middle East



Trafficking of wildlife involves the illegal capture, trade, smuggling, poaching or collection of protected wildlife, and is a major threat to biodiversity. It can lead to population declines, and in some cases, even species extinction. The Illegal Trafficking of Birds in the Middle East is a project funded by **Conservation Science Global (CSG)** and aims to understand the illegal trade of wild birds in target Middle Eastern countries, including the Sultanate of Oman. Project activities include monthly surveys at physical and online animal markets and shops aiming to identify and assess the illegal sale of wild Omani birds. Surveyors found evidence of wild bird capture and trade, including threatened and endangered species such as the Lappet-faced vulture. ESO has notified the Environment Authority (EA) of all violations and is actively collaborating with the relevant departments to shed light on illegal wildlife trade.

The trafficking of wildlife, including birds, is prohibited under Article 15 of Royal Decree 6/2003 Promulgating the Nature Reserves and Wildlife Conservation Law, and violators may be subject to fines and/or face imprisonment. The EA encourages all citizens and visitors to report on wildlife violations through the hotline 80071999.

Frankincense Research and Conservation Programme

Frankincense, also known as Luban, plays an integral part in the Omani heritage and culture and has been a main source of income for Omani communities for centuries. The species of frankincense native to Oman, Yemen and Northern Somalia is the *Boswellia sacra*, considered to produce a fine quality resin. *Boswellia sacra* has a Near Threatened status on the IUCN Red List and only occurs in the Dhofar Governorate within the Sultanate.

Rapid Population Assessment of Frankincense Trees in Oman

A field team completed a three-month survey of frankincense (*Boswellia sacra*) in Dhofar to update its distribution and population status. The team comprised representatives from ESO, the **Environment Authority, Wageningen University & Research, FairSource Botanicals LLC, and Mendel University**. The work was carried out with the support of a grant from the **British Embassy's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)**.

From January to April 2022, the field team assessed frankincense in the Dhofar region. In this short time, the team was able to: (i) map the distribution and population of *Boswellia sacra* in Dhofar, whilst also establishing permanent study sites to evaluate long-term population ecology (ii) assess the different threats to the species, and (iii) engage with local stakeholders to understand community perceptions whilst building local capacity to survey and protect the trees in the future.

Boswellia sacra faces a variety of man-made and natural threats. The results of our survey give us some confidence that we will not see catastrophic population collapse in the near future. However, without intervention many man-made threats are likely to intensify. These include grazing with increased camel populations, harvesting in response to increasing demand for frankincense, and increases in insect infestation due to harvesting rendering the trees more vulnerable. As these pressures increase, population declines will accelerate and intensify. Intervention to mitigate the threats is critical to ensuring the health and stability of *Boswellia* populations in Dhofar. The final recommendations from this study have been communicated to the concerned authorities and the conservation of *Boswellia sacra* will continue to be a central focus for the work of ESO. Moving forward we will be working closely with the **Environment Authority** to recommend a variety of approaches to conserving these unique trees, including targeted research to further elucidate population dynamics, potential impacts of climate change, and social drivers of tree management.



Frankincense tree (*Boswellia sacra*), ESO

Community Outreach and Education Projects

2022 saw the lifting of COVID restrictions, enabling us to recommence our community engagement activities. We continue to leverage our social media platforms to share regular messaging with communities both locally and international throughout the year but have been especially pleased to have built back physical engagement with communities across Oman.

Marine Turtle Research and Conservation Outreach

Outreach on Masirah Island

ESO engaged with various entities in Muscat and on Masirah Island in 2022 to discuss the conservation of marine turtles on Masirah. These included the **Environment Authority, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources, Wali of Masirah, Oman Fishermen Association, Omani Women's Association in Masirah, Masirah Municipality, and Ministry of Housing**. This targeted stakeholder engagement focused on sharing updates on ESO's research, conservation, and associated community outreach initiatives on the Island. The threats and consequences of turtle bycatch from fishing nets, along with related mitigation and management measures, were one of many key topics discussed. Additionally, abandoned, lost, and discarded fishing gear was discussed as an issue of increasing concern. ESO also delivered presentations on marine turtles to all four government schools on Masirah Island, engaging with over 160 students of various ages, and sharing key biological information on sea turtle species found in Oman, the threats they face, and how we can help in protecting them.



Light Pollution Community Engagement

Light pollution poses a major threat to nesting turtles and hatchlings. Marine turtles have evolved to locate the ocean by following the brightest point on the horizon, typically illuminated by the moon. Consequently, artificial lighting sources often disorient turtles, causing them to wander in-land towards houses and streetlights, rather than to the sea. This exposes turtles to threats such as predation, entanglement, dehydration, and trampling by cars, amongst other threats, ultimately contributing to turtle deaths and population declines. Community engagement and awareness raising is a key part of mitigating this threat. Over the past two years, ESO and collaborators have engaged with several communities to raise awareness on the issue, encouraging the local community to adopt better lighting practices and fittings, to benefit the livelihoods of both people and sea turtles on the island.



Engagement with the Omani Women's Association

Conversations with the **Omani Women's Association (OWA)** in Masirah led to insightful discussions including marine turtle conservation and hatchling success, ecosystem connectivity, the role of marine mammals in helping to fight climate change, environment-friendly initiatives on the Island, and environmental employment opportunities. In support of **OWAs** in Muscat, ESO collaborated with the **Sidab Women** to produce 102 marine-themed environment friendly re-usable bags, advocating for sustainable alternatives to disposable plastic bags.

Citizen Science Programme

Citizen science, also known as community science or volunteer monitoring, is scientific research that is conducted, either fully or partially, by independent volunteers or amateur scientists, working together towards a common goal. To encourage citizen science initiatives and build capacity, ESO engaged with seven students majoring in Environmental Biology from **Sultan Qaboos University**, in a five-day citizen science programme on Masirah Island. The programme covered various topics, including marine turtle species identification, marine turtle nesting surveys, and threat observations, in both field and class-based settings. In addition, vulture and shore bird identification and monitoring techniques were introduced to inspire the students' interest in Oman's biodiversity.



All of these initiatives were funded by the **US Fish and Wildlife Service** (Marine Turtle Conservation Fund).

Net Collection and Recycling Initiative

Abandoned, lost, or discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) poses a threat to marine ecosystems worldwide and is of increasing concern due to its many negative ecological, economic, and social impacts. Left unaddressed, ALDFG may continue to entangle marine life (ghost fishing), while also degrading coastal and benthic environments. The impacts of ALDFG can be particularly observed in marine turtles, where both nesting adults and hatchlings are entangled in abandoned nets both on land and below water. In addition to land-based clean-up initiatives, targeted community awareness raising efforts are crucial to addressing the issue in the long-term. In 2022, ESO engaged with the **Environment Authority, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources, Wali of Masirah and Oman Fishermen Society** to introduce ESO's net collection and recycling project, and introduce the concepts of circular economy, sustainable fishing, and climate change. Fishermen incentive-based schemes to dispose of old and damaged nets were also explored.

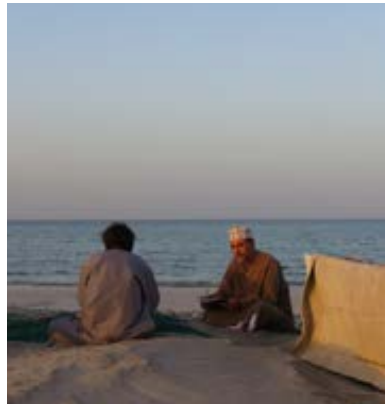
An animation was produced by **ESO and Brandmarks** to raise awareness about sustainable fishing and the threat of abandoned fishing gear to wildlife. It can be found on ESO's YouTube Channel (ESOMediaChannel), to watch visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eLceB1C3eU>. Through this initiative, ESO aims to tackle the issue of ALDFG, and hopes that it will empower waste collectors and fishermen to keep Oman's pristine coastlines net-free, while providing economic opportunities to small-to-medium enterprises.



Fishermen Incentive-based Scheme Questionnaire

In March 2022, ESO explored the local community's perspective and awareness on circular economy, sustainable fishing and climate change, on Masirah Island. Interviews took place with local fishermen to understand their awareness, thoughts, and concerns on these topics. Additional responses were collected with the help of the **Environment Authority** and **Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources**. The team found varying levels of awareness on the three key topics discussed, but 98% reported witnessing change in seasonal cycles and water conditions, indicating climate change impacts. Potential methods for improving Masirah's beaches were briefly explored.

The 'Net Collection and Recycling Initiative' and the 'fishermen Incentive-based Scheme Questionnaire' were funded by the **British Embassy's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)**.



Raptor Research and Conservation Outreach

One of the main focuses of ESO's Raptor Research and Conservation Programme is raising community awareness on raptors, their critical ecosystem roles, the threats they face, and the importance of their conservation in Oman. As such, ESO continues to ensure active engagement with various members of the public. In 2022, ESO visited nine Wilayats in eight Governorates to deliver presentations on Oman's raptors, engaging with over 1,000 individuals. This included community members from eight **Wali offices**, four **Omani Women's Associations**, 16 government schools, and two international schools. The outreach campaign was coupled with the distribution of over 550 copies of the Raptors of Oman booklet, and regular awareness raising through ESO's social media platforms.

Many community members were also engaged with during Lappet-faced vulture breeding surveys in 2022, including **Environment Authority** rangers, local guides, and volunteers. Conversations were focused on sightings and experiences with Lappet-faced and Egyptian vultures, and our team introduced the project and work undertaken by ESO. Gifts were distributed to 50 rangers and volunteers in appreciation of their continued cooperation and effort on the project. The gifts included locally produced frankincense products in support of a small and medium enterprise in Dhofar.

Awareness videos on the globally endangered Lappet-faced vulture have also been produced. During the 2022 breeding surveys, a total of seven nests were monitored via wildlife camera traps, recording thousands of images and video clips on breeding activity. Following a review of the footage, a video was produced by ESO and **Pat McGrady Visuals**, sharing compelling insight into the life history of the species, and the threats they face. The footage can be found on ESO's YouTube Channel (ESOMediaChannel) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2qkQWTKDMKU>

In September, four captive Lappet-faced vultures confiscated by the **Environment Authority** for illegal capture and trade, were released back into the wild at Al Sareen Nature Reserve, and a video summarising this collaborative effort is currently being finalised. This campaign was funded by the **Disney Conservation Fund**.



Sinai agama (*Pseudotrapelus sinaitus*), Zakariya Al Maskari

Frankincense Research and Conservation Outreach

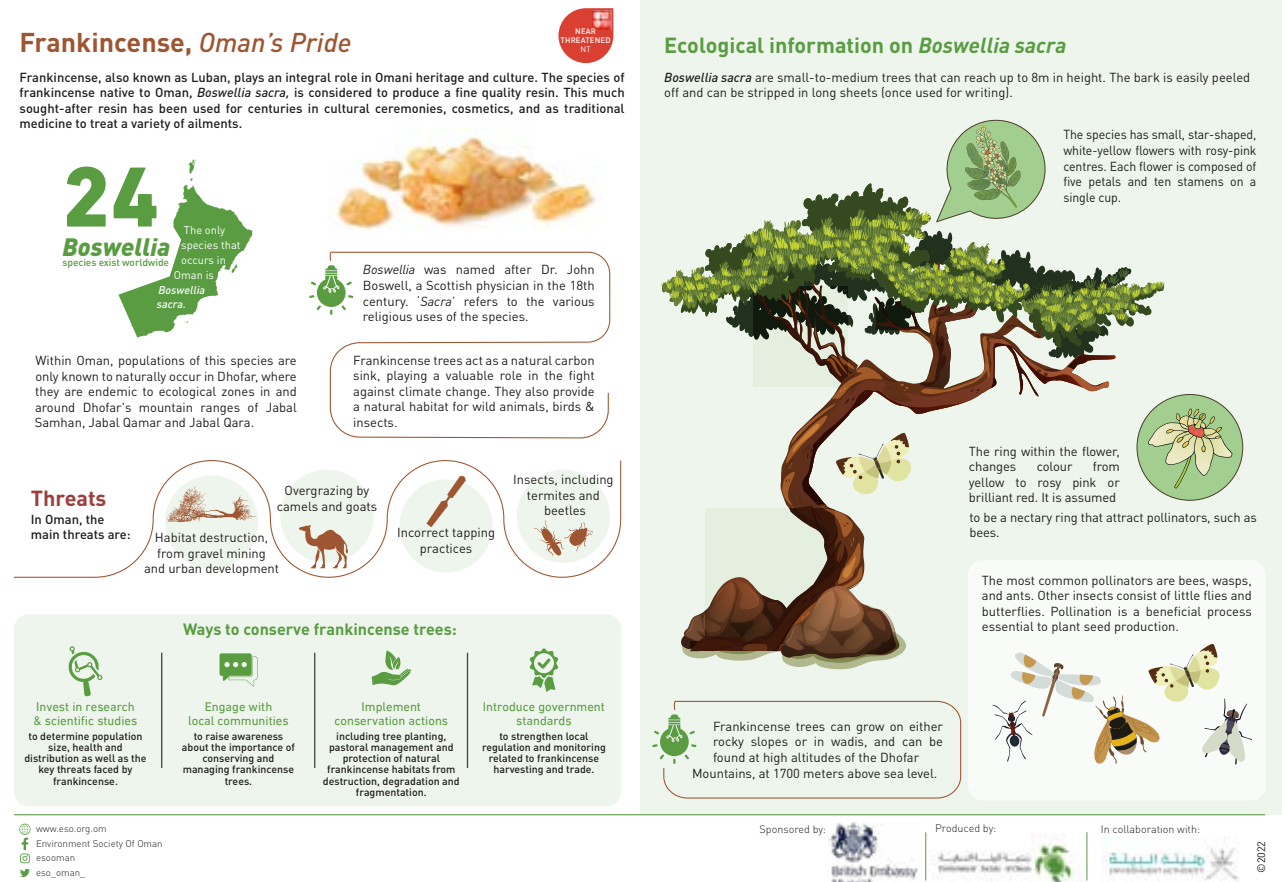


In 2022, our team engaged with several government entities and members of local communities in Dhofar to introduce ESO's new project, 'Rapid population assessment of frankincense trees in Oman (*Boswellia sacra*)'. Several government entities were engaged in February and March, including the **Environment Authority** offices in Muscat and Salalah, **Ministry of Education, Dhofar Municipality**, and staff of the **Wadi Dowkah Nature Reserve**. In addition, public consultations were conducted to ensure local community members were an active part of the project, such as Sheikhs, residents, and the **Omani Women's Association** in Salalah.

The team visited seven schools in Sadah and Mirbat to check on the *Boswellia sacra* seedlings that were distributed in 2019 and distribute additional copies of an infographic on the sustainable harvesting of frankincense, and a guideline on transplanting frankincense seedlings.

A structured interview questionnaire was disseminated amongst 51 community members, starting with individuals known to be involved in frankincense issues. The *snowball method* was used to identify further participants based on these first individuals. The questionnaire was intended to provide the team with an overview of the community's perspective and knowledge on frankincense trees. The results of the questionnaires will be included in an upcoming peer-reviewed frankincense publication.

In celebration of Oman Tree Day, ESO published an infographic celebrating our native Frankincense tree, *Boswellia sacra*. Produced in collaboration with the **Environment Authority**, the infographic highlights important information about *Boswellia sacra*, including ecological information, key threats and necessary conservation actions.



This campaign was funded by the **British Embassy's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)**.

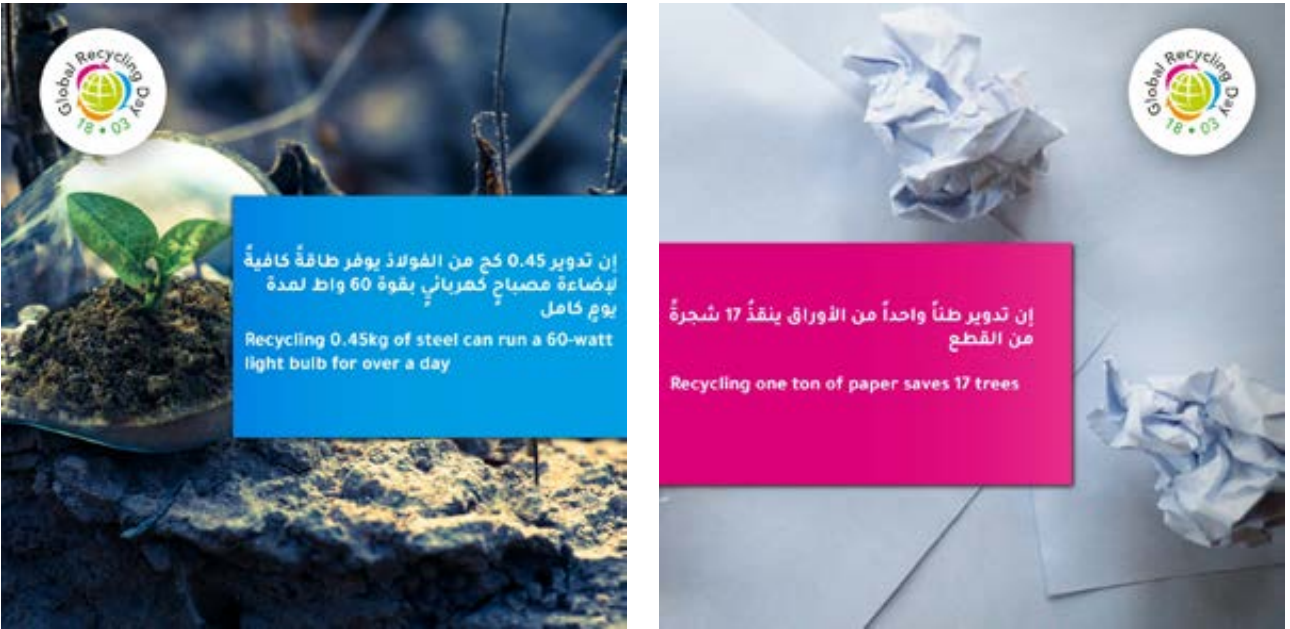
Oman Environment Day

Oman Environment Day is celebrated annually on January 8th as an opportunity to celebrate the incredibly diverse biodiversity found across Oman and the many organisations and initiatives committed to supporting its conservation. At ESO we celebrated by releasing a short animation created to raise awareness about Oman's diverse flora and fauna and challenged the public to adopt sustainable habits. We also invited communities across Muscat to come together to clean Oman's beaches. Over 40 volunteers cleared an estimated 728 kgs of litter. We were pleased to collaborate with the **Data Academy** who provided fun activities for the volunteers after the clean-up and **be'ah** who provided logistical support.



Global Recycling Day

To mark Global Recycling Day on March 18th, ESO collaborated with **Recycling Services LLC, Mazoon Dairy, Muscat Duty Free** and **Move Green** to deliver a social media campaign and various outreach events designed to raise awareness about the importance of recycling and encouraging the public to reuse materials and products.





Arabian oryx (*Oryx leucoryx*), ESO

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 has been pleased to support this worldwide movement since 2013. This year we celebrated with a social media campaign, posting daily challenges to encourage the adoption of more sustainable practices and an event bringing together our members, with support from **Salaam Space** and **Move Green** for a short hike, sunset yoga session and a waste-free picnic. It was fantastic to see how people and organisations from across Oman came together in solidarity for this global movement.



Earth Day

Earth Day, celebrated on April 22nd demonstrates support for environmental protection. First held in 1970, it now includes a wide range of events in more than 193 countries. This year, our members came together to raise awareness about the declining quality of our environment. Together we enjoyed a sunset kayak and waste-free picnic while exploring the changes we can all make in our own lives to support a more environmentally sustainable future. We would like to thank **Wave Summit** for supporting the event and our members who joined us.



World Ocean Day

To celebrate World Ocean's Day, ESO joined forces with **Oman Sail** and **DB Schenker Oman** to conduct an underwater clean-up at the Damaniyat Islands to remove approximately 200 kgs of abandoned fishing nets entangled in coral reefs. It is estimated that up to one million tons of fishing gear is abandoned in the ocean each year, killing up to 650,000 marine species.



Plastic Free July

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



Emergency Clean-up Response

We would like to thank the community for their incredible response to the environmental crisis presented by the spill of detergent packets at sea in June. It was devastating to see our beaches and seas so polluted, but inspiring to witness how the community came together in response. At ESO we organised a series of clean-up events, both on land and underwater, which received strong support. Special thanks to **SeaOman**, powered by **Oman Sail**, **Move Green** and the **Environment Authority** for their support.



World Clean-up Day

On September 18th, ESO members and volunteers came together to mark World Clean-up Day. 125 volunteers cleared an estimated 1,523 kgs 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 Muscat** for providing snacks, **FRIENDi** mobile for donating giveaways and **be'ah** for providing logistical support. Thank you to all the participants who showed up in support of World Clean-up Day and for helping keep our beaches clean.



Arab Environment Day

Arab Environment Day, celebrated on October 14th aims to raise awareness about the environmental challenges facing the region, and intensify Arab cooperation efforts in all aspects of the environment in our countries. To mark this day ESO partnered with **Muscat Hiking Team** to organize a special hike at Bandar Al Khairan to celebrate Oman's natural heritage.



Education Activities

Oman's youth are our most important environmental campaigners for a sustainable future. ESO delivers a range of educational initiatives that target schools, colleges and universities, aiming to raise environmental awareness and promote the adoption of more sustainable behaviors.

Namat Schools Competition

The Namat Schools Competition (Namat) 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**, the second round of Namat saw 274 schools register to participate representing all 11 governorates.

A panel of judges consisting of representatives from ESO, **Veolia**, and **Oman National Commission for Education, Culture, and Science** was formed to review 67 schools that submitted completed final reports. Eleven schools from seven governorates were short listed and visited to evaluate their projects.



Under the patronage of H.E. Dr. Abdullah bin Khamis Ambusaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education, an award ceremony was held on October 19th. Eight winning schools were announced representing six different governorates in Oman and received their prizes: OMR 1,000 for first place, OMR 500 for second place and OMR 300 for third place. The teams exceeded our expectations and worked diligently, with great enthusiasm and a commendable positive spirit in implementing their projects. We congratulate the winning schools below:



1ST **Al Qalaa School (Dakhliya)**
The "Water management is life" project saw the school install an underground water tank to collect gray water which was then used to irrigate all school plants, resulting in reduced water bills and less wasted water.

2ND **Al Fadil bin Al Abas School (South Al Batinah Governorate)**
The school implemented a project to re-use gray water for the purpose of irrigating two greenhouses. In addition to adopting an aquaponics system. The school has successfully produced organic cucumbers and lettuce which they sell to the community.



1ST **Lamees bint Amro Al Ansariyah School (North Al Sharqiyah)**
Students implemented a "Recycle it for it has life" project which contributed to a 500kg reduction of plastic and other waste in the school and surrounding community.

2ND **Al Sininah School (Al Buraimi)**
The "Together for the good of our environment" project reduced the amount of waste produced within the school focused specifically on reducing the use of plastic water bottles and paper printing.

3RD **Al Amal School (Muscat)**
The "My school produces compost" project aimed to create a school environment free of food waste, limiting the amount produced and producing organic fertilizer with unavoidable food waste.



1ST **Safiya Om Al Moamneen School (Dakhliya)**
The "Clean Garden" project saw students transform a school garden into an outdoor solar powered classroom with solar energy used to power tv screens, fans, lights, a projector and fans.

2ND **Omaia bint Qais School (North Al Batinah)**
The "My School is an Energy Source" project used hydropower from the water fountain to power the main lights outside the school and solar energy to power a small classroom and a greenhouse.

3RD **Qarn Al Alam School (Dakhliya)**
The "Qarn Al-Alam Lamps" project engaged both the school and local community encouraging them to adopt renewable power for lighting in schools, on the roads leading to the schools and within their livestock farms.



Black-winged stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*), Manal Al Kindi

Capacity Building Programme

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.

ESO has successfully trained 17 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 2022 the Capacity Building Programme was sponsored by **Veolia**, **Khimji Ramdas – Eshraqa**, **Renaissance Services SAOG**, and **Tawoos LLC**, with three Omanis being supported through the programme. 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 Conservation Outreach Coordinator in February 2021, where she has been involved in data processing, reporting and active engagement with local authorities. Rabab 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 completed online courses focusing on data management, citizen science projects, sustainable development, and large marine ecosystems assessment and management. Working with ESO has also allowed Rabab the opportunity to participate in various field programmes and training, including seabird identification and monitoring, vulture breeding and dumpsite surveys, marine turtle nesting biology, and cetacean research and conservation. In 2022, she participated in a ten-day shore bird identification and population monitoring training organised by Wetlands International in Barr Al Hikman.



Jawaher Al Ghafri

Jawaher Al Ghafri holds a Bachelor of Communication Studies from Sur College of Applied Sciences and joined ESO as Education Coordinator in 2016. She has subsequently taken over the leadership of our education programmes 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 success of the Green Schools Initiative launched in 2019, Jawaher continued to work with public schools across Oman through the Namat Competition in 2022 which challenged students to form teams and work towards minimizing their water, energy or waste footprint. Jawaher looks forward to continuing this competition next year as well as launching new initiatives that will engage international schools and the broader public.



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 programme, 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. 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.



Persian horned viper (*Pseudocerastes persicus*), Zakariya Al Maskari

Other Activities and Fundraisers



Emily's Garden - Grown Through ESO

Emily Jewitt's family and friends have joined forces with ESO and, in Emily's legacy, they supported ESO's Namat Schools Competition. Emily 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 and to all the ESO member's and volunteers who supported the Sunflower Run for 2022 that helped raise funds for our joint efforts to support environmental education in Oman.

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 various locations to highlight the importance of preserving Oman's natural beauty and marine life for future generations.



Muscat Marathon

We are grateful to **Sabco Sports** and the team from the **Al Mouj Muscat Marathon** for selecting ESO to be one of their charity partners for the 2022 Muscat Marathon. 10% of the proceeds from the 5 km charity run was donated to ESO to help us protect and conserve the environment in Oman for the next generation! Thank you for everyone who took part.

Oman Desert Marathon Charity Night Race

The **Oman Desert Marathon** team, together with over 30 ESO volunteers came together to organize a 5 km desert night race to raise funds to support ESO. Generous donations from **A'Saffa Foods SAOG**, **Desert Diamond Rose Coffee Solutions**, **Al Forn Café**, **Oasis Water**, **Muscat Pharmacy** and **Tunes** allowed 100% of the proceeds from the event to be donated to support the work of ESO. A special thank you to the 82 participants who braved the dunes with just their headtorches for light!



Date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*), Oman In Focus

Awards, Grants, Donations and In-Kind Support

ESO would like to give special thanks to all those who have helped us achieve our goals in 2022. Our donors, sponsors, grant agencies and those who have provided in kind support are listed below in alphabetical order:

- **Aahus Institute of Advanced Studies, African Aquatic Conservation Fund, Marina Bandar Al Rowdha, and the International Whaling Commission** for supporting our Marine Mammal Surveys
- **Animal Welfare Institute, Booma and Traccs** for supporting our 'Complementing Development with Conservation Workshop for the Arabian Sea humpback whales in Oman'
- **Ajit Khimji Group LLC** for free office space
- **Ali Al Rasbi, Arjun Unithan, Darryl McDonald, Dr Hamed Al Gheilani, Ghaniya Almajrafi, Manal Al Kindi, Nicholai Georgio, Oman In Focus, Omar Al Sheikhy, Othman Al Jabri, Paul Flandinette, Rabab Al Lawati, Waheed Al Farzi and Zakariya Al Maskar** for allowing us to use their beautiful images throughout 2022
- **Alila Jebel Akhdar** for guest donations
- **Anglo Omani Society, Hawkwatch International** for supporting our Raptor Conservation Programme
- **Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar Resort** for guest donations
- **Bank Dhofar** for allowing their customers to donate to ESO via their mobile banking app
- **be'ah, Data Academy, FRENDI mobile, Intercontinental, Move Green, Muscat Hiking Team, Salaam Space and Wave Summit** for supporting our 2022 membership events
- **Brandmarks** for designing our annual report and quarterly newsletters
- **British Embassy's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)** for funding our Masirah Island Net Collection initiative and our Population Assessment of Frankincense Trees in Oman
- **Clyde and Co.** for legal advice
- **Conservation Science Global** for funding our surveys to support the Illegal Trafficking of Birds in the Middle East project
- **DB Schenker Oman and Oman Sail** for collaborating with ESO to conduct underwater clean-ups at the Damaniyat Islands for World Ocean Day
- **Diamond Developers, OMRAN and the Sustainable City, Yiti**, for collaborating with us to deliver our 2022 World Clean-up Day event
- **Disney Conservation Fund** for funding 'Chasing Oman's Endangered Vulture Populations' project
- **Emily's Garden and the Sunflower Run** for continuing to raise funds to support the Namat Schools Competition
- **Ernst and Young** for auditing services
- **Environment Authority** for supporting all our conservation projects
- **Europcar** for donating vehicles to support our field work
- **Marine Turtle Conservation Fund – US Fish and Wildlife Service and Ocean Ecology Network**, for funding the Turtle Research and Conservation Project
- **Mendel University** for supporting our Population Assessment of Frankincense Trees in Oman project
- **Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources** for supporting our conservation projects
- **HSBC Oman** for sponsoring two programmes dedicated to the conservation of the Arabian Sea humpback whale
- **Hud Hud Travel** for guest donations
- **IMTAC** for donating computers to support our operations
- **Khimji Ramdas – Eshraqa** for sponsoring the ESO Capacity Building Programme
- **Mazoon Dairy, Move Green, Muscat Duty Free and Recycling Services LLC** for supporting our 2022 Global Recycling Day campaign
- **Oman Arab Bank** for allowing customers to donate to ESO via their mobile banking app
- **Oman Desert Marathon** for organizing a dedicated charity race to raise funds for ESO supported by donations from **A'Saffa Foods SAOG, Desert Diamond Rose Coffee Solutions, Al Forn Café, Oasis Water, Muscat Pharmacy and Tunes**
- **Oman National Commission for Education, Culture, and Science** for joining our judging panel for the Namat Schools Competition
- **Omantel** for supporting donations to ESO from their customers via app and SMS
- **Pat McGrady Visuals** for producing a video about Lappet-faced vultures in Oman
- **Panorama Travel** for guest donations
- **PDO's EcOman Centre** for hosting our monthly membership lectures
- **Renaissance Services SAOG** for sponsoring the ESO Capacity Building Programme
- **Royal Air Force of Oman and Sultan Qaboos University** for supporting our Turtle Conservation and Frankincense Conservation projects
- **Sabco Sports** and the team from the **Al Mouj Muscat Marathon** for raising funds to support ESO
- **Sacra Soap & Body** for donating products to support our fundraising efforts
- **Sharef & Co.** for supporting the development of ESO's strategy
- **Talabat** for allowing their customers to donate to ESO via their food delivery app
- **Tawoos LLC** for sponsoring the ESO Capacity Building Programme
- **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 Programme
- **TRACCS Oman** for media and public relations support throughout the year
- **UMS** for website hosting support
- **Veolia Oman** for sponsoring the ESO Capacity Building Programme and the Namat Schools Competition
- **Wali of Masirah and be'ah** for supporting our Masirah Island Net Collection initiative
- **Waterfront & Marina Services SAOC** for free berthing of the ESO boat
- **Wetlands International and the Environment Authority** for providing bird monitoring training course



Potter wasp (*Delta esuriens*), Ghaniya Almajrafi

Tourism Donation Programme

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 and Lappet-faced 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 programme and are grateful to the following hotels and tour operators who give their guests the opportunity to donate to ESO.



Local and International Highlights

Wetlands International Bird Monitoring Training Course, January 2022

ESO's Rabab Al Lawati attended a bird monitoring training course organized by **Wetlands International**, in collaboration with the **Environment Authority**. The ten-day training took place in Barr Al Hikman, one of the largest and most important wetlands in the region that provides critical resources for over half a million migratory shorebirds every year. The immediate goal of the course was to build capacity for the conservation and management of waterbirds and their habitats in Oman, and covered aspects of shorebird identification and ringing, population monitoring and exploring the habitat and resource availability for shorebirds. The team was also honoured by a visit from the **HE Dutch Ambassador in Oman**, who participated in a clean-up initiative on the coasts of Barr Al Hikman.



International Day for Biological Diversity, May 2022



To celebrate International Day for Biological Diversity, the **Environment Authority** hosted an event honouring Oman's rich biodiversity. The event included presentations about the importance of wildlife in Oman, celebrations for the launch of a publication titled "Whales and Dolphins in Oman's Marine Environment" by Engineer Aida Al Jabri, and an award ceremony highlighting the work of individuals and organizations committed to protecting Oman's biodiversity. ESO was proud to receive an award in recognition of our contributions to conserving Oman's natural heritage.

Sea Turtle Conservation National Action Plan, December 2022

ESO participated in a two-day workshop organised by the **Environment Authority** on a National Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Turtles. The meeting was held with a team of experts and was attended by both local and international representatives. ESO presented its efforts in sea turtle conservation since 2008, and other speakers presented on tourism, lighting pollution, and fisheries, and sea turtle conservation.



Conferences, Lectures and Workshops

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 2022:

- Birdlife Middle East International Killing of Birds Webinar, Birdlife Middle East; Online
- ISTS Light Pollution Workshop, International Sea Turtle Symposium; Online
- "Whales and Dolphins of Oman's Marine Environment" Book Launching Event, International Biodiversity Day 2022, Environment Authority; Muscat
- Measuring Progress Towards Effective MPAs – Indicators and Tools (OCTO), Open Communications for the Ocean and National Marine Protected Areas Centre; Online
- Mangroves and Coastlines, UNESCO Cairo; Online
- Multi-taxa Bycatch Mitigation Workshop, Indian Ocean Tuna Commission; Online
- Red List Assessment of Reptiles and Amphibians, Environment Authority, and IUCN; Online
- National Red List Website: How to Use it and Share Your National Red List Data, Reverse the Red; Online
- IUCN West Asia Regional Webinar on Nature-Based Solutions, IUCN West Asia; Online
- Nature-based Solutions in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, IUCN; Online
- Resource mobilization for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, IUCN; Online
- West Asia Regional Webinar on Nature-Based Solutions, IUCN ROWA; Online
- Egyptian Vulture Online Conference 2022, Egyptian Vulture New LIFE Project; Online
- Sea Turtle Conservation National Action Plan, Environment Authority; Muscat
- Workshop on NGOs opinion poll on laws and regulation for collecting donation from the public, Ministry of Social development; Muscat
- Green School Committee, Ministry of Education; Muscat
- Implementation of the 4th SDG "Education 2030" follow up Committee, Ministry of Education; Muscat
- How does digital media affect human-nature relationships and impact conservation? Society for Conservation Biology, Conservation Marketing Working Group; Online
- Discovering Diverse Pathway to Change Behaviours for Conservation, State of the World Sea Turtles (SWOT), Teach Beach Webinars; Online
- Speaking Truth to Plastics: A Tipping Point from Awareness to Action, State of the World Sea Turtles (SWOT), Teach Beach Webinars; Online
- World Wildlife Day, Environment Authority; Muscat

ESO Public Lectures and Membership Events

January	Lecture: Barr Al Hikman - A study of marine intertidal ecosystem food webs using isotopes, delivered by Mr Ibrahim Al Zakwani Membership Event: Oman Environment Day - Beach clean-up
February	Lecture: Secret Seas - The journey to produce Oman's first underwater photo book, delivered by Paul Flandinette and Dr Michel Claereboudt
March	Membership Event: Earth Hour 2022 – Sunset yoga and a zero-waste picnic
April	Lecture: The status of the Critically Endangered Arabian leopard in Dhofar, delivered by Dr Hadi Al Hikmani Membership Event: Earth Day – Evening kayaking and sunset zero-waste iftar
May	Lecture: ESO Family Lecture - Turtles in Oman, delivered by Rabab Al Lawati
June	Lecture: Development and Conservation - Finding Solutions for Masirah's Turtles, delivered by Dr Andrew Willson Membership Event: Emily's Garden Sunflower Run 2022
July	Lecture: How Carbon Removal Technologies can help us fight Climate Change, delivered by Mr Talal Hasan Membership Event: Plastic Free July movie screening – A Plastic Ocean
August	Lecture: The Evolution of Size in Whale Sharks, delivered by Dr Mike Meekan
September	Lecture: Progress in the Conservation of African Vultures, delivered by Andre Botha Lecture: Community involvement in long-term Nature Conservation, a trip from South America to Oman, delivered by Dr Erika Cuellar Soto Membership Event: World Cleanup Day – Beach clean-up
October	Lecture: Women: The Key to our Climate Future, delivered by Ms Rumaitha Al Busaidi Membership Event: Arab Environment Day – Bandar Al Khairan hike
November	Lecture: Is Carbon Neutrality in Oman by 2050 Achievable? delivered by Dr Yassine Charabi
December	Lecture: Building capacity to study and protect endangered cetaceans: A personal journey from Oman to Malaysia, Gabon and back again, delivered by Dr Gianna Minton Membership Event: International Volunteer Day – Beach clean-up



Little owl (*Athene noctua*), Zakariya Al Maskari

Membership

Membership Benefits

We are proud that in 2022 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



Ayana Spa

Oman's first organic, green spa, inspired by nature, using only premium organic products that are safe for the body and the environment. Members can select from a choice of luxurious treatments from around the world to rejuvenate and beautify.

2nd Floor Al Sarooj Plaza, Muscat
Telephone: 2469 3435
email: info@ayanaspa.com
website: www.ayanaspa.com

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- 10% on facial services, hair services and massage services
- 10% - 20% on body waxing packages, massage and spa treatment packages and manicure & pedicure package
- Discount is applicable Sun -Thurs on services above RO 16



Me Time Ladies Salon

Me Time Salon is a project by Bint Al Jabry Trading. Our Salon is located in Al Khuwair with experienced staff who will ensure your needs are met. Our services include all beauty treatment from hair styling to spa treatments. Offer extends to member's +1. A member who comes in with a partner can enjoy the discounts in Me Time Ladies Salon or Me Time Men's Salon.

Booking Tel:
Naji (Hair Stylist) 95238483
Mimi (Beauty Expert) 94061217

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- 10% off any hair and facial services
- 20% off products
- 20 RO for 1 hour body massage
- 10 RO for 1 hour back and shoulders
- 10 RO for manicure & pedicure



Me Time Men's Salon

Me Time Salon is a project by Bint Al Jabry Trading. Our Salon is located in Al Khuwair with experienced staff who will ensure your needs are met.

Offer extends to member's +1. A member who comes in with a partner can enjoy the discounts in Me Time Ladies Salon or Me Time Men's Salon

Booking Tel: Iheb Kahloun (Hair Stylist) 79094423

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- 10% off any hair treatments and style, any face waxing, any henna tattoo art
- 10% off 1 hour head & Shoulders massage
- 15 RO only for hair protein and straightener
- Discount is applicable to all above services plus any others including service type. Discount not applicable a week before Eid or on offer packages

Veterinary



Capital Veterinary Centre

Capital Veterinary Centre LLC "CVC" provides the highest level of veterinary care available in Oman. Services include, early-age neutering, ophthalmic surgery, orthopaedic surgery, dental and scaling and other dental procedures, x-rays, precaution vaccinations along with treatments of various illnesses and diseases. Additional services include pet grooming services accommodating pets whilst their owners are travelling. For more information visit www.vetoman.com, or call +968 24577551

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- On purchase of one eligible grooming service receive the second service of equal or lower value free.
- On purchase of one day boarding service, receive the second boarding day free.
- On purchase of one doctor consultation receive the second consultation free.
- 15% off dental and scaling under sedation, dog spay or castration (neutering) operation, DHPPL vaccine for dogs and Tricat vaccine for cats
- 20% off rabies vaccine for cats and dogs
- 25% off for stray animals for any service
- 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 or contact us on info@muscatvets.com. MSQ Hospital 2460 7735 or Azaiba Clinic 2412 1173.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- 10% discount on vaccinations, routine consultations and neutering
- Discount valid in both branches (Al Azaiba and MSQ)

Hotels & Resorts



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

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.

Contact: Bassam Al Jabri 9747 1484
Instagram: @wave_summit

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- 20% discount for ESO members up to 5 times per person on any 2-hour programme
- Offer valid during weekdays only, from Sunday to Thursday
- Members must 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. 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

europcar.com for renting the car in Middle East & Europe. ESO members can call Waseem on +968 97867424 or email on sales@europcaroman.net to avail of this offer.



Salaam Space

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.

Instagram:
[@salaamspacenyoga](https://www.instagram.com/salaamspacenyoga)

TERMS & CONDITIONS

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

Restaurant & Cafés



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. 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.

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



7 sisters Café

7 Sisters Cafe is cozy and home like environment café..

Contact: 94910504
Facebook: 7Sisters Café Instagram: @seven.sisters.cafe

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- 10% off on any food and beverage
- Offer not applicable on discounts, promotions or pre-set package

Corporate Membership

ESO is grateful for the support of all our Corporate Members

- Ajit Khimji Group LLC
- Al Bustan Palace Hotel
- Bank Muscat
- Barka Desalination Company
- Central Bank of Oman
- CMS
- Engie
- Ernst & Young
- Khimji Ramdas – Eshraqa
- National Finance
- National Trading Company
- Nestle
- OCTAL
- Oman Arab Bank
- Oman Cables
- Oman Sail
- Omantel
- OMINVEST
- OMRAN
- OQ
- OQ8
- Petrofac
- Port of Duqm
- Sabco Group
- Sohar Aluminium
- STRABAG Oman LLC
- Tawoos LLC
- Tethys Oil
- 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

- Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies
- African Aquatic Mammal Network
- Anglo-Omani Society
- Arabian Sea Whale Network
- BirdLife Middle East
- Circular Together
- Clear Blue Photo
- 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)
- Endangered Wildlife Trust
- Equinoccio
- European Environmental Bureau
- European Union
- Fair Source Botanicals LLC
- Fundación Cethus
- Future Seas Global SPC
- Global Frankincense Alliance
- HawkWatch International
- International Avian Research
- International Seafood Sustainability Foundation
- International Union for the Conservation of Nature – Regional Office for West Asia
- International Whaling Commission
- IUCN SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group
- IUCN SSC Vulture Specialist Group
- Megaptera Marine Conservation
- Mendel University in Brno
- National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration - South West Fisheries and Science Centre
- Ocean Ecology Network
- Oceanswell
- Ornithological Society of the Middle East
- Pacific Whale Foundation
- United Nations Environment Programme
- University of Exeter, Centre for Ecology and Conservation
- Wageningen University and Research
- Wetlands International
- Wild Me
- Wildbook
- Wildlife Conservation Society
- World Shipping Council
- WWF-Pakistan



Petiolate wasp (*Prionyx* sp.), Ghaniya Almajrafi

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 2022 - 2024 for their voluntary commitment and dedication over this current term.

The Environment Authority, the former Office for Conservation of the Environment – Diwan of Royal Court, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources, the Ministry of Education, 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. Ernst & Young and Clyde & Co who provide in kind auditing and legal services. Sharef & Co for their in-kind support with the development of ESO's strategy. Europcar who provide staff vehicles for our field work and Waterfront & Marina Services SAOC who provide ESO with free berthing for the ESO boat.

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 must also acknowledge the dedication of our staff who are the backbone of the Society and its work.

Finally, a special note of thanks to Sayyida Tania Al Said, one of our founding members and our President since 2004. Sayyida Tania's tireless encouragement and support has been instrumental to all that ESO has achieved in the last 18 years. Her personal commitment to environmental conservation in Oman will continue to inspire us. Thank you for all you have done for ESO, for Oman and for environmental conservation globally.

Volunteer Acknowledgements

Volunteers are a very important part of ESO's work, strengthening our organization's ability to deliver our mission to protect Oman's environment and wildlife. In particular, we would like to thank:

Hani Thabet and **Lamees Daar**, for their dedication and support in the design and production of ESO's 2022 Annual Report.

Mohammed Al Ismaili, **Mohammed Al Kharusi**, **Shaima Al Ghafri** and **Shifa Al Kiyumi**, for volunteering their time to support our 2022 membership events.

Zuhair Al Farsi and **Ibrahim Al Shamsi** from The Omani National Commission for Education, Culture and Science and ESO volunteers, **Hawa Al Shraiqi**, **Ibrahim Al Shidhani** and **Sulaiman Al Rahbi** for giving up their time to support our Namat School Competition.

Kawther Al Harassi and **Salma Al Hanai** both interned with ESO to support our Frankincense Conservation Programme. The interns helped with compiling, recording, translating and summarising information on frankincense in Oman. This included information on frankincense harvesting, management, existing legislation, trade, and conservation, among other topics.

Faisal Al Lamki for supporting the Raptors Research and Conservation Programme.

Mahmood Al Farsi, for allowing us to borrow a large crate to transport lappet-faced vultures for their release, and **Othman Al Jabri**, for his time and effort in filming and producing a video on this effort.

Environment Authority rangers and staff for supporting the 'Chasing Oman's Endangered Vulture Populations' project, including but not limited to: **Said Al Qanoobi**, **Amor Al Wahibi**, **Jumail Al Wahibi**, **Saif Al Naabi**, **Salim Al Naabi**, **Yahya Al Naabi**, **Hamdoon Al Naabi**, **Khalid Al Naabi**, **Hamed Al Naabi**, **Saif Al Balushi**, **Mohammed Al Balushi**, **Talib Al Khatri**, **Yousuf Al Hussein**, **Khalaf Al Abri**, **Salim Al Mashrafi**, **Thabit Al Mashrafi**, **Sanad Al Mashrafi**, **Khalfan Al Sunaidi**, **Hamed Al Hashmi**, **Azzan Al Ghusaini**, **Saif Al Rahbi**, **Abdulsalam Al Rahbi**, **Khalfan Al Niri**, **Haitham Al Rawahi**, **Mazin Al Kuthairi**, **Nasser Jdad**, **Mohamed Jdad**, **Musallam Jdad** and **Ghanim Jdad**.

The following volunteers for supporting the 'Chasing Oman's Endangered Vulture Populations' project: **Ahmed Al Wahibi**, **Khalfan Al Naabi**, **Said Al Naabi**, **Sulaiman Al Naabi**, **Said Al Balushi**, **Saoud Al Hashmi**, **Saleh Al Rahbi**, **Yahya Al Rahbi**, **Nasser Al Rawahi**, **Malik Al Rawahi**, **Sulaiman Al Rashdi**, **Omar Al Hatmi**, **Nasser Al Hatmi**, **Abdullah Al Hatmi**, **Hussain Al Hatmi**, **Hilal Al Hatmi**, **Amjad Al Badi**, **Suhail Said**, **Salm Al Aamri**, **Salim Al Aamri**, **Khalid Al Mashari**, **Atef Tohamy**, **Fadhil Al Subhi**, **Musab Al Subhi**, **Hussain Al Siyabi**, **Suhaib Al Alawai** and **Hussain Al Ghedani**

Kawther Al-Harrasi and **Sulaiman Al Rahbi**, for giving up their time to support our Vultures in Oman workshop.

Sulaiman Al Rahbi for volunteering his time to support the 'Arabian Sea Humpback Whale Conservation Management Plan' Conservation workshop.

The following entities and volunteers for actively supporting ESO's work and the 2022 Masirah net clean-up campaign: **HE Wali of Masirah**, **South Sharqiyah and Masirah Municipality**, **Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources**, **be'ah and EcoVision team members**, including **Ahmed Al Wahibi** and **Juma Al Farsi**, **Nasser Fayl Khadim Al Saadi**, **Rayamallu Salkam**, **Krishnam Raju Mangam**, **Kailasham Mushikam** and **Gangadhar Edapu**.

Aisha Al Ghalabi and **Jenan Al Asfoor**, diving volunteers, for joining our underwater clean up to remove abandoned fishing nets from the coral at the Dimaniyat Islands.

Arwa Al Batashi, **Shurooq Al Boreiki**, **Jamana Al Buloshi**, **Yousif Al Busaidi**, **Abdulla Al Dhahli**, **Yaqeen Al Farqani**, **Said Al Hajri**, **Almundher Al Hajri**, **Mohammed Al Hajri**, **Ahmed Al Hajri**, **Said Al Hajri**, **Hamdan Al Hajri**, **Ghasan Al Hajri**, **Abdul Rahman Al Hajri**, **Yaqdhan Al Hajri**, **Tasneem Al Harrasi**, **Aisha Al Hashmi**, **Juhaina Al Hosni**, **Alya Al Jabri**, **Shauq Almabsali**, **Waheed Al Maharbi**, **Haitham Al Mayahi**, **Wafaa Al Moqbali**, **Khalid Al Mujaini**, **Nafra Al Qannubi**, **Zahwa Al Qannubi**, **Ahmed Alrahbi**, **Abdul Rahmn Al Rahbi**, **Haithan Al Salhi**, **Nabil Al Shidi**, **Hiba Al Shukaili**, **Hana Al Zakwani** and **Abdulraheem IAI Zadjali** who all supported the delivery of the Oman Desert Marathon Charity Night Race organized to help raise funds for ESO.

Thank you to those volunteers who may not be mentioned and have helped ESO in any way in 2022.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer at ESO, please email us on admin@eso.org.om.



Ghost crab (*Ocypode* sp.), Bram Ubels



