



# Environment Society of Oman

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

West Asia Regional Consultative Meeting

22 October 2023



# Vision & Mission

## Our Vision

To play a leading role in the conservation of Oman's natural heritage.

## Our Mission

To protect and conserve Oman's natural environment and influence environmentally sustainable behaviour, through education, awareness and conservation.

## Supporting

**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS**





# ESO Overview

## Research and Conservation



## Capacity Building



## Outreach and Awareness



## Fundraising Events



## Education



# ESO Year in Numbers

## إحصاءاتنا لعام ٢٠٢٢

45

فرصة للتعاون مع المنظمات الدولية

29

عضواً من الشركات

12

من فعاليات التوعية المجتمعية

8

فعاليات للأعضاء

4

فنادق و 4 شركات سياحية في برنامج التبرعات

70

طنناً من الحطام البحري تمت إزالتها من على شواطئ تعشيش السلاخف

1

مسوحات الحيتان

29,715

متابع على وسائل التواصل الاجتماعي

9

عمليات إنقاذ للسلاخف الريماني

30

أسبوعاً من مسوحات السلاخف البحرية

30

يوماً من العمل الميداني لمسوحات النسور الآذنة حول التكاثر في 10 ولايات ضمن محافظات

6



30

زيارة من أعشاش النسور الآذنة وتثبيت 7 كاميرات الفخية في أعشاش

5

إنتاج من محتويات التوعية عن صون البيئة

9

تثبيت أجهزة التتبع والحلقات على نسور آذنة

550

نسخة من كتب الطيور الجارحة في عُمان

43

محاضرة توعية عن الطيور الجارحة في عُمان وأكثر من 1,000 مشارك في التوعية المجتمعية

4

مدارس حكومية ومشاركة أكثر من 160

160

طالباً في محاضرات التوعية للسلاخف البحرية

133

عضواً من الأفراد

274

تسجيل مدرسة في مسابقة نمط للمدارس الحكومية من 11 محافظة و 8 مدارس فائزة

2

تقديم ورش عمل وطنية للصون

## Our Year 2022 in Numbers

45

Collaborations with international organisations

29

Corporate members

12

Community lectures

8

Membership events

4

Hotels and tour operators part of the donation programme

70

tons of marine debris removed from turtle nesting beaches

29,715+

Followers on social media

1

Cetacean survey

9

Operations for Loggerhead turtles rescued

30

Weeks of sea turtle survey work



9

Loggerhead turtles rescued

30

Lappet-faced vulture nests identified and 7 monitored via camera traps

30

Field days of Lappet-faced vulture breeding surveys across

10 Wilayats and 6 Governorates

5

Conservation awareness materials produced

9

Lappet-faced vultures ringed and fitted with satellite tags

550+

Copies of the Raptors of Oman booklet distributed

43

'Raptors of Oman' presentations delivered and 1,000+ individuals engaged in raptor outreach

4

Government schools and 160+ students engaged in marine turtle outreach

274

Schools registered in the Namat Competition representing 11 Governates with 8 winning schools

2

National conservation workshops delivered

133

Individual members



# Research & Conservation

## Marine Conservation Projects



## Terrestrial Conservation Projects





# Turtle Research & Conservation

- Funded by **US Fish and Wildlife Services** and in partnership with **Environment Authority**, research to support sea turtles has been ongoing on Masirah Island for 14 years since 2008.
- Dramatic decline in loggerhead turtles nesting on Masirah led to IUCN red listing of Critically Endangered in 2015. Nesting surveys continue to understand long-term population trend.

## Threat Mitigation Initiatives

- Lighting Pollution Solutions Project
- Fishing Net Collection and Recycling
- Support EA in delivering a **National Action Plan** for the Conservation of Marine Turtles.





# Whale & Dolphin Research & Conservation

- Programme initiated in 2011 and continues in partnership with the **Environment Authority** and the **Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources**.
- Ongoing surveys to assess health and population status of the Arabian Sea humpback whale (ASWH) which is endangered and isolated to the Arabian Sea area.

## Capacity Building for Cetacean Research and Conservation

- Funded by **HSBC Oman** to enhance capacity of Omanis in cetacean conservation biology and communication.
- 4 Omani candidates from EA, ESO and Future Seas participated.
- **Conservation Management Plan Workshop (CMP)** for Arabian Sea humpback whale took place in 2 day workshop to address threats (ex. Shipping, noise pollution, entanglement...) and identify conservation priorities.





# Raptor Research & Conservation

- Research initiated in 2012 showing Oman to be a stronghold for Egyptian and Lappet-faced vultures, with Masirah Island hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest density of breeding Egyptian vultures in the world.
- With support from the **Disney Conservation Fund**, ESO continued endangered Lappet-faced vulture surveys in collaboration with the **Environment Authority** and **International Avian Research** to understand breeding, movement and survivorship.
- Lappet-faced vulture field work including; surveys, satellite tracking and setting camera traps.
- **Vulture Conservation Workshop** in coordination with **Environment Authority** hosted, attended by 74 participants discussing global significance of vultures, overview of threats (ex. poisoning, collision, food availability) to facilitate development of a **Raptor Conservation Management Plan**.







# Frankincense Research & Conservation



- Luban has significant culture, heritage and medicinal value. Research initiated in 2010 to ensure health and stability of frankincense tree populations and promote sustainable practices in Dhofar.
- Rapid survey completed in 2022 through funding from the **British Embassy** in collaboration with the **Environment Authority** (in collaboration with Wageningen University, Fair Source Botanicals and Mendel University in Brno) to update distribution and population status and assess threats.
- Population is stable but intensifying pressures are concerning including insect infestations, camel grazing and increased harvesting.
- **Shell Oman** funding secured to continue detailed research in key areas (population distribution and health assessment).



# ESO Resources

## Frankincense

**معلومات بيئية عن Boswellia sacra**

أشجار البخور (Boswellia sacra) من أشجار صبارية من فصيلة صبارية من رتبة البخوريات. تنمو في المناطق الجبلية العالية في عمان، وخاصة في جبال الحجر، حيث تنمو على ارتفاعات تتراوح بين 1000 و 2000 متر. تتميز بأوراقها الخضراء الداكنة وثمارها الصغيرة التي تنتج راتنج البخور.

**أشجار البخور، فخر عُمان**

يشتهر البخور بكونه من عادات وطقف الحضارة العريقة التي تعود إلى آلاف السنين. يعتبر البخور من أهم الصادرات الطبيعية التي من الأراضي العمانية، وهو من أهم الصادرات الطبيعية التي من الأراضي العمانية.

**24 Boswellia**

يتمتع البخور بأهمية كبيرة في الثقافة العمانية، حيث يستخدم في الطقوس الدينية والعادات الاجتماعية. كما أنه له قيمة اقتصادية عالية، حيث يتم تصديره إلى مختلف دول العالم.

**التهديدات في عمان:**

- التغير المناخي
- التوسع العمراني
- التلوث البيئي
- الصيد الجائر

**إجراءات صون أشجار البخور:**

- تنفيذ برامج التوعية
- إجراء دراسات علمية
- تنفيذ برامج التربية
- تنفيذ برامج التوعية

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- تنفيذ برامج التربية
- تنفيذ برامج التوعية

Available for free download on the ESO website (Arabic & English): [www.eso.org.om](http://www.eso.org.om) → 'Resources'

## Marine Mammals

**MARINE MAMMAL ATLAS OF OMAN**

VERSION: 1.0

SUPPORTED BY:

SPONSORED BY:

PRODUCED BY:

COMMISSIONED BY:

**Guidelines for watching Whales & Dolphins in Oman**

Boats can disturb, stress or injure whales and dolphins. Please follow these simple guidelines:

**Approaching Whales & Dolphins**

- Slow down at 500 m and maintain a constant speed (c. 4 knots) & direction.
- Approach from side and slightly behind.
- Never chase, harass or overtake whales or dolphins.

**While Watching**

- If approached remain stationary until the whales or dolphins move away.
- Do not hang on the back, sit on, or swim with whales or dolphins.
- Limit viewing time to 30 minutes.

**Only 3 boats at a time - View from the same side**

**Maintain these distances!**

**When Leaving**

- Leave if signs of disturbance, sudden or prolonged dives, frequent change of direction or behaviour.
- Cautiously choose your moment to leave considering the proximity of the whales & dolphins.
- Leave slowly (c. 4 knots) until at least 100 m away.

## Raptors

**Raptors of Oman**

An Introductory Booklet

الطيور الجارحة في عُمان

كتيب تهيدي

**RESIDENT VULTURES OF OMAN**

**EGYPTIAN VULTURE**

**LAPPET-FACED VULTURE**

**MAIN THREATS IN OMAN**

**CONSERVATION TIPS**

## Marine Turtles & Ad Dimaniyyat Islands Nature Reserve

COMING SOON!



# THANK YOU

We would like to thank all of ESO supporters, individual members, corporate members, volunteers, interns and sponsors who support us in various ways and make ESO's activities possible.






# Find out More

 Esooman

 Environment Society Of Oman

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 ESOMediaChannel

 [www.eso.org.om](http://www.eso.org.om)

