



QATAR ENVIRONMENT DAY

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2024 | SHA'BAN 17, 1445 AH

Minister affirms Qatar's keenness to protect environment, biodiversity

HE the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie has underscored Qatar's keenness and interest in the environment, raising the awareness of all those who live on its lands on the positive practices towards environment, and pursuing the best environment protection methods and biodiversity conservation.

In remarks made on the Qatar's Environment Day, the minister said that this year's mantra 'Our Earth Our Legacy' confirms the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC)'s vision towards the close relationship between the environment and the cultural and civilisational legacy that spans the generations to come.

HE Dr al-Subaie pointed out that the Cabinet approval of the MoECC's proposal for the participation of the government entities in this celebration indicates the government's deep interest in the environment as a practical application of the Qatar National Vision 2030, which broadly sets environmental development as its fourth pillar to achieve balance between the environmental, economic, social and human development and ensure a sustainable future for the nation.

He said that one of the most consequential projects of the MoECC is to establish the biodiversity database in Qatar in partnership with the UN Environment Programme's West Asia Office, alongside the UK-based World Conservation Monitoring Centre (international partner).

The project is primarily aimed at establishing a sustainable database that safeguards biodiversity information, drafting environmental maps for the ecosystem to identify the critical sites of biodiversity in Qatar.

The project includes an electronic platform of the data related to biodiversity within the Qatar Digital Government Strategy 2023-2025.



HE the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie

HE Dr al-Subaie noted the participation of the MoECC in the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28), held in Dubai last year, during which the ministry proposed the establishment of the Global Dryland Alliance (GDA).

The GDA is one of the global mechanisms aimed at addressing climate change and achieving food security.

The minister said that the issue of climate change is not a purely local affair, but one that requires regional and global synergistic efforts to reduce green-

"The issue of climate change is not a purely local affair, but one that requires regional and global synergistic efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address the global environmental challenges"

house gas emissions and address the global environmental challenges.

HE Dr al-Subaie highlighted that the MoECC is poised to participate in the upcoming COP29 in Azerbaijan.

He said that Qatar's National Environment and Climate Change Strategy has determined five priorities, chiefly reducing greenhouse gas emissions, preserving biodiversity, providing sustainable management of water resources, adopting a circular economy to optimise economic flexibility, and ensuring optimal utilisation of natural resources. - QNA



The number of parks reached 113 in 2019, increasing to 144 parks in 2023, bringing an increase in the number of public parks to 27%. In addition, 15 new parks were launched in 2024

Qualitative leap in public parks, green spaces in Qatar

The Ministry of Municipality has said that qualitative leaps have been achieved in the number of public parks and green spaces in Qatar.

It stressed the importance of increasing the area of green space in various regions of the country through the establishment and development of public parks and gardens, planting trees, and launching national initiatives to plant 10mn trees.

In a statement on the occasion of the Qatar International Agricultural Exhibition 2024, the ministry explained in a statement that the goal of these initiatives is to improve the quality of life in cities, which contributed to all eight cities in Qatar

obtaining the title of healthy city from the World Health Organisation (WHO) as well as seven cities joining the Unesco Global Network of Learning Cities.

The ministry revealed several tree-planting initiatives in Qatar: during 2019-2022 it planted 1mn tree seedlings, while in the 10mn-tree initiative (2023/2030), it has planted 320,000 seedlings so far.

Regarding the number of public parks, squares and the Corniche, the number of parks reached 113 in 2019, increasing to 144 parks in 2023, bringing an increase in the number of public parks to 27%.

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Participants of the event.

Qatar's meadows among the most productive green environmental systems: expert

The Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences at the Qatar University (QU)'s College of Arts and Sciences marked Qatar Environment Day 2024 at the Convention Centre of Expo 2023 Doha under the slogan *Together to Preserve Qatar's Meadows*.

The celebration was attended by the Ministry of Municipality's Public Gardens Department director Mohamed al-Khouri, and senior officials, including the Expo 2023 Doha director-general, experts from the Ministry of Environment, and faculty members and students from the Department of Environmental Sciences.

The event was aimed at raising awareness about the Environment Day towards the ultimate goal of preserving Qatar's environment as a sustainable legacy. Acting Department of Environmental Sciences head Dr Mohamed al-Ghouthi said

that Qatar's meadows are among the most important natural components in Qatar. The meadows form wonderful green spaces that contribute to air purification and improving the quality of life.

They also provide an environment rich in biodiversity, making them home to many plants and animals, and are one of the most productive green environmental systems after the winter rains.

Dr al-Ghouthi noted that the meadows, which number 1,826, are spread throughout Qatar, covering 2.5% of the country's area.

He said that these meadows have different meanings and names, such as Rowdat Rashed, Rawdat Saeed, Rawdat Al Arnab, and Rawdat Al Faras.

"On Qatar Environment Day, we celebrate Qatar's meadows and their biodiversity, and how to make them a sustainable environment," Dr al-Ghouthi said, noting that Qatar has given great importance to environmental issues and conservation, making it one of the main axes of Qatar National Vision 2030.

Under Qatar National Vision 2030, projects for afforestation and rehabilitation of environmental systems are among its priorities as a pioneering step towards a sustainable Qatari environment.

Dr al-Ghouthi explained that the meadow is a type of low-lying terrain with various shapes and dimensions, where dense plant cover grows.

This, he said, in addition to the low level of the ground compared to its surroundings, allow it to receive water and wind-borne sediments which, when combined with rocky flowing water, results in a plant cover of foliage and medicinal plants,

along with perennial plants.

He also noted that Qatar's meadows face many challenges that threaten their sustainability.

The biggest of these challenges, Dr al-Ghouthi said, is urban expansion.

Urban expansion leads to a decrease in the area of gardens, affecting their biodiversity and their ability to perform their role, as well as overgrazing, which leads to the deterioration of vegetation cover in gardens, leading to soil erosion and increased risk of desertification.

He further stressed the importance of taking serious steps to ensure the sustainability of Qatar's meadows through strategic plans to protect them, raising awareness of their importance and preservation, encouraging scientific research in the field of meadows, in addition to involving the community in efforts to protect the gardens.

Dr Hayel Mohamed al-Wawi, wild plant expert at the MoECC, reviewed the most important wild plants in Qatar's meadows.

He said that meadows in Qatar are home to a diverse number of flowering plants of different colours that enhance the appearance of those places.

Dr al-Wawi said that there are 450 species of plants there, according to the latest statistics, some of which are endangered.

He pointed out that some of these plants have medical and health benefits.

The Qatar Environment Day 2024 celebration at the Convention Centre of Expo 2023 Doha included a workshop on colouring plants and components of the Qatari environment, in which students from Al Nahda Primary School for Girls participated.



A section of the audience.



Students from Al Nahda Primary School for Girls.

Qualitative leap in number of public parks and green spaces

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In addition, 15 new parks were launched in 2024.

As for the development of green spaces in the country, their expansion reached about 4.4sq km in 2019, rising to 16.8sq km in 2023, bringing the total green spaces, in co-operation with all the country's authorities, to 43sq km.

Regarding the per capita share of green space, it was as follows: 1.64sq m in 2019, and 5.8sq m in 2023, bringing the per capita share, in co-operation with other bodies, to 14.7sq m.

The rate of increase in the use of treated water to irrigate green spaces was 36% in 2019 and 75% in 2023, an increasing rate of 39%.

In terms of the production and distribution of various agricultural seedlings, the numbers were as follows: in 2019, 1,570,320 seedlings were produced and 782,834 seedlings were distributed, while in 2023, the number of seedlings produced reached 2,100,823 and 1,465,459 seedlings were distributed, bringing the rate of increase in production to 34% and the rate of increase in distribution to 87%. - QNA





Expo 2023 Doha marks Qatar Environment Day

Expo 2023 Doha organised several environmental events, activities, and competitions on the occasion of Qatar Environment Day on Monday to enhance environmental awareness among visitors as an integral part of the “Green Desert, Better Environment” initiative. Accordingly, HE Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, toured the Expo, which included several pavilions representing the Qatari environment. He attended a lecture on wildlife in the Qatari environment, emphasising Qatar’s unique environmental life and highlighting the animals and birds living in the Qatari environment.

Another lecture highlighted the importance of medicinal wild plants, and an environmental competition was also organised. The documentary film Pearl of the Sands was screened, and several workshops were held at the Innovation Center to promote environmental awareness among visitors, focusing on recycling and seed planting techniques.

There were also a number traditional tents, each showcasing a heritage craft, alongside workshops and educational sessions allowing visitors to explore Qatari traditions through practical activities. The events included traditional games, promoting family relationships and social bonds, along with outdoor sports activities for boys and girls.

It also featured projects from various entities, such as schools. Besides, the exhibition area displayed a smart carpet project to repel reptiles during camping, presented by a Primary School for girls. The carpet includes sensors connected to a mobile application, triggering an alarm if any reptiles approach, warning of the presence of harmful wild insects such as snakes and lizards, thus providing a safe environment for campers, especially children.

Moreover, the exhibition included a display of various wild plants found in the Qatari environment, such as the “Arabian boxthorn,” a shrub with many branches reaching heights between 1-3m, besides other plants. There were also some marine animals found in the Qatari environment, including the Hawksbill turtle. These creatures play a vital role in marine ecosystems.

The exhibition further included a display of coral reefs in Qatar, which contain important and diverse coral reefs, representing an essential part of the marine ecosystem in the region, serving as a vital habitat for various marine species such as fish, mollusks, and the coral reefs themselves.





Official posts on X






Minister of Finance
 HE Ali bin Ahmed al-Kuwari, Minister of Finance, commended Qatar’s growing efforts in protecting its environment and promoting sustainable consumption and production to achieve sustainable development while preserving the environment, striking a balance between the economy and the environment. In a statement on the occasion of Qatar Environment Day, posted on the ministry’s X platform, he stressed Qatar’s growing efforts in protecting its environment and promoting sustainable consumption and production to achieve sustainable development and preserve the environment.

Improving these habits and transitioning to more sustainable consumption patterns achieves a balance between the economy and the environment. All these efforts and achievements undoubtedly highlight Qatar’s utmost care for the national vision.

Ministry of Labour
 The Ministry of Labour affirmed that its policies and initiatives align with environmental and social policies, aiming to mitigate the effects of climate change on the work environment, improve productivity,

and reduce risks to the workforce.

Ministry of Education and Higher Education
 The Ministry of Education and Higher Education affirmed that enhancing environmental awareness among our students and supporting their active participation in sustainable environmental initiatives are priorities of education in Qatar.

General Retirement and Social Insurance Authority
 The General Retirement and Social Insurance Authority emphasised the importance of partnership between society and institutions in caring for Qatar’s environment, preserving its various elements, and providing a safe, clean, and healthy environment for current and future generations. This was stated in a post on the authority’s platform on (X).

Ministry of Public Health
 The Ministry of Public Health emphasised its interest in monitoring and tracking factors causing diseases through key entry points including water, food, air, and waste to ensure that society enjoys a healthy and safe environment.

The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology
 The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, on the occasion of Qatar Environment Day, emphasised the need to harness the latest technologies in the service of the environment, believing that smart cities play a pivotal role in achieving Qatar’s National Vision 2030, which prioritises sustainability and environmental protection.

The General Tax Authority
 The General Tax Authority reaffirmed its commitment to environmental conservation and the importance of the collaborative efforts of all members of society and official entities to enhance environmental sustainability and protect Qatar’s environment for current and future generations.

Qatar Red Crescent
 On the occasion of Qatar Environmental Day, Qatar Red Crescent renewed its commitment to support awareness efforts aimed at building a sustainable future, emphasising the importance of sustainable practices in preserving the environment, adopting the slogan “Our Earth, Our Legacy.”



Recycling International Exhibition enhances the concept of environmental sustainability

A number of artists pointed out that the "International Recycling Art Exhibition" agrees with the country's public policy of adopting sustainable and efficient practices through optimal use and sustainability of natural resources for future generations. They pointed out that Qatar Environment Day is a distinctive initiative aimed at creating a healthy environmental system and enhancing the opportunities to achieve sustainability goals.

The artists explained that the recycling exhibition aims to demonstrate the artist's proficiency in creating artistic pieces from discarded items that ordinary people may not notice or value, emphasising that artists can become developmental practitioners by using eco-friendly materials or addressing environmental issues and community needs. Participating artists praised the Qatari public's awareness of the importance of environmental art, their appreciation for recycled artworks, and their encouragement of this art form due to its importance and contribution to the planet's sustainability and aesthetic appeal.

They emphasised that art is the ability that inspires us to change our environmental awareness and improve our behaviours, urging us to make real changes in our surroundings to enhance environmental sustainability, which involves preserving what keeps our planet healthy.

Faisal al-Abdullah, Deputy Director of Souq Waqif Art Center, said that the "International Recycling Art Exhibition" is aimed at embracing non-traditional arts and aligning with the country's public policy of adopting sustainable and efficient practices through optimal use and sustainability of natural resources for future generations. He emphasised the importance of the exhibition in raising awareness among the public about the importance of recycling and sustainability in arts, turning items with little value into artistic masterpieces and beautiful landscapes. He also revealed that the next edition of the exhibition will explore other materials. He pointed out that the exhibition's goals align with the vision and objectives of 'Qatar Environment Day', explaining the organisers' efforts to raise awareness about the importance of utilising scrap and waste



both to preserve the environment and promote sustainability and to invest these items in creating useful things.

The director of Souq Waqif Art Center mentioned that visitors to the exhibition admired the level of creative works made from items that are mostly discarded as waste, discovering the importance of re-building many things found in the Qatari environment, such as wood, paper, and iron.

Yousef Ahmed, artist, emphasized that the exhibition is an invitation to the public to preserve the environment, stating that rationalising consumption, reuse, and recycling are ideal keys to a sustainable future. By transforming waste into treasures through the art of recycling, he added, the exhibition offers innovative ways to recycle waste creatively and create new and useful artworks. Speaking of his experience in recycling palm fronds taken from the Qatari environment and using them to produce paper for his artistic paintings, he expressed hope that Qatar's palm frond paper would be utilized as it enhances Qatar's soft power, considering it a unique feature of the country.

Iraqi artist Nasser al-Samarrai noted that the "Recycling" exhibition aims to demonstrate the artist's proficiency in creating artistic pieces from discarded items that ordinary people may not no-

ting, giving them value. This is the message that the artist bears. He pointed out that the idea of the exhibition breaks away from the typical form and classical line of common arts, representing a kind of renewal and opening up broader creative horizons. Additionally, it is an opportunity to raise awareness among the public about the importance of recycling and enhance learning opportunities to achieve sustainability goals.

Regarding the exhibition coinciding with Qatar Environment Day, al-Samarrai said that the exhibition was well received by the Celebrations Committee at the Private Engineering Office, which strengthens the long-term cooperation to enhance both artistic and developmental aspects, creating a solid bridge between art and sustainable development.

Tanya Bob: Art Inspires us to change our environmental awareness

Canadian artist Tanya Bub appreciated dedicating a Qatari day to celebrate and preserve the environment, emphasising that this strategy indicates Qatari society's awareness of the importance of setting long-term goals and strategies to ensure a long and prosperous future for future generations. She added: Environmental art has a long history, but with increasing climate risks, artists have be-

come more interested in spreading awareness about the necessity of preserving the environment and finding solutions to the threats it faces.

She said that the 'International Recycling Art Exhibition' witnessed a significant turnout, with attendees showing noticeable interest in environmental issues and the idea of recycling, paying attention to the environment, and embracing sustainable art. She pointed out that art is the ability that inspires us to change our environmental awareness and evaluate our behaviours, urging us to make real changes in our surroundings to promote environmental sustainability, which is about dedicating ourselves to what preserves our planet.

Bulgarian artist Doncho Donchev says that waste is a burden on all parties, pointing out that recycling art is a revolution in some art schools and also a kind of adoption by some artists of the idea that trivial and neglected things can be turned into artistic works with aesthetic value. He praised the idea of the International Recycling Art Exhibition and the initiative taken by the celebrations committee at the private engineering office as a contribution to preserving the planet's sustainability and spreading awareness to preserve it in aesthetic ways.

He added: "Recycling art is part



of my work as an artist. I am originally a painter and designer, and I have various artistic projects. I entered the world of recycling art 15 years ago as a joke when my child was young, so I made a "donkey" from egg crates, and then I started making masks and presenting them in various museums in Europe."

Donchev praised Qatar's encouragement of artists, expressing his gratitude to the organisers of the International Recycling Art Exhibition for providing the opportunity to showcase his works in this hospitable country.

Australian artist Danielle Easdale praised the Qatari public's awareness of the importance of environmental art, their appreciation of recycled artistic works, and their eagerness to acquire and encourage this type of art due to their belief in its importance and contribution to the planet's sustainability, as well as its beauty.

She pointed out that the coincidence of this exhibition with 'Qatar Environment Day' emphasises that artists have a role in raising awareness about the risks fac-



ing the planet and humanity, and contributing with their artistic works to achieve sustainability by recycling waste and transforming it into artistic pieces charged with aesthetic concepts that serve both art and the environment. Consequently, these artistic works become a challenge to harmful global social, economic, and environmental practices. She called for the need of globalising this idea in all countries and investing in such initiatives to create a healthy ecosystem collectively.

Qatar's initiatives turn focus on environment preservation

Qatar has devised leading initiatives to battle pollution and climate change and has contributed to multiple UN programmes focusing on environment, HE Director-General of Qatar News Agency (QNA) Ahmed bin Saeed al-Rumaihi, said yesterday as the country marked the Qatar Environment Day 2024.

He hailed this year's theme "Our Earth Our Legacy" as an affirmation of the country's efforts to preserve environment, boost greenery, reduce the climate change effects, and to orchestrate community, officials and civil efforts to preserve Qatar's environment for current and future generations.

The event, which is celebrated annually on Feb 26, has significantly raised com-

munity environmental awareness over the past years, successes that reflect the great attention bestowed by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani on diverse components of the Qatari environment to thwart degradation and all forms of pollution, he added.

The government has been launching awareness-raising programmes and initiatives to educate various segments of society about environment preservation as a fundamental Qatar National Vision 2030 pillar, he added, highlighting QNA's large-scale media coverage of the national event for effective participation from government, private agencies and institutions across the country.

He added that Qatar has been celebrat-

ing this occasion since 1996, under a specific slogan that serves a specific environmental issue, with the aim of drawing attention to the necessity of spreading and enhancing environmental awareness and encouraging the use of environmentally sound technologies.

Commending Qatar's international efforts to battle climate change effects and foster sustainability, he highlighted the 2019 'Plant Million Trees Initiative' with a budget of QR1bn, the commitment to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Paris Climate Agreement and achieving the sustainable development goals, through the Qatar National Environment and Climate Change Strategy, and the National Climate Change Action

Plan, all of which promote the implementation of Qatar National Vision 2030.

He spotlighted the relevant agencies' key anti-climate change role in devising innovative projects and initiatives on clean, renewable energy and solar energy plants. He noted that the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 was an environmentally friendly tournament, with 40% of the materials utilised in the sports facilities having been recycled in a real global achievement.

The Qatar Environment Day activities aim to increase environmental awareness among the public, enhance knowledge, skills and values related to the safety, recovery and preservation of Qatar's environment and its beauty. (QNA)



HE Ahmed bin Saeed al-Rumaihi

Mwani Qatar organises Doha Port cleanup campaign



Mwani Qatar organised a campaign to clean the southern yard of Doha Port and its surrounding areas on the occasion of Qatar Environment Day. This initiative comes as part of the company's responsibility towards the environment and its protection for current and future generations, in support of the sustainability goals outlined in Qatar's National Vision 2030.

Pearl Island event spotlights sustainable development

The Home, Civil Service and Government Development Bureau, in collaboration with the United Development Company (UDC), organised an event on the occasion of Qatar Environment Day on the Pearl Island.

The event adopted the slogan "Our Earth Our Legacy" aiming to enhance environmental conservation and community awareness for achieving sustainable development.

The event was attended by Abdulaziz bin Nasser bin Mubarak al-Khalifa, president of Home, Civil Service and Government Development Bureau, and Ibrahim bin Jassim al-Othman Fakhro, CEO and board member of UDC. It included two workshops for painting on canvas bags to promote sustainability, and planting to enhance recycling.

Accordingly, the Home, Civil Service and Government Development Bureau published on its website a statement by al-Khalifa, saying: "On the Qatar Environment Day, we renew our commitment to the third National Development Strategy, which focuses on environmental sustainability in its outcomes. We continue our



efforts to raise awareness in the community about the importance of enhancing environmental conservation to achieve sustainable development, in line with the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030."

Earlier, the Cabinet approved the participation of all government entities and ministries in celebrating the annual Qatari Environment Day on February 26,

this year, under the slogan "Our Earth Our Legacy," aiming to draw attention to the importance of developing appropriate technologies for climate change, adopting clean energy, optimising water usage, improving air quality and increasing green spaces in a region with a desert climate and facing geographical changes and climate transitions similar to other regions worldwide.



PHCC promotes public hygiene with beach cleaning campaign

As part of its efforts to promote public hygiene practices and preserving environmental resources for future generations, the Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC) participated in the programme of cleaning Qatari beaches, by cleaning the Zekreet Beach, located 50 miles west of Doha.

The campaign, conducted in collaboration with the Deap Qatar Conservation Company, involved the participation of over 130 employees with their families, demonstrating high enthusiasm and with teamwork from various departments, making the campaign a shining example towards a better environment and a promising future for the next generation, as part of continuous efforts to clean and prepare beaches to receive the public.

Dr Maryam Abdullah al-Muslemani, director at PHCC's Occupational Health and Safety Department, stressed Qatar Vision 2030's goal of transforming Qatar into an advanced country capable of achieving sustainable development, ensuring a decent standard of living for its people generation after generation. This vision is based on main challenges, among which are economic, social development, environmental protection and development.



Dr Maryam Abdullah al-Muslemani

Accordingly, the vision adopted environmental development as one of the four pillars to ensure environmental management that achieves harmony and coherence between economic and social development and environmental protection. The state works to protect the environment and its natural balance, achieving comprehensive and sustainable development for all generations. The campaign was launched under the slogan "Let's Work Together for a Clean Qatar (Better Environment, Better Tomorrow)."

Dr al-Muslemani pointed out that the PHCC, represented by the Occupational Health and Safety Department, has initiated the introduction of various programmes aimed at environmental protection (air quality monitoring programmes, safe management of



Nadia Mansour

primary healthcare waste, hazardous materials management and other waste management). One of the most important indicators posing a significant threat to the environment is "plastic pollution in oceans and seas," as estimates indicate that around 19-23mn tonnes of plastic leakage into aquatic ecosystems annually.

National Environment Day, "Our Earth Our Legacy," coincides with a statement by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser: "We need to pay attention to our natural environment, which God has entrusted to us as a responsibility so that we invest in it responsibly and respectfully for the benefit of humanity. There is no doubt that our environment will reciprocate care if we are proactive in caring for it."

Meanwhile, Nadia Mansour,



director of Occupational Safety at the Occupational Health and Safety Department, stressed that the campaign aimed to activate the corporation's role in achieving Qatar's vision in environmental development, by enabling community institutional participation through active involvement in beach cleaning, contributing to environmental awareness and sustainability, and setting an example of serious and responsible work, as well as encouraging individual roles within the teamwork.

"This campaign has had a positive impact on the participating employees and on all those work-



ing in the corporation, and we hope that this impact will extend to various segments of society. We also look forward to more initia-

tives we are currently working on, such as increasing green spaces through tree planting initiatives," she concluded.

Environment officials underline significance of commemoration



Ahmed Mohamed al-Sada



Abdulhadi al-Merri



Dr Ibrahim Abdullatif al-Muslimani

Engineer Ahmed Mohamed al-Sada, Assistant Undersecretary for Climate Change Affairs, has stressed that Qatar Environment Day comes this year as Qatar sees significant leaps in environmental work and in addressing climate change issues through the implementation of many environmental projects and initiatives aimed at protecting the environment in Qatar and preserving its resources.

These efforts also aim to mitigate the impacts of climate change to achieve sustainable development in line with Qatar's National Vision 2030. He pointed out that Qatar Environment Day is a national occasion linked to the conscience of the Qatari people, as expressed by this year's slogan, "Our Earth Our Legacy," which emphasises the impact of the local environment on Qatar's cultural and civilisation heritage.

He pointed out that the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change is taking steady steps towards achieving the goals of Qatar's National Environmental Strategy and the Third National Development Strategy '2023-2030', both of which are fundamental pillars for achieving.

Qatar National Vision 2030. He highlighted the successes of the climate change sector, including the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 25% by 2030 according to the regular work scenario, and the launch of the Environmental Sustainability Programme, which is a significant milestone in Qatar's journey towards environmental sustainability and contributes to supporting Qatar's National Environmental Strategy and Climate Change and the goals of Qatar's National Vision 2030.

The Sustainable Environment project on climate change and sustainability is one of the leading and strategic projects of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change. Besides, a national plan is being launched to assess Qatar's exposure to climate change effects and adapt to them, which includes evaluating effects such as temperature rise and the methods of adapting to this accordingly.

In its efforts to collect various data related to climate change, the ministry is working on a measurement, reporting and verification project to establish guidelines, standards and to develop a database on greenhouse gas emissions from all sectors in Qatar. Further, projects promoting green development, sustainable production and consumption are underway

to develop a long-term strategy to conserve environmental resources, increase resource consumption efficiency and to enhance a sustainable lifestyle.

He noted that the ministry, in co-operation with all state agencies, is making significant efforts to achieve the guiding principles of climate policy in the National Climate Change Action Plan 2030, which includes seeking to balance economic growth, social development needs and environmental protection requirements. Regulations, systems, and standards have been updated to establish the foundations for climate action and transition to a more sustainable economy. Stakeholders are also engaged in developing a future vision for climate change-related work, which includes investing in knowledge and skills to develop and implement sustainable solutions.

Opportunity to promote sustainable practices

Assistant Undersecretary for Environmental Affairs Abdulhadi al-Merri said the Qatar Environment Day, which falls on February 26 every year, is a significant and distinguished opportunity to unify efforts across all segments of society to protect the Qatari environment and promote sustainable practices that contribute to the flourishing of the environment in all its components, including its land, marine, and biological diversity.

Al-Merri pointed out that Qatar enjoys a biological diversity that covers a large and varied range of birds, plants, land and marine organisms. He highlighted the significant efforts made by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change in recent years to protect and develop this diversity through environmental laws and legislation, and the launch of numerous environmental initiatives and projects aimed at preserving and sustaining the Qatari environment, in addition to extensive environmental awareness campaigns targeting all segments of society.

He highlighted Qatar's increasing focus in recent years on achieving environmental sustainability and promoting its concepts and practices among community members. He emphasised that Qatar has achieved several leaps in environmental sustainability and the preservation of the national environment through numerous accomplishments and initiatives that place it at the forefront of countries striving to preserve the

environment in all its forms and adhere to its international commitments in this field. Al-Merri noted that Qatar has made significant strides in showcasing its active role in environmental and climate-related fields, relying on eco-friendly alternatives and issuing legislation that preserves the national environment while encouraging the private sector to strike a balance between "development needs" and "environmental protection" in line with Qatar's National Vision 2030.

He explained that the slogan for this year's Qatari Environmental Day, "Our Earth Our Legacy," reflects the community's connection in Qatar to its local environment. Al-Merri called on all segments of society to preserve the local environment and work to safeguard it, emphasising the importance of the participation of all individuals and groups in the activities of Qatar Environment Day.

Ministry's efforts aim for sustainable development

Dr Ibrahim Abdullatif al-Muslimani, Assistant Undersecretary for Natural Reserves Affairs at the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, stressed the importance of the participation of all members of society in celebrating Qatar Environment Day. This event instils responsibility in the new generation towards their local environment and contributes to the development of sustainable practices.

He pointed out that organising events and awareness campaigns on Qatar Environment Day emphasises the importance of preserving our local environment, which is the heritage of our ancestors, as reflected in this year's slogan "Our Earth Our Legacy"

Dr al-Muslimani highlighted the ministry's efforts to preserve the local environment and its natural diversity of plants and animals, in line with the ministry's vision and strategy to protect the local environment and to achieve sustainable development.

The local environment is a part of Qatar's historical heritage and a key component of the Qatari people's culture.

He noted Qatar's leadership in sustainable development and environmental preservation, achieved through numerous accomplishments and initiatives that place Qatar at the forefront of countries striving to preserve the environment in all its forms and to adhere to its international commitments in this regard.



Qatar Youth Hostels fosters sustainable tourism with its 'Green Fort' initiative

Qatar Youth Hostels has launched their winning youth initiative, which secured the first place in the 2023 Tourism Ideas Incubator Programme, by Fatima Mahna al-Sulaiti under the title "The Green Fort."

This coincided with the marking of the Qatar Environment Day that falls on February 26 each year. The initiative focuses on the importance of appreciating the cultural and environmental heritage in Qatar, raising awareness about mangrove trees and the adjacent areas, supporting sustainable tourism and environmental initiatives in the country, in addition to promoting youth initiatives related to sustainable tourism.

Qatar Youth Hostels launched the "Green Fort" initiative by organising a tour of the mangrove trees. Besides, a workshop on "the Environmental Heritage" will be held as part of the initiative programme, covering topics related to Qatar's Vision 2030, environmental development, Qatari tangible and intangible heritage, plant identification and preservation methods.

The initiative will launch sev-



eral other diverse events in the coming period to achieve its primary goal, which is to establish the first sustainable Arab Youth Hostels headquarters. Qatar

Youth Hostels hope that these initiatives and events will contribute to enhancing environmental and tourism awareness among youth in Qatar.

Qatar University strengthens efforts for environmental sustainability

In an endeavour to enhance food security in Qatar, Qatar University is strengthening environmental sustainability efforts.

A number of professors and researchers at the Environmental Sciences Center, Qatar University, stressed the importance of the centre's research efforts in tackling environmental challenges and promoting sustainability.

Dr Jassim al-Khayat, a researcher at the Environmental Sciences Center, highlighted a project aimed at enhancing food security in Qatar. This project, conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Municipality, focuses on cultivating shrimp in Bi-

ofloc technology systems, known for their productivity and reduction of organic waste saturation from aquaculture.

Professor Talat Abdelfattah Ahmed, a researcher at the Environmental Sciences Center, said that "An effective protocol has been developed for the propagation of an important medicinal plant in Qatar using tissue culture techniques, whether using callus tissue or small buds. This plant is called Haplophyllum tuberculatum, and the work was conducted in the Plant Biotechnology Laboratory at the Environmental Sciences Center. Numerous small plants and branches were obtained using



small parts of the plant leaves and stem segments, directly planted on modified nutrient media using plant regulators and

hormones. DNA markers were used to test the genetic purity of the plant herbs produced."

Dr Sofia Ghneima, an associate

professor and researcher at the Environmental Sciences Center, mentioned ongoing work on developing innovative technology to generate clean energy from waste, which aims to convert organic waste into energy and organic fertilisers, contributing to environmental sustainability.

Mohamed Qutb, a senior research assistant at the Environmental Sciences Center, noted that the Environmental Sciences Center at Qatar University has established and operates an air pollution monitoring network consisting of one fixed station and three mobile stations that operate around the clock. This network provides crucial data for research-

ers and facilitates the training of global scientific personnel by involving university students.

The latest scientific reference technology from European and American standards has been considered throughout the planning, preparation, installation and testing phases of the network. In confirmation of Qatar University's pioneering role, the Environmental Sciences Center network offers precise measurements for over 30 indicators of ambient air and atmospheric elements that are not collectively available anywhere else in Qatar or the Gulf region.

This network has been linked to a central unit for data collection and storage.



Air Quality Platform launched for public at environment ministry website

On the occasion of the Qatar Environment Day, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change yesterday launched the Air Quality Platform for the public on the ministry's website; under the patronage and in the presence of HE the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie.

The minister was briefed on the significant capabilities of the platform and the advanced technology it operates through. The platform enables all members of the community to know the air quality level in all regions of the country through a display screen available on the ministry's website.

The screen displays air quality data in easily understandable colour-coded indicators with high accuracy for each area in the country, through 40 air quality monitoring stations according to the highest international standards.

Concern for air quality is among the priorities of Qatar and is considered part of its sustainable environmental initiatives. The platform reflects the state's interest in preserving air quality according to the highest national and international standards by providing an accessible platform for all members of the community to know the air quality level in all regions of the country accurately and reliably.

Abdulhadi Al Marri, Assistant Undersecretary for Environmental Affairs, said that the launch of the



platform, coinciding with Qatar Environment Day, reflects the national efforts made by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change to preserve citizen health through constructive co-operation among various state entities to establish a comprehensive national air quality network. The data is displayed through a single screen on the ministry's website, ensuring easy access to information on air quality levels for all segments of society.

Director of the Department of Environmental Monitoring and Inspection at the Ministry Eng Hassan al-Qasimi emphasised that the ministry ensured that the Air Quality Platform adopts a clear colour mechanism in line with the global system used to display air quality data. This system uses easily understandable colour indi-

cators to display the data through stations dedicated to monitoring air quality, accredited by specialised agencies in the field. These stations operate continuously throughout the country, highlighting the importance of not relying on inaccurate methods, programmes, and devices published for commercial purposes without considering the accuracy and reliability of the information.

Abdullah al-Khalifi, Assistant Director of the Department of Environmental Monitoring and Inspection, explained that the launch of this platform is one of the most important outcomes of the Data Monitoring and Analysis Unit, which was inaugurated during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. He pointed out that the national air quality network has reached 40 stations covering



eight different municipalities of the country: Doha, Al Wakra, Al Khor, Al Rayyan, Umm Salal, Al Thakira, Al-Sheehaniya, and Al Shamal. He indicated that the platform operates autonomously and continuously, providing a comprehensive overview of air quality in the country and displaying monitoring results through different coloured indicators, allowing the public to easily access and understand the quality level of each area, designed according to global standards.



Qatari environment 'a source of inspiration for arts'

A number of writers and artists have affirmed that the Qatari environment has always been a source of inspiration in various creative works of literature and arts.

In statements to the Qatar News Agency on the occasion of Qatar Environment Day, which falls on February 26 each year, some writers and artists said the environment has been an overflowing source for every artist and creator. They expressed their sincere love to the environment, considering it a trust to be transferred from one generation to another. The Founder of the State of Qatar Sheikh Jassim bin Mohamed bin Thani, expressed it in his saying: "The caravan passed by me time and again, and depicted to us what the storms had changed. Homes we frequented every season, our pastures, adorned by herbs and grass."

These verses inspired the slogan of the National Day in 2021 "Ancestral Pastures are a Trust".

Jamal Fayeze, novelist and short story writer, said the environment is present in the Qatari literature, whether in literary writings or artistic creations, where its presence manifests in the elements of place and time, within the fundamental pillars of creative writing.

He added: The presence of the environment also manifests when the aim of writing the text is to highlight the importance of the environment, its achievements, and sustainability. This is evident in literary and artistic works directed to certain occasions or to the youth. We find it in poems, short stories, literary arts such as plays, and in painting. The topic is related to the environment, praising the efforts of educational institutions and institutions concerned with the Qatari environment, emphasising the importance of its preservation. For example, the efforts of the Friends of the Environment Center, which annually organises a programme titled: "A Flower for Every Spring," where students are given field trips, accompanied by various competitions in short stories, poetry, painting, and more.

Ali al-Fayyad: Qatari poet, environ-



Jamal Fayeze



Mohamed al-Attiq

ment researcher and writer affirmed that Qatari poetry is closely linked to the Qatari environment. Poets lived in the desert and also in the sea during the diving season in the past. They explored the desert, witnessed it, and admired the plants, flowers, stars, and planets. This is reflected in their poetry, which we find in many old Qatari poets. They lived this nature and conveyed it in their poems. Much of Qatari poetry is derived from the local environment with all its meanings and aspects.

Visual artist Mohamed al-Attiq pointed out that an artist is a child of his environment, drawing inspiration from its elements and components, shaping them visually, and employing them to enrich his art and enhance his experience. The artist's authenticity lies in dealing with these beautiful elements, deriving inspiration from them, reshaping them on the canvas, transforming them into three-dimensional forms, drawings, geometric designs, and sculptures.

He said the Qatari environment, along with its traditional and modern architectural forms, cultural elements, and other civilisational aspects, gives the place identity and privacy, providing it with a special and unique charm.

Al-Attiq said the rich Qatari environment with its elements and beauty has inspired him greatly in his creative works, characterised by their contemporary nature and features, notably the large artistic work "Seeds of the Ghaf Tree" in the Qatar Post Garden. This artwork was selected by Qatar Museums, the Public Works Authority "Ashghal," and the Ministry of Municipality as part of decorating the city with artistic works.

The large sculpture consists of three blocks of bronze material, occupying an area of about 225 square metres, conveying a cultural message with human and global dimensions from an artist who loves his environment and community.

Photographer Mohamed al-Hasil al-Yafei, who has won several local and in-

ternational awards in the field of photography, highlighted the strong relationship between humans and the environment and its significant impact on human psychology.

The environment represents a source of inspiration for artists, with its elements enriching their creative experiences and motivating them to produce works that elevate public taste and spread beauty and magnificence in society.

He emphasised that visual arts worldwide, including photography, sculpture, and painting, have enriched human life by drawing inspiration from nature and the environment and artistically and aesthetically employing their symbols.

Al-Yafei explained that the influence of nature on his artistic experience extends over more than 25 years, where the Qatari environment has been a source of inspiration and creativity for him, especially during springtime and after seasonal rains. He traversed the gardens and places where wildflowers grow, spending beautiful moments with all his senses of sight, touch, and smell. He documented with his camera the beautiful-coloured flowers of Qatar, culminating this artistic experience with the creation of a book documenting the most beautiful wildflowers in Qatar, which will be released very soon and presented to the public at Doha Book Fair.

Dr Hassan Rashid, a theatre critic, said that the creator is a child of his environment since childhood, observing his homeland in everything. This is evident in the Qatari artist Abdulrahman al-Mannai, known as the "pillar of Qatari theatre," whose most works relate to the sea. In 1975, he revealed his masterpiece "Umm Al-Zain," which was an eye-opener for the transition of time and place in Qatar, from one era to another.

Dr Rashid noted that the same thing happened with the artist Ghanem al-Sulaiti in all his artistic works, where he delved into real memory associated with the environment and existing life. There

are also attempts by everyone, especially when the great artist Nasser Abdulrida presented more than one work, expressing the GCC environment.

The Qatari environment has been an inspiration for filmmakers. A documentary film unit was established under Qatar Television in 1981, managed by the late director Ismail Khaled. It contributed to the creation of a variety of documentary and narrative films, both long and short, drawing from the Qatari environment. These films took various forms, depicting aspects of traditional maritime life and Qatari societal traditions.

Among the notable films that featured the Qatari environment is *Al-Shira* (1967), produced by Qatar Television, directed by Mohamed Nabih, and starring Ali Hassan and Amina Mohamed. The story revolves around the relationship between humans and the vast sea, following the fate of a Qatari family whose destiny is intertwined with the sea. It also highlights the conflict between three generations: the grandfather, the son, and the grandson.

The film received the Shalimar International Festival Award.

Another significant film is *Al-Ghous* (1980) directed by Ibrahim al-Sabbagh, which documents the journey of pearl diving, the preparations, and the divers' search for pearls in the depths of the sea. It portrays the extraction of pearls and their weighing process.

Additionally, *Al-Dana* (1981) directed by Ibrahim al-Sabbagh, starring Wadad Abdullatif and Saad al-Bursheed, won the Best Film award at the Carthage Television Film Festival in 1982.

The emerging generation of Qatari talents also explored the Qatari environment in their films. One such example is the film *Palm Tree*, which won the "Made in Qatar" competition sponsored by the Doha Film Institute in 2015. The film sheds light on the relationship between nature, humanity, and modern technology in a captivating narrative, showcasing high-quality cinematography.

Ministry launches 'Environment' mobile app

HE Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, yesterday launched the "Environment" mobile application, as part of the digital transformation undertaken by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change for all its various services provided to the public.

During the launch process, he listened to a detailed explanation of the services provided by the application to individuals and companies dealing with the ministry's services.

The application integrates all the ministry's services currently available on its website. This initiative coincides with the ministry's celebration of the Qatar Environment Day.

Noora al-Ammari, Head of the Applications Section at the Information Systems Department of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, emphasised that the application features a user-friendly design and technical style, facilitating easy navigation between services. It provides individuals and companies with secure browsing experience, requiring users to register through the national authentication system when executing transactions. She pointed out that the ap-

plication is the first online application for the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, encompassing all the ministry's services currently available on the website. The application categorises services into three sectors: Environmental Affairs, Natural Reserves, and Climate Change, serving both companies and individuals.

She highlighted that the application offers various services for the corporate sector, including environmental assessment and permits, environmental monitoring and inspection services, chemical services, cooling and ozone services, hazardous waste services, radioactive devices services, radioactive materials services, and radiation work field services. It also provides essential services for individuals, including winter camp reservations, falcon registration, cabin services, natural reserves, winter camp insurance recovery, volunteer environmental registration, and a key service available only in the application called "Observer." It's an interactive service for the public allowing them to report environmental violations by attaching violation photos and sending them through the mobile application.

She explained that companies and individuals can request serv-



ices, process transactions, submit proposals, complaints, and observations, track requests, and access other services through the ministry's website or the "Environment" mobile application for smartphones, or by contacting the unified call centre by phone.

She affirmed that one of the goals of the mobile application is to elevate the ministry's elec-

tronic services to a higher level by providing advanced technological solutions that support Qatar's digital transformation, which is one of the fundamental pillars of Qatar's Vision 2030. It also aims to support the ministry's development efforts to excel in providing and facilitating services to individuals easily, anywhere, and at any time.



Events at Umm Al-Amad Reserve aim to preserve Qatar biodiversity

THE Ministry of Environment and Climate Change organised a celebration on the occasion Qatar Environment Day under the slogan "Our Earth Our Legacy" at the Umm Al-Amad Reserve under the patronage and in the presence of HE the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie.

The participants included Assistant Undersecretary for Natural Reserve Affairs at the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Dr Ibrahim Abdullatif al-Muslimani, alongside other ministry officials, in addition to the Seashore Group and Snoonu Qatar Company, Rawdat Al Faras Center for Houbara Breeding, a number of environmental enthusiasts and students from Al-Nahda Primary School for Girls.

The event saw the planting of a number of tree seedlings in the wild areas of the reserve, alongside the release of a number of endangered animals such as rabbits and houbara birds, aimed at preserving biodiversity in the country.

Dr al-Subaie stressed in his statements to the press that Qatar's interest in the environment is very significant. He highlighted the environmental sustainability strategy, which was launched with the third strategic plan that includes many initiatives focusing on five main outcomes, including biodiversity conservation, which includes preserving the natural environment and propagating plants and endangered species by releasing them into the wild.

He pointed out the ministry's initiatives in environmental conservation, especially the rehabilitation of 50 important habitats in the country and initiatives to reintroduce some birds that used to live on the islands and preserve them. He stressed the importance of everyone's role in preserving Qatar's environment through sustainable practices.

He also pointed out the ministry's initiatives to promote environmental awareness in society through workshops, seminars, school curriculums, educational materials, and media campaigns targeting all age groups and sectors of society, expressing his happiness at the participation of environmental enthusiasts and activists in releasing some endangered animals and birds.

Executive Director of the Friends of the Environment Centre, Eng Farhoud Hadi al-Hajri, said: We participated in the celebration of Qatar Environment Day organised by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, which falls on February 26 every year under the slogan "Our Earth Our Legacy".

"We took part in several activities including releasing birds, planting plants, and releasing wild rabbits. The measures are aimed at increasing these species in the Qatari environment and enrich it."

He added: "We celebrate Qatar Environment Day every year to raise environmental awareness and encourage the role of society in preserving the environment. This contributes



to creating a conscious generation regarding environmental preservation, especially with the participation of school students. We will strive to achieve this goal in the coming years and create a generation that is fully committed to the environment without any harmful practices, whether in terrestrial or marine environments."

He praised the role of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change for enacting legislation which helps reduce encroachments against plants, wildlife, bird, and the marine environment.

Ali al-Henzab, an environmental pioneer, highlighted the planting of Mesquites, Arabic Gum, and Umbrella Thorn Acacia Trees in the Umm Al-Amad Reserve, alongside the release of Houbara birds and falcons, as well as wild rabbits. This aims to highlight the importance of environmental preservation among young people and showcase sustainable practices, he said.

"This interest will enhance environmental awareness across all segments of society and contribute to restoring the reserves to their previous state through breeding various animals and overcoming challenges, especially with regards to rising temperatures and decreasing rainfall."

He stressed the importance of celebrating Qatar Environment Day and engaging in activities such as planting trees, cleaning re-

serves and beaches, and learning about Qatari flora and fauna, noting it is the responsibility of everyone living in the country to play an active role in this.

Maha al-Nuaimi, from Al-Nahda Primary School for Girls, disclosed that the Al-Nahda Primary School for Girls participated in a special event in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, where 35 students made noticeable efforts in planting trees seedlings at the Umm Al-Amad Reserve.

She said the allocation of a day for the Qatari environment raises students' awareness on environmental issues, stressing that "Our Earth Our Legacy" reflects the urgent need to preserve our land and emphasises the importance of sustainability.

"Participation in planting seedlings represents a significant step towards achieving sustainable development, contributing to restoring environmental balance and preserving biodiversity."

"Such events are not just symbolic; they reflect a deep commitment to nature conservation and raising awareness of the importance of sustainability."

She expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change for its continuous support, highlighting the role of teachers in implementing various environmental initiatives at school.

