



مجموعة أبوظبي للإستدامة
ABU DHABI SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

SUSTAINABILITY eJOURNAL

QUARTER 1, 2023

“We all have important roles to play. Building a strong Public-Private Partnership framework is an essential first step, to facilitate and provide information and guidance on our natural capital.”

Her Excellency Dr. Shaikha Salem Al Dhaheri

An interview with Laila Mostafa Abdullatif,
Director General,
Emirates Nature - WWF
on Building A Greener
More Resilient Future.



The Path Towards a Nature-positive Future

The Abu Dhabi Sustainability Group cordially invites you to an online event featuring:



Shargiil Bashir
Chief Sustainability Officer,
First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB)



Marina Antonopoulou
Senior Director of Conservation,
Climate & Energy,
Emirates Nature – WWF



Dexter Galvin
Global Director of Corporations &
Supply Chains, CDP



Martin Lok
Executive Director,
Capitals Coalition



Huda Al Houqani
Director - Abu Dhabi Sustainability
Group Environment Agency –
Abu Dhabi



Carlos Ponte
Head, Environmental, Social
and Governance (ESG), Masdar



MODERATOR: **Cedric Bachelier**
Co-founder, Sustainamics

Thursday 2nd March 2023 | 14:00 GST | 11:00 BST

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Wildlife populations have rapidly declined at an average of 70% globally. Today, almost one million species are at threat of extinction due to harmful human activities. Reversing biodiversity loss by 2030 and limiting temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius means that our current practices cannot continue, and we need to rapidly transform present business-models & systems.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

- What are the key impacts that have emerged since the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework of COP15?
- How can we embed social and environmental values to make current business models more nature-positive, sustainable, and resilient?
- What must we do to deliver COP15 targets to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity by 2030?



#ADSGHiwar23

Hosted by



EDITORS NOTE

Dear members of the AD SG and readers of the Sustainability eJournal,

I am delighted to bring you this issue that's filled with the latest thinking and development in the field of sustainability in the GCC. We are honored to showcase an interview with Her Excellency Dr Sheikha Al Dhaheri, Secretary General, Environment, Agency-Abu Dhabi, and an interview with Mrs Laila Abdellatif, Director General, Emirates Nature-WWF.

In this issue, we also bring you content from AD SG members and stakeholders on their progress towards a resilient and nature-positive future.

Our journey towards sustainability is in every action we take, and every decision we make. I look forward to hearing from you and your journeys so that we may showcase them in future issues of the eJournal.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue, and I look forward to hearing your feedback.

Wishing you a prosperous, sustainable and healthy 2023.

SANDRA ANANI
DIRECTOR,
SUSTAINABILITY TO ACTION



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The opinions and views expressed in the AD SG Sustainability e-Journal do not necessarily reflect the AD SG's policy or position.

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ADSG SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS LEADERSHIP AWARDS 2023

BEST SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE

BEST SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

BEST SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNICATION PROGRAMME

SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER OF THE YEAR

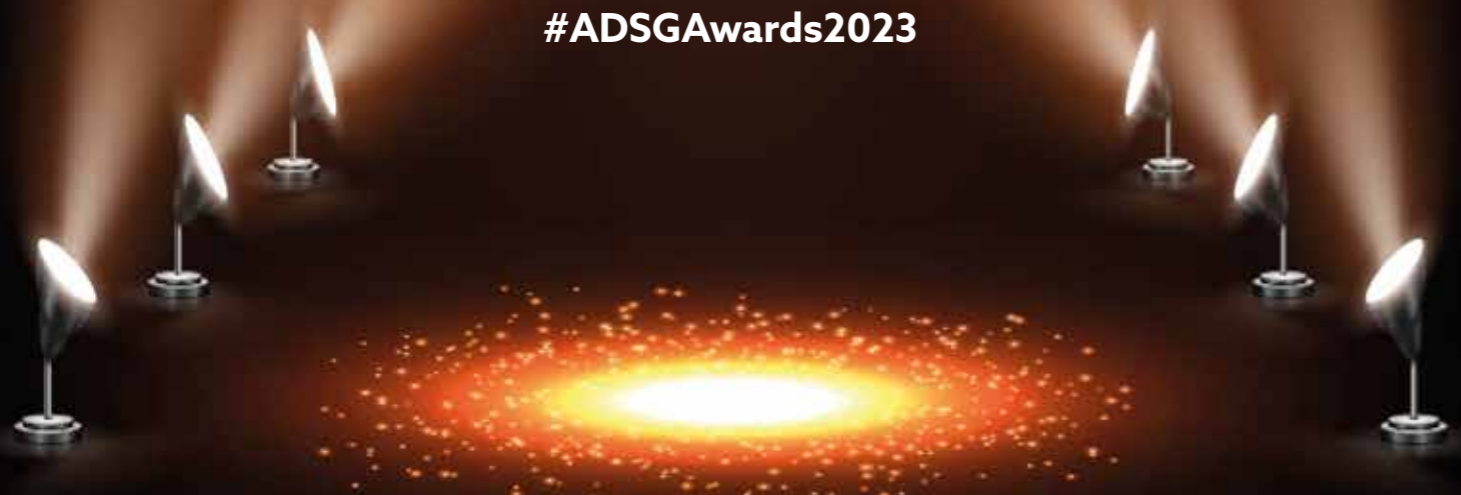
SUSTAINABILITY LEADER OF THE YEAR

BEST ENERGY

MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE

RECOGNISING SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP IN THE REGION

#ADSGAwards2023



WELCOME NOTE FROM ADSG DIRECTOR

Welcome to the first 2023 issue of the ADSG Sustainability e-Journal. I hope that this edition finds you well and enjoying the new year. Here at the ADSG we are taking the opportunity to reflect on last year's achievements and are busy planning for the year ahead. It's an exciting time for Abu Dhabi and the UAE as COP28 Dubai draws nearer; and it's an exciting time for the ADSG as we finalise our 2023 programme of work.

We have a lot to look forward to this quarter, including the first of a new programme of ADSG Hiwar sessions (which you can read more about in following pages), as well as the release of the opening date for submissions to the 8th Annual Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Awards. In the meantime, my colleagues and I are finalising a review of the ADSG Strategy 2021 - 2025. I'd like to thank ADSG members for sharing their valuable feedback and for engaging with this review, which will ensure that our work is relevant, impactful and supportive of member's needs and aspiration.

Looking further ahead, we will be collaborating with global partners to launch a new flagship programme this year and focusing on natural capital and nature-positivity as key themes underpinning our 2023 output. The takeaways from COP27 and the runup to COP28 will no doubt inform a lot of our thinking and dialogue this year, which will also see the publication of the United Nation's quadrennial Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) on the progress of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the associated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
Best wishes,

HUDA AL HOUQANI,
ADSG DIRECTOR



INTERVIEW WITH HER EXCELLENCY DR. SHAIKHA SALEM AL DHAHERI

HER EXCELLENCY DR. SHAIKHA SALEM AL DHAHERI INTERVIEW FOR ABU DHABI SUSTAINABILITY GROUP E-JOURNAL FOR 2023



Q1: With natural capital, there is an issue around conservation and protection of natural resources as they don't immediately have a monetary value. What is the role of the public sector, the private sector and collaborative not-for-profit coalitions and groups such as the AD SG in helping to regenerate our natural capital? What mechanisms are planned to help the private sector to develop a finance strategy that will fund these important activities?

Natural capital is not very well understood. This to me is a huge challenge; however, I also see this as an opportunity. An opportunity to educate people on the values of nature, which cannot be monetised, at least absolutely, and especially the spiritual, cultural, and aesthetic values. It will gain currency if economists start using our natural assets in economic calculations on how goods and services provided by nature and their loss in the wake of development should be inbuilt into any economic calculations.

Without natural capital, there would be no human capital. Awareness of human dependence on nature is at an all-time high, and the science of ecosystem services is rapidly advancing, and talk of natural capital is now commonplace. The value of "natural capital" is just as important as traditional financial capital in determining economic success. Worldwide, vulnerable people depend on natural capital for employment, food, fuel, and materials for shelter. Therefore, it is important to protect and conserve natural capital for the benefit of future generations. Today, leading conservation

organisations and financial institutions across the world are incorporating the Natural Capital Protocol within their plans and policies in the next few years. The International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which I represent as its Global Councillor, had passed a resolution for a policy on Natural Capital. These are welcome signs.

We all have important roles to play. Building a strong Public-Private Partnership framework is an essential first step, to facilitate and provide information and guidance on our natural capital. Natural systems are efficient, and we need to learn from them and replicate nature's models in our day-to-day work. To be nature positive. Governments can put in place regulations, and policies, however that is not enough. The NGOs, the private sectors and civil societies need to come forward and work together, both in protecting our natural capital and helping it regenerate. They need to self-regulate while they interact with the environment on an everyday basis. We are moving towards zero waste, as happens in nature where everything is ploughed back into the system, in life and in death. That is what we are trying to do, to move from a linear to a circular economy, where there is no waste and that is when we will start rebuilding nature. We are moving away from practices that degrade and diminish our natural resources to practices which rebuild them. Actions and practices which will help maintain our biodiversity, protect our soil, water and air, and the services they provide to humanity. Protecting and regenerating our natural capital helps opportunities for economic activities. For example,

a healthy ocean supports fisheries, which in turn will provide important food resources, livelihood, and other economic and tourism activities. Our fisheries story is a classic example of PPP, where we brought together all key stakeholders – from government entities, to the private sector, to fishermen cooperative societies – to put our fisheries on the path of recovery. From less than 9% of all fish caught sustainably in 2018 to over 62% caught sustainably by 2021, it is a conservation success story and is rejuvenating our fish stock, marine ecosystems, and providing livelihoods.

We have undertaken initiatives through AD SG to bring the public and private sector and NGOs under one roof. Our annual leadership forum is one such example. We will continue to engage with them. Building strong partnerships based on trust and mutual respect is key to success. We will work with the key organisations and use existing protocols and frameworks to ensure such activities are well funded. Many leading conservation and financial organisations are beginning to use the framework developed by NCC and NCF A to provide linkages between finance and natural capital. These all represent nature positive changes and are increasing recognition of natural capital as a basis for sustainable economic development. With

increased awareness and appreciation of nature and its direct impact on businesses, economy, and society, we have made a start. However, it needs speeding and scaling, which I am optimistic will happen in the coming years, especially on the back of the commitment to achieve Net Zero by 2050. This will further open opportunities and mechanisms to unlock solutions to finance activities which are sustainable in letter and spirit.

Q2: How can we make sure that the private sector fully comprehends the importance and value of nature not only for the UAE as a country, but also for a thriving and successful economy?

Abu Dhabi sets sustainable economic development as a priority goal as part of the UAE's overall government vision. I believe that there are several ways to ensure that the private sector understands the value of nature that is also aligned with Abu Dhabi's and the UAE's priorities for the country's economy and future. Understanding this importance and value can help to ensure that the country's natural resources are managed responsibly and sustainably.

One way to ensure that the private sector understands the value of nature is through education and awareness. Businesses and organizations should

be made aware of the impacts that their activities have on the environment, and should be educated about the importance of protecting and preserving the natural resources in the UAE. This can be done through seminars, workshops, and other educational events. Additionally, businesses can be encouraged to develop and implement policies that focus on sustainability and environmental protection.

Another way to ensure that the private sector understands the value of nature is through collaboration and partnership. The government should partner with the private sector to create initiatives that focus on sustainability and environmental protection. This collaboration can help to ensure that businesses are taking the necessary steps to reduce their negative impacts on the environment, and to implement sustainable practices. Additionally, the government should provide incentives for businesses that adopt sustainable practices. Finally, the government should create policies and regulations that ensure that businesses are held accountable for their environmental impacts. This includes implementing laws that require businesses to report their environmental impacts, and creating financial penalties for businesses that do not comply with environmental regulations.





By taking these steps, the private sector in the UAE can be made aware of the importance and value of nature, and can ensure that it is managed responsibly and sustainably. This will help to ensure a thriving and successful economy in the UAE.

On that note, At EAD, we follow four basic mechanisms to ensure we are aligned with the private sector. Firstly, we empower the private sector to be part of the solution which is at the core of our work. For example, we established the Green Business Network (GBN), which provides an important platform to create a more cohesive and coordinated approach to promoting and implementing sustainable business practices. It is a long-term initiative and we are very proud of its evolution over the past few years as it continues helping business in the country, and specifically in Abu Dhabi, to have access to resources and expertise that will help them transition toward lowering their environmental impact. Secondly, we endorse incentive schemes. Industries in the UAE are at the forefront of innovation, and we established incentive schemes to reward and promote sustainable practices. In 2022, we launched the 'Green Industries' eco-labelling programme. We expect this

programme to encourage companies to adopt environmentally friendly practices, and to help consumers make informed decisions about the products they purchase by providing information about each product's environmental impact. Additionally, it creates a level playing field for companies that have already adopted sustainable practices, allowing them to differentiate themselves from competitors who have not. Finally, we expect it to increase the demand for environmentally friendly products, which can drive innovation and the development of new technologies.

Thirdly, as we develop regulations and policies, we also examine our long-term regulatory framework to ensure legislation is aligned with the UAE's and Abu Dhabi's environmental aspirations while supporting economic diversification. For example, we have issued more than 3,000 licenses to companies in compliance with our environmental requirements across a wide array of sectors.

Finally, we enter regularly into partnerships and collaborations. At EAD we are lucky to have a private sector that is willing to partner on, and co-develop and implement conservation and sustainability initiatives. We asked our community

to join our ambitious 'Mission to Zero' campaign to end single-use plastic in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. Mission to Zero is a public-facing awareness campaign and while we received a positive community response, we also achieved buy-in from the private sector, which considers preserving the country's environment from plastic pollution a shared responsibility.

Q3: Given the pace at which we must redouble our efforts to maintain 1.5°C, what is the role of long-term policy and how can the private sector support policy development and implementation?

The global climate crisis is an urgent issue that requires immediate action. In order to prevent the worst effects of the climate crisis, the global temperature must remain well below 2°C and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. In light of this goal, it is essential to develop and implement long-term policies that will ensure that we achieve this goal.

The UAE has implemented long-term policies and planning in climate mitigation actions in order to promote economic development and job creation, as well as to open new opportunities for business through

the emergence of new markets and businesses. To facilitate the implementation of these policies, it is important to create enabling conditions by building institutional capacities, strengthening governance, and building partnerships.

The UAE has also joined the ranks of countries that have adopted the ambitious 'UAE Net Zero by 2050' strategic initiative, which aligns with the Paris Agreement and aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and limit the global temperature increase to 1.5°C compared to pre-industrial levels. The private sector can play an important role in supporting this policy development and implementation.

Specifically, the private sector can help by providing resources, funding, and expertise. They can also support policy development by providing research and data to inform decisions. Furthermore, they can also provide funding for policy initiatives, such as subsidies for renewable energy sources and incentives for individuals and businesses to reduce their emissions. Additionally, the private sector can help to implement policy by providing resources, such as financing for renewable energy projects, or technology for monitoring emissions. Finally, private sector organizations can provide expertise to support the development and implementation of policy, such as by providing legal advice, offering business insights, and providing technical assistance. In summary, the private sector can play an important role in supporting long-term policy to maintain 1.5°C and help to mitigate the worst effects of the climate crisis.

Q4: How is the Environment Agency- Abu Dhabi supporting businesses in reducing their climate change impacts?

We are supporting businesses in reducing their climate change impacts in several ways. Some of the initiatives and programmes implemented by us include: the Green Business Network (GBN) which helps businesses to adopt environmentally-friendly practices and reduce their carbon footprint through technical support and guidance. We help with Carbon Footprint Measurement and Reduction by providing training and tools to businesses to measure and reduce their carbon emissions through carbon footprint assessments and the implementation of energy efficiency measures. Furthermore, we support businesses in their transition to renewable energy sources through the provision of grants and technical assistance. Also, we work with businesses to implement waste reduction and management strategies, including recycling and

composting programmes. Similarly, we assist businesses in reducing their water consumption through the implementation of water conservation measures. Overall, the EAD is committed to supporting businesses in reducing their climate change impacts and promoting sustainable practices.

Q5: There is a need to ensure that we are adequately prepared for the increasing extreme weather risks due to climate change. How can businesses mitigate against climate change risks in terms of business continuity and climate resilience?

The growing risk of extreme weather due to climate change is a major concern for businesses. In order to ensure business continuity and climate resilience, businesses must take steps to mitigate these risks. A first step in preparing for climate change impacts is to assess how they will affect your business, and a growing number of companies are undertaking such risk assessments.

Companies should then develop a mitigation strategy that is tailored to their specific needs and vulnerabilities. This should include identifying the broad business and strategic risks, developing a granular view of the risks involved, and developing a mitigation strategy. This requires a systematic approach to analysing the potential impacts of climate change on a company's operations, and how to implement risk-reduction activities. This can be achieved by increasing investments in infrastructure and equipment that are better able to withstand extreme weather, such as building stronger roofs, using more durable materials, and taking other protective measures.

Additionally, it can also include diversifying supply chains to reduce reliance on one or a few sources, and implementing risk-management policies, such as having backup

plans for extreme weather events. Additionally, businesses should strive to reduce their emissions and pursue renewable energy sources. In conclusion, businesses must take proactive steps to mitigate against climate change risks and ensure business continuity and climate resilience.

Q6: With the issue of carbon, what would you advise companies to do in relation to decarbonising and offsetting? What role can each play in reducing carbon emissions to get us to net zero?

As the world grapples with the need to reduce carbon emissions and reach Net Zero, companies must play an important role in decarbonising and offsetting their activities. Decarbonising involves reducing or eliminating emissions through the implementation of strategies and technologies that would help companies reduce their industry-specific carbon emissions as well as decarbonise their day-to-day operations.

These strategies and technologies can include energy efficiency measures, transitioning to renewable energy sources, and switching to electric vehicles. Offsetting activities involve compensating for emissions by investing in activities that reduce emissions elsewhere. This can include investing in reforestation projects, supporting renewable energy sources, and investing in energy efficiency projects in developing countries.

Decarbonising activities reduce emissions from the source, while offsetting activities compensate for emissions as much as possible through decarbonising activities, and then offset any remaining emissions. Therefore decarbonising and offsetting can play an important role in reducing emissions and reaching Net Zero.



INTERVIEW WITH LAILA MOSTAFA ABDULLATIF

LAILA MOSTAFA ABDULLATIF
DIRECTOR GENERAL,
EMIRATES NATURE-WWF



Ambition To Action: How we Can Achieve a Greener, More Resilient Tomorrow

How important is sustainability to you personally?

As an Emirati woman, sustainability is in my roots. I grew up surrounded by Emirati culture, with a deep respect for the environment and the knowledge that my ancestors had survived by making the most of the minimal natural resources at hand. My generation has also seen the development and transformation of the UAE. We know anything is possible if we set our hearts and minds to it.

As an environmentalist and a mother, sustainability is the future. It represents hope, opportunity and prosperity for humanity, the economy, biodiversity, and the very health of our planet.

I want my children and their children to inherit a prosperous nature-positive world in which people and planet live in harmony with one another. I work towards to this future every day in my personal and professional life.

But nature is reminding us that it cannot cope with the immense stress we are placing on it. The time has come to mobilise our collective society towards transformative impact for nature and humanity through volunteerism, action and philanthropy. We need to ramp up our

engagements with individuals at every level of society – from the leaders of today to our current youth who will become the change makers and leaders of tomorrow – if we are to successfully and effectively deliver on sustainable development, progressive climate action and reversal of nature loss.

What does Sustainability mean in the context of nature?

Nature can become our biggest ally in restoring the health of the planet while also contributing to job creation, sustainable economic growth, food and water security, and climate resilience of vulnerable areas. A recent WWF report, Our Climate's Secret Ally, revealed that nature has absorbed 54% of humanity's carbon dioxide emissions over the past 10 years, slowing global warming.

We can unlock the regenerative potential of nature in two ways. First, by continuing and expanding upon efforts to reduce our collective negative impact on the planet. As a civil society organisation, we work with all facets of society – government agencies, businesses, organisations and individuals – and support them in reducing their environmental footprint.

Second, by advocating, designing and implementing projects that place nature at the front and centre of economic development. Our recent Nature-based Solutions (NbS) project restores coastal ecosystems in the UAE and enhances natural barriers to mitigate the impacts of climate change. Through this flagship NbS project, we aspire to demonstrate the real, measurable and lasting gains that science-based solutions can offer for climate, biodiversity and people.

Another exciting project is taking in place in collaboration with Etihad Rail and with support from our Leaders of Change volunteering community. Together, we are restoring a traditional source of freshwater and building a nature trail at Al Bithnah Village, which has the potential to become the UAE's next ecotourism destination and bring prosperity to the local community.

Tell us more about the projects that Emirates Nature-WWF launched at COP27. How do they support the UAE's Net Zero by 2050 commitment?

Emirates Nature-WWF showcased two significant projects in Sharm El-Sheikh that not only contribute but also catalyse action towards achieving the UAE's Net Zero strategic initiative. This is a unique example of how a non-state actors can, with the patronage and support of national leaders, play

a pivotal role in enabling cross sector collaboration, knowledge share and implementation of climate action and protection of biodiversity.

Our first key announcement at COP27 was the launch of the UAE Alliance for Climate Action (UACA) which calls on non-federal stakeholders to join as members and ramp up their efforts on decarbonization.

UACA supports them in this endeavour by providing capacity-building, awareness and tools to implement and achieve transparent and credible net-zero targets. This is a bottom-up approach that engages sub-national and non-state actors (SNSAs) from various segments such as finance, transport real estate, food and SMEs,

in a collaborative and meaningful way.

This alliance will also support companies who have taken the UAE Climate-Responsible Companies Pledge by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MoCCA), and is in line with national efforts to increase the engagement and contribution of the private sector to the UAE Net Zero strategic initiative.

The second announcement was the onboarding of two significant partners to our Nature-based Solutions (NbS) efforts. We welcomed MoCCA and the Environment Agency of Abu Dhabi (EAD) whose support will allow us to forge ahead with the protection, restoration and management of UAE's priority coastal ecosystems, which are





instrumental in carbon sequestration, climate mitigation and adaptation.

NbS make up an integral component of the national and global response to climate change. Globally, it is estimated that nature-based solutions can provide one-third of the climate mitigation needed until 2030 to achieve the targets of the Paris Agreement.

Our NbS project adopts a 'Seascape approach' that recognises that the value and provision of ecosystem services is influenced by connectivity across multiple habitat types. It is particularly relevant for the UAE where mangroves, seagrass, saltmarshes and coral communities co-occur in coastal lagoons.

We look forward to showcasing positive nature and climate outcomes, as well as the local and regional insights of this pilot at the upcoming COP 28 conference which will be hosted here in the UAE.

Fostering awareness and action around conservation and environmental preservation is arguably no easy task. How do you on-board more stakeholders in advancing Sustainability?

Regulation plays an important role by providing guidance, as well as aligning and incentivising efforts of the entire public and private sector towards achieving specific targets in key areas of national and global importance such as decarbonisation, protection of biodiversity and sustainable economic growth.

Emirates Nature-WWF advocates a bottom-up approach across all our projects, to ensure the voice of all sectors are integrated in decision making. We are part of numerous high-level committees to gather insights, investigate barriers and propose solutions that can be further integrated into policy.

Our volunteer programme Leaders of Change and our youth movement Connect with Nature empower individuals and youth across the country to be part of national discourse around sustainability. We also collaborate closely with local communities while designing and implementing projects as part of our vision to promote inclusive conservation.

How can we foster more innovation and impact in sustainability?

When it comes to innovation, it is important to act decisively, fail mindfully, incorporate learnings promptly and try again. This takes hard work, courage and the flexibility to adapt to evolving challenges.

For innovations to be successful, especially in sustainability and in this part of the world, it is important to respect traditional customs and involve local communities at the planning and implementation stages. If the benefits to people and ecosystems are apparent, there is opportunity to win people's hearts and earn their support, which is critical as the project expands and scales up.

Another important aspect in scaling up innovations is measurability.

We need to track the impact of our interventions and demonstrate proven track records to secure financing, donations and partnerships.

How can organisations in the Gulf region positively impact nature? How can they accelerate the adoption of climate-friendly purpose?

We have the opportunity to work together to make sure the region's private and financial sector is leading the collective response to climate action. We must come together and act decisively in this crucial decade of implementation to achieve transformative impact at scale.

Our NbS project is of particular relevance across the Gulf, as we share similar ecosystems and environmental vulnerabilities. We have seen tremendous interest and support for the protection, restoration and management of high-impact coastal ecosystems, which enhance carbon capture, protect biodiversity and unlock opportunities for society. There is so much potential to expand this further, and for this we need the support of more partners across the region.

What is one characteristic that will help leaders in the sustainability journey?

Be willing to set an ambitious vision that excites and empowers the people around you. The journey to limit global warming to 1.5°C requires courage, creativity and collaboration. Together, we can achieve the impact we seek.

ENGAGEMENT WITH ADSG MEMBERS PAINTS A POSITIVE PICTURE

Abu Dhabi Sustainability Group (ADSG) members and stakeholders were invited to complete a survey in November 2022 as part of a review of the ADSG Strategy 2021 - 2025 being conducted by Sustainability to Action (STA). The survey comprised of questions that were first posed to members and stakeholders in 2019. Analysis of results has therefore provided a unique benchmarking opportunity by allowing for a direct comparison of 2019 and 2022 responses.

The ADSG would like to thank all participating organisations for their

valuable time and insights and are pleased to share a snapshot of the results with you here.

ADSG Members have more to say about a wider set of issues

Survey responses were rich in anecdotal data and, in particular, references to issues of governance and social/ human capital. In comparison to the survey results of 2019, respondents had more to say about a wider set of issues.

• Respondents demonstrate an approach to sustainability that

accounts for multiple capitals (particularly social).

• The majority of respondents continue to be supportive of greater regulation around sustainability; they also value data and reporting as tools for measuring progress and facilitating operations that align with their organisation's values.

• Respondents are looking beyond their immediate peers/ competitors and to organisational values they admire for examples of best practice and inspiration.



Respondents report that their organisations are more ambitious, goal-orientated, confident and holistic when it comes to sustainability. They welcome further regulation and aspire to operate sustainably beyond compliance

Sustainability for Success

All respondents have noticed a change in customer behaviour and increased awareness in recent years, particularly around net zero and environmental concerns. Some respondents also reported increased engagement around sustainability with customers in the UAE, Qatar and Oman.

• Respondents acknowledged that customers are scrutinising their organisation's sustainability credentials and demanding higher standards.

• Respondents are therefore focused

on the implementation and extension of pre-existing sustainability policies, initiatives and goals across all business functions.

• Respondents were unanimous in the opinion that the business benefits of sustainability far outweigh the potential costs.

ADSG Members are Committed, Confident and Ambitious

As was the case in 2019, sustainability is perceived by respondents as a joint effort for which leadership and follow-through from top management is essential. Some respondents

recommend further management support; however all respondents are positive about the role and value of their CEO and/ or Board at leading and implementing sustainable policy and practice.

A lack of awareness no longer represents a big obstacle for the majority of respondents [as it did in 2019], and respondents are confident of their employees' and stakeholders' positive attitudes towards sustainability.

The Risks Of Not Focusing On Sustainability

In considering the risks of not focusing on sustainability, respondents expanded on the list of answers given in 2019 to include environmental, social and governance (ESG) concerns.

What are the risks of NOT focusing on sustainability?

- Failure to measure and manage impact on environment and communities.
- Inability to mitigate risks or threats to stakeholders.

- Negative environmental impacts.
- Climate crises
- Compliance risk.
- Failure to adapt to changing regulatory frameworks.
- Threat of climate change and related impacts.
- Increased inequality.
- Risk to reputation.
- Financial penalties.
- Loss of investors/ reduced investment appeal.
- Inefficiency.
- Poor performance.
- Increased operational costs.
- Reduced employee satisfaction -

- risk to recruitment and retention.
- Decreased customer satisfaction and loyalty.
- Falling behind (generally and in comparison to competitors).

What are the risks of focusing on sustainability?

- Potential additional cost.
- Potential impact on operational production (dependent on industry/ sector).
- Potential deviation from current short-term business needs.
- Potentially detracts and takes resources away from other sciences.



ABU DHABI SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS LEADERSHIP FORUM 2023

20TH - 21ST SEPTEMBER, ANANTARA EASTERN MANGROVES HOTEL, ABU DHABI, UAE

NATURE-POSITIVE GROWTH

Amidst multiple global crises, it is critical to shift focus from the immediate challenges to the longer-term overarching climate catastrophe facing the world.

Organisations are starting to realise the real risks and the possible consequences of climate change and nature loss to their future success. The Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Forum 2023 explores ways in which businesses, markets and society might respond, and the implications of these uncertainties for business strategy and financial planning in order to accelerate the way forward and create opportunities for nature-positive growth collaboratively.

TUESDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2023 AWARDS AND GALA DINNER

1900-2130

Welcome Reception and Awards Gala Dinner (by invitation only) – Mangroves Ballroom

- Opening Speech: HE Dr Shaikha Al Dhaheri, Secretary General, Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi
- Keynote Speaker: TBC
- Awards Ceremony

While respondents are aware that their organisation's sustainability credentials are under more

scrutiny than ever, they are also increasingly confident that their organisation matches (38% of

respondents) or exceeds (62% of respondents) their competitors in this area.



Supporting the ADSG Membership

Support is needed to drive sustainability in any organisation. Respondents prioritised resources; budget; and awareness campaigns as the top three support measures needed to drive sustainability

forward. This was also the case in 2019.

More specifically, respondents voted for capacity building; flagship programmes; and communication and sustainability events as the top three support measures that the

ADSG can provide to support the integration of sustainability. The ADSG look forward to delivering this support in 2023 and beyond in the spirit of cooperation and open dialogue, and in alignment with its key strategic priorities and the UAE's sustainability agenda.

WEDNESDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER DAY ONE

0900 - 1000 Registration and Coffee (Registration open throughout day in the Lobby)

1000 - 1005 Welcome Speech: Huda Mohd Al Houqani, Director, Abu Dhabi Sustainability Group

1005 - 1030 Opening keynote address:

- Her Excellency Dr Shaikha Al Dhaheri, Secretary General, Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi
- Lead Sponsor- CEO Dolphin Energy, TBC

1030 - 1130 Plenary session 1 CEO panel: Looking Ahead to COP 28

Dubai: Leaders on the Road Ahead
Key outcomes of COP27, focus areas of COP 28 and the action needed to deliver a 1.5°C pathway across sectors and geographies.

1130 - 1230 Plenary session 2 Economist/CFO panel: Financial Leadership In Times of Instability

Taking into account the global economy, inflation rates and financial challenges: How can we map the path ahead to mitigate risk and price volatility for both industry and society at large, with insights from A4S.

1230 - 1330 Plenary session 3: Full Capitals Approach to Climate & Sustainability

In the wake of COP27, there is a clear need for the integration of full capitals approach into decision making, what is the current reality and the next steps that we need to take to achieve net zero emissions and move from ambition to action.

What is the progress being made, what are the mistakes and challenges companies are experiencing, and the opportunities they are creating on their journeys to next zero. with insights from The Capitals Coalition.

1330 - 1445 Lunch at Ingredients

1445 - 1615 Workshop

Greenhouse gas accounting for your supply chain - CDP

1615 - 1715 Highlights of the Day

Close of Forum Day 1

1800 - 2000 Poolside Reception - food and soft drinks provided by Sponsor

THURSDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2023 DAY TWO

0800 - 0830 Registration (Open all day in the Lobby)

0900 - 1000 Light Breakfast and Coffee

1000 -1100 Plenary session 4: The End of Greenwashing

With multiple reporting frameworks, transparency and consistency must be maintained. With Sustainability reporting regulations emerging around the world and since the establishment of the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) and the launch of the new global baseline of sustainability disclosures. How compatible is it with different jurisdictions? Why is comparability and consistency in sustainability-disclosures needed? Are all sustainability-related disclosures equal? The way forward to stop greenwashing.

1100 - 1200 Plenary session 5

With the world population now exceeding 8 billion, adaptation planning is critical. How are we dealing with the adaptation gap? What is the role of corporations? The development of infrastructure that is needed to enable the transition to a low carbon economy, How do we build it, how do we live in it?

1200 - 1300 Lunch at Ingredients

1300 - 1430 Workshop

Valuing nature and people to inform business decision-making, introducing the TNFD Nature-Related Risk & Opportunity Management and Disclosure Framework



1430 -1445 Refreshments and break

1445 -1530 Highlights of the 2 Days and Forum Closing Remarks





A Public Private Partnership Initiative to Champion Sustainability in Abu Dhabi

AWARDS GALA DINNER

SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS LEADERSHIP AWARDS 2023

19TH SEPTEMBER 2023

AGENDA

19.00-19.30	Welcome Reception
19.30-19.45	Seating
19.45-19.50	Awards Welcome Speech Huda Al Houqani
19.55-20.05	Opening Speech H.E. Dr Shaikha Salem Al Dhaheri
20.05-20.30	Keynote Speaker Craig Bennett, CEO, Wildlife Trusts
20.30-21.30	Awards Ceremony
21.30-21.45	Post-Ceremony Photography
22.30	Carriages

AWARDS JUDGES



Abdullatif N. Albitaw

Abdullatif is a member in the Energy Institute and the Secretary Genral & Hon. Vice Chair of the Middle East branch.

He is a chemical engineer in back ground and holds an MSC in Energy Studies and one of the first qualified energy engineers in Jordan.

Abdullatif has 22+ years of work experience in the pharmaceuticals, chemical and manufacturing industry



in managerial and consultancy positions.

He is also Specialist Fellow of the International Institute of risk and Safety Management (IIRSM) and served in many positions in the institute.

Abdullatif is also a judge for number of international awards in energy and risk management.



Dexter Galvin

Dexter leads CDP's work to support companies in building a truly sustainable economy.

With a deep knowledge of Scope 3 and how companies can unlock the power of their supply chains, Dexter spearheaded CDP's Supply Chain program in 2008 - now a global membership program with far-reaching impact, including recent adoption by the U.S. federal government, the largest purchasing organization in the world.



His remit includes developing market-leading products for companies through CDP's Reporter Services team, working with CDP's accredited solutions providers (ASPs) and other partners, and utilising his passion for the standardization and harmonization of environmental reporting standards to drive meaningful corporate impact.

Dexter also sits on the advisory boards for Giki and AI for the Planet, and in 2013 he launched Action Exchang



Dr. Fauzia Jabeen

Dr. Fauzia Jabeen is a Professor of Management in the College of Business at Abu Dhabi University and a Visiting Professor at Burgundy School of Business, Dijon, France. In addition, she serves as Chapter Advisor for the Beta Gamma Sigma honor society at Abu Dhabi University. She has more than 20 years of experience in teaching, consulting, and research in a wide variety of industries, including manufacturing, telecoms, education, utilities, and healthcare. A prolific writer, Dr. Jabeen has published work on behavior, gender studies,



innovation, sustainability, knowledge, and performance in leading journals, including the International Journal of Hospitality Management, Journal of Business Research, Technological Forecasting and Social Change, Business Strategy, and the Environment.

Outside of the University, Dr. Jabeen has delivered training to leading Middle East companies, including Sheikh Khalifa Medical City, Abu Dhabi Municipality, Mubadala, and Saudi Telecom Company (STC).



Dr Jenny Davidson
Executive MBA Programme Director Newcastle University Business School

Dr Jenny Davidson is the Executive MBA Programme Director at Newcastle University Business School. She has embedded the Sustainable Development Goals into Executive Education programmes. This allows learners to measure their impact against those goals.

Jenny has been working and conducting research in the field of sustainability for over 20 years. She held a series of senior leadership roles in sustainability in both the public and private sectors, most recently BAA Heathrow



and Oxford City Council.

Throughout her career, Jenny has sought to forge cross-sector collaborations. She has led many successful European bids, collaborative PHDs and contract research projects. She also currently leads the Women In Sustainability Newcastle Hub.



ABU DHABI SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS LEADERSHIP FORUM 2023

20TH - 21ST SEPTEMBER 2023
ANANTARA EASTERN MANGROVES HOTEL
ABU DHABI, UAE

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The Abu Dhabi Sustainability Group (ADSG) is working in partnership with the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD) to put together its annual flagship event supporting and promoting sustainability across the region - The Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Forum 2023.

The forum will bring together senior executives, representing corporations, government, NGOs, academics and the media to discuss the current trends surrounding sustainability and CSR in the region. The conference has a number of key objectives:

- To highlight the significant links between sustainable business practices, business success and foreign and domestic investment in the region
- To highlight the region's leaders and innovators in sustainable business
- To explain how to design and implement responsible business practices across the business
- To showcase and debate current

best practice in responsible business operations across the region

DELEGATE PROFILE

The conference will attract an audience of around 400 representatives. Delegates will be made up primarily (~70%) of senior managers from large corporations across a range of industries in the functions of sustainability and CSR. The remainder of the audience will be filled by government officials, NGOs, academics, industry associations and the media.



THE VENUE - ANANTARA EASTERN MANGROVES SPA AND HOTEL

An urban sanctuary in the heart of the capital. Majestically set on the waterfront the hotel is a natural haven on the cusp of urban life, its unique location offers guests an exceptional Abu Dhabi experience. The exotic beauty of the region's precious mangroves provides the perfect backdrop for the rich cultural traditions embodied in the hotel's impressive architecture. Discover luxury accommodation definitive of urban Emirati life.

5 BENEFITS TO SPONSORING

- Position yourself as a leader and innovator in the region and the global sustainability space more broadly
- Help push forward innovation and progress as the region looks to align business practices with ethical practices
- Meet with and build relationships with key stakeholders, including NGOs, government officials and corporate partners
- Highlight your extensive, leading work in front of industry media, academics, NGOs, suppliers and peers
- Support independent debate around sustainability amongst a room filled with your peers and national leadership

SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES

LEAD SPONSOR: 250,000 AED

- Exclusive branding on all pre-conference marketing along with on-site branding all around the conference hall and networking area as lead sponsor
- Exclusive inclusion in the pre and post event press releases to give high profile exposure across all media platforms (including the)
- Mention through twitter to highlight Lead Sponsor support for the event.
- Opportunity to make a brief welcome/introduction on the morning of the first day of the conference
- A speaking slot or panelist position on the main conference agenda
- 1 reserved table exclusively for Lead Sponsor: Dolphin Energy team

CO-SPONSOR: 150,000 AED

- Branding on all pre-conference marketing along with on-site branding

all around the conference hall and networking area as co-sponsor

- A speaking slot or panelist position on one of the main conference panels
- Mention through twitter to highlight Co Sponsor support for the event.

MEDIA SPONSOR: 80,000 AED

- Branding on all pre-conference marketing along with on-site branding all around the conference hall and networking area as Media sponsor.
- A speaking slot or panelist position on one of the main conference panels

NETWORKING RECEPTION SPONSORSHIP: 75,000 AED

- Branding on all pre-conference marketing along with logo branding all around the conference hall and networking area with your participation detailed
- An invite to go out to all speakers and delegates ahead of the conference inviting them to the conference networking reception hosted by you
- Host a networking reception at the end of day 1

WEBINAR SPONSOR: 60,000 AED

- Work closely with ADSG to determine the topic of the webinar discussion along with those additional speakers to be involved
- The webinar and your involvement to be marketed to the entire ADSG database and through various media partners
- Speaking position on the webinar which will last around 45 minutes in total
- The recordings from the webinar to be marketed to the ADSG database and to sit on the IADSG website
- This webinar will be used as a standalone tool to promote sustainability in the region, and also as a follow up to the conference itself

REPORT SPONSORSHIP: 30,000 AED

- ADSG are producing a detailed management briefing focusing on case studies, best practice and current trends in the space. The report is to be produced by Sandra Anani, Editor of the ADSG Sustainability Journal
- Branding throughout the report with your support detailed
- The report will be published on ADSG website, marketed to entire database and pushed through various media partners channels to reach a large and diverse group of stakeholders. Development and publication will start during April

FORUM OFFICIAL AIRLINE CARRIER SPONSOR, ETIHAD AIRWAYS

- The Etihad brand will be highlighted at the Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Forum with branding on the Forum marketing materials which include roll-ups around the forum venue, networking area and the stage back drop highlighting your commitment to sustainability amongst your peers and national leadership
- Exclusive inclusion alongside the Lead Sponsor in the pre and post event press releases to give high profile exposure across all media platforms
- A speaking slot or panelist position in one of the main plenary sessions at the Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Forum where Etihad can promote their achievements in the presence of key stakeholders and over 200 delegates
- Exclusive inclusion in the pre and post event press releases to give high profile exposure across all media platforms
- Highlighted as the event official airline carrier in the Forum report which is distributed to all our members and stakeholders
- Mention across all social media platforms for ADSG



THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN ENERGY TRANSITION



The Global Picture

The Energy Transition is underway (Sustainable Development Goal 7) with countries vamping up their net zero by 2050 commitments and working towards fulfilling them as they are transitioning to a greener, more efficient and sustainable energy mix.

This is leading the way for a fast exponential growth of the Energy Sector towards developing the existing sustainable energy models and accelerating new energy innovations and technologies. Although the shift to this new Sustainable Energy Sector has challenges, it creates opportunities to really embed gender inclusion and diversity in the mix of the future workforce.

For the transition to be efficient, successful and resilient the industry needs to harness talent in all its forms and foster innovation across a vast array of skills, applications and specializations. It is why this worldwide shift is the greatest opportunity to transform our society and communities to embrace diversity and be more inclusive.

Currently in the energy industry (renewable and traditional) the percentage of male employees exceeds that of female ones. At the same time, employers are facing challenges in finding new talent and

retaining existing talent as today's workforce is changing priorities and is increasingly focusing on workplace flexibility, empowerment and aspiration.

Now is the time to embrace the opportunity to include more women in the global workforce at all levels, and under the right conditions merge the talent gap by implementing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion methods. Gender balance in the workforce has proven benefits to the workplace, societies, families and national economies, including higher corporate performance, reduction of corporate risk, higher innovation rate, higher team leadership, motivation, demonstration of greater corporate responsibility.

The Barriers, but also the Solutions
Of course, no one can doubt the long-existing barriers to equal participation of women in the energy sector at all levels. But what if we set measurable strategy and action plans with tangible metrics at all levels and implement solutions? Wouldn't these barriers go away?

At an individual or family level, we have seen childhood gender stereotyping at home and school, negative beliefs for the abilities of girls in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), even career interruption for family reasons. How about

cultivating a culture of inclusiveness and equality of capabilities, avoiding gender stereotyping and encouraging girls toward science, technology, engineering and mathematics studies and technical professions, participating in energy sector related networks and associations that empower and elevate women?

At an academic level, there is lack of coaching and mentorship towards science, technology, engineering and mathematics studies for girls as well as lack of career coaching after university. What if we create initiatives that support diversity, equality and inclusion, provide mentoring and career advice to students in collaboration with relevant energy sector companies, collaborate with companies for internship and scholarship programs, and develop courses/subjects relevant to the sustainable energy sector?

And at the workplace there can be inflexible human resources policies, recruitment practices, gender discrimination and pay gap, old leadership mentality. To mitigate that we can set relevant and measurable diversity equity and inclusion policies, set targets for an equal ratio of men vs women during recruitment and on C-Suite level, including Board members' equal participation. Run internal diversity equity and inclusion campaigns, deliver diversity equity

and inclusion training programs for all employee levels, while including diversity equity and inclusion KPIs in the performance metrics of all employees. Upskill employees with sustainable energy relevant courses, support women-owned businesses and entrepreneurship, provide flexible remote working and family friendly schemes, and measure performance based on actual deliverables, not physical presence.

At a government level, there is a lack of national and sector policies for gender inclusion so the way forward is to set policies and frameworks for gender balance, including reporting metrics and rating systems for organizational compliance.

UAE Leaders Act on Gender Balance

Gender equality is of paramount importance in the UAE, and the Constitution of the UAE guarantees equal rights for both men and women. The UAE is leading in gender equality in the region, according to the World Economic Forum's 2022 Global Gender Gap report.

"The UAE Gender Balance Strategy 2022-2026, launched in March 2022, aims to achieve UAE leadership and global influence in this field, and to enhance the representation of women in leadership positions and across sectors, through gender mainstreaming and meaningful local and international partnerships, in alignment with the goals and pillars of the next fifty years plan and the vision of our wise leadership." H.H. Sheikha Manal bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, President of the UAE Gender Balance Council.

Further demonstrating the UAE's progress in women's inclusion, justice and security, the UAE is ranked 24th



among 170 countries and the highest regionally in the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security's 2021 WPS Index.

The literacy rate of both women and men in the UAE is close to 95%, with more women than men completing secondary education and enrolling in university and post-graduate institutions.

- 77% of Emirati women enroll in higher education after secondary school and make up 70% of all university graduates in the UAE
- 56% of UAE government university graduates in STEM are women
- The literacy rate of women in the UAE is 95.8%

And this is evident in the business world too. In 2020, the UAE had the highest number of women on Forbes' 100 Most Powerful Arab Businesswomen with 23 Emirati women on the list. Women business-owners account for 10% of the total private sector with 23,000 Emirati

businesswomen running projects worth over AED50 billion, occupying 15% of the positions in the Boards of chambers of commerce and industry nationwide. In 2021, the UAE Security and Commodities Authority issued a mandate that listed companies must have at least one woman on their Board of Directors.

These achievements come from the UAE leadership's fundamental belief that women and men are equal partners in society, who through a series of UAE public and private sector initiatives, are playing an increasingly stronger role in business, government and science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields in the country.

The UAE is setting the right path for engaging more women in the Energy Sector. In the future we shall see cascaded Energy Sector specific gender balance frameworks involving all the stakeholders for a successful Energy Transition journey.
Sources: IRENA



MARIA FLOUDA

Maria is a passionate Sustainability and Women's Empowerment advocate. Founder of "Sustainability Switch Consultancy" which helps organizations drive their Sustainability Agenda in line with UN SDGs and Board Member and Sustainability Chair of "Lean In Equity and Sustainability" a Non-Profit Organization with the mission to empower women in the energy transition. Maria holds a Master's and Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering and Sustainability Credentials from Cambridge University (CISL).

Maria has 22 years of experience in Corporate Strategy and Project operations for significant large-

scale Projects and Government Environmental, Social and Governance Initiatives. Maria started her career in Civil Engineering in the UK, then moved to Greece, participated in large-scale infrastructure projects, and in Abu Dhabi for the past 15 years, where she worked with international Consultants and the most prominent Government Public Asset Development Organization in Abu Dhabi. During her tenure in UAE, Maria always engaged with young Engineers and enjoyed mentoring and empowering them in the workplace, always supporting equality and respect.

ADCB GREEN BOND: HELPING TO FINANCE THE UAE'S NET-ZERO AMBITIONS



ADCB's green bonds aim to channel investment to initiatives that support the UAE's net zero objectives.

Climate change is one of the greatest threats facing society. According to the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), global economies must halve emissions by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050 to limit global warming to 1.5°C and avoid the worst effects of the climate crisis.

For its part, the UAE was the first GCC country to commit to net zero carbon emissions by 2050 and aims to invest AED 600 billion by 2050 to meet the growing energy demand and ensure a sustainable growth for the country's economy.

Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank (ADCB) recognises that banks can – and should – play a key role in achieving

these objectives. The Bank fully supports the UN's goals to limit greenhouse gas emissions to combat climate change, as well as the UAE's own strategic net zero ambition.

Central Role of Green Finance

ADCB is a leading financial institution in the UAE providing more than one million customers with a full suite of products and services, spanning retail and private banking, wholesale banking, treasury and investments, and property management.

With sustainability integrated as a core pillar of its corporate strategy, ADCB has committed to providing AED 35 billion in green financing by 2030 to help the UAE's transition to a net-zero economy. To this end, in September 2022, the Bank issued its inaugural US\$ 500 million green bond, with the aim of supporting the mobilisation of finance to sustainable and environmentally beneficial purposes.

Channelling Global Capital

Completed on 14 September, ADCB's five-year green bond issuance was 3.8 times oversubscribed. It attracted a wide range of local, regional, and international investors that placed total orders of over US\$ 1.9 billion. The proceeds of the issuance will support

financing of a low-carbon economy in line with criteria set out in the ADCB's published Green Bond Framework, with a specific focus on clean energy initiatives, low carbon assets and green projects.

Initiatives that are eligible for financing through the green bond include projects or companies associated with renewable energy, green buildings, sustainable water and wastewater treatment, clean transportation, energy efficiency, pollution prevention and control, and sustainable management of the environment.

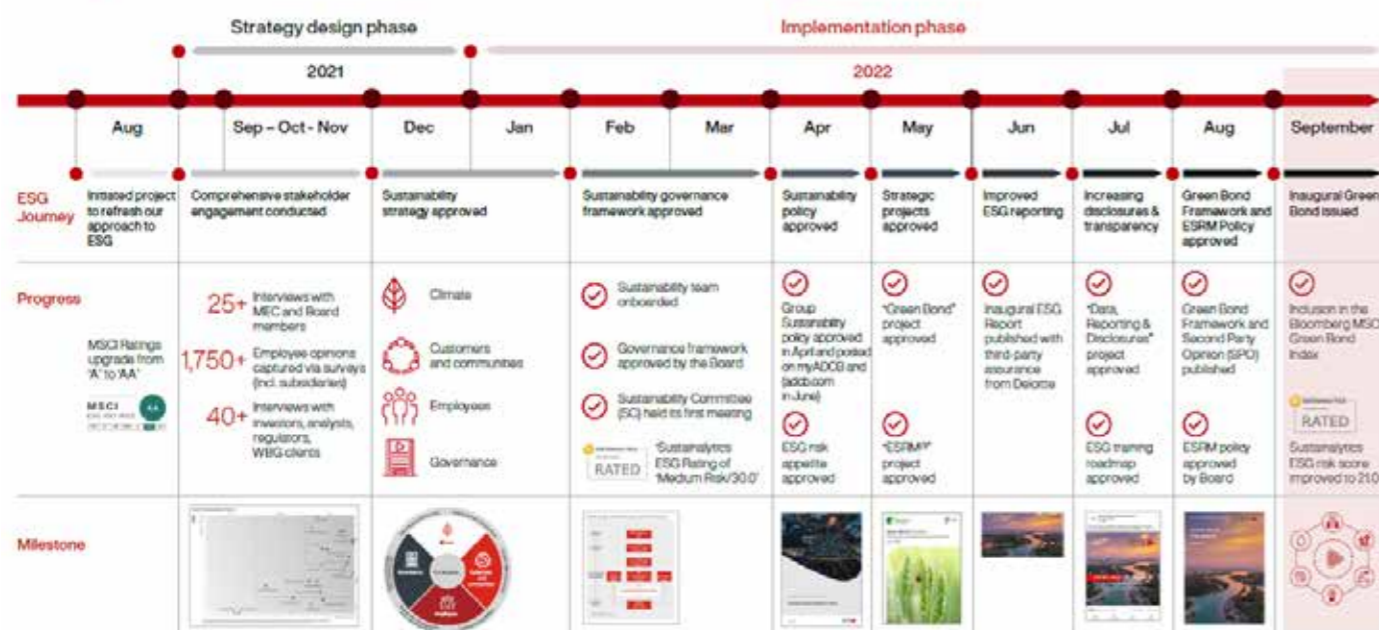
Defining a Robust Green Eligibility Criteria

Projects are evaluated and selected for financing based on a number of 'green' criteria across seven categories specified in ADCB's Green Bond Framework:

- Renewable energy
- Green buildings
- Sustainable water and wastewater treatment
- Clean transportation
- Energy efficiency
- Pollution prevention and control
- Environmentally sustainable management of living natural resources and land



Our ESG journey to date A major milestone achieved with the issuance of our first green bond



The Framework is based on the International Capital Markets Association's (ICMA) Green Bond Principles and aligned with the UN SDGs, providing a long-term platform to support further mobilisation of capital for clean energy initiatives and green projects. It has also been reviewed by ISS ESG, which has issued a Second Party Opinion that is available to investors.

Furthermore, ADCB has set a new best practice in the market by aligning its energy efficiency measurement approach to the EU taxonomy for sustainable activities, the industry benchmark for the classification of green activities, to measure and identify the top 15% most energy efficient residential buildings.

Measuring Success

To regularly review the Framework and ensure it remains aligned with evolving best practices and new regulatory developments, ADCB has established a cross-functional Green Bond Working Group (GBWG) consisting of senior stakeholders from across the Bank, plus external

partners as required. The success of projects financed through the green bond will be measured against a set of 'impact indicators'. These are different for each project category. Examples may include annual reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (Renewable Energy); annual water savings (Sustainable water and wastewater treatment); or volume of waste processed (Pollution prevention and control). The full list is detailed in Green Bond Framework.

Building on ADCB's Track Record of ESG Achievements

The bonds are a key milestone in the Bank's sustainability journey and build on several other ESG achievements in 2022:

- New governance framework with Board oversight of sustainability strategy
- Green finance target of AED35 billion by 2030
- CFO-led Group Sustainability Committee
- Executive remuneration linked to sustainability KPIs
- Board approved 'Environmental and

Social Risk Management Policy' to assess and mitigate risks in the credit approval process

- GRI and SASB compliant 'Group ESG Report' with GHG emissions assured by Deloitte

ADCB's ESG efforts remain a key priority driven and directed by the Board and Management Executive Committee. The Bank's Group sustainability strategy is founded on the four pillars of climate, customers and communities, employees, and governance.

Through its thorough integration of ESG considerations across its organisation, ADCB aims to maximise its contribution to the socio-economic development of the UAE, while managing risks and meeting the evolving requirements of customers. This institutional strength allows ADCB to provide consistently high-quality service to its customers and play a progressive and supportive role in the wider community as the UAE transitions towards an inclusive, net zero economy.

GREEN WASTE



Green Eco Technologies (GET) was established in 2016, with the aim of developing a commercial solution to fight the global issue of tackling food and organic waste onsite diverting this from landfill, from being flushed into the sewer system or incinerated to help reduce the global burden of greenhouse gas emissions.

GET manufactured and launched the WasteMaster solution in the United Kingdom in 2018 then Australia and following successful trials across

multiple industries, channels and sales opened in Chile, Spain, the United States of America, and the United Arab Emirates in 2019.

The WasteMaster is an innovative solution that repurposes food & organic waste on-site without the use of precious water or any additives in the process, that in turn eliminates the need for drainage and the potential to cause major issues to sewer systems by not transmitting the fat, oil, grease, and starch.

With our globally patented technology of ionisation, the food waste decomposition is accelerated, reducing the volume of waste by up to 70% within 24 hours then producing a valuable product, we call

a 'residue', while retaining both the high calorific and nutrient value of the input material and eliminating the pathogens. The residue has different uses such as soil conditioner, fuel for green energy and potentially as fish food or animal fodder.

The system has also been designed to enable simple operation of the WasteMaster, with the benefit of a bin lifter to ensure safe loading and complying with health and safety standards. The process is fully automated for loading and unloading, so no human intervention required. We also provide remote support & diagnostics 24/7.

Furthermore, the WasteMaster has the capability of capturing true

data of food waste processed and repurposed, that is valuable to our partners in managing their food waste responsibly and for their ESG and CSR goals. The solution also aligns with the principles of the Circular Economy, ensuring the maximum possible benefit is captured from essential resources.

The level of food waste in the Middle East is extremely high across all sectors, catering to multi-nationals and increasing even further during holy periods.

The process for managing food waste historically is to transfer the waste from the kitchens and after-service waste to a cold room to avoid the waste degrading and potentially combusting, especially with the high temperatures. This is then typically thrown in with the general waste and sent to landfill, where the resulting issues are the high CO2 emissions, the methane that is approximately 27 times higher than the CO2 and leaching into the water table.

WasteMaster eliminates the need for both time-sensitive on-site food waste storage and frequent collections which significantly reduces vehicle movements with the corresponding reduction in CO2 emissions. Moreover, the Life Cycle Assessment carried out by Deakin University highlighted that using the WasteMaster system versus sending the food waste to landfill reduces the overall CO2-eq emissions by approximately 84%.

In a short time within the UAE, we have repurposed 189,512 tonnes of food and organic waste, reduced CO2-eq emissions by 330 tonnes equivalent to removing 40,366 cars from the road.



Recognition & Certifications

WasteMaster's innovative processing of food and organic waste onsite together with the ability to provide 'real-time' data and repurposing of the output for the circular economy has been recognized by the UAE Ministry of Climate Change & Environment in support of the 'UAE Food Waste Pledge'.

This collaboration will also give users of the WasteMaster solution recognition of their own achievements in both managing their food and organic waste and knowing that they are closing the loop and achieving not only their own ESG and CSR goals but contributing strongly towards UAE Net Zero 2030.

Further certification and awards below:

- Middle East Waste & Recycling Awards 2022
- Living Business - Food Waste Management Award for JA The Resorts 2022
- Gulf Sustainability Innovation in Sustainable Technology 2021
- Green Apple Environmental Awards
- CE and UL Certification

Manufactured to a high standard and independently certified as well as the testing of the output for the removal of pathogens and alternative uses.

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IRIS ANN MEDALLE
Green Eco Technologies (GET)
Client Engagement & Operations
Manager, MEA

Prior to joining GET, Iris gained 16 years' experience in the hospitality industry, working for Fairmont Hotels, FRHI Hotels and Resorts (now Accor) for 11 years. Starting at Fairmont Dubai as an Engineering Clerk moving to Human Resources then transferred to the FRHI Regional Office with the responsibility for HR and Operations. Always looking for a challenge, Iris joined Atlantis The Royal project, as HR Manager prior to moving to Kerzner International Global Office as HR and Office Manager.

In March 2019, Iris was presented with the opportunity to promote the WasteMaster solution across the UAE, which provided an ideal platform to share her passion for sustainability.

With Iris' extensive knowledge and experience in the hospitality sector in the UAE region, developing opportunities across all sectors, overseeing, and managing project installations with some key organisations and working with local service teams. Moreover, her vision has helped engage on several initiatives such as "closing the loop" for the repurposing of food waste, supporting the UAE "net-zero 2050".

حوار

Hiwar

The Abu Dhabi Sustainability Group cordially invites you to
ADSG HIWAR

DATE 3RD MAY 2023

THE JOURNEY TO DUBAI

To accelerate climate action and reach net zero collectively, the world needs to move from advocacy to activation. COP27 (known as the implementation COP) saw a landmark deal agreed to launch a loss and damage fund for the world's most climate-vulnerable nations, whilst more work needs to be done to activate the fund, in our journey to COP28 Dubai, we must focus our efforts on delivering 1.5 degrees celsius and on immediate and decisive action to keep the goals of the Paris Agreement within reach.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

- What is the role of nature-based solutions and how will nature-based solutions help humanity to meet climate change, biodiversity and land degradation targets?
- The world's oceans are the greatest carbon sink and form an important part of the climate change solution. How can the private sector integrate ocean-based action in practical terms? And what is the role of business in a voluntary blue carbon economy?
- How can the private sector transition from being part of the problem into leading the solutions?

HIWAR AGENDA

- 1.30pm Registration & networking breakfast
- 2.00pm Welcome: Ms Huda Al Houqani, ADSG Director
- 2.10pm Panel debate
- 2.40pm Q&A with audience
- 2.50pm Review of emerging ideas from the Hiwar
- 2.58pm Closing remarks
- 3.00pm Networking coffee

Please contact us on
communication@adsg.ae
to express an interest in
joining this in person event.

#ADSGHiwar23
#COP28
#InAbuDhabi

