

Emirates
Nature



WWF



LEADERS OF CHANGE

IMPACT REPORT: Q2 2024

**WE ARE
ACTIVELY
MAKING A REAL
DIFFERENCE FOR
OUR PLANET!**



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**Our list of achievements grows -
thanks to all our Leaders of Change!**

Thank you for joining the Leaders of Change, your unwavering dedication has become the cornerstone of a brighter, more sustainable future. Together, we stand at the forefront of progress, shaping a world where harmony between humanity and nature thrives.



Emirates Nature-World

**TOGETHER WE ARE
WORKING HARD TO
ACHIEVE OUR GOALS!**

As we entered Q2 of 2024, we didn't just turn a page; we embraced a powerful demonstration of what can be achieved through unified efforts. During this time, our Leaders of Change embarked on a path characterized by decisive actions and transformative results, surpassing previous expectations and establishing new standards for environmental responsibility.

Here's a rundown of the of the Leaders of Change progress milestones we have contributed to:

Leaders of Change Journey in Numbers



You obtained over **5512** data points which will help us make scientific contributions and realisations.



You helped restore **300 metres** of Nature Trails across UAE.



You undertook **27** events and participated in **2,308.5** hours to protecting nature across on the ground, train and ideate events.



You attracted **1,102** attendees across the total of events.



You collected **747.5 kg** of waste which will help us protect our ecosystems.



You've collected an impressive **5512** data points across World Environment Day and Other Events - **65.4%** from the annual goal!

This quarter, we gathered a wealth of data from **World Environment Day and other events**, highlighting our ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship inspired by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. His **legacy of dedication to preserving our natural heritage guides our mission as Leaders of Change**, underscoring our responsibility to protect the environment for future generations.

Our recent research efforts have played a **crucial role in shaping government policies and enhancing environmental advocacy**. By collecting data across diverse landscapes—from the wadis of Fujairah to the mangroves of Umm al Quwain and Abu Dhabi—you have acted as citizen scientists, capturing footage, recording wildlife observations, and contributing to biodiversity assessments. These **insights are vital for informing National Plans of Action and supporting IUCN red listing initiatives**.



The data amassed from these efforts conducted across various terrains including the wadis of Fujairah, the sites of Bithnah, Masfout, and the mangroves of Umm al Quwain and Abu Dhabi informs the **National Plans of Action for species conservation and bolsters the IUCN red listing initiatives**, reinforcing our commitment to preserving biodiversity. As you complete another quarter of 2024 with the Leaders of Change programme, we take pride in reporting the collection of over **19,612 research observations** and the analysis of more than **2,404 kg** of litter.

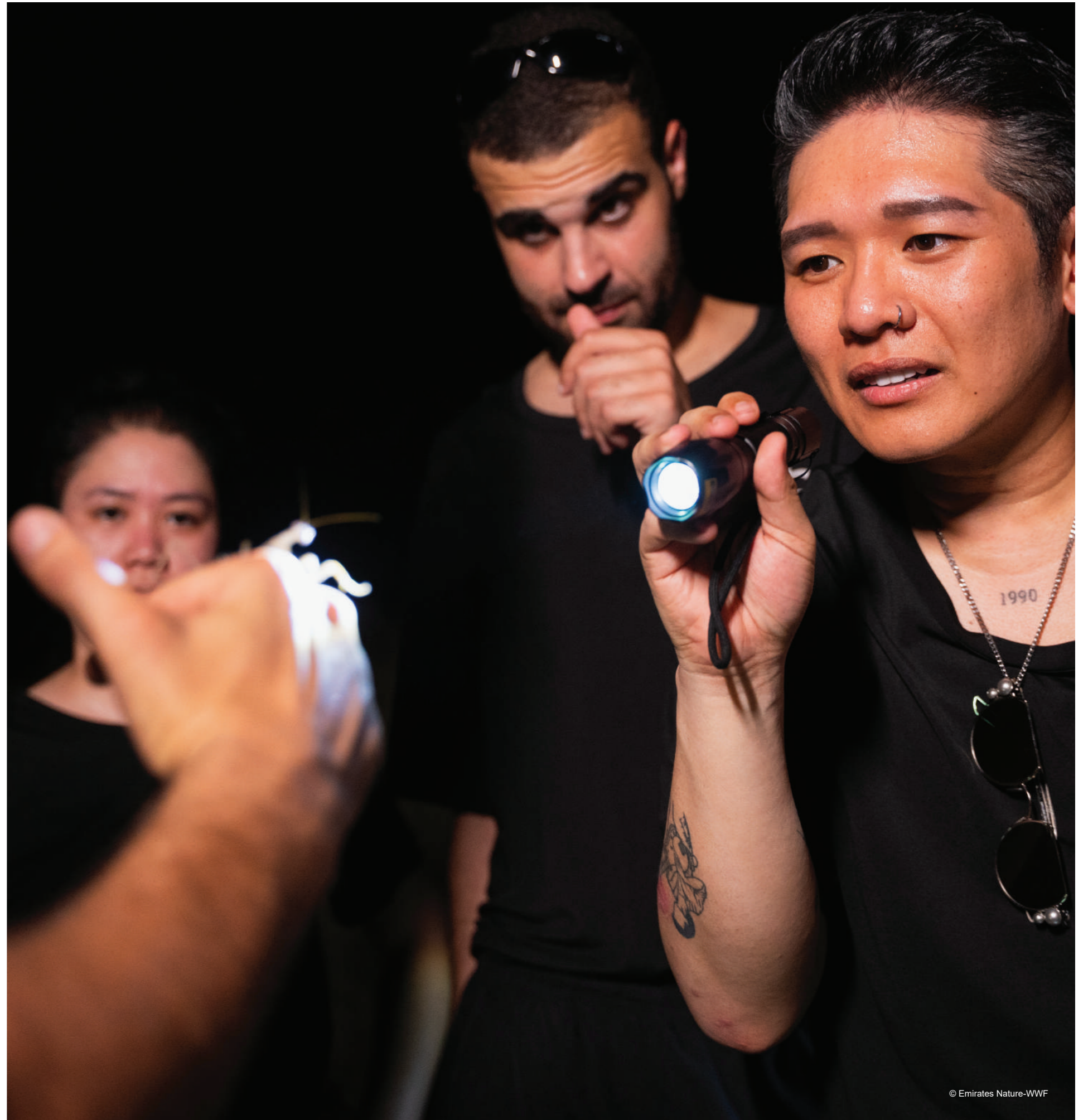


World Environment Day: A Celebration of Nocturnal Life

This year's World Environment Day, themed "Our Land. Our Future," focused on landrestoration, desertification, and drought resilience.

On this occasion, you gathered with your fellow Leaders of Change members and volunteers to learn about the **rich nocturnal wildlife that thrives under the night sky**. Our conservation experts led the group through the Wadi Wurayah national park, and explained how the wider community can help gather valuable data on plant and animals species, and support ongoing research as citizen scientists. All **46 of you documented a range of nocturnal creatures** and contributed over **138 hours of community effort**.

Nature at Night serves as a cornerstone of our awareness-raising efforts and **supports in protecting 30% of the UAE's wild areas by 2030**. By expanding our exploration into various nocturnal habitats, we aim to foster a deeper appreciation for the misunderstood creatures that inhabit our homeland. Through such initiatives, we not only strive to achieve our conservation goals but also seek to transform attitudes and behaviours towards bats, scorpions, and geckos, fostering harmony between humans and nature.



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Member Highlights:

Khaled Alazbe, Youth Ambassador for Nature, commented: “Participating in the ‘Nocturnal Wonders in Wadi Wurayah’ event was profoundly impactful. It reinforced the critical role of citizen science and showcased the importance of community engagement in preserving our natural heritage.”

Mohamad Al Hamadi, DEWA, commented: “The event is spectacular, it teaches us the importance for conservation of our national species and how we can contribute to a greener tomorrow. I thoroughly enjoyed discovering new animals like the Ethiopian Hedgehog and various geckos and scorpions, thanks to the UV light. It was an eye-opening experience.”

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Looking Ahead

As we move forward, our collective efforts continue to foster a deeper appreciation for our natural world, transforming attitudes towards wildlife and enhancing conservation practices. Together, we strive to safeguard the natural beauty and biodiversity of our region for generations to come.



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We are over **37%** of the way towards our goal of contributing **15,000** hours for nature.

Our **Leaders of Change** have collectively dedicated **2,380.5** hours across **27** riveting events across the three pillars of our program: **TRAIN**, **IDEATE**, and **ACT**.

In the **TRAIN** phase, you and your peers have invested **428** hours in a range of enriching seminars. These sessions covered essential topics such as 'Bat Chats,' regional biodiversity, climate issues, corporate climate action, and eco-footprint measurement. This training has **equipped you with the skills needed to become effective citizen scientists**, allowing you to make meaningful contributions to our local ecosystems.

During the **IDEATE** phase, you engaged in **193.5** hours of stimulating discussions and collaborative workshops that explored how climate change shapes our actions. These sessions **deepened your understanding of the cause-and-effect relationships within climate change**, fostering innovative thinking and problem-solving.



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In the **ACT** phase, you have committed **1,789 hours** to hands-on conservation efforts. You played a **crucial role in flood restoration projects in Al Bithnah, Fujairah, and Wadi Shees, Sharjah.** By working with our scientific team, you contributed to restoring resilience in **Masfout** through the rehabilitation of farmlands and nature trails.

Your dedication and tireless efforts exemplify a profound commitment to environmental conservation and sustainable development, showcasing the impactful change our community is driving.





You collected **747.5 kg** of waste extensive flood restoration activities and other on-the-ground efforts around the UAE!

In the second quarter of the year, through hard work and determination we can report the **collection of 747.5 kg of waste**. This vital contribution directly shapes national policies on single-use plastics, land utilization, and conservation legislation. Our success reflects the extensive efforts undertaken across various Emirates of the UAE.

In response to recent extreme weather events, the **Leaders of Change program had intensified its focus on flood recovery and resilience**, by implementing biological and engineering measures to mitigate community losses, such as **introducing drought-resistant crops and constructing reinforced retaining walls to protect falaj systems and farms** from future flash floods.

We were excited to see **205 Leaders of Change and volunteers from across the UAE come together** with conservation experts in Al Bithnah (Fujairah), Wadi Shees (Sharjah),



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and Masfout (Ajman). Collectively, **you removed 165.5 kg of debris, repaired 550 meters of falaj irrigation canals, and restored 300 meters of nature trails.** This teamwork ensured a steady flow of fresh water to farmlands and revitalized essential natural habitats.

Heartfelt gratitude to all of you who braved the early hours in Fujairah, Sharjah and Ajman to address the damage from recent floods. Your efforts not only comprised of clearing debris, repairing irrigation channels, and but **also restoring 30 Arabian Moringa trees, along with planting 55 new saplings.** Your dedication is helping these affected areas **recover and build resilience against future extreme weather events.**

By actively participating in these clean-up and conservation efforts, our members are not only enhancing the health and resilience of our ecosystems but also providing vital support to the wildlife and communities that depend on them.

Hanan Yousef commented: “We are part of a beautiful community, and despite the storm, it’s good that we can come together to do this effort. Even if it’s a small part we are playing, we can slowly restore it part by part. also It’s good that we are able to give back to the community.”





Celebrating Success - The Leaders of Change Program Recognized by H.H. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

On World Environment Day, the UAE recognized the collective strides made by those dedicated to environmental protection and sustainable progress. It was a privilege to engage with entrepreneurs, environmental leaders, and youth who presented groundbreaking green initiatives, reflecting the UAE's unwavering commitment to global climate action and environmental stewardship. Through collaboration and dialogue, the UAE continues to lead the way in sustainability solutions for a brighter future.

The remarkable achievements of our sustainability sector are a source of immense pride and inspiration for the UAE. The nation is committed to ensuring that every voice is heard and every idea valued in the quest for a sustainable and resilient world.

We are honored that the Leaders of Change program was showcased to H.H. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan at a special World Environment Day event. Arabella Willing, who leads the program for Emirates



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Nature-WWF, had the privilege of presenting this collective effort, highlighting its tangible impact and the positive change it is driving on the ground.

Our Honorary Founder and President, H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and Managing Director H.E. Razan Al Mubarak were also present at this distinguished event. As the UAE's largest movement for nature, Leaders of Change is inspiring thousands across the country to maximize their impact through training, ideation sessions, and dynamic conservation field trips.

With 23,368 hours dedicated to protecting nature since its inception, the program exemplifies the community spirit and national pride that define our country. The extended Year of Sustainability and the UAE's recent hosting of COP28 have heightened our commitment to environmental stewardship, laying the groundwork for a proactive and united community driving meaningful change.



Charting the Course Ahead.

As we review the **successes of our second season in 2024, achieved through the dedication of our 4,858 volunteers, we look forward with renewed optimism.** Our ambitious goals are guiding us toward a future where human well-being and environmental health are in harmony. With unwavering resolve and a strong spirit, we are confident in our ability to drive global change. **You have committed to fostering a sustainable world. You've invested your time in developing climate solutions, championing conservation efforts, expanding your knowledge, and connecting with some of the brightest minds in the UAE.**

Businesses and government entities across the UAE are supporting us in upholding sustainability and making transformative impact through the program. This quarter, **Mubadala** renewed their membership with 350 members. **DEWA** renewed their Platinum Membership with 100 members. **NBF** also renewed their membership with 100 members and participation in 3 training workshops during the month of April. **Expo City** came on board the Leaders of Change program with 300 credits.

This annual program is mobilizing all sectors of society to drive change through training sessions, ideation workshops, and exciting conservation field trips, which support our ongoing conserva-



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This annual program is mobilizing all sectors of society to drive change through training sessions, ideation workshops, and exciting conservation field trips, which support our ongoing conservation efforts and **align with the UAE's environmental goals.**

Everyone has a role to play in building a sustainable future. This principle is at the heart of our Leaders of Change program. We invite all individuals, businesses, and government entities to join the movement and contribute to meaningful, on-the-ground impact.

Together, let's continue to nurture the seeds of transformation for a brighter, greener future.



THANK YOU!





TOGETHER POSSIBLE!



Emirates Nature-WWF is a non-profit organisation established to conserve the United Arab Emirates' natural heritage and build a future where people and nature thrive. The organization was founded in 2001 by our Honorary Founder and President, H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed al Nahyan, the Ruler's Representative in the Al Dhafra Region and Chairman of the Governing Board of the Environmental Agency-Abu Dhabi, as a legacy of the late Sheikh Zayed's vision for the United Arab Emirates. For two decades, Emirates Nature-WWF has been a prominent and active partner in environmental conservation in the MENA region. We work in association with WWF, one of the world's largest and most respected independent conservation organisations. As a local conservation organisation and volunteer platform, we empower, convene and mobilise civil society, government and business to support the UAE's sustainability agenda and deliver transformative impact at a scale for the benefit of people and planet alike.

For more information about Emirates Nature-WWF, please visit emiratesnaturewwf.ae