



# Inside SCI

**Sustainable Campus Initiative  
Newsletter**  
Ensuring Sustainable Footprint!

## QUOTE OF THE EDITION:

"As we work to heal the earth, the  
earth heals us."

— Robin Wall Kimmerer,  
Teaching Professor of  
Environmental and Forest  
Biology.

## The clock is ticking, and timing is running out.

There are only 9 more years to reach goals set by the United Nations to achieve Sustainable Development, to develop the community leaving no one behind and recovering majority of the environmental resources.

To accelerate efforts, the UN is urging leaders to support regional actions, stabilise the bond between human and nature, encourage innovation, and invest in Sustainable Development.

Ecosystems are threatened, risking the loss of 1 million species over the next decade if there was no accelerated action done to safeguard them. In case you are wondering, what should I do? You are a leader of your community, and you can always urge yourself and your community to get involved, to look after local ecosystems in Abu Dhabi, including: urban areas, wetlands, marine, desert, mountains, trees, shrubs, and farmlands.

Before you hesitate to perform an action that promotes ecosystem restoration, remember that there are catastrophic environmental issues that are currently happening, and just as there are increased rates of environmental degradation happening at a global level, there are massive efforts and contributions that are currently being done involving people all over the world to work hand in hand to achieve #ecosystem restoration, rethink before you step back. We are all in this together!

With the start of the new year, let us all INTENSIFY our efforts #forpeopleforplanet.

To know more visit the following link:  
<https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/what-ecosystem-restoration>

Regards, SCI Team.



## Sponsors Welcome:

Borouge, a joint venture between Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and Austria-based Borealis, is a leading contributor to innovative plastic solutions for various industries. Borouge endorses the protection of human wellbeing, resource optimisation, and knowledge building to support new opportunities among community members.

As a provider of plastic and chemical products, Borouge commits to sustainability principles and proactively addresses environmental issues, such as water sanitation and the safe management of chemicals. In alignment with the vision of Borouge to positively impact society today and tomorrow, we have partnered with SCI for over five years to build leadership capacity among the youth.

“At Borouge we are proud of our commitment to sustainability in everything we do. Through our long-standing engagement with Sustainable Campus Initiative (SCI) we inspire today's youth to understand and adopt sustainability principles to protect our precious environment and empower our community,” said Maitha Al Marashi, VP Sustainability, Borouge.





# SCI in Action

## Environmental Youth Debate



On the 29th of September 2021, SCI Team hosted an Environmental Youth Debate “Who is Responsible for Ecosystem Restoration?” via zoom, moderated by the eloquent speaker Dana Al Hosani - Manager, Student Activities, Leadership and First Year Experience from New York University - Abu Dhabi.

Three participants debated the importance of the communities’ role in looking after the environment. They discussed the large volumes of waste generated by communities as well as road trips made by members of the communities contributing to air pollution, as was made evident during Covid-19 lockdown. Also, the irresponsible use of fertilisers and pesticides impacting the quality of soil, air, biodiversity, land, and food.

On the other hand, 3 youth argued against the communities’ role, highlighting the need to create a much larger impact through high authorities and the power of government, as well as public and private sectors making it easy to control the source of disturbance and well as the governments influence in terms of raising awareness.

Finally, the way Expo 2020 has been structured and the way that it takes immense consideration of sustainability in the little details of the event with a whole stand dedicated to sustainability, was discussed; 47 People attended the talk.

In the end we congratulate team Governments, Public and Private sectors who won the argument for their confidence, clarity, validity, and effectiveness of resources.

# SCI in Action

## Nature Through My Camera

Sustainable Campus Initiative (SCI) hosted the first Arabian and Emirati Wildlife Photographer Suaad Al Suwaidi who portrayed her profound passion on wildlife photography. At the talk, Suaad touched upon her experience of being highly tolerable and motivated to go outside her comfort zone and face obstacles just to pursue her passion.

Suaad quoted “I created that world, a world that nobody knew about, my own world, me and my camera, my best friend.”

With continuous progress and no expectations Suaad was acknowledged in several local and global areas, her photographs were published at the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi, UAE Women Encyclopedia, Nikon, National Geographics, and even reached several newspapers and magazines.

Suaad reiterated on the importance of “Respecting the Environment” mentioning that we as humans often visit habitats, it is not the other way around, nature should be respected like the respect we have when we visit other people’s houses.

83 participants warmly listened to the talk, from the interactive questions and answers, and positive feedback given at the talk, Suaad defiantly inspired and touched some participants hearts.



# Eco Pedestal



## AUS receives STARS Silver rating for its sustainability achievements

With the start of 2021–2022 academic year, American University of Sharjah (AUS) attained their position at the SCI Eco Pedestal for earning the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) silver rating from Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education due to their commitment towards the environment and their extensive achievements whether from SCI's key categories or achievements within AUS's campus or collaborating with different entities and academic institutes.

Other than the fact that AUS now is the highest rated university in the GCC region, AUS is one of the top ranked SCI universities holding the first- and second-best ranked universities in two SCI's key categories since the academic year 2016–2017.

STARS rating system is a direct measurable self-reporting framework used to identify Sustainability performance for higher education campuses.

“Incorporating sustainability is vital to higher education for two reasons. First, sustainability will play a role in each of our student's futures, in both their professional and personal life, so they need to understand the concepts and impacts of actions as they pertain to climate change and social justice. This is part of our commitment to preparing our students to be engaged and become effective members of society. Second, students are seeking out sustainability in the classroom and in campus activities. They want to see and be proud of what is happening at AUS.” Rose Armour, Head of AUS Sustainability.

Congratulations AUS, well deserved for the massive effort!





## Green Space:

SCI Team is thrilled to announce H.E. Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak – EAD's Managing Director at the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi has recently been elected as the president of International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) leading programmes and development of policies that supports nature conservation.

As well as H.E. Dr Shaikha Salem Al Dhaheri - at the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi Secretary General for being elected as a regional councillor for West Asia providing guidance to the overall policies and programmes.

**Congratulations, nature conservation is governed in good hands.**

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To all youth, remember that you can share your environmental aspirations, achievements in an individual level, plans, ideas, to be added at our green space! here is a list of environmental days happening this month, don't forget to celebrate them and share your publications!

- International Clean Air Day 2021- 07 October
- World Bird Migratory Day 2021 - 09 October



# Connect with SCI

Join our network and stay updated with all things sustainable at:

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/greenyouthmajilis/about/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/Sustainable-Campus-Initiative-100339758483754/>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/sustainablecampusae/>
- <https://www.instagram.com/greenyouthmajilis/?hl=en>

And follow our movement through our hashtags #SustainableCampus #UAEYouth!



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