



The National Field
Research Centre for
Environmental Conservation
About innovative Environmental Research



Sultanate of Oman
Diwan of Royal Court

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**H.E- Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi
to Lynx Newsletter:**

**Developing the human resources is the
basic for development in the Sultanate**

Sultanate participates in the 14th Conference of the 14th Parties of (Biodiversity)

The Sultanate participated in the high-level meeting of the Conference of the Fourteenth Parties to the Convention on Biodiversity hosted by the Arab Republic of Egypt. The delegation of the Sultanate was headed by His Excellency Dr. Ali bin Ahmed bin Harib al-Isaiy, the Sultanate's ambassador to the Arab Republic of Egypt. The delegation also included representatives from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs. The meeting is under the theme (investment of biodiversity for people and the planet). It discusses the importance

of investment in biodiversity, regional data, the global post-2020 biodiversity framework and vision until 2050. The Conference is attended by about 196 countries represent Arab Countries the Gulf Arabian Countries and a number of countries around the world, is worth mentioning that the Sultanate has worked since the period to modernize its national strategy and action plan of biodiversity according to the Global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 / 2020 and the objectives of biodiversity and is in the final stage of the adoption and ratification.

A Workshop on Creativity and Innovation for «A Volunteer in My Environment» Program



Fatima Al Zidjaliah Wrote:

The National Field Research Centre for Environmental Conservation (NFRCEC) organized a workshop with the institute of Capability Development on «Creativity and Innovation in Awareness and Training» for the university students participating in «A Volunteer in My Environment» Program, conducted by the National Center in collaboration with Sultan Qaboos University, Al-Shargia University, Nizwa University and the International College for Management and

Safety. During the workshop which was introduced by Dr. Faisal Al-Jaraan of the institute of Capability Development, several important topics were addressed in the field of planning. The most important of which are innovation and creativity, professional training and problem solving skills with the latest theories and applications. The workshop also included extensive discussions on new concepts of leadership, management, innovative scientific methods for team management, business division, and the importance of encouraging

staff to upgrade the level of services offered to improve performance. This workshop comes within the framework of the continuation of the «A Volunteer in My Environment» Program which aims to train students of higher education institutions in the Sultanate to promote and raise awareness among the various social groups in various environmental issues of the Sultanate. The program has performed many environmental awareness activities in the Sultanate, covered various governorates of the Sultanate.

point of view



The Promise and the Achievement

Dr. Dawood Sulaiman Al Balushi
Editor-in-Chief

He promised his people that they would live happily, surrounded by all the elements of modern life. He rolled his arms with all the wisdom and will to defeat the impossible. Every inch of the beloved land of Oman was subject to his ideas, strategies, plans and visions to make Oman at the forefront of the world. He craved the rocks to build roads, out of the deep sea he invented paths for global communication, out of the atmosphere. he created channels for peace and security, prosperity. He achieved his dream and turned it into a reality. Convoys of love to the Sultanate started to come from all parts of the earth. Thanks to his enlightened wisdom. Oman has become the peace icon of world.

The task for building a modern country full of all the opportunities of life, was never easy. He faced lots of difficulties, but the Qaboosian conquer the impossible. In a short period of time, he has made a quantum leap in all areas of life. Schools, hospitals, government institutions, airports and sea ports have been built. Every inch of this good land is blessed with the fruits of this country, and all the people are equal, governed by one law, and united by their love and loyalty to their leader and homeland.

The anniversary of November 18 renew the love of Qaboos the leader and the father. Qaboos the man who watered the soil of this homeland with his own sweat, so, the earth sprouted strong men who are ready to fight for their country and preserve its wealth, resources and civilization. If you see them in the battlefield, you will know that they have no fear of death. If you see them in the fields of science and literature they are the grand sons of Jabir bin Zaid and Mahlab ibn Abi Sufrah. If you see them sailing away into the seas and oceans, they are the descendants of Ahmed bin Majid and Ahmed bin Al-Nu'man. Men love their country and their leader, and offer their lives for them.

The epic of loyalty and gratitude to the leader and the nation are engraved in gold letters, in these glorious days of blessed renaissance. We are entitled to be proud and to boast all the achievements made on this generous land. we pray to Allah Almighty to protect His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said, may God cover him with His care and give him the enjoy of health, wellness and long life.

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H.E- Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi to Lynx Newsletter:



Developing the human resources is the basic for development in the Sultanate


With the blessed splendor of the 48th National Day, which is decorated with honor and pride on the land of this dear country where the national achievements in various fields are integrated with the development system of the Sultanate which derived its and methodology from the enlightened thought of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said. The visions have been integrated to become a tangible reality and developmental achievements that we are proud of in various fields, The Omani person has become able to contribute in building and development as a key partner in the development, so that every inch of Oman has received its share of development and growth and Oman has become an oasis of peace, security, prosperity and tranquility. This national occasion comes every year with a new look, and with men who

have dedicated their lives to building and serving this precious country. They never spare sweat, time or efforts to work for building and development, taking into account the building of the Omani person in the first periority. This is an affirmation of the approach of the country's leader - God bless him and keep him well.

The lynx newsletter is unique in its exclusive dialogue with His Excellency Al-Sayid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, the Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, to talk in this dialogue about the achievements of the blessed renaissance, the future vision of development and the importance of the building the Omani person, as well as the role of the Diwan of the Royal Court in this respect and his Excellency vision about the environmental affairs.



■ Your Excellency, as we celebrate the 48th National Day, how would you describe this popular cohesion on this precious occasion?

■ ■ The noble feelings that the Omani people always show towards the country and the leader, may Allah protect him, affirms the attachment of generations in this dear country and their loyalty to the Sultan of the country - may God protect him - This is an expression of their love and belonging to this benevolent land, and an innate sense of the people of Oman that reflects their gratitude for the contribution of His Majesty - may God preserve him - to this nation. The wise approach always sees that the human being is the goal of development. The supreme vision of His Majesty the Sultan - may God support him - has considered the investing in Omani people the cornerstone for the industry of the future. It has continuously promoted the human element and provided all the elements and supports to reach the best levels in the education, rehabilitation and development, believing that upgrading the human element will be the mainstay of all development steps in the Sultanate as general.

Nations Building is a difficult task, and the sustainability of development is a more difficult task without an educated person who is aware of the events that are happening around him, a person who is capable of dealing with the most difficult challenges, a person full of hope and confidence in his leadership. That is why His Majesty, may God protect him, stressed the fact that development is not an objective in itself; it is for the purpose of building the person who is its instrument and its maker. Therefore, we should not stop at the concept of achieving wealth and building the economy. We must go beyond that to achieve the human progress and find the citizen who is able to contribute with merit and awareness in the construction of the homeland.

■ Your Excellency, what is the role of the Diwan in building and developing Omani national cadres?

■ ■ The Diwan of the Royal Court has sought to translate the Royal interest and enlightened thought of His Majesty the Leader of the country, that the Omani person is the basic pillar of development, construction and promotion according to the scientific methodological frameworks that make him/her compatible with all the global developments of knowledge, being that intellectual, technological or technical knowledge. With the great blessing of His Majesty the Sultans, may God preserve him and grant him success, the Diwan has prepared and implemented high-level national programs in coordination with international bodies and specialized expertise houses in the field of leadership, management, knowledge and technology, these are National Program for Chief Executives in the Private Sector, the National Program for Leadership and Competitiveness and the Skills Development Program for National Youth. These national programs, thanks to Allah, have contributed to the development to the develop of the Omani national leadership and youth and empower capacity and enabled them to carry the banner of this country in order to achieve sustainable development in all developmental fields. .

■ Your Excellency, How do you assess the environmental work in the Sultanate?

■ ■ The vision of His Majesty the beloved Leader and his blessed directives is that the country's development plans should be aligned with environmental development as one of the highest priorities for achieving the Sultanate's sustainable development goals. This is a clear demonstration of His Majesty's continuous attention to the Omani environment which has made the Sultanate a civilized front to be praised in all regional and international forums, as the only way to secure the present of human beings and the future of their generations.

The Sultanate has consistently implemented various environmental projects, programs and plans that have contributed to the preservation of the unique and diverse environmental heritage of the Omani environment from deterioration and extinction.

Thus, the wise policy adopted by the Sultanate has played a positive role in tackling many environmental issues. The hard work and continuous coordination between the various governmental environmental bodies and private and civil institutions have contributed to the adoption of many environmental laws, regulations, programs and projects which undoubtedly contributed to achieving harmonization between the requirements of economic and social development and the preservation of the sustainable development of the environment in the Sultanate. We hope for further prosperity and progress of the environmental action in the Sultanate, which has become a civilized achievement that continues to serve the objectives of sustainable development and consolidate our confidence in the future.

The National Field Research Centre for Environmental Conservation (NFRCEC), Office of the Conservation of Environment (OCE) and the Oman Botanic Garden, constitute important tributaries of the Diwan of the Royal Court in the promotion of the environmental work in the Sultanate. These bodies, in coordination with other environmental bodies in the Sultanate, such as Universities and scientific colleges, has contributed in preserving the vocabulary of the Omani environment and conserving its natural resources from deterioration and extinction, as well as enabling and building Omani national capacities in the field of environmental scientific research, the matter that contributed to the existence of youth energies that always seek to preserve the cultural heritage in the Sultanate.



- **The national programs implemented by the Diwan of Royal Court have contributed to the development of the capacities for leading and youth cadres and enable them to carry the banner of this country**
- **We believe in the ability of our youth in all fields, and we must preserve the gains of the blessed renaissance**
- **Environmental work in the Sultanate has become a civilized achievement that continues to serve the goals of sustainable development and enhance our confidence in the future**

- **The plantation project of one million palm trees is one of the projects that came under Royal instructions and under the supervision of the Diwan of Royal Court, what are the main features of the project? How do you expect its outcome on palm cultivation and industry in the Sultanate? What are the project's possibilities that can contribute to achieving food security in the Sultanate?**



- **At the beginning of the dialogue, Your Excellency spoke about the role of the Blessed Renaissance in the building of the Omani people. Is the Council of Education one of those tools that seek to empower and develop citizens in all fields of science?**

■ ■ Certainly, the first steps to build human beings are based on an educational system of high quality that seeks to build man in terms of civilization. Education is one of the basic components of all human cultures and a key component of cultural empowerment. As a human value and a starting point for individuals building, it allows balanced growth of the human race and a rational thinking towards the best choices for the present life and for the future. Therefore, learning was and still is the starting point of human activity, and a cultural requirement to foster the spirit of human communication.

Thus, in 2012, the Sultanate was crowned with the development of the management system of its education sector through a pioneering step, namely the establishment of the Education Council to be an umbrella that includes the various education institutions and the body responsible for formulating its policies at all stages and levels in terms of guidance, follow-up and evaluation of its plans and pathways, in consistence with the general policy of the State and the requirements of comprehensive development, in order to achieve the scientific, cultural, economic and social objectives of the Sultanate. The Council has accomplished many achievements and initiatives during the past period, and is currently working on a number of projects that will lead to a qualitative leap in the various tracks of education, to strengthen its systems and raise the efficiency of its cadres, in addition to devoting a culture of quality and evaluating and improving performance in the educational system in the Sultanate.

- **Culture is an important factor for building the blessed renaissance. How do Your Excellency look at the efforts of the Sultan Qaboos High Cultural Centre, His Majesty the Sultan's Prize for Science and Arts, and His Majesty's Chairs in international universities?**

■ ■ The cultural bodies in the Sultanate embody the Oman's culture which is deeply rooted in history. Oman is a country of ancient civilization known and dealt with by the world. Oman relied on culture as one of the important tools in communicating with the outside world on the one hand, and one of the tools of human building internally, at the other. The Royal Thought of His Majesty wanted a Renaissance system that builds a human who maintains his cultural tradition values and possesses the foundations of modernity, so that renaissance, and technological developments may not affect the the cultural value of tradition.

The Sultan Qaboos Higher Centre for Culture and Science is one of the scientific and cultural monuments that directly contributed to the cultural values of the Omani civilization through its cultural and scientific programs and projects, both internally and externally. The Centre and the Sultan Qaboos Prize for Science Arts and Literature and His Majesty's Chairs in the international universities contributed to the opening of wider areas and channels of cultural and scientific communication at the international level. These monuments enabled the Sultanate to highlight its cultural and civilization role and its interest in science, knowledge and learning as one of the pivotal frameworks for building a modern state. It has also contributed to the empowerment of Omani national cadres in the fields of science, knowledge and culture, and helped them to acquire international expertise that has refined their talents to be gradually reflected in the building and uplift of this precious country. This clearly confirms the importance of building the Omani person according to the correct knowledge and scientific datum to be the first axis in development.

■ ■ The project of planting one million palm trees, which was instructed by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said, is one of the promising projects with economic, food and even social benefits. As stated in the Royal speech of His Majesty, when the project was announced for the first time, "The Palm has been the backbone of food security in Oman since ancient times. It had been since ancient times, a cultural and civilization heritage rooted in its daily life and activities. It has contributed to the development of society and the economy, thus enhancing its position as a valuable element in the Omani nature".

Every project may face challenges, but challenges should be faced with science and work. Searching has been conducted throughout the Sultanate to find places fit for establishing farms for the project according to studies and research of water and soil to ensuring the factor of sustainability and achieve the desired results. The objective was not just to plant a million palm tree, but to make out of this project, a nucleus for a complete and comprehensive update of all stages of palm cultivation in the country, and the to carry out applicable scientific studies on the Omani environment that contribute effectively to the development of this vital sector.

As these objectives nearly achieved, we, Diwan of the Royal Court held an international conference that represented the Million Palm Project. We sought to bring together all parties interested in the economics of the palm sector around the world. The conference participants listened to what the sector can achieve as investment returns. Work on the development of the economic perspective of the project began in early 2017. The foundations of the joint work through cooperation with specialized institutions were identified. Experts and consultants for exploring investment opportunities, prepared technical and financial studies and offer them as promising investment opportunities that lead to establishment of industries with a view to raise the added value of Palm products. Twelve promising opportunities have been drawn up and a comprehensive database has been created for all the information and research gathered on the project for future guidance. The announcement of the establishment of (Nakheel Oman Development Company) is the culmination of these efforts. This company will establish a major leap forward in the national palm sector and constitute a model that can be replicated in all other economic sectors.. The project will achieve, during the coming period, a qualitative leap in the field of scientific research for the date palm sector and its secondary products through a global partnership with specialized scientific institutions in this field. This confirms and at the same time augurs that the project is proceeding in accordance with balanced scientific, administrative and technical steps that can achieve the vision of the Royal vision of the Leader of the country in the development of the palm sector in the Sultanate.



The Sultanate, represented by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs, organized a training course for negotiators from the GCC countries, which focused on the international negotiations on biodiversity, from 5 to 7 November under the patronage of His Excellency Najib bin Ali bin Ahmed Al-Rawas, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs. The course aimed to familiarize the Gulf negotiator with the most important laws and regulations related to the conservation of biodiversity, and to help him building his international negotiating capacities and skills, especially in biodiversity issues.

Organized by the Sultanate to help build negotiating capacities:

A Training Course for Negotiators in the GCC Countries Focused on Biodiversity Negotiations



In his speech of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs, presented by Eng. Sulaiman Al-Akhzami, Director General of Nature Conservation at the Ministry, the speech stressed that the attention and preservation of the environment and its natural resources and biodiversity is a duty imposed on humanity by God whose wisdom employs creatures to serve each other, each of which performs their estimated function for the continuity of life, and preserving the ecological balance on this planet.

Al-Akhzami stressed that this course comes within the framework of the Sultanate's keenness on cooperation and partnership at all regional and international levels. The Sultanate has joined several regional and international

agreements such as the Convention for the Conservation of Wildlife and Natural Habitats in the GCC States, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and other conventions and memorandums of understanding, which deal with the conservation of biodiversity. "We believe that it is our duty and responsibility to preserve biodiversity and to ensure the use of natural, biological and marine resources for the benefit of present and future generations".

For his part, the speech of the General

The training course also discussed the challenges facing the participating countries in implementing the treaties and the challenges faced by the Arab countries, particularly the West Asian countries, in organizing the regional consultations. In addition to the challenges facing the GCC States in preparing for the coordination meetings on the sidelines of the conferences. As well, discussions covered the means of cooperation amongst the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Ministries of Planning to improve the performance of the negotiations skills and utilizing the experiences of these ministries in representing their countries during international forums. All the course participants participated in a case study on the Implementation and Application of the Law of Wildlife.

Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council was presented by the Minister Plenipotentiary, HE Adel Mohammed Al Bastiki, the Director of the Environment Department at the General Secretariat of the GCC. He pointed out that this training course came as implementation of the decision of the twentieth meeting of ministers responsible for environment affairs, held in Jeddah in October 2016, in order to enhance capacity building for negotiators in the GCC Countries, particularly in the field of biodiversity in international forums, and how to coordinate positions and preserve the common interests of the GCC Countries, through studying laws and legislations related to the environment and wildlife, as well as how to plan for improvement of performance and skills of negotiation, and to know the mechanisms and procedures adopted at the conferences of the parties. In addition to the challenges facing the GCC Countries in the implementation of treaties, and how to deal with those challenges.

HE Adel Mohammed Al Bastiki Stressed that the negotiation is an integrated process that needs skillful manage based on preparation, good planning, organization, guidance and follow-up. It needs skills in the field of communication and tact and the ability to act and deal with others, stressing that all those matters were addressed in this workshop which is an integrated training course to develop negotiation skills and build capacity.

During the three-day training course, the workshop discussed the laws and regulations related to conservation of biodiversity, national laws on wildlife, policies and the role of related institutions through a working paper presented by Counselor. Abdo bin Qasem Al-Sharif the Director General of Environmental Conventions and Climate Change agreements in the Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

His Excellency the Minister Plenipotentiary Dr. Abdullah bin Salem Al Harthy, Head of the Department of Economic Gatherings and Dialogue Group at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Oman, presented a working paper entitled «Building Capacities and Skills in International Negotiations during Forum, which discussed the mechanism and general procedures for conducting international negotiations.

Professor Nawf Ali Al Wasmi, Senior Environmental Specialist and Acting Director of Biodiversity Management at the Supreme Council for Environment in the Kingdom of Bahrain, presented a working paper discussing the mechanisms and procedures of conferences of Parties such as the Convention on Biodiversity, the CITES Agreement, the Ramsar Convention, the Convention on Migratory Species the Convention on Plant Genetic Resources, the UNESCO Convention on World Heritage Sites, as well as discussions on laws on bioethics in the countries GCC Countries.



Hotness of Oceans Exceeds Expectations and Warning of Disaster

Researchers at Princeton University have concluded that oceans heat up faster than ocean scientists have thought. According to "Science Alert" website, the previous estimates that the global ocean absorbs 90 percent of the excess heat retained by greenhouse gases emitted by human activity were not precise. Now, it has been shown that this quantity has not been properly estimated and therefore, the sea waters retain greater heat. According to scientists, this makes it difficult to carry out the task of preventing global atmospheric temperatures to rise over 1.52- ° C. It also leads to increased

risk of flooding, rising seas and oceans, strong storms and the disappearance of coral reefs.

Information about the temperature and salinity of the ocean come from about 3,000 buoys, operating within the global Argo system, which is spread throughout the oceans and seas. However, according to the scientists, this information is incomplete, so they decided to estimate the quantity of oxygen released from the oceans during the years 1991 - 2016. According to this indicator, it is possible to know the heat actually absorbed, because when heated, oxygen solubility in water decreases.


Environmental Vocabulary

The Prince

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Hiding its graceful body in caves or in the cavities of trees, avoiding the places of people or near citizens, and occasionally lies on the sands of the desert covering with the blue sky. It lives alone in its environment, not shared by another male or female. It is a king of itself, a master of its environment and prince of its life.

It lives in the wilderness and deserts, settling mountains and hills. It comes out of hiding at night looking for preys of small mammals. Darkness is a jacket of it, which hides inside it from the sight of enemies and at the same time lurks its preys. At night penetrating the darkness with its sharp gaze, the power of its eyesight is not limited by darkness or lightness. If Night search is failed, the daylight is an alternative in which can catch its prey or capture a flying bird with its claws in high speed. Jump like a small cat for more than 2 meters. This is its professional job, practicing it with lightness and merit.

It is the middle animal in its species, the smallest of the older ones, and the largest of those younger. It is a mixture of both largest and smallest natures, topped by the leopard and lowered by the cat. All the three are of the Cats species; they are very similar in some qualities and differ in certain habits and practices. The male weighs around 15 kilograms while the female 11 kg. It has a length of 90 centimeters. It has a rounded face and two fine ears with brown hair. There is one line of black hair behind each ear, add to it a shine and beauty. They have a great role in identifying its prey easily and accurately. It is considered as isolated animal with its own perimeter, which is controlled by it, freely and privately. A male or female of its species is not allowed to interfere in its environment and share resources. This is also applied to the female. When reproduction nature requires, both male and female natures interfere to produce new generations. The female gives birth to two young after a 75-day of gestation period.

It is very common in the governorates of Dhofar, Musandam, Jidat Alharassis, and Hajar mountains. Despite its spread or the length of its life, which lasts up to 18 years, it is threatened by the scarcity of prey. So like the leopard, resorting to the villages to break the sheep in a hostile manner. This imaged to the minds of the people and treated similarly thus led to its death and annihilation.

In our ecological world, this animal is of great importance and significant scientific benefits. For this and for many reasons and advantages a prestigious monthly environmental newsletter has made it a symbol, logo and name, leading every page of its issuance. This newsletter publishes new topics in excellent accuracy and format, carries its name (Lynx newsletter).



Painful Image in the Red Sea Shows the Real Threat of Plastic!

Photographer Jask Dubowfski took a shocking photography shot of a shark stuck in a piece of yellow plastic, discarded years ago, close to the Brotherly Islands off the coast of Egypt. The picture taken earlier this month in the clear waters of the Red Sea, illustrates how dangerous plastic is to marine life around the world. It can be said that with the growth of the shark with the plastic around, the plastic piece becomes more

compact, to suffocate the marine creature slowly and seriously injured. «I have never seen anything like this. I was shocked when I noticed how tight a piece of plastic was on the shark's neck, and that must be painful.» said Jask. The piece of plastic is believed to be part of the breathing kit used by divers. According to UNEP, if current pollution levels persist, there will be more plastic waste in the sea than the number of fish by 2050.

Report:


Hyper Human Consumption «Exterminate» Wildlife

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) said in a released report, that «global uncontrolled consumption» has caused a dramatic decline in the number of wildlife on the planet. In its report «The Living Planet», the Fund said that the decline in the number of vertebrates, including mammals, fish, birds, amphibians and lizards, was 60 percent between 1970 and 2014. «The planet is losing its biological diversity at a pace that has only been seen in periods of total extinction,» said the report. In its report, WWF urges policy makers to set new targets for

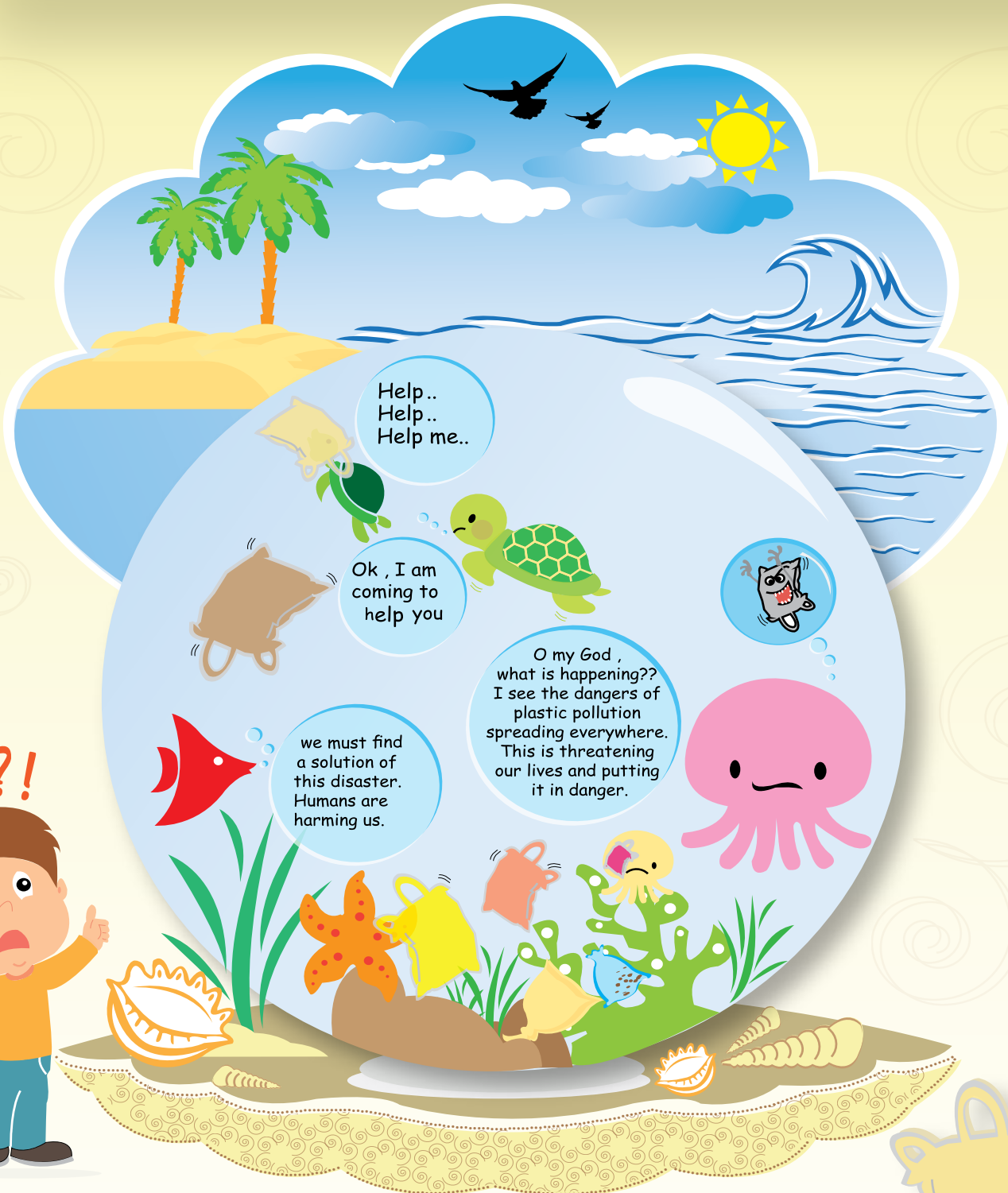
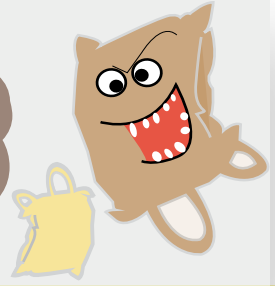
sustainable development.

The report is issued every two years to assess the world's natural wildlife. According to the 2018 report, only a quarter of the world's land area was not affected by human activity and that area would fall to one tenth by 2050. This change is due to increased food production and increased demand for energy, water and land.

Although the pace of forest loss has slowed in some regions in recent decades, but it «has accelerated in tropical forests with the greatest biodiversity on Earth,» the report says.

Plastic Bags

Design: Saalma Al-Rabani



Let us
learn dear
children

Plastic bags are not decompose. It is a burden for the place where it is found. Many plastic wastes end up in seas and oceans. This adversely affects fishes, birds, tortoise. It harms fish which eats it. To prevent this pollution, we should replace plastic bags with bags made of clothes or paper as a healthy and non-harmful alternative. These paper and clothes bags can be recycled in paper industry. There should also be awareness campaigns for human being about the harms of the plastic bags.

