



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



Sultanate of Oman  
Diwan of Royal Court

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# Burning of Tires

## a Risk that Can Be Avoided

## » «Oman Oil» Launches the First Environmentally Friendly Service Station in the Sultanate

In line with the Sultanate's vision to spread and use clean energy, Oman Oil Marketing Company has announced the launch of the first environmentally friendly service station in the Sultanate. This innovative station is located in Al-Rusayl area at Muscat Governorate and includes a variety of environmentally friendly features. It includes solar panels, LED lights, a vapor recovery system and an electric vehicle charging device. The station was opened as the latest addition to the list of initiatives and practices followed by the Oman Oil Marketing to protect the environment. Commenting on this event, David Khalifa, CEO of Oman Oil Marketing, said: "We are pleased to announce the launch of our environmentally friendly service station, which came to reaffirm our commitment to support the Sultanate's long-term renewable energy strategies and encourage individuals to follow eco-friendly lifestyles. In addition to instilling a culture of environmental awareness within our societies, our goals are not



only to diversify our services, but also to apply and use clean technologies that are in line with our plan to lead the innovation in the fuel marketing sector. The Oman Oil Marketing Company is committed to contributing to a more sustainable future for the Sultanate's fuel sector, in line with the national strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Electronic vehicle charging devices are an easy and convenient way to recharge the batteries of such vehicles, which have proven to be efficient and environmentally friendly compared to the traditional fuel-powered vehicles. As for fume recovery systems, which will be installed in the new station, they effectively remove and convert the emitted fumes when filling fuel in the fuel tanks in service stations as well as when filling fuel in vehicles.

## » An Environmental Awareness Program in Al-Hamra

Al-Hamra municipality organized an awareness program entitled "Our Village is Clean", during which a number of activities and events were held which included a number of competitions such as "The Cleanest House Competition", in addition to presenting educational lectures on the disposal of household waste by putting it in the designated places, in order to facilitate for the teams and individuals to carry out the cleaning work and transport the garbage to disposal sites. As well, field visits were organized, beside awareness instructions and explanations about the water that leaks from homes and causes the reproduction of harmful insects

such as mosquitoes, emission of bad smells and the pollution of environment surrounding the leaks. The municipal education and awareness supervisors also educated citizens and residents about the importance of disposing of household garden waste and the negatives result of spreading clothes on the balconies in terms of distorting the general view as well as the possibility of being blown out by the wind. The supervisors also raised awareness about maintaining the cleanliness of public squares in residential neighborhoods. The performing of these activities comes as part of the awareness programs implemented by Al Hamra Municipality for this year.



point of view

## Sultan Qaboos and the environment

**Dr. Dawood Sulaiman Al Balushi**  
Editor-in-Chief

The divine will of God ruled that Oman should lose, the father, the leader, and the dearest of men, His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said bin Taymoor - may God bless him. It was a sad event that harmed hearts and minds and a great calamity that caused Oman to wear the black mourning dress.

His late Majesty has made renaissance and developmental achievements for Oman that was widely witnessed. Achievements that enabled Oman to reach the ranks of developed countries in many foreign and domestic political matters.

The environment, its system, and its natural resources were strongly present in the thought of His Majesty the late Sultan Qaboos, since his assumption of power and the beginning of founding the modern state. As well, the environment has been of great interest to H.M. It was never absent from his Majesty's thought as he plans the future of Oman from the far north of Musandam Governorate to the far south of Dhofar Governorate. In the year 1974, His Majesty issued the Law of Marine Pollution Control, which was the real launch for the environmental work in the Sultanate. It was followed by a number of environmental laws and legislations that ensured the conservation of the Sultanate's natural resources. The Environmental Protection Council also had the honor to be chaired by His late Majesty himself in 1979. His late Majesty established the first Ministry of Environment at in the Arab countries in 1984. The Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Protection, which His late Majesty donated to UNESCO in 1989, came as a global beacon for His Majesty's interest in global environmental affairs, in addition to donating an award for the Environment to Human and Environmental Affairs at the General Secretariat of the Cooperation Council States. In 1992, His late Majesty - may God have mercy on him - was chosen as an Arab leader, to speaking on behalf of the Arab countries at the Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. That was the most telling evidence of His Majesty's position, respect and appreciation due to his proven positions in support of environment, development and world peace issues. Moreover, His late Majesty had allocating the years 2001 and 2002 for the Omani environment and allocating the 8th of January, every year for the celebration of the Omani Environment Day. The Sultanate joined the Conventions of Global Environmental Protocols. Environmental institutions established amongst other and natural preservations, along with great attention to research and awareness aspects of environmental in the Sultanate.

Thanks to the vision of His late Majesty, may God rest his soul in peace, the Sultanate has realized developmental achievements in the field of environmental work, as well as obtaining advanced international degrees in the field of sustainable development, preservation of natural resources and combating pollution of all kinds. Oman has become a global environmental icon, and has achieved respect of the world countries. Environmental work continues on the same approach of Sultan Qaboos, which promotes environment protection, preservation of natural resources, and the harmonization of environmental and economic development for a sustainable development.

May God have mercy on you, my lord, and rewards you the spacious paradise

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**Aims to Reward Outstanding Environmental Contributions....**

## Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Protection Promotes Conservation of the Global Environment

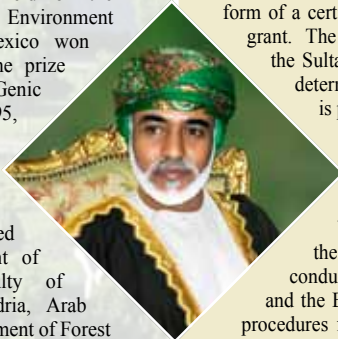
The interests of His Majesty, the late Sultan Qaboos bin Said - may God rest his soul in peace. The Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Protection is one of the most prominent initiatives that the late Sultan planned for the conservation and protection of the environment and its resources. The interest in the environment started from the dawn of the modern renaissance starting from the local environment to include the global environment later on.

The Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Protection was launched in 1989 and it is the first Arab award to be awarded globally in the field of environmental protection. This initiative was received with approval and welcome by UNESCO.

The award was awarded to many personalities and entities working in the field of the environment in the world. The Environment Institute at Veracruz State, Mexico won the award in 1991. In 1993, the prize was awarded to Professor Jan Genic from the Czech Republic. In 1995, the prize was awarded to the Malawian authorities based on the management of the reserve at Lake Malawi in Africa. In 1997, the prize was awarded equally between the Department of Environmental Sciences, Faculty of Science, University of Alexandria, Arab Republic of Egypt, and the Department of Forest Protection in Sri Lanka. In 1999, the prize was awarded to the Charles Darwin Foundation of the Galapagos Island of the Republic of Ecuador.

The prize was awarded to the Volunteer Association for the Protection of the Environment in the Republic of Chad in 2001. Professor Bir Johann, Biodiversity Specialist of the Republic of Norway, won the prize in 2003. In 2005, the award was won by the Australian Coral Reef Authority. In 2007, the award was shared equally between Dr. Julius Ozlani, Director of the Institute for Landscape Ecology at the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Slovakia and the Institute for the Conservation of Biodiversity in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. In 2009, the award was awarded to the National Park Authority, which is supervised by the Rural and Marine Areas Division of the Spanish Ministry of Environment. In 2011, it was awarded to the Nigerian Forest Research Institute. The award was awarded in 2013 fifty-fifty between the National Forest Protection Administration of Poland and the Endangered Wildlife Protection Organization of South Africa. In 2015, the prize was won by a number of wetlands researchers from the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina. It was awarded in 2017 to the National Park Council of Singapore. In 2019, the award was awarded to the Ashoka Research Fund for Ecology and Environment (ATREE) in the Republic of India, upon the recommendation of the awards jury.

The late Sultan's award contributed to a creative competition and opened up prospects for development in various environmental fields, and its impact was obvious on the whole world.



### The Award Criteria

Several criteria have been set for winning the Sultan Qaboos Prize for the Conservation of the Environment. It is required that the prize shall be for individuals, groups, institutes, organizations or bodies that have contributed significantly in the fields of research in preserving of the environment and natural resources, protecting the biosphere, environmental education and training, preserving natural heritage for humanity, creating environmental awareness by preparing constructive environmental information, and establishing and managing protected areas such as areas and places of global natural impacts. The award is presented in the form of a certificate of appreciation and a financial grant. The certificate carries the emblems of the Sultanate and UNESCO in both Arabic and English. The financial value was determined according to a financial system approved for this purpose. This award is presented every two years in a ceremony held by UNESCO on the sidelines of the General Conference of the organization attended by all delegations participating in the conference, in addition to a huge scientific gathering of those interested in the environment and its preservation, as well as those interested in intellectual and scientific activities of the human being in addition to a high-level Omani delegation. The process of selecting the prize winner from individuals, groups, organizations and institutions is conducted through the official office of the Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere program (MAB), and the office has the right to choose its own procedures for selecting the winner of this award. In the event that it is difficult to reach to a decision on choosing the winner, the office consults with Bodies responsible for implementing UNESCO's programs in the field of natural and environmental resources.

### Purpose of the Award

The award aims to reward the outstanding contributions that individuals, groups, institutes or organizations make in managing and preserving the environment. This award is in line with UNESCO's policies and goals and is related to the programs undertaken by the organization in this field, such as environmental education and training and research on the environment and natural resources, as well as stimulating environmental awareness by preparing environmental information materials and activities aimed at establishing and managing protected areas such as World Natural Heritage sites and biosphere reserves. This award came out of the keenness of the late Sultan - may God have mercy on him - to participate with the human family in order to preserve the environment in the world as a whole and to highlight the Sultanate's position in supporting the international community's stimulus to initiate and the exploitation of technology and research in order to preserve the environmental balance. The Sultanate, in the Prosperous era of the late Sultan, has become the focus of the international community attention in preserving the environment and its resources. The award came to emphasize the importance of concerted global efforts to preserve the environment. This award, which carries the name of His Majesty - may God bless him - will contribute to consolidating the bright civilized image of the Sultanate as a supportive country for efforts of protecting and preserving the environment, as well as expressing His Majesty's deep concern - may God have mercy on him - for the environment, not only at the local level, but also at the global level. The award comes for the sustainability of environmental activities in the whole world, as well as a support for environmental issues including reducing climate change, the effects on the ozone layer, and to address the environmental impacts that arise from different industries. The Sultanate, in cooperation with the UNESCO, decided to rename the award to be UNESCO - Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Conservation, in order to align its goals with the policies and programs of UNESCO related to environmental conservation, natural resources and education for sustainable development.



■ It is the first Arab award to be awarded at the international level in the field of environmental protection

■ The award establishes the civilized image of the Sultanate as a country that supports efforts to protect and preserve the global environment



# Burning of Tires

## a Risk that Can Be Avoided



**B**urning of tires is a serious environmental problem facing many countries and the Sultanate is one of them, as its impact extends to human health and the environment. When tires are burned, black fumes containing heavy metals and others get in the air and stay for long periods of time. Tires consist of about 20 different chemicals, including natural and synthetic rubber, carbon, glues, polyester, nylon, sulfur, wires, and others.

### Damages

Burning of tires result in various direct and indirect damages to humans in terms of health and the environment, as it pollutes air, water, soil and trees, affects the ozone layer and causes climate changes, which results in disturbing the environmental balance, and potentiality of fire may arise. It distorts the general landscape and the country's tourist image, in addition to its impact in the short and long term.

### Local and International Reports and Studies

A study by Oman Cement Company and the Omani Holding Company for Environmental Services "Bee'ah", over the past two years, has proven the importance of making use of expired tires as fuel, the matter that reduces the consumption of natural gas currently used in cement manufacturing furnaces at the "Oman Cement" factory, as the tires are most appropriate for this purpose and are also easier to handle. The study also

concluded that the factory systems are ready to deal safely with gas emissions resulting from tire burning operations without harming the surrounding environment. Several precautionary measures have been proposed for safety and security measures.

The World Health Organization warned of the danger of burning of tires as it leads to air pollution, which affects human health and causing many diseases. The Organization appealed to the decision makers around the world to cooperate in creating a pollution-free environment, which increases the ability to face the effects of climate change on health.

The results of a study prepared by the College of Engineering at Diyala University in the Republic of Iraq and conducted by Prof. Lotfi Yosef Zidan and Eng. Laith Abd Hasanawi from the Department of Mechanical Engineering, reveals that the burning of vehicles tires causes suffocation and intoxication,

increases global warming and acid rain.

Another study prepared by Eng. Mohamed Fathi El-Feky, President of the Arab Federation for Tire and Rubber Products, explains that the number of tires consumed in the Arab world is estimated at 170 million tires annually, indicating that burning of tires, affects directly and indirectly water, soil and air.

Al Qafilah Magazine issued by the Saudi Aramco company, reported that Scottish scientists are studying a type of bacteria they say that it can eat tires over time. This bacteria is found naturally in coal mines and oil production sites.

### Burning tires situation in Oman

"be'ah" company has confirmed that it owns sites designated for proper disposal of tires throughout the Sultanate, and there are efforts by the company to reduce the damage to expired tires on the environment and humans.

- **Statistics from Sohar University revealed that the quantity of expired tires produced in the Sultanate, is estimated about 40,000 tons annually**
- **The solutions are to reuse the tires after processing, recycling and using them as an energy source**
- **Tires consist of about 20 different chemicals**
- **Burning of tires result in various direct and indirect damages to human health and the environment**

### The Damage Resulting from Tire Burning

- **Impact on human health**
- **Pollutes the air, water, soil and trees**
- **Affects the ozone layer**
- **One of the climate change causes**
- **Disturbs the environmental balance**
- **Causing fire sometimes**
- **Distorts the general landscape and the tourist image of the country**

in streets paving, to be used in sports areas, in children's play area floors to protect them during the falling down, and in making garbage boxes and some home furniture pieces such as chairs and tables, as well as using them in Ports berths to prevent boats from colliding with the piers. In addition to other usages, tires can be significantly exploited and used in many industries.

Tires can be disposed of by burning them inside designated furnaces in cement factories in order to produce energy, as tires have become one of the fuels that are used as energy within cement factories kilns, and they can be used in specialized furnaces for other industries, or to be destroyed by burning them completely in furnaces to reduce their damages. In this context, the Omani Holding Company for Environmental Services "be'ah", recently signed an agreement to supply alternative fuels derived from expired tires with "Oman Cement Company". The use of expired tires is considered as a major shift in alternative fuels usage in the Sultanate due to its usage for the first and its contribution to reducing the consumption of the natural gas. According to the agreement, approximately 30,000 tons per year of expired tires will be processed. There are other ways to get rid of tires, such as burying them, but it is not considered a scientific and environmental solution forgetting rid of them, because the rubber needs a long period of degradation that may reach up to a thousand years. That is because it contains sulfur, which gives it cohesion and reduces its susceptibility to degradation. Some people get rid of expired tires by burning them at desert and uninhabited areas, but this falls within the improper solutions as it causes severe damage to humans and the environment. Awareness of the dangers of the burning of tires in improper ways, is one of the most effective solutions to avoid the damages resulting from such practices. The focus must be on increasing awareness for the society in general and the youth and children in particular. Awareness should be increased for the targeted groups by holding lectures or seminars in schools, universities, colleges, civil society institutions and others; as awareness greatly, reduces the damage caused by the burning of tires.



The statistics from Sohar University revealed that the amount of expired tires produced in the Sultanate is estimated about 40,000 tons annually, and these rates are expected to rise in the future.

#### Laws and Legislations

The Sultanate issued many laws and legislations, as well as signing several agreements with organizations and countries that will contribute to environmental protection and the combat of pollution. The Environmental Protection and Pollution Control Law No. 114 / 2001 was issued to emphasize the necessity of providing greatest amount of health and social care to citizens and protecting the nation's natural and economic resources, preserving its historical and cultural heritage, and avoiding any damages as a result of the various activities and projects implemented in all regions of the Sultanate. There is also the Law of Protection of Drinking Water Resources from Pollution No. (115 / 2001) and other laws concerned with pollution control were issued.

With the existence of such laws and legislations, the community should work together to protect the environment from pollutants whatever they are. Burning of tires is one of the pollutants with great harm to the environment, and it should be treated in a proper way.

#### Solutions and Guidelines

The solutions concentrate on the avoidance of the burning of tires in three aspects. The first of which is the re-using of the tire after treatment by specialists, the second solution is to recycle the tires for using it in making useful things and the third solution is to use the tires as a source of energy in factories so that they are burned in ovens to generate energy for such factories. Regarding the rehabilitation of tires, it is a process for rebuilding the outer layer of the tire to make it valid for use for a new period. This will contribute to postponing the problem by reduces the number of tires that must be destroyed. There are many ways to recycle damaged tires. Such ways considered as best solutions. The tires can be used in gardens designing, in the vertical cultivation,



## The "Environment" Carries Out a Beach Cleaning Campaign at Ras Al Hadd

The Department of Environment and Climate Affairs in Alsharqia South Governorate has executed a campaign to clean up the Ras Al Hadd protected beach in order to complete the national campaign for the recovery of young turtles, with the contribution of the Development Corporation at LNG Company, the Phoenix Power Company, the Suhail Bahwan Foundation for Charity and the Scientific Research Center in Ras Al Jinz. The

performance of this campaign came as a complement to the national campaign for recovering young turtles, with the aim of eliminating the remnants of the atmospheric depression that passed through the region. The Participants in the campaign were the municipality of Sur, scout teams, students of Al-Mawared School, Ras Al-Hadd School, Khair Ummah Women's Team, and Al-Muzn Volunteer Team. The campaign resulted in the gathering

of a large number of young turtles, distributed among five centers. The participants were honored according to number of young turtles collected by each of them. The participant who came at the first center collected 4220 turtles, the second center collected 4090 turtles, the third collected 2820 turtles, the fourth collected 2410 turtles, the fifth collected 2140 turtles, and the sixth collected 2040 turtles.



### UAE

## Ministry of Climate Change and Environment Honors 4 Innovative Environmental Projects

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment honored, at the end of its participation in the activities of Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week, the 4 best innovative projects out of a total of 40 projects hosted by the Climate Innovation Exchange Platform «CLIX» in its third version.

The list of honored projects included the «Empire» project in the category of the transportation future. The project is a hybrid electric plane that works with an environmentally friendly system which reduces emissions to the maximum extent and reduces the cost of operation significantly. The «Plastic Free» project in the category of agriculture and food future. The project is about bags made of Plant waste, which is fully degradable and has no negative impact on the environment, to be used as a substitute for other non-degradable materials. The «Statlantis» project in the category of sustainability of space. The project is an advanced and integrated imaging technology used to raise the efficiency of mini-satellites. «Likudstar» project in the category of energy future. The project is an advanced technologies for miniature energy charging panels.

### Qatar

## Planting of Sidr Trees by Using the «WaterBox» Technology

The Ministry of Municipality and Environment represented by the Public Parks Department (Nurseries Section) in cooperation with the Rayyan Municipality (Gardens Section) intends to launch a campaign to grow Sidr trees using the «WaterBox» technology; within the initiative of planting a million trees. Preparation of the pits operations began to plant Ain Khalid's region.

### Kuwait

## Discovery of New Sites of Coral Reefs in Fintas Area

The Public Authority for the Environment, in cooperation with the Science Center, revealed the discovery of new sites of coral reefs inside the marina of the centre for Marine Sciences which monitors coral reef fishes and their natural habitats and marine biological diversity and located in the Fintas region that belongs to the University of Kuwait. This cooperation work between the Authority and the university is to study and evaluate the status of biological diversity in the coastal environment and marine living creatures that lives in it. This is important to start and initiate re-cultivation and rehabilitation programs for coral reefs to enrich and preserve and protect fish resources.

### Saudi Arabia

## The Ministry of Environment, Waters and Agriculture Forbids Grazing in «Mahjouz al-Mustawa» for the Next 5 Years

The Ministry of Environment, Waters, and Agriculture announced that it would prohibit grazing in Mahsoui Almustawa in the Shamasiya Governorate of Alqassim region, for a period of 5 years, in order to maintain vegetation, stop environmental and soil degradation and rehabilitate the sites affected by overgrazing. The Ministry stressed to the owners of livestock the need to get out of the tree sites that grow perennial trees and seasonal shrubs, due to the significant deterioration in the sites where their livestock are grazing. The Ministry declared its appreciating for the owners of livestock cooperation with it and their response to preserve the national gains.

### Bahrain

## Opening of the Environmental Awareness Pavilion at the Seef Complex

Dr. Mohamed Mubarak Bin Dinah, CEO of the Supreme Council for the Environment, inaugurated the Environmental Awareness Pavilion organized by the Council in cooperation with several supporters over a period of four days at the Seef Mall on the occasion of the National Environment Day. Dr. Mohammed bin Dinah emphasized the Supreme Council's keenness to attract the largest number of visitors to the pavilion in order to enhance environmental concepts and spread the culture of sustainable development and involve citizens and residents in reducing plastic pollution, which has become a major challenge to the safety of the food chain, the marine environment and air emissions, so that it has become an obsession that worries countries of all over the world. Dr. Mohammed bin Dinah indicated that the council aims, through the environmental awareness pavilion, to draw the attention of the Bahraini community to the extent of the plastic waste problem and its effects on the present and future of the country, and urged the Bahraini community to contribute in the limiting of the use of plastic materials and switching to environmentally friendly alternatives and recyclable materials in addition to strengthening partnership ties between the council and the various components of the civil society in order to achieve the vision and goals that the council adopts and seeks to achieve as tangible reality.

## For the First Time ... Researchers Develop Photovoltaic Cells that Work at Night

A team of researchers at the University of California has developed a new type of photovoltaic cell which generates electricity at night, when it emits infrared radiation, unlike traditional cells that rely on absorbing sunlight. Despite the increasing dependence on renewable energies during the past few decades, especially solar energy, the dilemma of irregularity and continuity throughout the day or throughout the year represents an obstacle for to compete seriously with fossil energy sources. Researchers are working hard to develop technical solutions to store excess energy for use during the night or on cloudy days, but most of the technologies promoted to this day, have not succeeded in overcoming this hurdle. In the new study, published in the January issue of the "ICC Photonic", and appeared as cover topic, researchers from the University of California worked to address the issue from a different angle, by developing photocells capable of producing energy at night when there was no sun or heat.



## Scientists Expect Increase of Phytoplankton in Oceans at the End of This Century

There is a widely held belief in the environmental science community that global climate change will lead to a diminution of the phytoplankton (Plankton) that forms the basis of the marine food chain in the oceans. But a new study based on a simulation model known as the Earth System, published by the Nature Geosciences journal on January 27, conducted by a team from the University of California Irvine - reported surprising and unexpected results indicating that the number of phytoplankton will grow and increase in low-latitude oceans by the end of this century.



## Nuclear Waste Containers are Subject to Corrosion Due to Groundwater

New laboratory experiments revealed a potentially dangerous defect in the containers that the United States government intends to use to store high-risk nuclear waste underground, as it will be vulnerable to damage from groundwater. The results, published in the Nature Materials journal on January 27, 2020, showed that the corrosion of nuclear waste storage materials is accelerating due to changes in the chemistry of the nuclear waste solution and because of the way the materials interact with each other. According to researchers from Ohio State University, the charge of nuclear waste when exposed to groundwater, chemical reactions between stainless steel containers and their glass or ceramic contents - mixed with nuclear waste - may cause corrosion of the materials a little faster than expected.



Environmental Vocabulary

### The Crown

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Many animals and birds have distinct features that may be dreamed of being owned by human, so he inspired from it a fairy myth that may reach the rank of divinity in some ancient civilizations that were looking for extraordinary abilities to fill their spiritual gap. This is also the case in the Pharaonic civilization in southern Egypt, which took from the bird called (pharaoh's chicks) one of the Gods protectors of Pharaoh, where Pharaoh took it as the emblem of his crown from the back side. The emblem then ascended all the crowns of all the pharaohs' kings in various subsequent dynasties. This legendary bird continues to mediate the flag of the Arab Republic of Egypt because of its implications for the depth of its ancient history.

This bird is settling down in the narrow corridors of wadies and mountains and distances its nest to the highest mountain cliffs and in caves. It makes its nest from sticks and small twigs and binds it with animal wool. At the beginning of spring, the female lays between two and three white eggs with brown spots, which they hatched after about 90 days of incubation that the parents take care in turns and then released to the world of life and freedom. The bird weighs just over 2 kg, up to 70 cm long, with wings up to 170 cm long, and its body is based on two tall, barelegs.

This bird is considered a migratory raptor, a hybrid between types of eagles, carrying some of their features. The most important of which is intelligence and patience such as that it carries a small stone with its beak to accurately direct it to ostrich egg to break its thick shell and devours what is inside. It may have the strength but it does not have the courage. It cannot hunt but feeds on the bodies of dead animals, lizards and small animals, thus sticking to the character of cowardice and laziness characteristic of the vulture bird that carried its name. The scientists attach to it the status of opportunism based on its food behavior where lurking in garbage trucks near landfills to wait to be unloaded to directly carry out its task of inspecting garbage to feed on animal wastes. Despite this opportunistic behavior is considered positive for its contribution to cleaning the environment from wastes that may cause many diseases.

This migratory raptor bird that called the (Egyptian Vulture) has long been endemic to Oman and has spread throughout the country. Recent statistics indicate that its numbers have declined significantly globally, which has been classified as an endangered bird. However, its numbers in Oman promise abundant existence for a reason that is still under the microscope of scientists to study the comfortable environment that enabled it to live safely on this good land. Even if we ignore the causes, we cannot ignore the fact that any organism living on this good land enjoys security, prosperity and tranquility. This fact does not need to be caused, but is proven by reality and is understood by the wise people.

# Demaniyat Islands

Marwa Al Mukhaini



Al-Dimaniyat Islands Reserve is located between two states Al-Seeb in the Governorate of Muscat and Barka in the Al-Batinah South Governorate .

It is a group of 9 islands, and is characterized by its white sand beaches and clear blue waters .



It includes rare groups of coral reefs. A large number of sea turtles are housed on the islands for laying eggs and nesting, and countless migratory and endemic birds .



It was registered internationally in 1984 as it is part of the Great Barrier Reef Project, which is an international natural reserve .



It is considered one of the most beautiful diving places in the Sea of Oman .

