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MARAWED Issue, 32, (JUL 2021), The Fifth Year

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# MARAWED

Magazine Concerned With The Cultural Heritage

Special edition

Mangroves in the Emirati Heritage.

Mangroves are a haven and a unique fortune.

Mangroves are human and environment friendly treasures.





## Publishing Policy

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The “Marawed” magazine is basically concerned with the Emirati cultural heritage in the first place, then the Arab and international ones. It seeks through its sections to focus on the heritage matters that are characterized by novelty, objectivity, diversity and comprehensiveness, by researching, documenting, studying and scrutinizing. The magazine is also working on tracking the manifestations of the cultural heritage in the Emirati and Arab creative works through celebration, utilization and invocation of its various elements and symbols.

Further, it focuses on the cultural, heritage and media topics that touch on various aspects of cultural heritage, including professions, crafts, games, tales, costumes, adornments, ornaments, arts, music, and everything related to the branches and elements of the cultural heritage, locally, Arab and globally.

**The materials to be published should meet the following:**

- Novelty and originality, and never previously published or submitted for publishing in other magazines.
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- Scientific documentation and rights of quotation.
- Abidance by the moral principles, respect of religious sanctities, decency and the public taste.
- High quality and high-resolution images.
- Artistic and objective order according to the vision of the magazine’s editorial board.
- The editorial board has the right to rephrase the materials, whenever this is necessary, in line with the publishing policy, and with the appropriate media presentation for readers.
- The editorial board is not obligated to explain the reasons for refusing to publish a material or returning it.
- The views, thoughts, and opinions expressed in the text belong solely to the author, and not necessarily to the magazine.
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# MARAWED



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## Mangroves in the UAE heritage

Plants and trees of all kinds, shapes, functions, uses and benefits were an integral part of the memory of Emirati society. Therefore, we find them appearing in different ornaments and manifested in multiple images. In folk literature, including poetry, sayings, proverbs, maxims, songs and chants. They also appears in artistic creativity, whether it is traditional crafts or folk games. Artists were also inspired by them in their creative works that commended trees in general. Since heritage is a mainstay in the Emirati society representing a basis for cultural identity and popular memory, it featured many types of expression, depiction and celebration of the mangrove tree in the community's memory. It yielded values, customs, traditions, experiences, folk

literature, artistic works and heritage experiences, which, in general, translate depth, originality and richness of heritage. The Emirati cultural heritage is rich in many important flashes and valuable heritage fragments that show how Emiratis were using and depending on mangrove tree in their lives. The tree's bark was used in dyes and the wood for building houses, furniture and boats due to its water resistance and its hardness as well. While leaves were used as food for animals, and its fruits are edible. People were also cutting mangroves from beaches to be used as a firewood early last century. Many ancient heritage books and linguistic dictionaries supported this meaning. Ibn Sayyidah stated in his "Al Mokhassass" book that the Arabs used to wood the



mangrove tree and ignite it for its good smell. And this takes us to an important topic related to the extent to which the Arabs used this type of trees in the past. According to "Lisan Al-Arab" book of Ibn Al Mandhour, mangrove is a specie of trees, Abu Hanifa said mangrove is a tree that grows in water, and it resembles the platanus tree in thickness of stem and the whiteness of its peel. Its leaves are like almonds' leaves, and its fruits are like the fruit of holy basil. Although seawater is the enemy of plants, it is not to mangroves and acanthaceae, as they grow in it. It is pasture for cows and camels, which wad into the water to eat tips of its leaves. The association of mangrove with the Emiratis' life in the past, their interaction with it, and occupying a large part of their

cultural and social identity, affirms the need to preserve the heritage of this tree. Awareness of its importance and the need to preserve it is necessary, because of its important and inspiring position in the Emirati cultural heritage. It is considered an essential element in the cultural heritage and folklore traditions of the coastal communities in the country. How beautiful it is to take care of this heritage tree, and to organize heritage and cultural festivals to celebrate it and to revive its history and heritage in order to preserve it from extinction. The Sharjah Institute for Heritage spares no efforts to support such important heritage trends, and welcomes the cooperation in order to achieve that noble purpose, which is embodied in this special file on mangrove tree.



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with cultural heritage

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Special edition

## Mangroves in the UAE Heritage

Mangroves represent an intrinsic value to the UAE and its citizens, and an important ecological treasure. The UAE possesses a diverse nature, which is habitat to many land and marine organisms, as well as plants that draw uniqueness of the region's environment, particularly mangroves, which have been associated with the region for many years. This type of trees grow in salty water. Studies show that mangroves sequester carbon dioxide from the atmosphere up to four times as effective as a rainforest. The trees also protect coastal areas from erosion and contribute to the sustainability of coastal ecosystems.





# Mangroves from the Water

## The Mangroves from the Water Exhibition Project

Zahidah Zeytoun Millie  
 Founder & Curator

### The Gordon Gallery, Geelong

The exhibition will open on 26 July 2021, International Day for the Preservation of Mangrove Ecosystems. The exhibition closes on 8 August.

The City of Greater Geelong is our partner with an international sponsor, the Sharjah

Heritage Institute in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The Mangroves from the Water exhibition will collaborate with community groups in the Geelong region and abroad, including Humans in Geelong and the Barwon Estuary Project (Students of Barwon Heads Primary School), and also with the

Northern Bay College in Corio especially with the environmental group called Kids Thrive. Corrina Eccles of the Wadawurrung Nation is to conduct a Welcome to Country Ceremony at the opening on Monday 26 July.

### Aims of the Project

To:

- encourage viewers to realise the beauty and importance of mangroves through a

multimedia art exhibition, workshops and speaking events,

- protect wetlands and mangroves globally which have a strong tie to indigenous people,
- encourage discussion with guest speakers about the mangroves, sea grasses and wetlands, to be held at the Gallery during the exhibition period, and





- stress the importance of finding heritage and contemporary storytelling of mangroves that act as a reference point for cultural identity and popular memory in Victoria.

**The Importance of Mangroves**

Mangrove forests and wetlands are vital habitats in world ecosystems, including along our coastline of Victoria. Unfortunately, swathes of coastal forests have been lost to coastal development, aquaculture, pollution and other human activities. There is also a very significant human connection to mangroves.

**Art and the Mangroves**

Australia possesses people of multicultural backgrounds, ethnic and indigenous. Artists in the exhibition project represent this diversity, being from all over the world. The 12 artists, international as well as regional Victorian, intend to present a multi-media art exhibition of works set on the theme Mangroves from the Water. The project members approach the theme with a fascinating range of media: impressionist water colours from a kayak, sculpture, a short film, video, weaving, sculpture, performance dance, performance music and

an art installation. Workshops are to occur. All artists have extensive experience exhibiting around the world and some of the work has involved collaborations across multiple countries. The artists believe that art is not only connected to music, literature and philosophy but also to science and sport (kayaking). The artists also want to encourage the community to discover the beauty of wetlands and mangroves through kayaking workshop trips over the course of the exhibition. One artist kayaks around the mangroves in Lake Connewarre and Lime Burners Bay as a process before painting from a kayak. Zahidah will share

her experience in workshops in collaboration with communities in the Geelong and West Melbourne region. Guest speakers will highlight important features of the mangroves, and participating artists will conduct workshops in printing, painting and weaving.

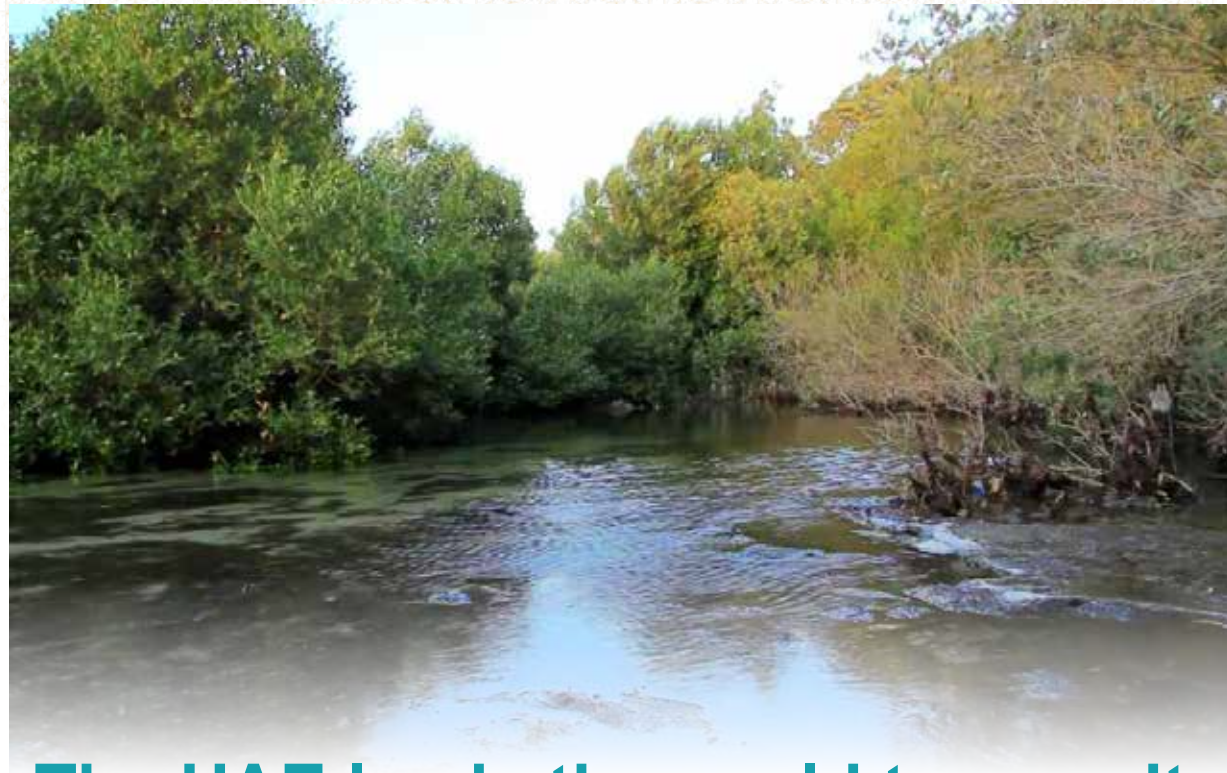
**The artists are:**

Alexis Gambis, Nicola Cerini, Enrico Santucci, Deb Taylor, Richard Collopy, Jacqui Dreessens, Stephanie Neville, Geraldine Chansard, Helen and Peter Martin, Kerrie Taylor, Zahidah Zeytoun Millie and Students of Barwon Heads Primary School.

<https://mangrovesfromthewater.com/>







## The UAE leads the world to save it; mangroves face endangers despite its resilience for 65 million years

Some may be surprised when talking about mangroves, because we usually know and talk about other trees, such as palm trees, “Ghaf” (prosopis), “Sidr” (Zizophus spina-christi / Christ’s thorn jujube) and others. We consider these trees as a major component of the natural environment of our country, so we find them in the school curricula and even in the heritage and the old poems as well. All this inculcated them in the memory of the people, so they represent a prominent position in



Fatima Al Mazrouei  
Head of the National Archive

our culture. Yet, we have other trees that are no less vital and no less important such as mangroves. Some may be surprised when know that they are coastal trees that live on salt water. Although it is known that they grow in tidal areas of coasts of Southeast Asia, they have also existed on the shores of the Arabian Gulf since ancient times until the present era. Some scientists link a specie of it called “Avicennia” to its presence on the shores of the Red and the Arabian Gulf. In general, this tree is profound in human history. It was mentioned in the Greek scientist Theophrastus’s writings that date

back to the 4th century BC and surprisingly he talked about its medicinal benefits, saying that the seedlings of mangroves were used as a general tonic. In 1230, the Arab the scientist Ibn Abbas discovered that it was possible to extract medicinal materials that treat gums and liver diseases from mangroves. Scientists also found out through a study that was conducted on these trees, which live on the coasts of the Red Sea and the Arabian Gulf from Saudi Arabia, that they contain substances that are a source of tonic hormones. Mangroves are also found in the ancient Arab civilization when it was mentioned







in the “Lisan Al-Arab” book of Ibn Al Mandhour, who said, “Mangrove is a type of trees, which I don’t know whether it is of Arabian origins or of others”. These trees, which unusually live on salty water, received wide attention since ancient times until the day, as scientists estimated its age to be about 65 million years. They have several benefits, including beautifying and protecting beaches from sea waves, and that many migratory birds find shelter

and food in these trees, contributing to the ecological diversity. The most important thing is that ecologists and marine scientists, after many studies, found that there are about 35 species of fish and crustaceans, and many marine animals live and rely on mangroves for food or shelter. Mangroves’ branches and seeds are used as food for wild animals such as camels. Moreover, in the past, wood of these trees was used as pillars in coalmines, railways or ceiling for houses, in addition to other purposes because it so solid. Nowadays, these trees face a widespread threat worldwide, as scientists note that the marine environments in which these plants live are deteriorating and retreating from Africa to Asia and Australia. That is why many areas of these trees have been classified as endangered environments Weakness of mangrove, or, as scientists say, its fragility led to its demise from large areas of ecological life, but human intervention remains the strong and present reasons that cannot be ignored or denied. Rather, it is the main reason for the shrinkage of the spaces of this great ancient tree. Yes, I say great because this tree is in fact of great and utmost importance. It is very useful for the marine and land environments alike, because it contributes to stabilizing the soil and works as dams. In addition, it serves as a shelter for many marine animals and small marine organisms, as well as the birds that build their nests on it.

In the UAE, praise be to God, this tree was protected, and reserves were set up for it, where a marine environment full of life was formed. This early attention contributed to the protection of this environmental wealth with which many other living creatures have been protected. Such care for environmental life is familiar in the UAE, because it was implanted in the hearts by the late founding father, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who gave environmental life the utmost care and attention. He had a clear early vision of environmental life and the need of preserving and protecting it. This interest was manifested in many projects and initiatives. He was always saying, “We give our environment the most attention, because it is an organic part of our country, our history and our heritage. Our fathers and grandfathers lived on this land, harmonized in its environment in the sea, and instinctively and sensitively realized the need to preserve it, and to take from it only as much as they needed.” He was very keen to plant mangroves, so we find them today covering large areas in he country, for example the capital, Abu Dhabi alone has 110 square kilometers of natural and planted mangroves, which provide shelter and sources of nutrition and breeding for fish and others such as turtles, sea snakes, shrimp and the like. The Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi has succeeded in re-cultivating a specie of mangrove tree that was extinct about

a hundred years ago called: Rhizophora mucronata. Many seedlings were planted on the island of Ghannasa. Abu Dhabi has also the Mangrove National Park, which was opened to the public in 2014. It is considered a natural forest of mangroves, which includes more than 60 species of birds, including the great flamingo. There are other reserves in the UAE for mangroves, such as a reserve in the city of Kalba on an area of 4,997 square





kilometers. The reserve is characterized as a wetland and has international importance, so that it has been registered within the agreement for the protection of wetlands in 2013, because it shelters endangered species and creatures and several types of rare birds, notably the Arab collared kingfisher. Other locations such as Dalma, Sir Bani Yas Island, Butina, Abu Al Abyud and Al Tiba Islands have also thousands of mangroves, particularly Saadiyat Island, where the Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi, planted 750,000 seedlings of mangroves, constituting

about 25% of the island's area. I think that this tree has suffered in various parts of the world, as it is quickly affected by environmental factors and changes, even affected by activity of tides. However, the greatest impact that it could not resist was human intervention and the tampering in its environment. In the UAE, thankfully, the situation was completely different from many other countries. It received attention and care, to the extent that the Emirati beaches have become a place for it, and a source of inspiration for many countries and societies from around the world.



## Mangroves... A unique shelter & wealth

Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan paid great attention to mangroves, and expanded its areas due to its great importance and its historical role engraved in memory. Late 1970s, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan launched extensive afforestation programs for the mangrove tree, which led to the expansion of its area. The lion's share of mangrove areas is in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi by 85 square kilometers. This type of mangrove is distinguished by its ability to coexist and adapt in salt water. Mangrove



Maryam Sultan Al Mazrouei  
Emirati Researcher and Writer



tree is a group of typical tropical plants that represent a special type of trees that grow in saline or brackish water systems. It protects the beaches from the factors of erosion. Their seeds germinate while they are on the plant before they fall to the ground and grow in soil of clay and fine clay. The mangrove name's origin is West India, coasts of the Indian Ocean, especially Malaysian Indian region. It is also said that these seeds were able and succeeded in floating for long periods above the surface of the water and carried by sea currents west to the coasts of India, the Arabian Peninsula and East Africa, and thus spread throughout the world. The mangrove forests in the UAE are a valuable part of the natural wonders in particular. These trees are in harmony with

the sea and beaches. They spread on some creeks located between Turaif and North of Abu Dhabi Island near Rems (Emirate of Ras Al Khaimah). It spread widely in Khor Kalba (East Coast), the western Al Bazm Islands, Marawah and Janana from the north of Khor Al Bazm, Khor Al Bazm Island, Abu Obeid Island, Siniya Island in Umm Al Quwain, Khor Ghanada, Khor Al Qurum, which is located 10 km southwest of the Emirate of Ras Al Khaimah, and Ras Al Khor Reserve in Dubai. Mohammed Salem from Dubai says, «The Ras Al Khor Nature Reserve is one of the most beautiful nature reserves, as it contains the most important plants and trees, including the mangrove trees, which serve as a windbreak and soil stabilization.

As a shelter, these attract many birds, such as flamingo or venter, which prefer these places because of the swamps that suit their nature. The thick roots depend on the tides for breathing. They are as well important for stabilizing the beaches and preventing erosion caused by waves and storms, in addition to limiting damage that can affect the coastal area.” Al Nokhatha Yousef Ahmed Al Ali from Abu Dhabi says, “Mangrove is a perennial tree, which grows in creeks and islands, such as Janana, Marawah, Al Daba’iya, and swamps, as well as in Khor Bagal, which includes Khor Al Qurum in Abu Dhabi, “Al Qurum Beach” and Al Hodeidria. Mangrove serves as a shelter for the breeding of small fish of up to 35 species, such as Baddah and the Qabit,

as well as the birds such as curlew. These birds feed on small fish that are abundantly available under them. Their leaves are used as animal feed. I remember my childhood here in Abu Dhabi, where vendors used to sell bundles of mangrove leaves for 4.5 rupees each. It relies on salt water, and its roots are like a filter that desalinates salty seawater to obtain fresh water after desalination.” Rashid Al Rumaithi says, “Mangroves grow up to several meters, to four meters or a little less, and each meter represents ten years of age and so on. We used to fish from under them. The late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan was very interested in natural plants and keen to preserve them. These trees are known of thickness of their





leaves of no thorns, and their roots extend to the sea floor. In the past, its wood was used in building houses and ships because of its hardness, as a major source of food, and as a firewood. It needs the sunrays, temperature not exceeding 30°C, high humidity, and a horizontal area because it extends horizontally. Women also used to bring mangrove wood from Qasr Al Bahr in Al Bateen in Abu Dhabi, for use in cooking.” Moza Al Mazrouei from Abu Dhabi, says, “We



were using the mangrove firewood for heating, fuel, cooking and in building. It was also used in traditional crafts that some people mastered in the past, representing a source of income for them. I heard that some people were using its leaves as a traditional medication, so it is necessary to preserve mangroves because of their importance to us and the future.” Mr. Rashid Al Muqbali, says, “Wood of Mangrove was used in making charcoal, and I used to go with my father, who was preparing the firewood after cutting it with axe. He was tying these pieces in bundles with ropes, to be then burned and buried in the sand until it cools. Then, it is extracted from the sand and is cleaned from sand before packaging in sacks. We used to cover it with weeds to preserve it, and then load on camels to be sold for one or two rupees, depending on the size of the sack.” No one denies that mangrove tree was a faithful friend of man in the past. It facilitated man’s life and contributed to preserving land and marine life. Fishermen are aware of its importance and role, so they preserve it. We also follow the directives of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who said, “We give our environment the most attention, because it is an organic part of our country, our history and our heritage. Our fathers and grandfathers lived on this land, harmonized in its environment in the sea, and instinctively and sensitively realized the need to preserve it, and to take from it only as much as they needed.”



The mangroves cover an area of 75 square kilometers in the UAE, which has a rare species called “Avicennia”, while the Emirate of Abu Dhabi is home to 85% of the mangrove trees in the country. These trees are of great economic and biological importance because they incubate many marine organisms. The roots serve as a natural incubator for fisheries and as a shelter for small fish. Moreover, it is the only natural incubator for shrimp, and at the same time, it protects beaches from erosion. In addition, birds use its branches for nesting. The mangrove swamps are considered one of the richest marine environments, as their trees extremely resist salinity. They are also characterized by the growth of aerial roots from their branched root system submerged under the surface of the water.

Mangroves grow in intertidal areas, and despite the increase in the area of mangrove forests in the emirate, some sites of mangroves have been negatively affected because of human activities such as building roads and digging canals. Mangroves have been classified as threatened species due to the loss of their natural habitats in many of their locations, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s Red List of Threatened Species (IUCN Red List), primarily due to their uprooting and the development of coastal areas. Late 1970s, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, launched several large-scale afforestation programmes to plant mangroves in the UAE, which contributed greatly to the expansion of mangrove forests over the past decades.





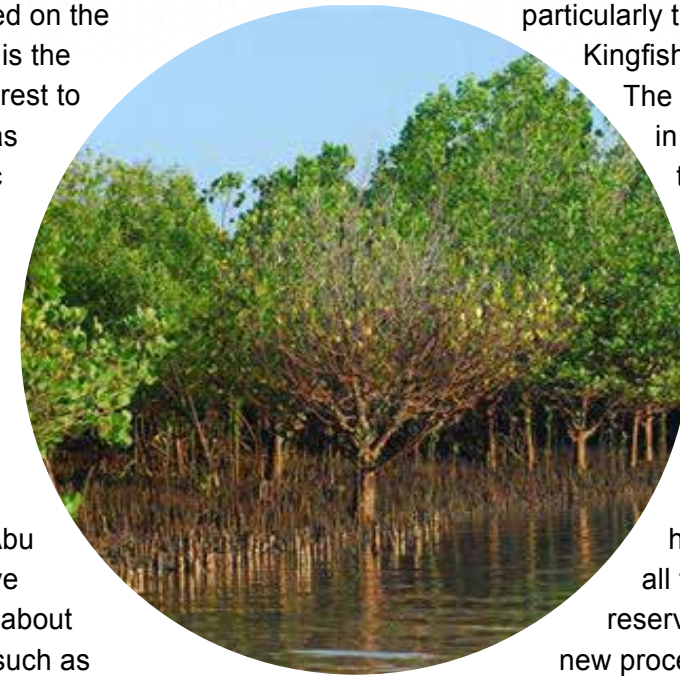
## Mangroves are friendly to the environment and people

The UAE has a diverse nature, which incubates many land and marine organisms, as well as plants that draw uniqueness of the region's environment, particularly mangroves, which have been associated with the region for many years. This type of trees grow in salty water, Studies show that mangroves sequester carbon dioxide from the atmosphere up to four times as effective as a rainforest. The trees also protect coastal areas from erosion and contribute to the sustainability of coastal ecosystems. Over its history, the UAE has taken care of mangroves to protect its coasts. Furthermore, people in the past used its wood as a major source of heating and fuel, in addition to in building houses and ships, due to its hardness and high resistance to rot and termites. The late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan was keen to encourage the cultivation of mangroves, which now are covering a large area of the country's lands, most of which

extend in forests in the areas located between the tidal lines. They contribute to preserving the environment by protecting the coasts from erosion processes caused by waves, as well as playing an effective role in reducing carbon emissions, which contributes to reducing the effects of climate change. Mangroves grow in moderate temperatures (35°C), and in salty waters, which makes their survival in the UAE a great challenge, as temperatures exceed 35°C during the summer months. However, mangrove forests planting programmes were intensified under the directives of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan, which contributed to the sustainable increase of these trees over the past decades. Abu Dhabi is home to about 110 square kilometers of natural and planted mangroves, which provide natural habitats and safe feeding and breeding sources for many types of fish and marine organisms, such as sea snakes, sea turtles, and important commercial

species of shrimps and fish such as Koffer, Naiser and Najrour. The gray mangrove is the only species that grows on a large scale in the UAE. The Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi has succeeded in re-cultivating "Rhizophora mucronata", as a large number of seedlings of this species have been planted in the waters of Ras Ghanada Island, 100 years after its extinction. The National Mangrove Park, which is located on the Eastern Ring Road, is the closest mangrove forest to Abu Dhabi city. It was opened to the public on October 1, 2014. There are also large areas of mangrove forests in Dalma, Sir Bani Yas Island, Bu Tinah, Saadiyat, Abu Al Abyad, Al Aryam and Al Dhabiya islands in Abu Dhabi. The Mangrove National Park hosts about 60 species of birds such as rock egrets, night egrets, shouting reed warbler, great flamingo, small egret, gray egret, sandpiper and speckled eagle on a seasonal basis. It also supports other organisms such as fish, shellfish, sponges, shrimp, barbed skin and crabs. There are also other mangrove reserves in the country, including the mangrove and Hafiya reserve in the city of Kalba on an area of 4,997 square kilometer, which has been declared a nature reserve by the

Emiri Decree No. 27 of 2012, issued by His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammad Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah. The reserve has international importance due to its wetland, so that it was registered under the Ramsar Convention in 2013, due to its support for threatened species of organisms. Further, it has global importance as an important environment for the breeding of many rare bird species, particularly the Arabian Collared Kingfisher.



The competent authorities in the country continue to pay attention to the mangrove forests and reserves, to protect them and preserve the various species of birds and fish they incubate. Government agencies have decided to stop all types of hunting in the reserves, by imposing many new procedures and laws, with observers 24/7 to ensure their

protection. The Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi urged developers to rehabilitate the affected areas through large-scale programmes to plant mangroves, as on Sa'adiyat Island, where the Authority, in cooperation with the Tourism Development and Investment Company, planted 750,000 mangrove seedlings in 25% of the island area. The island has become the cultural center of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.





## Mangroves Reserve in Kalba... A haven for nature lovers

The Mangrove and Al Hafiya reserve in Kalba is considered one of the areas rich in its biodiversity, due to the diversity of natural habitats in the region, including the coasts and mountains, in addition to the mangrove forests. The reserve serves as a major habitat for many threatened species, such as green turtles and hawksbill turtles, which feed on sponges, marine plants, algae and crabs. It further contains many

fertile and diverse ecosystems, represented in the coastal environments of mangroves, swamps, salty and muddy sabkha. In addition, it plays a major role in providing the appropriate environment for the reproduction of several types of organisms. The reserve is considered one of the most important ecological sites in the country, and its ecological and biological diversity makes it environmentally complex. It is a haven

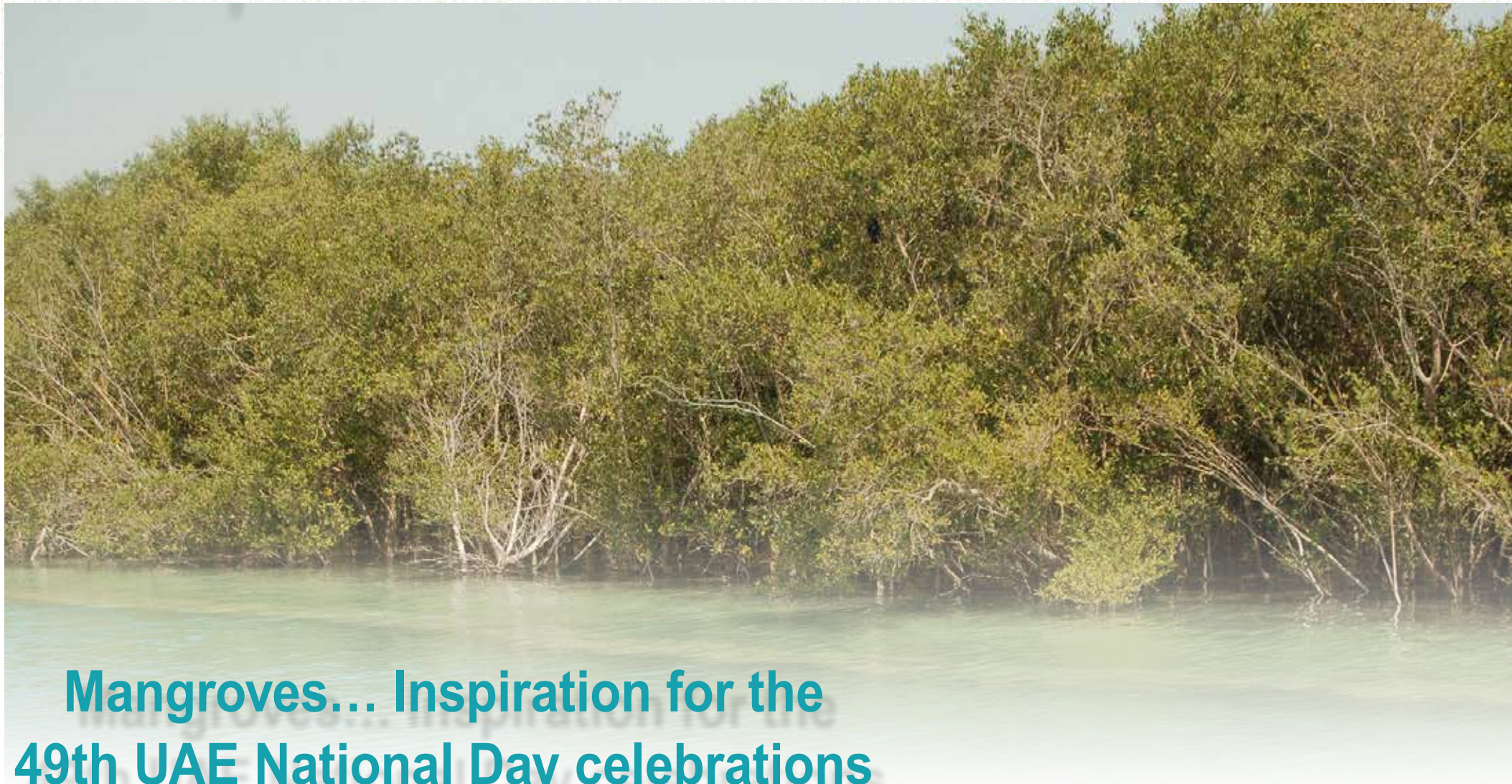
for nature lovers, and a home to the oldest natural mangrove forests in the region, as well as a haven for many rare birds and unique marine species that are found in this site.

The number of mangroves that were planted in the reserve reached 200,000. The cultivation in the reserve is based on a long-standing and rich experience owned by the Emirate of Sharjah in general. It extends over an area of 4,997 square kilometers, and as a wetland, it was registered within the Ramsar Convention in 2013, due to its support for threatened species of organisms. It is also of global environment importance

for the breeding of many rare bird species, as it is the only site for breeding of the Arabian Collared Kingfisher.

Mangroves represent an important environment for the breeding of the local shorebirds, and an essential station for migratory birds in the winter. These trees grow in soil with low oxygen rates, tolerate seawater salinity, and play a major role in helping stabilize coasts, by reducing erosion factors caused by storms, currents and waves. Furthermore, they absorb and store «blue carbon» continuously and at faster rates than tropical forests, and hold the greenhouse gases.





## Mangroves... Inspiration for the 49th UAE National Day celebrations

Mangroves represent an intrinsic value to the UAE and its citizens, and an important ecological treasure.

They are of great cultural, economic and natural importance, as they embrace many marine organisms, as their roots serve as natural hotbeds for fisheries and a shelter for small fish.

The mangrove swamps are classified as

one of the richest environments in the marine environment, as their trees are characterized by their extreme resistance to salinity.

This plant wealth has received great attention and care in the UAE, which started since the 1970s by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, founder of the UAE.

He developed a set of huge programmes for

planting mangroves that contributed greatly to the expansion of the mangrove forests over the past decades.

Mangroves, which grow in tidal areas of the coast, are an important native tree species in the UAE. There is an increase in the area of mangrove forests in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, where the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi has undertaken rehabilitating,

preserving and protecting mangrove forests in seven main sites, including: Saadiyat Island, Jubail Island, Al Marawah Marine Biosphere Reserve and the protected areas in Abu Al Sayayef, Ras Ghorab, the Eastern Corniche and Ras Ghanada.

The coastal areas of Abu Dhabi are rich in mangrove forests. There are about 70 square kilometers of mangrove forests over the emirate, with 19 square kilometers of forests in the Mangrove National Park. The attractive mangroves, which cover vast areas of the UAE's shores, served as a primary source of artistic and visual inspiration during the official celebrations of the 49th National Day of the UAE.





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