



ECOLOGY & EARTH SCIENCES PROGRAMME EVENTS

26-27 February 2022 – Starting 10:00 AM

UN Hub, EXPO Dubai 2020

UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization was founded on 16 November 1945. The Organization has 193 Members and 11 Associate Members and has more than 50 field offices around the world. It is responsible for coordinating international cooperation in education, sciences, culture as well as communication and information. UNESCO seeks to build peace through international cooperation in education, sciences and culture. It uses education, science and culture to inform, inspire and engage people everywhere to foster understanding and respect for each other and our planet. UNESCO's programmes contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals defined in the 2030 Agenda, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015.

Acknowledged as one of the first UNESCO offices in the world and the Arab region, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Sciences in the Arab States was established in 1947. In the cluster countries, the Regional Bureau works in all sectors including Education, Natural Sciences, Culture, Social and Human Sciences, and the Communication and Information. It currently serves 19 Arab States, namely Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. The Regional Bureau hosts the Hydrology, Science Policy and Capacity Building, and Ecology and Earth Sciences Programmes.

"We can and must all mobilize, urgently and together, to save our planet and thus humanity. Protecting biodiversity is as vital as fighting climate change", Audrey Azoulay

The Ecology and Earth Science Programme (EES) at UNESCO Regional Bureau for Sciences in the Arab States strives to draw strong pathways for a healthy nature and wealthy communities in the Arab Region through innovation in research and development. It aims to build strong national, local, institutional and individual leaderships with effective tools and instruments to propel a culture of biodiversity and geodiversity conservation in the Arab region. The significance of our work has increased due to the rise of global challenges, such as the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic and its clear linkage to biodiversity loss and climate change, and hence its vital role in catalyzing a transformative regional approach to prevent the occurrences of natural hazards due to climate change, and future global health pandemics. Consequently, the EES programme endeavors to build socio-ecological systems resilience to save lives and properties of people in the Arab region through the establishment of partnerships with regional organizations and specialized groups made of policy-makers, scientists and researchers, women and youth, people with disabilities and the private sector.

The activities of the EES programme are implemented under two main pillars: Top-up Conservation Leaderships for Effective Management of Natural Resources in the Arab region and Fostering Resilience's Rippling Effects for Multiple Natural Hazards Management- Arab region. The first pillar builds on the vision of the Man and Biosphere (MAB) and UNESCO Global Geoparks Programmes (UGGP) which intersect with numerous Multilateral Environmental Agreements Biodiversity and Chemical clusters and Sustainable Development initiatives targeting biodiversity and geodiversity conservation. These sites play a leading role in setting up research agendas and constitutes benchmarks for conservation sciences and environmental policies implementation in the Arab region. The ArabMAB network holds 35 sites distributed in fourteen (14) countries and one (1) UGGP in Morocco. The second pillar contributed to the development of capacities of around 450 scientists, policy makers and practitioners on inclusive and integrated multiple natural hazards management in the Arab region with the support of the Government of Japan. It strives to promote models of local community-based disaster risk reduction approaches within countries and ensure the sharing of knowledge and experience on Nature Based Solutions in the Arab region.

At Expo Dubai 2020, the EES programme is organizing a series of events on 26 and 27 February 2022 in the UN Hub. The events bring together international and regional experts from various organizations including the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Cambridge Conservation Initiative (CCI), the Global Geopark Network (GGN), Arab Fund for Arts and Culture (AFAC), Geopark M'Goun Association in Morocco, UNDRR – Regional Office for Arab States, Arab Scientific and Technical Advisory Group (ArabSTAG), Civil Defense in Jordan, Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi, and The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund - Abu Dhabi.



THE ART OF GEOLOGICAL HERITAGE CONSERVATION AT UNESCO - Arab Region

Starting 10:00AM



Opening remarks & Setting the Scene_

GEOSchemas Arab Region: Linking geological heritage to societies_

Mr. Abdulaziz Almuzaini – Director, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Sciences in the Arab region, Cairo - Egypt

A Glimpse on UNESCO Global Geopark: Concept and practices_

Ms. Elsa J. Sattout – Regional Specialist, Ecology and Earth Sciences Programme, UNESCO Cairo - Egypt

Global Geopark Network: History and Prospects in the Arab region_

Mr. Nickolas Zouros – President, Global Geopark Network, Greece

Linking Arts to Geological Heritage: Creativity and Entrepreneurship_

Ms. Rima Mismar – Executive Director, Arab Fund for Arts and Culture, Beirut, Lebanon

M'Goun UNESCO Global Geopark: Narratives of a successful story_

Mr. Driss Achbal – President, Geopark M'Goun Association in Morocco, Morocco

RESILIENCE'S RIPPLING EFFECTS FOR MULTIPLE NATURAL HAZARDS MANAGEMENT - A GLANCE ON THE ARAB REGION -

Starting 02:00PM



Opening remarks & Setting the Scene_

Mr. Abdulaziz Almuzaini – Director, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Sciences in the Arab region, Cairo - Egypt

Project: U & I Build Socio-ecological to save lives and properties of people_

Ms. Elsa J. Sattout – Regional Specialist, Ecology and Earth Sciences Programme, UNESCO Cairo - Egypt

Mapping the regional landscapes of risk assessment_

Ms. Rania Hammad - External Relations Officer, UNDRR-ROAS, Cairo, Egypt

ArabSTAG: Role and Prospects for regional cooperation on DRR_

Mr. Chadi Abdallah – Head, Arab Scientific and Technical Advisory Group (Arab-STAG), Beirut, Lebanon

National and local strategies for Multiple Natural Hazards Management: The Case of Jordan_

Mr. Tala Al Jarrah - Director of Disaster Department, Jordan Civil Defense Directorate, Jordan

UNESCO CAIRO OUTREACHING TO SOCIETY

BOOK LAUNCHING

Opening By Dr. Abdulaziz Almuzaini

Starting 04:30PM



1. Biosphere Reserves in the Arab Region: *Outreaching to Society*
2. Geological Heritage in the Arab Region: *Value for Research and Development*
3. Atlas of Natural Hazards in the Arab Region: *A tool for socio-ecological systems resilience and adaptation*

27 February 2022

REWILDE ARABIA: UNESCO BIOSPHERE RESERVES IN A NEW ERA

Starting 10:00AM



OPENING REMARKS & SETTING THE SCENE

Clustering UNESCO Biosphere Reserves to Rewilding the Arab Region

Mr. Abdulaziz Almuzaini – Director, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Sciences in the Arab region, Cairo - Egypt

A Glimpse on the ArabMAB Network

Ms. Elsa J. Sattout – Regional Specialist, Ecology and Earth Sciences Programme, UNESCO Cairo - Egypt

Large Scale Ecological restoration and connectivity: Mobilizing and Strengthening Human resources in the Arab Region

Mr. Michael Maunder – Director, Cambridge Conservation Initiative - UK

How to achieve fair, effective and connected nature conservation in the Arab region - an IUCN perspective

Ms. Hilde Eggermont – Vice President of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) - Belgium

Conservation finance: Global overview and regional snapshots

Mr. Nicolas Heard – Head of Fund Management, The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, Abu Dhabi - UAE

Mawareh biosphere reserve: A landmark ecosystem of marine life in UAE

Mr. Asharf Al Cibahy – Manager, Marine Protected Areas Management and Logistics, Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi - UAE

UNESCO LITTLE ARAB EXPLORER!

Kids Activity

MERGING ARTS & SCIENCES TO RECONNECT PEOPLE TO NATURE

Starting 02:00PM

