



## Her Excellency Dr. Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak Minister of Climate Change and Environment

**International Day for Biological Diversity**  
**Theme: Acting Locally for Global Impact**  
**May 22, 2026**

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On the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity, and under the inspiring theme '*Acting Locally for Global Impact*' the United Arab Emirates stands proud as a nation committed to environmental stewardship, with deep-rooted values paving the way for future sustainability.

Our Founding Father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, understood long before it became global consensus that the health of our land, our seas, and our skies is inseparable from the dignity and prosperity of our people. His vision to protect the falcon, revive the Arabian Oryx, and restore our mangroves embodied his love for the country and its living heritage. He instilled in us a culture of preservation centred on the bond between nature and humanity.

This year, as the UAE celebrates the Year of Family, that message has never felt more relevant. We understand well that biodiversity conservation begins at home as part of our culture, identity and living heritage. It takes root when a parent teaches a child to marvel at the flight of a falcon, when communities come together to plant mangroves, when a school adopts a coral reef. Families and communities share a common vision for the future deeply intertwined with nature and take on the role of its most powerful guardians.

The UAE has built national frameworks that translate this vision into action. Through community-based initiatives, national awareness programmes, and educational outreach embedded in everyday life, we have empowered citizens and residents alike to become active participants in biodiversity conservation. Our national parks, marine protected areas, and breeding programmes for endangered species are sustained by policy and strengthened by people who care.

Globally, we have carried these local lessons to the world's stage through the COP28 Presidency, through our commitments under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and through partnerships that amplify community voices in international decision-making. The Mangrove Alliance for Climate, which we cofounded with Indonesia, continues to gain traction on a global scale for the preservation, conservation and expansion of mangroves. We are proud of what we have achieved in mobilising the global community to act for nature. The IUCN World Conservation Congress hosted in Abu Dhabi last year secured bold, coordinated action toward a net-zero, resilient, and nature-positive future. We reaffirm today that protecting biodiversity is a shared human responsibility that starts with families, grows through communities, and resonates across the globe.

From our local roots, we continue to reach for global impact.