

# SUSTAINABILITY

## REPORT 2023



## INDEX

- P.4 The Commitment of Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi to Sustainability
- P.8 Go Green Year
- P.9 SUAD'S PARTICIPATION AT COP28
- P.10 SUAD YOUTH COP FOR CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY
- P.11 CARBON REDUCTION
- P.14 Sustainable Practices on Campus
- P.22 Research, Events and Conferences
- P.44 Students' Commitment to Sustainability
- P.54 Agreements and Partnerships
- P.57 Employees Green Achievement

# The Commitment of Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi to Sustainability

## VISION

Fostering intellectual excellence, cutting-edge, multidisciplinary research and innovation, critical thinking, cultural harmony and tolerance for the benefit of society.

## VALUES

### Respect

To cultivate an environment where every individual's ideas and perspectives are acknowledged and treated with respect.

To promote tolerance by celebrating diversity, encouraging open dialogue, and fostering an inclusive atmosphere where various backgrounds and beliefs are welcomed.

### Commitment

Our commitment to excellence in education and research is unwavering, as we persistently strive to provide the best opportunities for our students and contribute to society.

## MISSION

Building the bridge between civilizations through excellence in education and research, uniting the renowned French model of learning and knowledge development with the vision of the UAE.

### Ethics

Upholding the highest ethical standards is a fundamental principle at SUAD, guiding our actions, decisions, and interactions with integrity and responsibility.

### Integrity

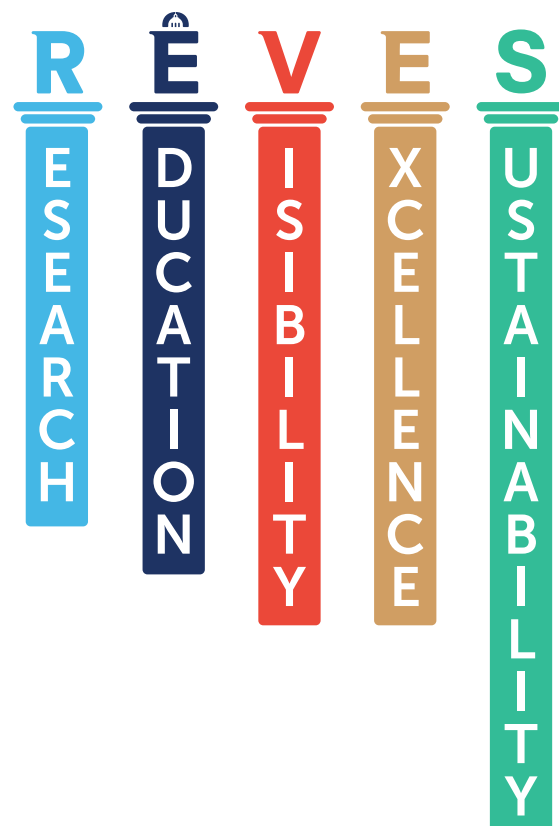
Integrity is at the heart of everything we do at SUAD, as we ensure honesty, transparency, and accountability in all our endeavors.

### Innovation

To foster innovation by continuously seeking new ways to enhance learning, research, and engagement, allowing our students and faculty to explore and push the boundaries of knowledge and creativity.

# SUSTAINABILITY

To support the global shift towards sustainable transformation, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi (SUAD) has identified sustainability as one of its pillars in the next five-year plan. As an international university community, SUAD is committed to creating an inclusive and sustainable society.



**I**  
Promote an institutional culture based on social and civic responsibility.

**II**  
Develop ecosystems of sustained intellectual contribution.

**III**  
Build a sustainable university model.

**IV**  
Build partnerships to support responsible and sustainable stewardship.

**V**  
Raise future generations of conscious citizens.

**VI**  
Support national and international efforts to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

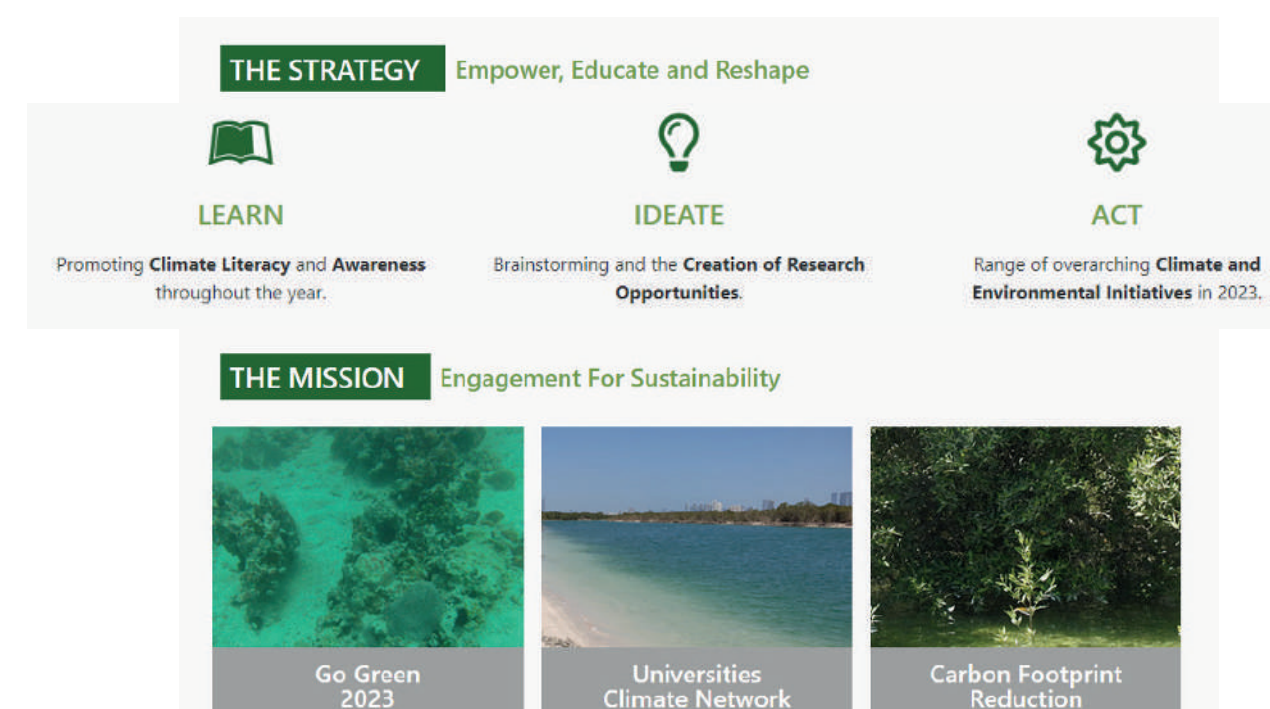
# Go Green Year

## LAUNCHING GO GREEN INITIATIVE

In November 2022, in tandem with the announcement of the UAE hosting the COP28 at the end of 2023, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi announced the launch of its Go Green Year 2023 and its commitment to take actions for a more sustainable future.



## THE VISION



Go Green has been developed through five pillars, aligning with the Year of Sustainability:

1. Environmental Research
2. Carbon footprint reduction on campus
3. Environmental outreach Activities & Events
4. Sustainable friendly initiatives
5. Green Network

In March 2023, the University launched a dedicated website to convey all related information to Go Green in one place.

## SUAD'S PARTICIPATION AT COP28



**COP28**  
**UAE**

In 2023, thanks to the launching of SUAD's Go Green Year, the University announced its commitment to developing innovative solutions through education and research at the boundaries of disciplines that would enable and accompany society during the transformation it is undergoing, including globalisation, mobility, the digital revolution, demographic and health changes and environmental transition.

In tandem with the COP 28 and the Year of Sustainability, SUAD was committed to taking a proactive approach by positioning itself as a key player in the COP28 launch and placing sustainability as a core priority and driver through the Go Green Year 2023 Initiative.

SUAD's participation at COP28 was the culmination of a year of activities and events to mark its commitment to achieving a sustainable environment for the future. The University organized 14 research conferences at CoP28 in Dubai on critical themes encompassing climate change, sustainability, environmental stewardship, and alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Leading specialists and researchers from around the world gathered under SUAD's Environment Centre programme for COP28 to advance research on sustainability and climate change.

Supported by a 360 marketing and advertising campaign, SUAD's participation at COP28 has been highlighted on national radio, newspapers and live TV interviews that allowed SUAD to announce its strategy in terms of environment.

## SUAD YOUTH COP FOR CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY



The SUAD Youth COP mock negotiation for Climate and Sustainability launched in May, with the support of HE Reem Ibrahim El Hashimy, chair of the Board of Trustees, united over 300 students all over the world. Focusing on the global south, 25 teams competed online to defend the best proposals and build the Declaration of SUAD for Climate Change. The winning teams had the occasion to present the declaration during COP28, in the presence of the Minister of state for International Cooperation and the Director General of UNESCO's Regional Centre for Educational Planning.

The Youth COP is a mock negotiation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (hereinafter UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (hereinafter COP) organized by Université Paris Cité (France), Universidade Federal do Ceará (Brazil) and Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates), in partnership with YOUNGO/UNFCCC.

The competition aimed to provide an opportunity for worldwide students to experience climate negotiations through a simulation of the UNFCCC COP whilst fostering their critical thinking and interpersonal skills, such as teamwork, compromise, and conflict resolution applied to climate change agreements.

The outcome document developed by the competitors will be presented at COP29 in Baku (Azerbaijan).

In partnership with

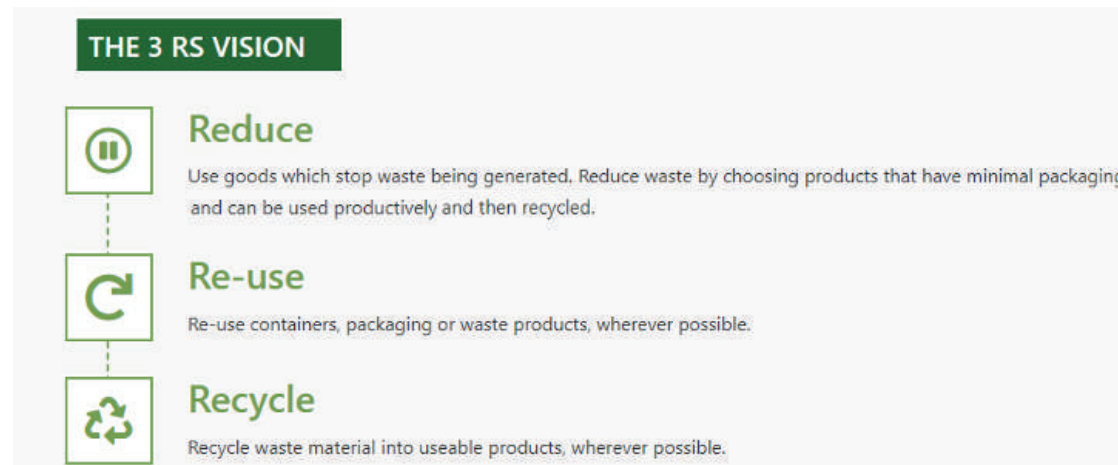


Project sponsored by



# CARBON REDUCTION TARGETS AND AWARENESS

Guided by the 3-R vision of reducing, re-using and recycling, the initiative set out a comprehensive plan to enhance existing measures and undertake new actions towards carbon footprint reduction on campus.



# THE OFFSET PROGRAMME (TOP)

TOP is dedicated to actions and initiatives aiming at reducing the university's carbon footprint.



The Roof garden Initiative: a community service

## The Giving Back Initiative, March 2023

As part of SUAD's TOP (The Offset Programme), SUAD planted 65 mangroves in the heart of Al Reem Island, where the university has been growing since 2009. An eco-friendly and environmentally committed institution, SUAD is eager to give back to Earth.

# Sustainable Practices on Campus

## TOWARDS NET ZERO ACTION PLAN



FOOD WASTE  
MANAGEMENT



REDUCE PRINTING &  
PROMOTE RECYCLING



SUSTAINABLE FRIENDLY  
POLICIES



UTILITIES MANAGEMENT

## FOOD WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Reduction of pre and post food waste by reaching full use of all composting capacity on campus, on a full-time basis.
- Phasing out of single use plastics in all facilities.

SUAD has taken significant strides in food waste management through its innovative composting initiative. Between January and December 2023, the university successfully increased its composting capacity, generating **6623kgs** of food waste, reflecting a strong commitment to sustainability and waste reduction. This enhancement allows the university to divert a larger amount of organic waste from landfills, transforming it into nutrient-rich compost that can be used to enrich campus gardens and landscaping. By promoting composting practices, the university not only addresses environmental concerns but also raises awareness among students and staff about the importance of reducing food waste and fostering a more sustainable campus. This initiative aligns with the university's broader goals of sustainability and environmental stewardship.

SUAD is committed to reducing pre and post food waste through Inventory management by suppliers at the university, appropriate food storage policy implementation, and composting resulting in a reduction of 30% of food waste.

Amount of food waste generated across the university campus

| Actuals<br>2023     | Jan | Feb | Mar  | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | TOTAL |
|---------------------|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Food Waste<br>(Kgs) | 573 | 844 | 1000 | 0   | 0   | 0    | 303  | 646 | 804 | 960 | 843 | 650 | 6623  |

# REDUCE PRINTING & PROMOTE RECYCLING

- Paper use Reduction
- I-procurement signatures
- Automation of Visiting Professors Travel
- Increase the adoption of Learning Management System  
Digital transformation of manual processes

# SUSTAINABLE FRIENDLY POLICIES

- Issuing an HSE circular for third parties to committing supplier to comply, attain, implement, and monitor HSE system as part of their obligation in the contract.
- Allocation of 5% of the technical evaluation scores in Tenders to HSE compatibility and GO GREEN initiative among SUAD contractors

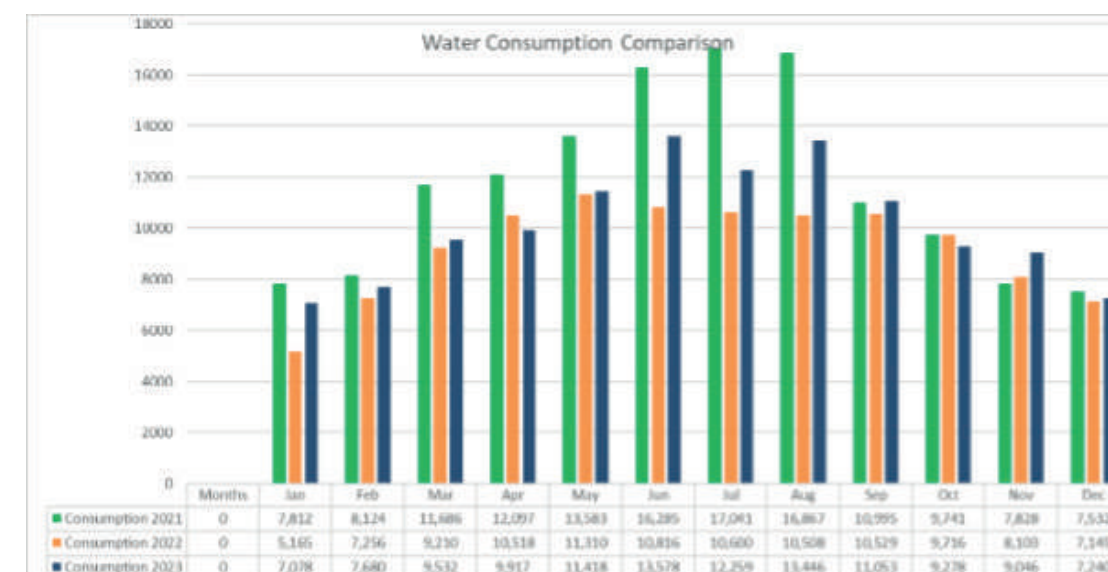
# REDUCTION IN UTILITIES CONSUMPTION

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi is committed to sustainability through significant reductions in utilities consumption on campus. By upgrading facilities and implementing energy-efficient technologies such as **LED lighting, occupancy sensors, and electric vehicle charging stations**, the university has achieved a 5% reduction per capita in water, electricity, and chilled water usage. Additionally, there has been an impressive 80% reduction in liquefied petroleum (LP) gas consumption. These initiatives reflect the university's dedication to environmental stewardship and its ongoing efforts to create a more sustainable campus for students and staff alike.



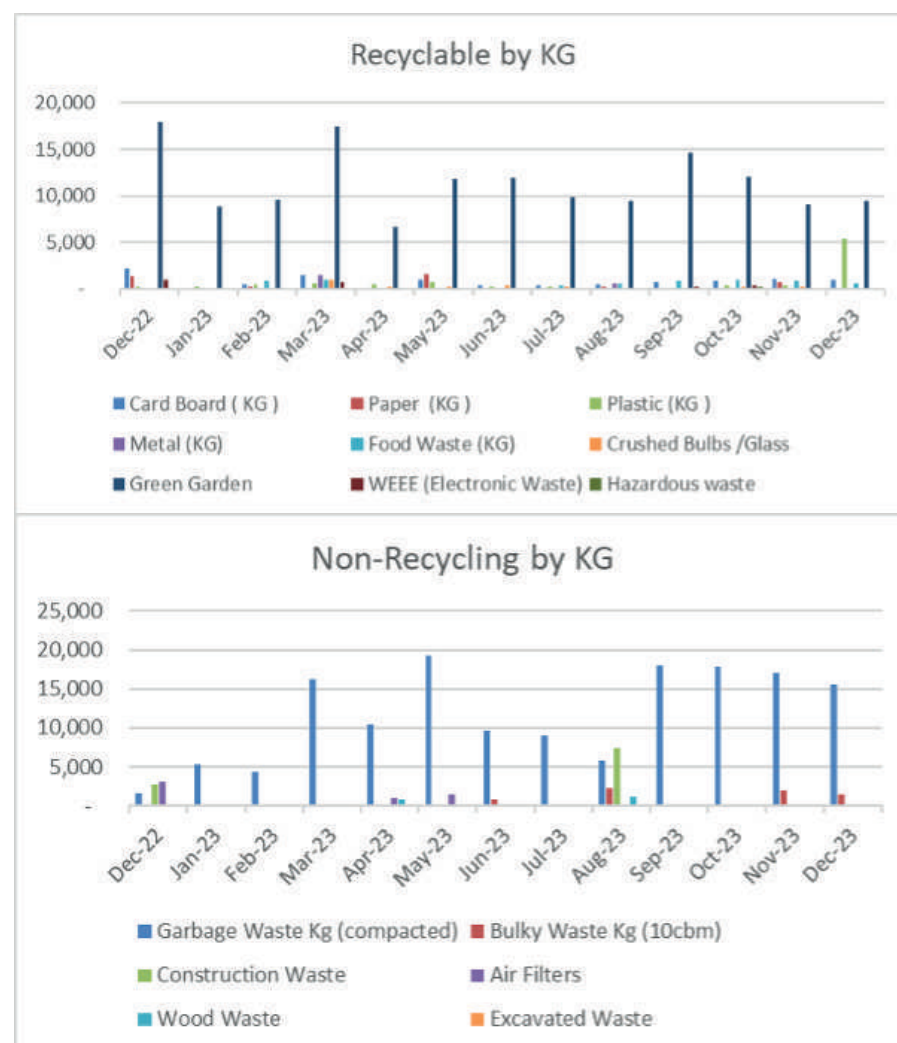
# WATER CONSUMPTION TRACKING

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi implements various sustainability initiatives aimed at conserving water resources and promoting eco-friendly practices.

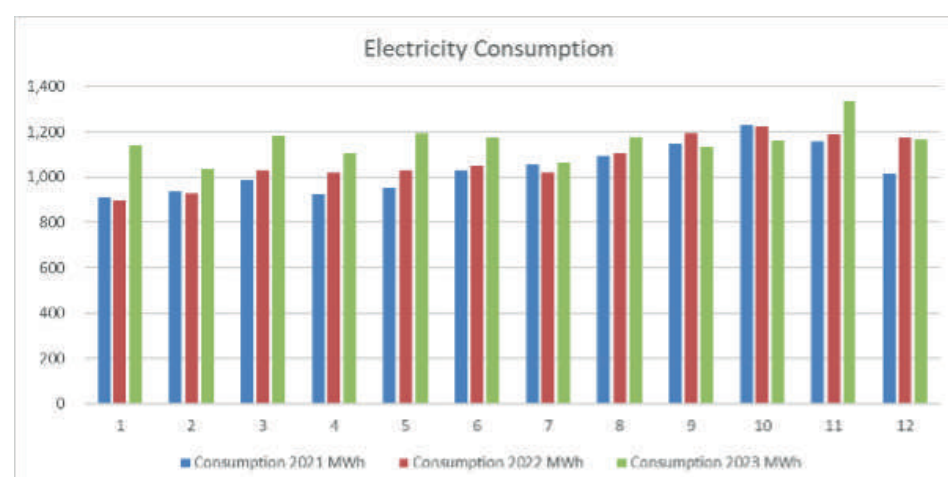


The installation of **water refill stations** encourages the use of reusable bottles, reducing plastic waste on campus. Additionally, **water-saving devices have been installed on taps, shattafs, and showerheads** to minimize water consumption without compromising functionality. The university creatively **reuses fountain water for cleaning canopies** and **utilizes solar-powered and soil moisture-controlled irrigation systems to optimize water use in landscaping**.

## WASTE DISPOSAL TRACKING AND MEASUREMENT



## ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION



## ENERGY-EFFICIENT RENOVATION AND BUILDING

The UAE government has launched the National Net Zero by 2050 Pathway, a visionary plan designed to achieve the country's climate objectives. This comprehensive initiative sets ambitious targets for reducing absolute emissions 18 by 2030 60 by 2040 and ultimately achieving complete decarbonization by 2050 In line with this commitment, Mubadala, Sorbonne Abu Dhabi's partner is actively developing and implementing a robust decarbonization pathway program for SUAD.

## CARBON REDUCTION AWARENESS

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi actively promotes carbon reduction awareness among its community by providing access to a Carbon Footprint Calculator. This tool allows individuals to assess their personal carbon footprints, highlighting their largest contributors to carbon emissions. By analysing the results, users receive tailored tips on how to adopt more sustainable practices and reduce their environmental impact. This initiative not only fosters a greater understanding of individual carbon contributions but also empowers students and staff to make informed choices for a more sustainable lifestyle, reinforcing the university's commitment to environmental responsibility.



## SUSTAINABLE FOOD INITIATIVES

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi is committed to providing sustainable food choices for everyone on campus. Its offerings include a variety of vegetarian and vegan options, as well as healthy and affordable meals. By prioritizing local sourcing and environmentally friendly practices, the aim is to promote sustainability and ensure that all members of the community have access to nutritious food.



## SUAD'S LOCAL FARM



Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi facility management SERCO, has launched a local farm to produce fresh vegetables and fruits, promoting sustainability and supporting its community. This initiative provides nutritious, locally grown produce to university workers while integrating sustainable farming practices. By prioritizing local sourcing, the university enhances its commitment to environmental sustainability and fosters a culture of health and wellness among its working staff, reinforcing its dedication to creating a resilient food system.

## SUAD'S SPORTS DEPARTMENT SUSTAINABLE INITIATIVES

At the heart of our sports department's mission is a commitment to sustainability and environmental preservation. They believe that sports can be a powerful platform for positive change, not only for physical fitness but also for protecting the natural environments where we train and compete.

Aligned with global sustainability goals, the Sports Department at SUAD has taken significant steps to minimize the environmental impact of its activities, by eliminating single-use plastic bottles from its programs and actively promoting the use of reusable water bottles. This reflects SUAD's broader commitment to sustainability across all areas of campus life.

Furthermore, as part of outdoor activities and trips, SUAD's sports department actively encourages environmental stewardship. Participants in the Padel, kayaking, hiking, and outdoor adventure programs not only enjoy nature but also engage in environmental preservation through beach, island, mangrove, and desert cleaning initiatives. These efforts contribute to the protection of the UAE's natural beauty while promoting eco-responsibility among SUAD's students.



# Research, Events and Conferences

## RESEARCH FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi has engaged in Climate Change Research through projects focusing on water desalination, soil, history of climate change revealed by archaeological discoveries and the use of remote sensing and geolocalisation.

More recently, research has developed in relation to the scientific approach with an increasing number of projects in the Sciences and Engineering department around the themes of Solar Panels, Deltas in Extreme weather regions and the use of nanoparticles in the creation of new materials. Research has also expanded to the field of Archiving and its critical role in the climate change solutions.

As Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi is encompassing both Sciences and Humanities in its research centre for environment, it is taking a lead position in the higher education and research institutions landscape proposing a unique multidisciplinary approach.



### **DEVELOPMENT OF NOVEL TECHNOLOGY FOR WATER DESALINATION: LOW ENERGY CONSUMPTION AND HIGH COMPATIBILITY WITH CLEAN ENERGY**

Dr Emad Alhseinat Chemical Engineer, Khalifa University (Leading as PI) Prof Kosmas Pavlopoulos Professor of Environmental geomorphology-Geology, SUAD (Leading as Co-PI)

This project contributed directly to the efforts of achieving one of the goals of Abu Dhabi 2030 plan as it targets the issues related to water scarcity and lack of water resources and reducing energy consumption in UAE; through providing full water management guidelines toward the utilization of oil and gas Produced Water.

## **HUMAN OCCUPATION AND LANDSCAPE EVOLUTION DURING THE HOLOCENE CLIMATIC VARIATION IN THE UAE DESERT (HOLE). CASE STUDY OF A GRAVEL PLAIN IN THE DUBAI DESERT CONSERVATION RESERVE (DDCR)**

Dr Stéphane Desruelles Associate Professor of Geography & Head of Department, Geography & Planning, SUAD, Dr Caroline Autret Assistant Professor of History of Art & Head of Department History of Art & Archaeology

This multidisciplinary project aimed to understand the context of the paleo-environmental evolution in the arid environment and the interplay between human occupation and climatic variability during the last 11560 years. It focused on Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve following a series of collaborative efforts between the reserve conservation team and SUAD. The reserve, being "undisturbed", allows the evaluation of the archaeological and environmental analogues of the past to better understand both the ancient and future desert environments considering a changing climate.



## **CHASING THE ELUSIVE GLACIAL EXPANSION DURING THE LGM AND LATE-GLACIAL IN THE MOUNTAINS OF GREECE**

Prof Mateo Spagnolo Personal Chair, University of Aberdeen, Prof Kosmas Pavlopoulos Professor of Environmental geomorphology-Geology (Leading as Co-PI)

A key to address long-standing questions regarding underlying climate change mechanisms in the Mediterranean, such as timing and amplitude of precipitation variability, is a multiproxy record (e.g. pollen, glacial, marine sediment records), which covers multiple glacial-interglacial cycles and is sensitive to regional changes in the hydroclimate. As mountain glaciers change volume in response to climatic changes, their former extents record past changes in climate, providing data on how patterns of ice distribution have varied spatially with time. Mapping and dating of past ice margins, documented by terrestrial glaciogenic sediments and landforms, provide valuable information to gain a better understanding of landscape evolution. In order to juxtapose palaeoglaciers in different geographical settings, a useful tool is the Equilibrium Line Altitude (ELA), which marks the area of a glacier where annual accumulation and ablation are equal and is governed by air temperature and precipitation.



## CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT ON THE UAE ARTIFICIAL ISLANDS. MONITORING THE COASTAL RISK IN UAE

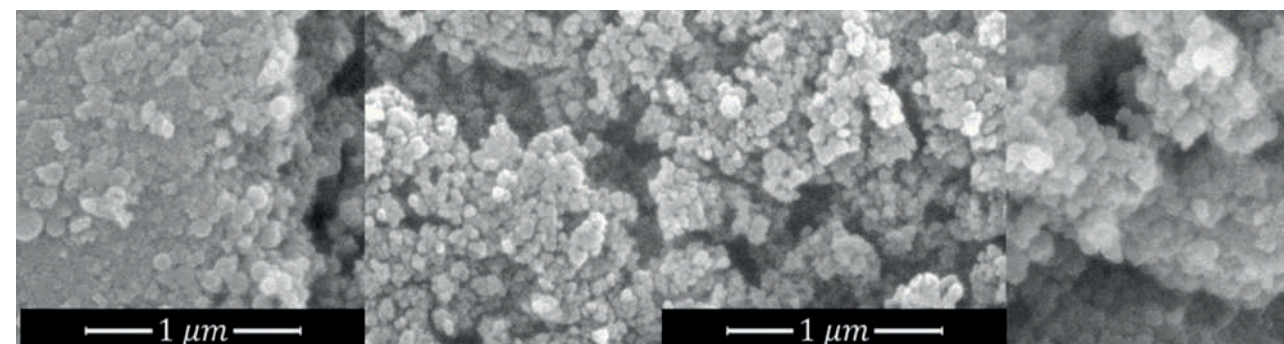
**Prof Kosmas Pavlopoulos** Professor of Environmental geomorphology-Geology, SUAD (Leading as PI)

Dubai has emerged as a hub for architectural achievements with artificial island projects like Palm Island and World Islands, attracting major tourism and real estate investments. Abu Dhabi has similarly invested in projects like Yas Island and Al Maryyah Island. However, climate change poses a significant challenge to these developments. The UAE has recognized this by renaming the Ministry of Water and Environment to the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment in 2016, addressing issues like a 25% increase in carbon emissions since 1958 and rising sea levels (from 1.7 mm/year to 3.2 mm/year). This research proposal focused on the geological and geotechnical challenges related to artificial islands, particularly the impacts of climate change, ocean acidification, and sea level rise on infrastructure sustainability. The project supported PhD student Walid Mekni, supervised by Kosmas Pavlopoulos at Sorbonne University.



## ANCIENT TYRE: HOW TO WATER AN ISLAND AQUATYR

The AquaTyr project, led by Jean Baptiste Yon and Prof. Kosmas Pavlopoulos, aimed to study how the Tyrians managed water over two millennia, adapting to geopolitical, environmental, and demographic challenges. Combining onshore and offshore investigations with multidisciplinary approaches, the project explored water flow from sources to the sea. It provided new insights into Tyre's water management, offering potential inspiration for modern, sustainable water networks. The project also allowed for a reassessment of Tyre's buried archaeological structures, contributing to a deeper understanding of the city's historical development.



## SMART OPTICAL FILMS: CONTROLLING THE OPTICAL PROPERTIES OF NANOSTRUCTURED OXIDE-BASED POLYMER FILMS

Dr. Stavros Christopoulos led a project aimed at developing environmentally friendly materials with advanced properties by embedding metal-oxide nanoparticles (e.g., ZnO, TiO<sub>2</sub>) into polymer matrices.

The goal is to improve the physical properties of the films for applications in agriculture, construction, and display technologies, such as greenhouse covers and anti-glare coatings. The nanoparticles are treated, coated, and incorporated through processes like extrusion, resulting in low-cost, high-performance materials. The project also focused on using biodegradable polymers and developing a theoretical model to better understand the interaction between nanoparticles and the polymer, optimizing the films' performance.

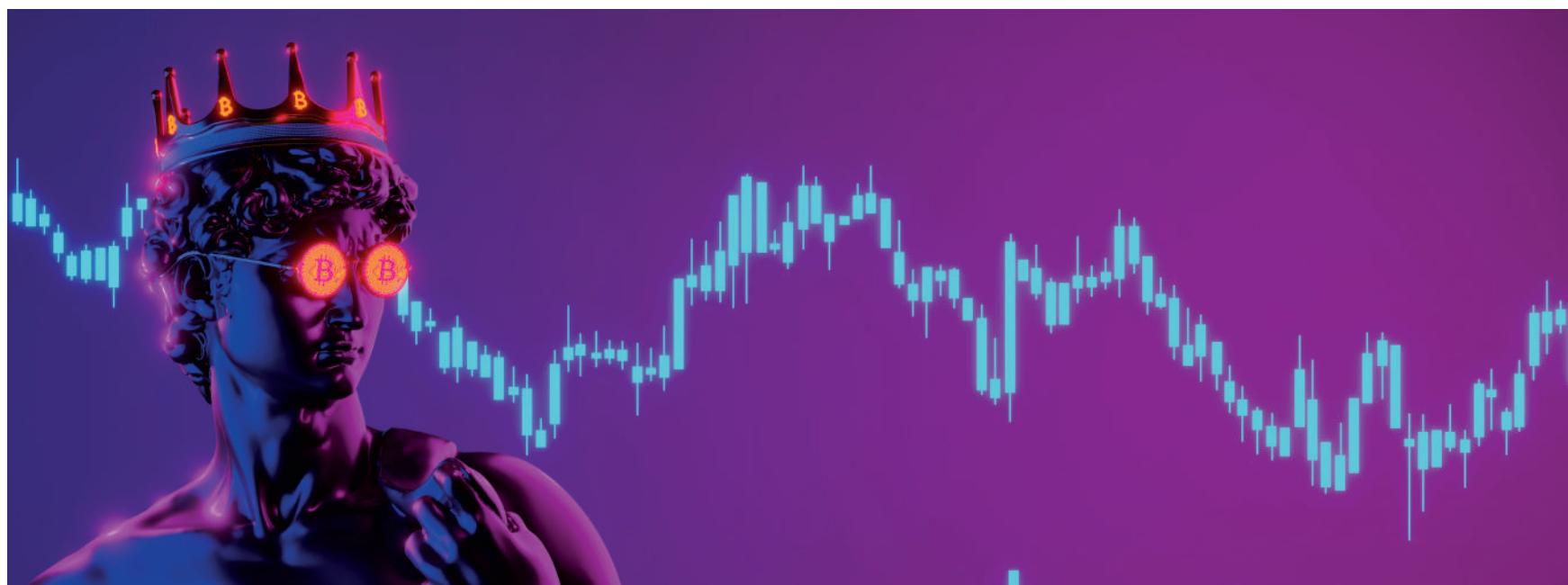
## NANOSTRUCTURED LAYERS FOR ENERGY HARVESTING APPLICATIONS

Dr. Joumana El Rifai, an Assistant Professor of Physics at SUAD, worked on developing a reliable, environmentally safe, and waste-free energy source. While photovoltaics (PV) are widely researched, a major concern is the waste heat generated on the surface of PV panels, which reduce power output and performance stability. To address this, her work focused on utilizing thermoelectric materials to capture and convert waste heat into useful energy through thermoelectric generation. The goal is to fabricate and characterize novel materials that would enhance light absorption and simultaneously harness thermal waste, with the ultimate aim of incorporating these materials into PV cell applications.



## PHD ON MACHINE LEARNING ALGORITHM TO PREDICT TIME SERIES

Léna Sasal, a PhD student at the Sorbonne Centre for Artificial Intelligence, worked on predicting time series to forecast future events based on past data. The team focused on using transformers, a type of algorithm, to apply in various fields, such as predicting temperature or earthquake probabilities. In collaboration with TotalEnergies, the project aimed to forecast oil production for the following day. The research resulted in a publication titled W-Transformers: A Wavelet-based Transformer Framework for Univariate Time Series Forecasting, which was presented at The International Conference on Machine Learning and Application in the Bahamas in December 2022. This project is under the Chair of TotalEnergies, Sorbonne Centre for Artificial Intelligence, SUAD



## TOWARDS EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF E-RECORDS IN SUPPORT OF E-GOVERNMENT IN RAS AL KHAIMAH ECONOMIC ZONE

Dr. Victor Kabata, leading a project with Dr. Proscovia Svard and Dr. Mehluli Masuku, aimed to ensure that the datasets uploaded on the Ras Al Khaimah Economic Zone (Rakez) portal 360 were accurate and reliable for policy and decision-making. The project recognized that data accuracy depended on the quality of the records from which they originated. To achieve this, it focused on improving the management of electronic records within Rakez, addressing key aspects such as adherence to UAE legal and policy frameworks, compliance with e-records management standards, awareness of e-records management, and capacity-building in appropriate technologies. The project aimed to develop a framework for effective e-records management, contributing to the digital transformation initiative and supporting sustainability through the efficient capture, processing, and long-term preservation of electronic records.

## A PRE-STUDY ON GREENING INFORMATION MANAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Proscovia Svård led a study, with Dr. Victor Kabata as a participant, focused on investigating how governments can implement green information management strategies to address environmental challenges posed by the exponential growth in digital information and data centers. The literature review highlighted the lack of research in this area, justifying the need for the study. Research was conducted in several countries, including the UAE.

The study aimed to explore how governments are working to align information management with sustainable development goals. Specific objectives included identifying strategies and policies implemented by selected countries (including the UAE) for sustainable information management, assessing public officers' awareness of the environmental impact of information management, examining how open data developments align with sustainability goals, and making recommendations for greening information management practices.



## PROSPECTS OF DATA DRIVEN UNIVERSITIES THROUGH ARCHIVES

Dr. Forget Chaterera, Assistant Professor of Records Management and Archival Science, conducted research on the importance of managing records in universities to ensure smooth operations, compliance with regulations, transparency, and good governance. The study emphasized the need to establish university archives in Abu Dhabi's higher learning institutions, which would align with international best practices. A preliminary study, conducted using webometrics, revealed an urgent need for collaborative efforts to establish university archives based on proper records management practices. The proposed project aimed to initiate discussions on appropriate data, information, and records management practices in these institutions, with the ultimate goal of creating university archives.

# WOMEN-LED RESEARCH FOR SUSTAINABILITY

The academic year 2022/23 marked a significant period in spotlighting women-led research in environmental studies at Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi. Women researchers have been at the forefront of advancing knowledge and driving innovations for a more sustainable future across a variety of environmental fields. Their work has contributed to addressing key challenges in the areas of climate change, energy efficiency, data management, and sustainable urban development.



**DR. PROSCOVIA SVÄRD - ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT & ARCHIVAL SCIENCE**

## Greening Information Management for Sustainable Development

Dr. Svård's project focuses on addressing the environmental issue of e-waste generated by the rapid obsolescence of technology. Rather than seeking technical solutions, this project advocates for the development of Green Information Management Systems. These systems aim to reduce redundant information storage and promote sustainable data stewardship, encouraging the adoption of green policies in both the public and private sectors. The project aligns with sustainable development goals by promoting eco-friendly data management practices.



**PROF. MARIANNE COHEN -  
PROFESSOR OF GEOGRAPHY**

**Nature-Based Solutions for a Sustainable City: A Case Study of Abu Dhabi City, UAE**

Prof. Cohen's research focuses on green and blue infrastructure in Abu Dhabi as nature-based solutions to tackle climate change. Her study evaluates how urbanization in the city interacts with biodiversity, mitigates the heat island effect, and contributes to better wellness and walkability. By combining ecological data with observations of local biodiversity and urban practices, this interdisciplinary project uses ecological corridors and zonation models to assess sustainable urban development in Abu Dhabi.



**DR. JOUMANA EL RIFAI - ASSISTANT  
PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS**

**Nanostructured Layers for Energy Harvesting Applications**

Dr. El Rifai's research addresses the issue of solar thermal waste generated by photovoltaic (PV) panels. This waste, if left unused, can reduce the panels' efficiency and performance. Her work focuses on developing novel nanostructured materials that increase light absorption and convert thermal waste into usable energy. This research aims to optimize PV cell performance and contribute to the efficiency of renewable energy technologies.



**DR. HAÏFA BEN ROMDHANE - ASSISTANT  
PROFESSOR OF GEOGRAPHY**

**Enabling Effective and Prompt Environmental Sustainability Decision-Making Through Remote Sensing and Location Intelligence**

Dr. Ben Romdhane's project focuses on enhancing environmental decision-making through Remote Sensing (RS) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). By combining GIS, RS, and Artificial Intelligence (AI), the project provides insights into the spatial and temporal distribution of UAE habitats. The use of multimodeling techniques helps identify environmental patterns with greater accuracy, enabling more informed and timely decision-making for sustainability initiatives.

## CELEBRATING WOMEN'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH

The projects led by these distinguished women researchers highlight the diverse and interdisciplinary approaches being explored at Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi to tackle pressing environmental challenges. Their work reflects the university's commitment to sustainability and its role as a leader in innovative research for a better, more sustainable future.

## POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS' RESEARCH

Postgraduate students represent a key component of the research activity at Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi through work undertaken for their master's theses or capstone project reports. With a strong connection to the current social issues, the student research addresses contemporary issues, participate in advancing public policies and contribute to providing data and a better understanding of areas that are key in the process of building the future of the UAE. Below is a list of master thesis defended in the areas of teaching at Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi.

### Master thesis in Environment: Dynamics of Territories and Societies

- ▷ "Assessing the Use of Oil and Gas Produced water for Soil Aquifer treatment in Abu Dhabi".
- ▷ "Food Security & Social Awareness in the United Arab Emirates"
- ▷ "Impact of Rejected Disposable Brine from Inland Desalination Plants on Soil and Groundwater in Liwa Oasis-UAE"
- ▷ "Ecotourism in the UAE"

# EVENTS AND CONFERENCES



## NOVEL MATERIALS AND MODERN STATISTICS FOR ENERGY APPLICATIONS

This trio of short presentations brought physicists and mathematicians together to discuss the role of novel materials and statistics in the path to sustainability. The talks focused on three principal trends of research: 1) the use of innovative fabrication techniques to enhance both optical and thermoelectric properties of structural layers used for energy harvesting applications, 2) the deployment of nonparametric statistics for estimating intermittent and stochastic quantities arising from integrating renewable resources into existing power systems, and 3) the development of environmentally friendly materials with new properties derived from the utilization of nanoparticles in combination with polymer matrices.

## CONFERENCE: MITIGATING THE EFFECTS OF GLOBAL WARMING AND UNLOCKING NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABILITY (IN THE MENA REGION)

Dr. Stéphane Desruelles, Associate Professor of Geography and Head of the Department of Geography & Planning at SUAD, organized an event aligned with SUAD's scientific priorities, focusing on regional themes and supporting the government's vision for global climate action. The event featured speakers from universities and industries in the UAE, the Gulf region, and abroad. It included four sessions: 'Earth Observation Systems/Robotics', 'Energy Transition', 'Adaptation to Climate Change', and 'Transition to Low Carbon, Healthy, and Resilient Cities'



## HOW TO COMPENSATE DAMAGES TO NATURE?

The conference was part of one of the axes of COP28, focusing on damages. One key issue was how to represent nature in court and how to compensate for its damage. Since nature does not have legal personality, ways had to be found to represent it. For example, associations dedicated to environmental protection were used, and nature parks could be granted legal personality. The question was raised: was this sufficient, or was it necessary to grant legal personality to other aspects of nature, like bird populations or forests? The conference also addressed how to assess and repair such damage, including whether reparation could be done in kind. Both public and private international law were involved, as the damage was often transnational. The discussions also covered legal representation, prevention, and compensation for environmental damages, with stakeholders specifying how legal professionals in the UAE approached these issues and the existing protection measures.



### **GREENING INFORMATION MANAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

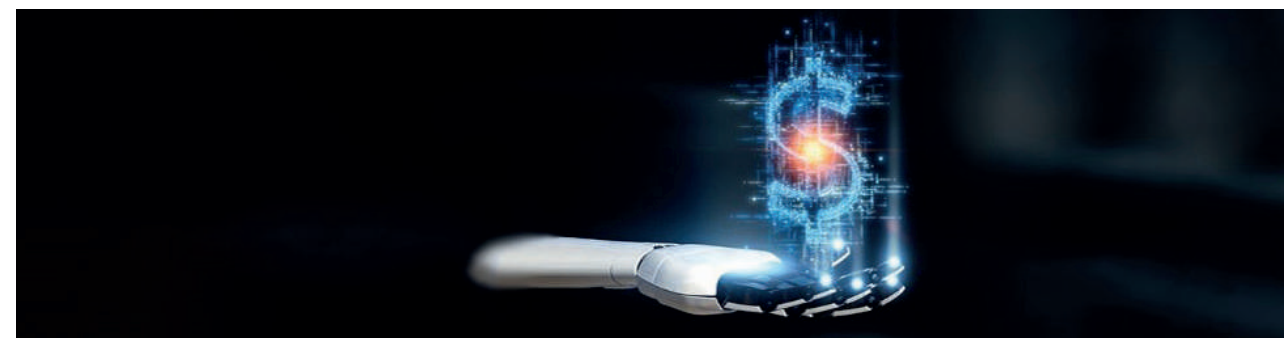
The exponential growth of digital information/data have led to the creation of data centres that consume energy. Governments need to undertake green data stewardship strategies and policies to reduce social, ecologic and environmental challenges that have so far received little attention. There is paucity in research on green information management. In this conference, researchers of Records Management and Archival Science discussed the impact digital information has on sustainability. They presented their preliminary findings regarding the steps government institutions are undertaking to promote green information management for sustainable development.

### **HARNESSING THE POWER OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES TO ADDRESS THE CLIMATE CRISIS: CHALLENGES AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

The concept of a twin transition, combining digital transformation and environmental sustainability, gained traction. UNCTAD acknowledged that "green and digital technologies are increasingly becoming intertwined," while the European Commission emphasizes that Europe's digital transition is closely linked with the European Green Deal. Both transitions are seen as twin challenges that could not succeed without each other and are vital for Europe's future. The UAE's climate policy also reflects this harmony between digitalization and ecologization, driving economic leadership and diversification. However, the spread of digital technologies to achieve climate goals raise challenges related to their financial cost, environmental impact, and human rights concerns. High-level speakers from various sectors gathered at this panel to identify key challenges and achievements in harnessing digital technologies to address the climate crisis.

### **SUAD YOUTH COP CEREMONY 2023**

The YOUTH COP is an entirely virtual mock negotiation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP), organised by Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi in partnership with the Université Paris Cité and the Universidade Federal do Ceara. The project aims to provide a platform for university students from diverse backgrounds and regions worldwide to: 1. Develop critical thinking about climate change challenges. 2. Understand and promote the roles of states and international organizations in shaping global climate policies. 3. Improve interpersonal skills such as teamwork, compromise, and conflict resolution. By offering students the opportunity to engage in simulated COP process, the project helps build a more informed and empowered youth community ready to advocate for sustainable solutions on the global stage. The project has selected 25 teams (75 students) to simulate real-world climate challenges through 3 days of active negotiation, representing 25 different UNFCCC member states. Themes discussed : Oceans, Loss and Damage Mechanism, and Energy Transition



### **CONFERENCE: THE IMPACT OF DIGITAL ECONOMY & NEW TECHNOLOGIES ON ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION**

Prof. Nathalie Martial-Braz and Prof. Aude-Solveig Epstein explored the environmental potential of new and digital technologies, such as AI, blockchain, and the digitization of the economy, questioning whether these technologies could help combat climate change. They consider the assumption that a transition from an oil-based economy to a decarbonized digital economy, particularly in the UAE, could support climate commitments made in international forums like COP. However, they raised concerns about the energy intensity of the current digital economy and whether it could deliver environmental benefits, depending on the energy sources used.

The professors questioned the potential environmental gains of digital technologies, possible negative side effects like monopolies or shifts in the global economic order, and the legal role in ensuring these technologies contribute to climate goals. They also consider whether regulatory measures could force digital players to adopt environmentally sustainable practices.



## MONITORING THE OCEAN, A KEY FOR CLIMATE SCIENCES

Sorbonne University is one of the most important universities in the world for ocean sciences, covering a wide variety of disciplines from climate science, hydrodynamics, to biology, ecology, anthropology or paleontology within 30 research laboratories. Many of its researchers are contributing to the works of IPCC. Oceans play a key role in the climate system. Absorbing 90% of the heat excess due to the Green House Effect and 25% of our carbon emissions. Oceans protect us, being a powerful regulator of the climate system. But in doing so, oceans are changing, becoming warmer, more acidic, lacking oxygen in some places, losing the ice cover in the Arctic, rising the sea level; even the global current system may be altered. Will these changes alter the efficiency of the ocean shield? Monitoring the oceans has become more crucial than ever in order to better understand their role in the climate system and anticipate their transformation that will affect marine biodiversity, fisheries and food security and coastal areas. This is why, in 2021, the United Nations opened the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. Internationally recognized researchers from Sorbonne University/CNRS presented their works in the field of ocean monitoring applied to El Niño (Eric Guilyardi), the ocean micro biome (Colombian de Vargas), the Argo observing system (Hervé Claustre). Elise Basquin, a Sorbonne University PhD student, presented her work on coastal hazards related to the rising sea level.

## OCEANS & CLIMATE JUSTICE

This critical panel delved into the profound intersection of climate justice and our vast oceans. As climate change intensifies, the repercussions are particularly poignant in the marine realm, affecting ecosystems, biodiversity, and, crucially, vulnerable populations. The panel aimed to shed light on the disparities in the impact of climate change on different communities, emphasizing the urgent need for equitable solutions to safeguard our oceans and promote climate justice. It provided a comprehensive platform for dialogue, fostering a deeper understanding of how climate justice principles can be effectively applied to marine environments as well as actionable strategies that promote justice, resilience, and sustainability for both vulnerable populations and the oceans they rely on.



## OASIS AGRI-URBAN METABOLISM AS A SOURCE OF PALEO-INNOVATION FOR COPING WITH GLOBAL WARMING

The event focused on how oasis agri-urban systems, developed over thousands of years, offer solutions for addressing global warming. These systems created sustainable microclimates through a combination of dense housing, intensive agriculture, and the use of local resources. Unlike modern industrial-urban systems, which rely on fossil fuels and generate pollution, oasis metabolisms promote circular economies and sustainability. The event highlighted two key methods for establishing sustainable agri-urban systems: reusing treated wastewater and eco-construction. It emphasized that drawing inspiration from these ancient systems could provide a path forward for adapting cities to climate challenges and reducing global warming.

## HERITAGE, ART MARKET, AND ECO-RESPONSIBILITY

The event explored the intersection of heritage, art, and eco-responsibility, recognizing these as valuable aspects of human culture that connect generations and shape environments. It discussed how ancient societies lived in harmony with nature, offering lessons for modern urban planners and architects focused on sustainable city-building. While the art world celebrates creativity, it also raises concerns about its environmental impact, particularly through the transportation of artworks and the networks involved. The event aimed to address how to maintain the sustainability of beauty and livable spaces in a post-industrial world, and the role of art in driving positive climate action. The discussions also examined the commitment of cultural and art institutions, as well as artists and collectors, to eco-responsibility and the sustainable solutions they are implementing. COP28, held in the UAE during the Year of Sustainability, was seen as an ideal platform to highlight these issues and pass on the commitment to future generations.



## CONFERENCE: SUSTAINABLE FINANCE AND GREEN FINTECH

Prof. Nathalie Martial-Braz emphasized that finance needed to align with sustainability goals to effectively combat climate change. She highlighted the importance of a new financial model that integrates sustainability and supports the energy transition. Regulators played a key role in ensuring the credibility of this transition, but new technologies, particularly Green Fintech, are also crucial. Green Fintech involves technological innovations applied to financial processes that support sustainability, including digital payment solutions, investment platforms, crowdfunding, and risk analysis. These tools, driven by data analysis, could help facilitate the transition to a carbon-neutral economy. However, the use of these technologies requires careful consideration and regulation to maximize their impact.

## INTEGRATING INDIGENOUS' PERSPECTIVES INTO HIGHER EDUCATION CURRICULA

This panel aimed to explore the integration of Indigenous perspectives and content into higher education. It facilitated discussions on educational experiences, effective pedagogical approaches, and contemplate an initial roadmap for curriculum development. The panel also addressed strategies for evaluating the impact of introducing Indigenous perspectives into university curricula.

## CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY

The objective of this panel was to discuss and explore innovative approaches and strategies employed by social enterprises, leading to meaningful and measurable social impact and environmental benefits. The panel also investigated the applicability of best practices used by social enterprises both in developed and developing countries at large, and specifically in the context of the UAE.

## THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTION IN THE MEDIA: STAKES, ACTORS & DISCOURSE

The aim of this talk was to understand how the environment and climate have become public issues, shaped by a cultural context in which a concert, a polyphony or even a cacophony of families of actors (scientific, economic, media, political, artistic and social) take part, framing the subject according to specific verbal and iconic rhetoric.



### **CITY OF CHALLENGES: TOWARDS ECO-TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION? EXAMPLES FROM MOROCCO AND SOUTH KOREA**

The event discussed the future of cities in the context of eco-technological innovation, with a focus on smart and knowledge-based cities. It emphasized that economic imperatives must no longer outweigh ecological concerns in the face of the planet's environmental challenges. The city of the future, especially in the Anthropocene era, must redefine the concepts of intelligent, sustainable, and resilient urban living. Innovation in these cities depends on how various elements of the innovation ecosystem come together, just like in nature, where growth and sustainability are influenced by the surrounding conditions. The examples of South Korea and Morocco were highlighted as interesting case studies for integrating both ecological and technological dimensions in urban planning, showing the need for cities to balance these aspects for sustainable development.



### **CONFERENCE: TOWARDS A JUST ENERGY TRANSITION: CHALLENGES FOR NORTH-SOUTH AND SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION**

The conference, organized by Dr. Julia Motte-Baumvol and Prof. Tarin Frota Mont'Alverne, aimed to provide a legal forum for debating the various aspects of the energy transition, including adaptation, mitigation, loss and damages, financing, and global cooperation (North-South and South-South). It also focused on the commitments made by states at global, regional, national, and local levels, examining strategies to meet these goals, the challenges faced, and potential solutions for a just and equitable multilateral approach. The conference played a crucial role in supporting the UAE's efforts to position itself as a global leader in climate change.

### **SEMINAR SERIES IN RECORDS MANAGEMENT & ARCHIVAL SCIENCES: ARCHIVES & CLIMATE CHANGE**

Dr. Proscovia Svard, leading a seminar with Dr. Victor Kabata as a participant, focused on the role of archives in addressing climate change, particularly in relation to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13, which aims to combat climate change and its impacts. The seminar addressed the growing reliance on historical data from archives by scientists, researchers, and other stakeholders to understand climate trends, despite limited literature on the subject.

The seminar's objectives included examining how archives can contribute to the development of environmentally friendly practices, discussing methods to promote sound documentation to combat climate change, and exploring ways to enhance collaboration between archival institutions and climate action advocates. Speakers from academia, climate action experts, researchers, policymakers, and activists from the UAE were invited to participate.



### **THE ALUMNI "RED CARPET, GREEN HEARTS" GALA DINNER**

In May 2023, the first Alumni Gala Dinner was held on campus which focused on and highlighted the University's commitment to sustainability. For the occasion, the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Administrative Affairs, Dr Majed Al Khmeiri, who holds a PHD on "Strategic Planning and Sustainable Development: The Future of the United Arab Emirates", from Sorbonne Université Paris welcomed the guests and spoke on the importance of sustainability and the role of the UAE.

The Gala Dinner was an environmentally friendly occasion where all equipment used was sustainable. The Career Centre opted for a zero-waste buffet, led lighting and zero printing. They also engaged the Alumni community in raising awareness about climate change by offering sustainable prizes including a stay at an eco-resort.

# Students' commitment to sustainability

As part of the students' activities organized during the academic year 2022/23, many were aimed at having an impact on climate change by raising awareness or taking action.

- ▷ SUAD Youth COP Launch Webinar
- ▷ Monthly green movie nights
- ▷ Beach clean-up activity
- ▷ Mangrove planting activity: the giving back initiative
- ▷ Sustainability Day
- ▷ Cultural Heritage and Desert Environment in the Arabian Peninsula Exhibition by Students of Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi
- ▷ Green Talk: "Sustainable Future: Ideas Worth Spreading"
- ▷ Sustainable Students Art Exhibition
- ▷ Sustainability Escape Game
- ▷ Student Green Festival
- ▷ Participation to Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week





### AVATAR 1& 2-THE WAY OF WATER: GREEN MOVIE NIGHT SERIES, 18 MAY 2023

To raise awareness on sustainability, SUAD students screened movies related to climate change, energy transition, environment and more.

### THE NIGHT OF IDEAS: PLASTIC CONSUMPTION, 1 JUNE 2023

Thursday 1 June 2023 In partnership with the French Institute in the UAE and Sea Cleaners, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi hosts "The Night of Ideas"

In partnership with the French Institute in the UAE and Sea Cleaners, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi hosted "The Night of Ideas" dedicated to Reducing Plastic Consumption. This workshop day was an opportunity for students to take actions against plastic pollution and protect the oceans.

**This event was open to students from all universities in the UAE.**



### BEACH CLEAN-UP, 4 MAY 2023

As part of the University's actions for a more sustainable future, students and staff gathered on Thursday 4 May 2023 to clean one of the beaches of the capital and collected over 100kg of waste.



### SUSTAINABILITY DAY, 3 MAY 2023

"We have forgotten how to be good guests, how to walk lightly on the earth as its other creatures do." Barbara Ward

Thinking of the words of Barbara Ward, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi dedicated this event to explore ways to create a more sustainable future for the community and the planet as a whole.

Organizations and experts in sustainability engaged in discussions, workshops, and activities. It was also an opportunity to learn about the latest advancements in sustainable practices and technologies, and how they can be applied to create positive change in our daily lives.





### **CULTURAL HERITAGE AND DESERT ENVIRONMENT IN THE ARABIAN PENINSULA EXHIBITION BY STUDENTS OF SORBONNE UNIVERSITY ABU DHABI, 26 APRIL – 12 MAY 2023**

As a research centre, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi exhibits student-led research activities in Cultural Heritage Science and Environment, which are a part of the areas of priority defined by the Research Strategy. This students' exhibition prepared by the undergraduate students of the Archaeology and History of Art, Geography and Planning and Sciences and Engineering Departments, highlighted research on Heritage and Environment in the Gulf area and revealed how Science helps analysing the findings. Students and researchers from various, yet complementary fields, shared their knowledge to advance their research and findings on ancient culture, heritage, archaeology, and environment. At the same time, it aimed at promoting the importance of laboratory analyses in the process of understanding ancient and traditional societies and helping to prepare the future by understanding the past environment hazards.

This exhibition entitled SUAD Students' Exhibition: Cultural Heritage and Desert Environment in the Arabian Peninsula included, on the one hand, research posters illustrating collaborative research at SUAD, and on the other hand, pieces from private collections. Additionally, it displayed some archaeological findings collected during surveys conducted by the university in the Dubai Emirate, at the Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve (DDCR). Finally, 3D scans of archaeological artefacts were displayed in interactive holographic showcases.

### **THE GIVING BACK INITIATIVE, 26 APRIL 2023**

As part of SUAD's TOP (The Offset Programme), SUAD planted 65 mangroves in the heart of Al Reem Island, where the university has been growing since 2009. An eco-friendly and environmentally committed institution, SUAD is eager to give back to Earth.

The initiative focused on planting 65 mangrove trees on Al Reem Island, thus contributing to the Go Green 2023 environmental goals, which aims to raise awareness and cultivate initiatives that address climate change challenges to move towards a more sustainable future.

The initiative, which took place in partnership with Nature for Environmental and Agricultural Solutions L.L.C, offered an opportunity for the University community to actively engage in offsetting the adverse effects of logging and use in paper production and involved 40 participants from students, faculty, and staff.

Through this collaborative effort, the university was able to plant the exact number of trees that corresponded to the amount of paper consumed by the university annually to take a further step towards sustainability and creating a better world for everyone.



### **GREEN TALK: "SUSTAINABLE FUTURE: IDEAS WORTH SPREADING"**

During this talk, Bachelor students from different programmes at Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi shared their research and approaches on four key topics.

Fatima Alblooshi, Geography & Urban Planning student talked about Dissolved Oxygen Levels in the Middle East. She then gave the floor to Economics and Management student, Malick Koussai Traore, who told his story as a sustainable entrepreneur.

Sustainability was also approached from a philosophy & sociology perspective with student Ali Abdul Atti who discussed Contemporary Approach to Dangerous and Common Phenomena. Ending the talk, Nada Alsodairi, a Law student, focused on finding harmony in nature through the role of religion in pursuing Environmental Justice and Sustainability.



### EARTH HOUR KEEP YOUR FUTURE BRIGHT, TURN OFF THE LIGHTS!

Enlightened citizens and role model for the younger generations of pupils, students took part in Earth Hour this year again.

just **60 min** off



### ABU DHABI SUSTAINABILITY WEEK VISIT

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi's Geography & Urban Planning students participated in an insightful session titled "Renewables for Survival: Fostering Food and Water Security with Renewable Energy" at Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week. The session discussed the challenges and opportunities for renewables in the context of food and water security, as well as practical experiences illustrating the importance of the food-water-energy nexus. The students had the opportunity to gain valuable insight into the industry, as well as network with organizations that are actively promoting sustainability through the use of advanced technologies.

### A SUSTAINABLE TOMORROW THROUGH THE EYES OF THE GREEN SHEIKH

#### Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi Campus Organised by the Library, Sheikh Abdul Aziz bin Ali bin Rashid Al Nuaimi

The talk organised by Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi's Library highlighted and discussed the philosophy and actions of the Green Sheikh, who advocates for a sustainable future rooted in respect of the planet, its people, and its resources. The message is a call for action to individuals to make sustainable choices and work together to create a better world. The ultimate goal is a future where everyone can thrive and live fulfilling lives without compromising the needs of future generations.



### UNITED FOR CLIMATE INITIATIVE

As part of SUAD's participation in United for Climate Initiative, our students crafted artwork using recycled materials. The planned installation was displayed at the Dubai Expo during the COP28 conference.

### STUDENTS ART EXHIBITION, 20 MARCH 2023

This student art exhibition dedicated to sustainability, for students to express their artistic views on climate change and use sustainable materials in their art productions, all for the same purpose of raising awareness to save the planet!

### SUSTAINABILITY ESCAPE GAME, 20 MARCH 2023

On the occasion of the Francophonie Day, the FLE department organised an escape game on the theme of sustainability, for selected students of the Foundation Year in Intensive French. It is the first time that such a game is organised on campus and it aimed at raising awareness to sustainable practices in a fun setting.

The escape rooms included puzzles to solve and clues to find on:

- ▶ **RECYCLING**
- ▶ **PROTECTION OF BIODIVERSITY**
- ▶ **ENERGY TRANSITION**
- ▶ **AND MUCH MORE...**





### THE GREEN DICTATION (FRANCOPHONIE MONTH), 16 MARCH 2023

The Departments of French Studies and French as a Foreign Language in collaboration with Student Affairs organised a "Green Dictation" Game in which participants had to listen to a text related to Sustainability and write what they heard without spelling mistakes. It was an occasion to enhance writing skills on burning issues!

### STUDENT GREEN FESTIVAL, 25 JANUARY 2023

As part of the Go Green 2023 Initiative, several workshops were held, offering students an exciting chance to explore the captivating world of urban farming, as well as creating and experimenting with DIY beauty and hygiene products. Through engaging activities such as planting trees in the Arabian Garden, playing permaculture card games, listening to live music and watching a movie night, the students were able to gain a comprehensive understanding of the importance of green living and environmental conservation.



### STUDENTS' ENGAGEMENT IN SUSTAINABILITY

Two students of the Sciences & Engineering Department significantly contributed to the efforts of companies towards limiting the effect of climate change.

A year 1 student in Mathematics completed an internship at FortyGuard whom uses up-to date technologies and advanced statistical tools to cool cities. Zeina studied and analyzed heat maps and extracted temperature data of cities (New York City, San Francisco, etc..) to build essential data sets for working towards solutions of global warming.

A year 2 student in Mathematics won the first place at the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) Future Innovators Hackathon for his project on deploying 600 EV chargers known as charging stations for electrical vehicles across the city.



### MEET THE GREEN AMBASSADOR 2023

Who is he: Student in L2 Economy – He is part of poetry club and attends theater classes.

His experience: He worked primarily in volunteering, where he was focused on the management and coordination of several income-generating activities for women. This project aimed to fight poverty through the creation of activities, and he served as a consultant throughout the duration of the project in his home country Mali.

His plans as the Green Year Ambassador: His goal will be to raise awareness about the dangers of the environment and find sustainable solutions. He plans to present a project for the production of paves from plastic waste to various organizations in order to make Abu Dhabi a sustainable city. In addition, he will create climate-friendly initiatives with members of the community, encourage inter-university collaborations, and promote the university students' body as a climate change advocate outside of the campus.



### RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE

During the Academic Year 2022/23, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi prioritize raising awareness about climate change by announcing its Go Green Year and therefore organizing throughout the year internal and public events to advance the cause of Climate Change. Sorbonne University's participation to strategic events & programmes in line with its sustainable goals, the University participated to national and regional key events, aiming at sharing knowledge, developing research and finding solutions to mitigate the effects of the Climate Change on our societies and economies.

Students participated to workshops during Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week in January 2023 playing a role at the Youth 4 Sustainability Forum and discussing with representatives of IRENA, in another workshop.

The University was also invited in May to the conference UAE Climate Tech, organized by the Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology, ADNOC and Masdar to reflect on the crossed role of Industry, renewable energy companies and Academia in the fight for Sustainability.

In June, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi participated to the Times Higher Education Global Sustainable Development Congress hosted by the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) in Saudi Arabia and which brought together over 1,600 global thought leaders and innovators to discuss urgent solutions to the sustainability emergency.

An active member of the COP 28 Universities Climate Change Network to lead global efforts in the Academia Sector in the UAE, the University has also been engaged in the ADERN research network by the Environment Agency Abu Dhabi and in the UAE Climate Change Research Network of the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment to take part in the establishment of high-quality research networks in the country.

# Agreements and Partnerships

## UNIVERSITIES CLIMATE NETWORK

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi has been developing a network of green partners to support its initiative with universities, governmental entities, and the private sector.

In December 2022, SUAD joined the UAE Universities Climate Network (UCN) to Support Youth-Focused Objectives of COP28. As part of this collaboration with other HEI, the UN Special Envoy to COP28 and the COP28 team, SUAD was committed to ensuring that its initiatives and events throughout 2023 support the COP28 to achieve its key priorities:

1. Global Stock Taking
2. Climate Impact Responses
3. Operationalising the new Loss and Damage Fund (agreed at COP27)
4. Just Energy Transition
5. Inclusion

### THE ROADMAP



### ENVIRONMENT AGENCY ABU DHABI

In March 2023, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Environment Agency Abu Dhabi to collaborate in the fields of Research and Development. This partnership was further strengthened in June 2023 when the University officially became one of the eight founding institutions of the ADERN Network (Abu Dhabi Environmental Research Network), a part of Environment Agency Abu Dhabi, leading the way to developing cross collaborative research in the field of environment.



## ABU DHABI ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH NETWORK

The Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) launched ADERN (Abu Dhabi Environmental Research Network), a community of research scientists, research institutions and allied innovators, to convene research and development experts around the scientific knowledge gaps facing stakeholders to continuously enhance the environment of the emirate.

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi has joined 7 universities as founding institutional members

With a focus on addressing environmental challenges, ADERN plays a vital role in advancing the understanding and implementation of sustainability in Abu Dhabi.



## RECAPP BY VEOLIA

In March, RECAPP by Veolia became the preferred partner of Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi, sponsoring the “Green Dictation” public event and became the University’s provider of recycling bins on campus.

## CLIMATIZE

Climatize, a sustainability award winning partner of SERCO, SUAD’s facility management company. Climatize launched BeyondZero+ initiative that aims to address and tackle Global Issues Response with actionable Sustainable Business Objectives and Programs in parallel to its advocacy and execution of projects targeting carbon-neutrality, zero energy, zero water and waste.



## UAE ALLIANCE FOR CLIMATE ACTION (UACA)

As a signatory to the UAE Climate-Responsible Companies Pledge in support of the UAE’s Net Zero 2050 Initiative and to advance decarbonisation efforts, the university is a member of the UAE Alliance for Climate Action (UACA - an alliance of stakeholders committed to enhancing momentum towards Paris-aligned targets and fostering greater collaboration)

# EMPLOYEES GREEN ACHIEVEMENT

## MS ROBA NAYFEH'S AWARD

Roba Nayfeh is a valued member of SUAD staff. An accomplished Architectural Engineer, she has made a significant impact through her unwavering dedication to sustainable urban development and environmentally conscious design. Throughout her journey, Roba has actively engaged in numerous workshops, competitions, and events focusing on sustainability, urbanism, and agriculture. Her passion lies in transforming urban areas into more sustainable, eco-friendly spaces through thoughtful planning and innovative design. We eagerly anticipate the positive changes she will continue to bring to the world of sustainable design.

