

NEWS AND EVENTS

THE 'ECO-CHALLENGE' PROJECT AT A HIGHER COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY, ABU DHABI, UAE.

Theri Bailey Adjunct Instructor in Environmental Science, Zayed University, Dubai

Emirates Wildlife Society in association with WWF (EWS-WWF) launched an 'Eco-challenge' project earlier this year at the Abu Dhabi Women's College. National women, all studying communications technology, were provided with an opportunity to develop environment-related marketing strategies and advertising campaigns based on the theme of 'coastal development and coral reef protection.' This is a very topical issue currently in the UAE considering the rapid rate of development along the country's coast. Students learnt that without careful environmental assessment, planning and controls, unregulated development could affect the numbers and diversity of marine biodiversity and therefore directly and indirectly, the economy of the country.

The programme that was put together for the students embraced various facets of this 'real life' environment versus development question so that students could adopt a balanced view. This included field trips, site visits, meetings and discussions with both developers and environmentalists and, finally, a workshop at which professionals in the field of communications imparted 'on the job' knowledge to students.

For further information on the EWS-WWF and future 'Eco-challenges' that will be running, please contact: Razan Al Mubarak, Managing Director of the Emirates Wildlife Society, EWS-WWF Head Office, PO Box 45553, Abu Dhabi, UAE. ralmubarak@ead.ae

If you would like to receive the EWS-WWF newsletter "Dar Al Khair" please contact:
Rashmi De Roy, Dubai Office, PO Box 45977, Dubai, UAE. rderoy@wwfuae.ae
 or download Dar Al Khair on-line from: <http://www.panda.org/uae>

[02-6-2006]



Abu Dhabi Womens College "eco-challenge" project ©EWS-WWF



Prize winner of eco challenge
 ©EWS-WWF

ANNOUNCEMENT TO IUCN VETERINARY SPECIALIST GROUP - MIDDLE EAST CHAPTER

Dear Veterinary Specialist Group members:

URGENT We have been asked to reinstate the membership for the next quadrennial cycle of the SSC.

- Log into the IUCN VSG website and update your profile. If you have not changed your password, then the password is «member». If you have problems accessing the site or do not already have a profile in the database, please contact tech@iucn-vsg.org.
- Send a current CV and brief report of relevant activities from the past four years to fieldvet@wcs.org.

Once these items are completed, your name will be forwarded to the IUCN SSC membership office and you will receive a formal letter of invitation shortly thereafter. We would also like to advise you that we will be re-branding the Veterinary Specialist Group as the Wildlife Health Specialist Group, we welcome any feedback on this proposed change.

Regional co-ordinators

Jaime Samour Email: jaimesamour@hotmail.com

Thomas A. Bailey Email: tom.bailey@dfh.ae



INFORMATION REQUEST

I am looking for high resolution photos of owls native to the Middle East for a poster we are in the process of designing. I have photos of the eagle owl *Bubo desertorum* and the barn owl *Tyto alba*. However, I need shots of spotted eagle owl *Bubo africanus*, little owl *Athene noctua*, hume's owl *Strix butleri*, striated scops owl *Otus brucei* and African scops owl *Otus senegalensis*. These can be emailed to files@wmenews.com. All photos will be credited accordingly.

Declan O'Donovan

- If there are any conferences or events which need to be announced for 2007 we can carry these in the December issue.
 Please email editors@wmenews.com with the details before the beginning of November 2006