



Changing Together

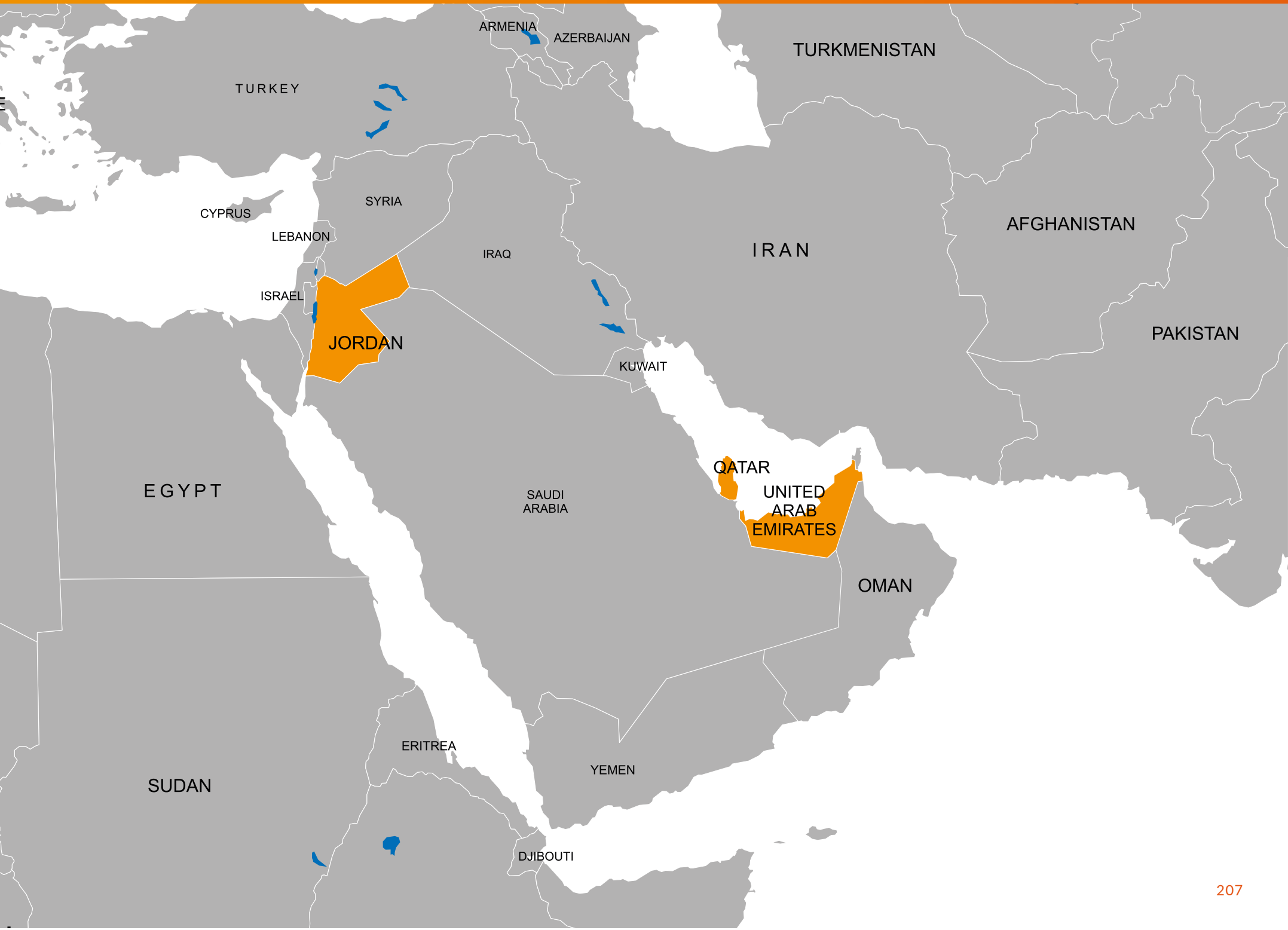
Eco-Schools 1994-2019





Middle-East

Jordan, Qatar & United Arab Emirates





Jordan

The Royal Marine Conservation Society of Jordan (JREDS)

National Operator: Aya Kalaldeh

Country size: 89,342 km²

Population: 9.7 million

Longest river: Jordan River 251 km

Highest mountain: Mount Umm al-Dami 1,854 m

National plant: Quercus ithaburensis

Joined Eco-Schools in 2009

Number of Eco-Schools: 95



National animal: White Oryx or Maha

White Oryx are able to detect rainfall from a distance and follow in the direction of fresh plant growth.



STATUS OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

National Legislation

Plans are underway to introduce Environmental Education (EE) into the school curriculum, with the aim of achieving a higher sense of public awareness towards the environment.

K-12 Education

The Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Education have formed a committee to identify and select which environmental topics will be taught to school students. The topics include climate change, forest protection, energy consumption, waste management, electronic waste, green economy, sustainable development and air pollution, among other issues that the committee deems of priority. Committee meetings are taking place in 2019 to draft curricula on EE for grade 6 up till tertiary level.

THE STORY OF ECO-SCHOOLS

The Eco-Schools programme in Jordan started with a pilot phase of 15 participating schools. It began through a cooperation between the Ministry of Education and JREDS in 2009. The same year, the first Green Flag in Jordan was awarded to several schools in Amman.

In 2018-19, 210 engaged schools spread out in 11 districts in Jordan worked and participated in different activities with 45 open days/ workshops to present the main objectives. More than 98,558 students have participated in the programme, out of which 57% were female students and more than 3,500 teachers were directly or indirectly involved in the projects. 64% of the teachers involved were female.



KEY MILESTONES

The JREDS team are conducting both announced and unannounced school visits to the involved schools, to ensure the compliance of the schools with the international programme. Results suggest that all schools are highly engaged with the Seven-Step methodology.

In 2018-19, JREDS and the Eco-Schools National Committee updated the national criteria for Eco-Schools.

NATIONAL OPERATOR - REFLECTIONS

As long as we want change we must learn more and more. We will always remain the source of the right and influential information through our educational environmental programmes.



The Royal Marine Conservation Society of Jordan (JREDS)
Amman, Shmessani, AbdelAziz Thaalbi Street, Bdg #7



“The activation of the Eco-Schools programme in our schools has left a fingerprint on our students, fellow teachers and part of our community. All are touched by this programme and its interaction, communication and follow-up. The programme also supports the confidence in sustainable development in our schools and has an active role in linking with life issues, helps schools develop and reinforces students’ behaviours.”

Wafa’a Quaba’a, Eco-Schools Teacher, King Abdullah Excellency School

“The Eco-Schools programme changed my life in many aspects; it has shown me the real-world problems that we are facing in our daily life. My life got better after I joined the Eco Committee: it encouraged me, even more to save our world from our previous disastrous practices.”

Rakan Al-Shwekini, Student, Aqaba International Schools

“Since we started the school year, my children and their outlook towards the environment has changed significantly - even when we go to the beach. They are keen to ensure the cleanliness of the place. They even made me, as a parent, aware that plastic bags are one of the most important reasons responsible for the destruction of marine life.”

Ramzi Shwekini, Parent, Aqaba International Schools







Qatar

Qatar Green Building Council

National Operator: Ruba Hinnawi & Hamoda Youssef

Country size: 11,571 km²

Population: 2.7 million

National animal: Oryx

Joined Eco-Schools in 2018

Number of Eco-Schools: 7

Coastline: 563 km

Qatar is a peninsula located near major petroleum deposits. The coastline of Qatar stretches for 563 km with a scattering of sandy beaches along the north and west.

Qatar is mainly flat, consists of sand deserts, and a small part of housing in different vegetation zones where native trees, reeds and shrubs grow. The country's most distinctive geographical feature is in the south of the country, close to the border with Saudi Arabia; a wide area of dunes that surround an inlet of water from the Persian Gulf.



STATUS OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

National Legislation

Qatar National Vision 2030 is a development plan launched in October 2008 by the General Secretariat for Development Planning in the State of Qatar. It is built on four pillars: human development, social development, economic development and environmental development. The environmental development aims to preserve and protect the environment, including air, land, water and biological diversity, through an environmentally aware population that values the preservation of the natural heritage of Qatar and its neighbouring states, as well as through an agile and comprehensive legal system that protects all elements of the environment, responding quickly to challenges as they arise. Preservation is sought through effective environmental institutions that build and strengthen public awareness about environmental protection and encourage the use of environmentally sound technologies. These institutions will also conduct awareness-raising campaigns, employ environmental planning tools, and carry out environmental research.

K-12 Education

Qatar's Ministry of Education and Higher Education, has several topics in regards to energy and water efficiency, renewable energy sources, climate change and local flora and fauna included in its science curriculum, in order to comply with Qatar National Vision 2030.



Professional Development

There are a number of professional development opportunities in Environmental Education (EE) in Qatar. Qatar University offers undergraduate and postgraduate Environmental Sciences programmes and Hamad Bin Khalifa University offers graduate and postgraduate programmes, like Master and PhD programmes in Sustainable Energy and Sustainable Environment. Qatar Foundation Universities, Virginia Commonwealth University Qatar, Texas A& M Qatar, Carnegie Mellon University Qatar and Georgetown University Qatar, offer Environment and Sustainability undergraduate courses.

As for courses offered by non-profit organisations, there are several opportunities as well. Qatar Green Building Council offers a variety of workshops for professionals in various sustainability rating standards for professional accreditation like the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) rating system, WELL Standards, Green Classroom Professional workshops to certify teachers and school staff to manage their classrooms and schools in a more environmentally sound way and convey the message to their students. The Global Organization for Research and Development (GORD), offers certification for professionals in the design and construction field in the Global Sustainability Assessment System (GSAS) rating system.

Qatar hosts a number of annual prestigious conferences such as the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) and Qatar Green Building Conference (QGBC). QGBC carries out Qatar Sustainability Week and the Qatar Sustainability Awards annually. Both events aim to further engage the community in a wide range of sustainability-oriented activities. Conferences are an accessible platform to share research papers, experiences, recent trends and knowledge with professionals and the community.



THE STORY OF ECO-SCHOOLS

The Eco-Schools programme in Qatar started in 2015 and was an individual effort by teachers who directly contacted Eco-Schools Global. Doha College, a private international school, was the first Green Flag awarded school in 2015, awarded by Eco-Schools Global. In 2016, Qatar Green Building Council became a FEE member, as the FEE vision, mission and programmes align with QGBC core objectives. QGBC started with Green Key programme.

Schools in Qatar, in alignment with the Qatar National Vision, started small sustainable initiatives to bring students awareness to environmental issues. Therefore, the importance of implementing the Eco-Schools programme in order to guide schools in a meaningful path, goal-oriented sustainable education became the obvious next step.

In 2018, QGBC became the National Operator for the Eco-Schools programme in Qatar. QGBC communicated with awarded schools and introduced the programme to others, and thereafter, schools started to show interest and join.

KEY MILESTONES

In September 2019, QGBC organised the first Eco-Schools Congress. The congress was a great opportunity to create a network of schools and present the programme to attract more interest. Through workshops, it provided a platform for students to present their ideas and solutions for their daily challenges. Students were engaged in hands-on activities to meet the Zero Food Waste Event goal by composting food waste, packaging food in compostable containers and donating it.





“The English Modern School Doha is eager to begin the Eco-Schools journey because it will help our students identify areas of improvement in ‘their’ world. This will allow them to engage in important 21st-century learning skills using communication, collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking to make action plans and solve real-world problems. The Eco-Schools structure will help our students identify areas where they can make measurable and actual changes and improvements and not just talk about what they could do.”

Renee Koval, 21st Century Learning Coordinator, English Modern School of Doha

“The Eco-Schools programme is a necessity in Qatar that allies with Qatar Vision 2030. The Eco-Schools programme is the best programme that provides environmental education and awareness along with a hands-on pedagogy that is oriented towards action, tangible results and behavioural change. As a country with limited natural resources, this is exactly the programme we need for our young generations, leaders of tomorrow.”

Meshal Al Shamari, Qatar Green Building Council Director



NATIONAL OPERATOR - REFLECTIONS

As a National Operator, I was impressed by the dedication of students to a subject they really believe in. When you expand their interest beyond the classroom walls to the whole globe, they get so creative and their ambitions are limitless. In one of our Eco-Schools, second-grade students started with a simple food waste project and the school now has a composting bin, greenhouse, control over the cafeteria, food serving, portions and cutlery!

Qatar Green Building Council
Qatar Green Building Council Building
P.O. Box: 5825, Doha

National tree: Sidra

The Sidra tree came to represent nourishment, strength and courage, as well as learning and growth. In the hearts and the minds of the people of Qatar, the Sidra tree exemplifies perseverance, solidarity and determination as it manages to fruit and flower in the harsh climate of the desert.





United Arab Emirates

Environmental Center for Arab Towns (ECAT)

National Operator: Fatima Mubarak Ismail

Country size: 83,600 km²

Population: 9.4 million

National animal: White Oryx

National plant: Tribulus Omanense

Joined Eco-Schools in 2012

Number of Eco-Schools: 122

National bird: Falcon

The falcon is not only the national bird of the United Arab Emirates. It is also the most important entity in one of the country's traditional sports, Falconry.

STATUS OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

National Legislation

In UAE, the national curriculum is formulated by the Ministry of Education and implemented in all public schools. Environmental Education (EE) is mentioned explicitly and it is suggested that it is included and integrated in both specific subjects and as a cross-cutting theme.

K-12 Education

The United Arab Emirates engages schools in EE and sustainability practices through a number of key programmes that share objectives at the local, national and international level. The programmes help harness the power of youth as change agents in society.

Professional Development

ECAT is organising three annual teacher training workshops attended by approximately 50 teachers and trainers every academic year.

THE STORY OF ECO-SCHOOLS

ECAT started implementing the Eco-Schools programme in 2012, in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Education Zones.

Today the programme is running in 8,13% of the country's elementary and secondary, private and public schools. There are approximately 4,000 teachers working with the programme and a challenge is, therefore, to get every one of them to participate in the three annual workshops hosted by ECAT.

Environmental Center for Arab Towns (ECAT)

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