

First Interagency Meeting on Monitoring and Management of Dubai Coastal Waters

Held at the United Nations Office for Project Services
Dubai Humanitarian City
April 10 2007

Summary of the Meeting



**UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY**

UNU-INWEH

The First Interagency Meeting on Monitoring and Management of Dubai Coastal Waters was held at United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) facilities at Dubai Humanitarian City from 10.00am to 16.00pm on 10th April 2007.

The Interagency Meeting was held as part of a project UNU-INWEH is conducting in partnership with Nakheel titled: *Strategic Management of Marine Ecosystems in Nakheel Projects* which commenced in December 2006. This project involves the establishment of an environmental management program, including a sophisticated environmental monitoring program, and specific targeted research to determine the ecological behavior of the new marine systems being created due to the reclamation efforts. The overall goal is to build a proactive management program based on scientifically sound models of ecological performance, which will make it possible to anticipate patterns of change and ensure maintenance of a sound ecological system with good water quality and resilient ecological communities. In addition, the project includes an educational component for environmental managers in the region and more broadly, in the form of training workshops and an international conference.

The development of effective partnerships, between Nakheel and other agencies with responsibilities related to management of Dubai's coastal waters, is another important component of the project. For this purpose, annual Interagency Meetings will be held, to which appropriate representatives will be invited, aimed at building collaborative partnerships, avoiding duplication, discussing data sharing opportunities, as well as identifying possible joint activities.

This Interagency Meeting aimed to outline the scope of our project, particularly with respect to environmental monitoring of coastal waters, and to learn about the data-collection activities of the various management agencies with responsibilities pertaining to the coastal marine environment. This was the first such meeting, and follow-up meetings will be scheduled as necessary and appropriate.

The meeting was attended by 21 participants from management agencies, universities and NGO sector in Dubai, Sharjah, and Abu Dhabi. Our goals for this meeting were to:

- 1) Develop effective partnerships amongst agencies/organizations/universities with responsibilities related to the management of Dubai's coastal waters;
- 2) Build collaboration and learn of respective mandates and responsibilities/activities in Dubai coastal waters in order to prevent overlap in efforts;
- 3) Discuss exchange of data and information;
- 4) Achieve a collaborative, focused and comprehensive project that involves different partners from the region.

The meeting was held in an informal setting and open discussions were welcomed. The meeting was opened by Dr. Walid Saleh, UNU-INWEH Regional Coordinator for the Middle East and North Africa followed by short introductions by all participants. Dr. Peter Sale, Principle Investigator for the project, and Assistant Director for UNU-INWEH, then gave a presentation outlining the scope and focus of the project. This was followed by some discussions and several short presentations were given by participants about their mandates and activities in Dubai and surrounding coastal waters. After lunch, Ms. Hanneke Van Lavieren, Project manager for this

project, presented some opportunities for participation in the UNU-INWEH project, and this was followed by some discussions on how to best take advantage of the new opportunities that a new project with a significant environmental data-gathering component represents.

Overall some good discussions took place during the meeting regarding the need for a regional perspective and approach to management of the coastal waters of Dubai and surrounding areas as well as some specific opportunities to do collaborative research. The idea of a training workshop on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was welcomed (this is in early planning stages for end of 2007), and the need for future meetings of this type was expressed.

All PowerPoint presentations will be sent to you together with this report. The invitation letter, agenda of the meeting and participants list are attached as Annex 1, 2 and 3 respectively to this report.

ANNEX 1

Invitation letter



UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY

UNU-INWEH

Downtown Centre, 1st Floor
24517
50 Main Street East
Hamilton, Ontario
Canada L8N 1E9

Telephone 1 905 525 9140 ex.
24517
Fax 1 905 529 4261
E-mail contact@inweh.unu.edu
www.inweh.unu.edu

March 29, 2007

Dear Dr. Habib El Habr,

Interagency Meeting on Monitoring and Management of Dubai Coastal Waters
Conference Room
United Nations Office for Project Services
Dubai Humanitarian City 10:00am to 4:00pm, April 10 2007

The United Nations University – International Network on Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH) invites you or your representative to participate in an Inter-agency Meeting organized within the context of our project: Strategic Management of Marine Ecosystems in Nakheel Projects. This project, in partnership with Nakheel Environment Department, commenced on 15 December 2006. It entails a multiphase research and monitoring program to build a long-term sustainable coastal management program for Nakheel's large, off-shore developments in Dubai coastal waters. Our website gives additional information: <http://www.inweh.unu.edu/inweh/Coastal/Palm/Palm.htm>.

This Interagency Meeting will enable us to outline the scope of our project, particularly with respect to environmental monitoring of coastal waters, and to learn about the data-collection activities of the various management agencies with responsibilities pertaining to the coastal marine environment. Our goals are to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort, to ensure that data we collect may be readily available to other agencies, and to explore possibilities for collaboration among agencies with similar environmental monitoring needs. We expect our project to generate a sizeable database on a variety of water quality and ecosystem health parameters over the coming years.

We hope that you will be able to join us for this meeting, and are looking forward to seeing you in Dubai. **Please confirm your attendance to Dr. Walid Saleh, Regional Coordinator for MENA Region at unwa99@hotmail.com with a copy to inweh_unu@yahoo.ca by 26 March 2007.** Further details on the meeting and a final agenda will follow, however a draft agenda is attached.

With best regards,

Peter F. Sale
UNU-INWEH

ANNEX 2

AGENDA

- 10:00 Welcome and opening remarks
- 10.15 Peter Sale: Outline of the project: Strategic Management of Marine Ecosystems in Nakheel Projects -- scope, data collection planned, overall objectives. Open discussion
- 11.00 Short Presentations (max 10 minutes) by participants representing particular organizations with management responsibilities, or other interests in sustainable management of coastal waters of Dubai. (to be defined in consultation with participants once composition of meeting is known)
- Coffee will be served while presentations continue
- 13.00 - 14.30 Lunch Break
- 14.30 Hanneke Van Lavieren: Opportunities for participation in the UNU-INWEH project – workshops, conferences, collaboration in data collection, data sharing.
- 14.45 Round-table discussion. How can we best take advantage of the new opportunities that a new project with a significant environmental data-gathering component represents?
- 16.00 Close of meeting.

ANNEX 3

List of Participants

List is Alphabetical

Name	Institution	E-mail	Telephone Number
Ahmed Al Janahi	Ministry of Environment and Water	aaaljanahi@moew.ae	971504427759
Ahmed Mohamad Al Zaabi	Ministry of Environment and Water	XXX	XXX
Christophe Tourenq	Emirates Wildlife Society-WWF	ctourenq@wwfuae.ae	97150459077
Diane Klaimi	Nakheel Environment Department	diane.klaimi@nakeel.com	971504258721
Eslam A. Al-Hogaraty	Ajman University of Science and Technology Network	jrac.eslam.h@ajman.ac.ae	971504602911
Hamad E. AlMatroushi	Federal Environment Agency	matroushi@fea-dubai.gov.ae	971508185530
Hamid N. El-Habr	United Nations Environment Programme, Regional Office for West Asia		
Hanneke Van Lavieren	United Nations University International Network for Water, Environment and Health	vanlav@inweh.unu.edu	9055259140
John Burt	Zayed University	john.burt@zu.ac.ae	971502219269
Khaled Ramadan	Abu Dhabi Water & Electricity Authority/Water and Power Research Center	kramadan@adwea.ae	971508189810
Mariam Shenasi	Sharjah Univ.	shenasi@sharjah.ac.ae	971502039971
Mohamad Al Zarouni	Ministry of Environment and Water	maalzarouni@moew.gov.ae	XXX
Muthanna Al-Omar	Abu Dhabi Water & Elect. Agency	m.alomar@adwea.ae	971506872990
Osama M. Wahba	Ministry of Environment and Water/Marine Resources Research center	XXX	971508632100
Peter Sale	United Nations University International Network for Water, Environment and Health	sale@uwindsor.ca	
Rasha Al Hashimi	United Nations Development Programme	rasha.alhashemi@undp.org	02446700 Ext27
Razan Al Mubarak	Emirates Wildlife Society-WWF	ralmubarak@aed.ae	97126347117
Shaun Lenehan	Nakheel Environment Department	shaun.lenehan@nakheel.com	971508829071
Waleed Hamza	UAE University, Faculty of Science-Biology Dept.	w.hamza@uaeu.ac.ae	971505638980
Walid Saleh	United Nations University International Network for Water, Environment and Health	saleh@inweh.unu.edu	971504625879

Yahya Al Balushi	Environmental Eng. Consultant	yahyaalba@eim.ae	971505192828
------------------	----------------------------------	--	--------------