

CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY WEEK

Women in Arabia and Islam: Stories of Sustainability from the Arab and Muslim World

Women's Pavilion Programming
in co-curation with Louvre Abu Dhabi

Session Agenda



Date	Thursday October 7 th , 2021
Time	Event time: 11:00-13:00 Dubai Time Advised arrival time: 10:30 at the Women's Pavilion
Venue	Women's Pavilion

Throughout the Arab world, women hold enormous capacity, knowledge, and networks to support of climate change mitigation efforts. Arab and Muslim women have been an essential part of the adaptation of historical and contemporary societies to climate change and sustainability issues.

Islam has deep roots in environmentalism, demonstrating that humans are not the inheritors of the Earth's natural resources, but rather the custodians. Guided by Islamic philosophies, the Arab and Muslim region has deep traditions in protecting environment and conserving natural resources and biodiversity, among which women are leading the every day practices and driving innovative techniques – from agricultural cultivation to soil protection, from plantation to waste management.

Overview

Arab women have not waited for the last few years to assert themselves when facing environmental challenges. They played a crucial role in safeguarding environment, long before the role they play today in our societies, and they continue to lead the way towards sustainability. In the Arab and Muslim world, women have been the key practioners, drivers and innovators adapting to climate change throughout the ages and have been at the heart of the struggle for resource preservation and sustainability thinking. In the global south, it is mainly women who manage lands and natural resources. According to the UN, women are more likely to share information about community well-being, values of resilience, and adaption methods to environmental changes. When a woman is well protected from vulnerabilities triggered by climate change, so does the family and the community. Beyond the necessary protection of resources and our planet, sustainability is a major empowerment tool for women in the 21st century.

A powerful representation of feminine relationship to the earth in regional culture is one of the most extraordinary masterpieces in the Louvre Abu Dhabi : *the Woman dresses in a woollen Garment*. The artpiece is a symbol of adaptation to the past climate and its consequences, a model for thinking about sustainability and the need to adapt for the present and future.

It is time for the world to see the achievements from women in Arabia and Islamic backgrounds for our Mother Eather, to hear their voice on how to better protect the environment and to join hands with them to build a more equitable and sustainable future.

Join us in the Women's Pavilion to explore how better we could advance gender equality and women's empowerment in Arabia and Islamic region to protect our planet:

Key Questions

- How does the history of Arab world and the understanding of Islamic values help the us understand climate adaptation? What is women's value and role in the process?
- What practices demonstrate the rich tradition of Arab and Muslim world instilling sustainability in every day life? And how do we preserve this knowledge?
- What more needs to be done to put women at the center of climate change and biodiversity conservation in the Arab region and the Islamic world?
- What is the link among the teachings of the Islamic religion, cultural heritage and every day practices in the Arab and Muslim world, which led to the formal adaptation of "the Islamic Declaration on Global Climate Change" in 2015 to call on Muslims all over the world to combat climate change?

Event agenda

Artwork Presentation from Louvre Abu Dhabi (30 min)

Panel discussion (60 min)

Bouchra Baibanou -- Moderator

International Alpinist, Morocco



Bouchra Baibanou, the first Moroccan to climb the seven summits. She is also the first Moroccan and North African women to climb Everest, the highest summit in the world 8848m.

She is married and mother, engineer. She is the chief of women commission in the federation Royale Moroccan of ski and mountain sport.

She is an inspirational and motivational speaker, inside and outside Morocco. She is also a life coach.

She received many awards from the King of Morocco and from many organizations. She participated in many festivals in the world and TEDx.

Bouchra is a positive role models for young women in Arabic country and especially in Morocco; she did many activities in Morocco to empower girls and help them to success in life through sport.

Thuraya Said Al Sariri -- Panelist

Man and Biosphere Reserves Council and Natural Expert in World Heritage Commission in UNESCO, Oman



Thuraya is a member in World Commission on Protected areas, MEWA-EAGL and Marine Turtle Specialists Group in IUCN. Chair for the technical team for managing the project of transplanting 10 million wild trees in Oman and chair for technical team for developing Oman Environment Strategy 1st Coherent of National Leadership and Competitiveness program and Chair for West Asia Arabian Plant Specialist Group (SSC_ IUCN)

She Joined the Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs in 2000 as an environmental specialist .From 2005-2010 I was a director of Marine conservation department and from 2010-2015 Director of Biodiversity Department.

From Mid-2015 until recently she is working as an assistance director general of nature conservation where here main responsibilities to develop and follow up implementation of all natural programs, strategies and activates on biodiversity, (including marine and terrestrials) conservation and designation,

development, and management of protected areas, Restoration of Ecosystem plans and projects. Combat desertification in Oman as well as national technical focal points for many international conventions (CBD, CITES, UNCCD, IOSEA, IUCN and UNESCO).

Lourdes Vega -- Panelist

Professor in Chemical Engineering and Director of the Research and Innovation Center on CO2 and H2 (RICH Center) at Khalifa University



Dr. Lourdes F. Vega is a Full Professor in Chemical Engineering and Director of the Research and Innovation Center on CO2 and Hydrogen (RICH Center) at Khalifa University in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. She is a Member of Emirates Scientists Council, of the Mohammed Bin Rashid Academy of Sciences and of the Academy of Mathematics, Physical Chemistry and Natural Sciences of Granada. In 2020 she received the Mohammed Bin Rashid (MBR) Medal for Scientific Distinguishment for her contributions in clean energy and sustainable products. She is also the President of the Association of Spanish Scientists and Researchers in the UAE.

Prof. Vega obtained her Ph.D. in Physics from the University of Seville, Spain (1992), in collaboration with the Chemical Engineering Department, University of Southern California, and held a postdoctoral position at Cornell University, USA. She has developed her career between academia and industry, with positions in the USA, Spain and the UAE. With more than 220 publications and 5 patents under exploitation, Prof. Vega is an internationally recognized expert in clean energy and sustainable products, focused on CO2 capture and utilization, clean energy (including hydrogen production and utilization), sustainable cooling systems, and water treatment. The recipient of several international awards and recognitions she is listed top 2% most cited worldwide scientist in Chemical Engineering. In addition to helping the environment, one of her passions is to mentor young females to develop their full potential.

Jamila Idbourrous -- Panelist

Manager of the Arganeraie Women's Cooperatives Union UCFA Tissaliwine



Moroccan, mother of two children, originally from Tiznit (rural community, Sahel of Tiznit). Graduated from the Institute of Applied Technologies in Business Management. Director of the Union of Women's Cooperatives of the Arganeraie UCFA Tissaliwine. Founder and President of the National Federation of Women in the Arganeraie Sector FNFARGANE. Founder and President of the Association of Renewable Energies and Sustainable Development AERDD. Winner of the COP22 gender and climate award (technical solution category). Founder of the first female cooperative by young girls graduated in the renewable thermal energy sector. Having 20 years of experience in associative work and management as well as director of the union

of women's cooperatives of the Tissaliwine argan grove, the first union of women's cooperatives in Morocco. Supporting cooperatives in the creation of income-generating activities, Argan sector, Beekeeping, and other agricultural sectors in rural areas while preserving the argan forest of the RBA, sensitizing them to the preservation of natural resources following the changes climate and environmental damage. Support pre and post creation of new informal cooperatives towards the form and encouragement of young girls graduates and non-graduates for the transfer of technology and the preservation of ancestral know-how related to the production of argan.

Degan Ali -- Panelist

Executive Director of Adeso (formerly Horn Relief)



Degan is the Executive Director of Adeso, a humanitarian and development organization that is changing the way people think about and deliver aid in Africa. Degan has been leading the decolonization development movement and was the architect of the Grand Bargain commitment of 25% of funding to go directly to local organizations. Degan also co-founded the Network for Empowered Aid Response (NEAR), a Global South civil society network trying to transform the current humanitarian and development system. Since 2020 she founded a consultancy firm, DA Global, and has worked with organizations like Sesame Workshop, IRC, British Red Cross and Save the Children on issues around Decolonizing Aid and how to transform organizational strategies to be aligned with anti-colonial and anti-racist principles. Her methodology and perspectives on International Aid and African development have been featured in the New York Times, Al Jazeera, The Guardian, Devex and the New Humanitarian.

Moderated Q&A (30 min)

Questions will come from both physical and virtual audience

APPENDIX 1

Introduction of the Women's Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai, Louvre Abu Dhabi, Women in Arabia and Islam series

EXPO 2020 DUBAI

Since the first Great Exhibition held in London in 1851, Expos have connected people and provided special spaces to spark dialogue amongst those who are curious about the future. Running from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022, Expo 2020 Dubai will bring the world together to imagine, design and build a more sustainable, dignified and prosperous world. One that is cleaner, safer and healthier. One inspired by collective action around shared challenges, and in which future generations will flourish. Under the theme of "Connecting Minds, Creating the Future" and our three sub-themes of Sustainability, Mobility and Opportunity, Expo will be a platform for positive, collaborative change.

THE WOMEN'S PAVILION AT EXPO 2020 DUBAI

Our Women's Pavilion, under the exhibition title 'New Perspectives', is a critical component of this vision and will be curated by Expo 2020 Dubai in collaboration with Cartier. In highlighting the positive contributions of women, we will demonstrate that when women thrive, so too does all of humanity.

The UAE has dedicated itself to ensuring that issues related to gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) are centrally addressed in everything we do at Expo 2020 Dubai. By shining a light on women past and present, known and unknown, the Women's Pavilion challenges the misconceptions that women still frequently face, seeks out new perspectives on the impact women bring to our world, explores new approaches to creating a more equal world, and identifies ways in which we, together, can create new perspectives, change deep-rooted perceptions, and adjust mindsets.

Through different modes of convening, our goal is to highlight that the only way to peace, prosperity, and sustainability is through the full and equal participation of women.

LOUVRE ABU DHABI

Created by an exceptional agreement between the governments of Abu Dhabi and France, Louvre Abu Dhabi was designed by Jean Nouvel and opened on Saadiyat Island in November 2017. The museum is inspired by traditional Islamic architecture and its monumental dome creates a rain of light effect and a unique social space that brings people together.

Louvre Abu Dhabi celebrates the universal creativity of mankind and invites audiences to see humanity in a new light. Through its innovative curatorial approach, the museum focuses on building understanding across cultures: through stories of human creativity that transcend civilisations, geographies and times.

The museum's growing collection is unparalleled in the region and spans thousands of years of human history, including prehistoric tools, artefacts, religious texts, iconic paintings and contemporary artworks. The permanent collection is supplemented by rotating loans from 13 French partner institutions, regional and international museums.

Louvre Abu Dhabi is a testing ground for new ideas in a globalised world and champions new generations of cultural leaders. Its international exhibitions, programming and Children's Museum are inclusive platforms that connect communities and offer enjoyment for all.

WOMEN IN ARABIA AND ISLAM

Women in Arabia and Islam is a series of ten cultural talks held in partnership with the Louvre Abu Dhabi research programme inspired by the artworks of the Louvre Abu Dhabi museum and celebrating the rich Muslim heritage. Taking a historical and cultural perspective, the events focus on sharing and recognizing the positive role women from Arab and Islamic backgrounds have played in the course of history until today.

APPENDIX 2

Relevant facts and figures to prepare for the session

Louvre Abu Dhabi. Woman Dressed in a woolen Garment

<https://www.louvreabudhabi.ae/en/Explore/highlights-of-the-collection/woman-dressed>

The Climate Change clues hidden in art history

<https://www.bbc.com/culture/article/20200528-the-climate-change-clues-hidden-in-art-history>

UNDP Sustainable Development in Arab World

<https://www.arabstates.undp.org/content/rbas/en/home/sustainable-development.html>

Women in the shadow of Climate Change

<https://www.un.org/en/chronicle/article/womenin-shadow-climate-change>

Arab Woman on track to climb seven summits

<https://www.outdoorwomensalliance.com/arab-woman-on-track-to-climb-7-summits/>
