



Press Release

## Supreme Petroleum Council expertise sought for Al Basama Al Beeiya Initiative

**Abu Dhabi, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2008:** The Al Basama Al Beeiya (Ecological Footprint) Initiative team recently met with officials from the Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) Department at the UAE's Supreme Petroleum Council (SPC) who expressed keen interest in supporting the Initiative's oil and gas industry-related data requirements.

The Al Basama Al Beeiya team briefed the SPC officials on the Ecological Footprint Initiative and highlighted the importance of oil and gas-related information in contributing to the calculation of the UAE's National Footprint Account.

From the SPC, the Al Basama Al Beeiya team has sought data related to the exports and consumption of petroleum resources in Abu Dhabi. This and other non-oil and gas trade data will be used to verify the statistics that are internationally available. The data will eventually be used to recalculate the UAE's energy Footprint which according to the Living Planet Report 2006 estimates has the largest bearing on the nation's Ecological Footprint.

"As the governing body for major oil policy decisions, the SPC is a key stakeholder in the project", said Razan Al Mubarak, Managing Director of Emirates Wildlife Society-World Wide Fund for Nature, the Al Basama Al Beeiya's NGO partner.

Since the project was launched in October 2007, the Al Basama Al Beeiya team has been engaged in a series of meetings with local and federal government authorities to brief them about the project and gain active support in the vital task of gathering data on population and energy, the most influential parameters of the UAE's Ecological Footprint.

The Al Basama Al Beeiya project team has already met with the Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Federal National Council Affairs, the General Secretariat of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council, the Executive Affairs Authority, Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company (Masdar),

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Ecological Footprint Initiative  
"Al Basama Al Beeiya"



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Dolphin Energy, the Department of Tourism & Commerce Marketing of the Government of Dubai, Abu Dhabi Tourism Authority, the Federal Customs Authority and the Ras Al Khaimah Environmental Protection and Development Authority.

Meetings are due to be held shortly with the Crescent Petroleum Company, Sharjah, DUBAL and DUGAS for energy related data.

The four core Al Basama Al Beeiya partners are: UAE Ministry of Environment and Water (MoEW), the Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative (AGEDI), the Emirates Wildlife Society – World Wide Fund for Nature (EWS-WWF) and the Global Footprint Network (GFN), a non-profit international organization which compiles the Ecological Footprint of over 150 nations for the Living Planet Report

**Editors' Notes:**

**Al Basama Al Beeiya**

The Al Basama Al Beeiya (Ecological Footprint) Initiative is the UAE's national effort to ensure a sustainable future by measuring and understanding the impact of our way of living on planet earth. It is a historic initiative to collect vital national data according to uniform and proven standards. Al Basama Al Beeiya will be a major tool for the government to make informed policy decisions and to uphold Sheikh Zayed's environmental legacy. The national partners in the Al Basama Al Beeiya believe that the initiative is the UAE's need of the hour, considering the country's rising consumption levels and the rapid pace of development.

**Background**

The Ecological Footprint is a sustainability indicator that measures the use of natural resources by the population of a country and is expressed by a unit of bio-productive land called 'global hectare' (gha). According to the Living Planet Report 2006, the UAE has the highest ecological footprint in the world with UAE residents averaging 11.9 gha (global hectares) per person. This translates to each UAE resident requiring 7 planets to support his / her current lifestyle.

However, a review and analysis of the sources of the data used to calculate the UAE's ecological footprint has indicated that there is a considerable gap between the knowledge and data that existed in the international records and the ground data collected by local organizations. The Al Basama Al Beeiya initiative will not only close that gap, but will provide the country's leadership and government with reliable and much needed *information* that will then be used as a policy-guiding tool.



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**Partners**

**MoEW:** The Ministry of Environment and Water in the UAE is part of the federal government and oversees the country's environmental policies and programmes. The ministry's mission is to achieve balanced and sustainable development in the country.

**AGEDI:** AGEDI was launched in 2002, as the UAE's response to a direly felt need for a formal body in Abu Dhabi to provide comprehensive and relevant data that would improve environmental policies and their role in the decision-making process. AGEDI's efforts led to the publication of the first State of Environment (SoE) report for the Emirate of Abu Dhabi in March this year.

**EWS – WWF:** The Emirates Wildlife Society (EWS) was established as a public interest society in February 2001 by a ministerial resolution under the Societies of Public Interest Law of 1974. The environmental NGO is registered with the Ministry of Social Affairs. Its mission is to conserve biodiversity and promote sustainable living through education and conservation initiatives in the UAE. EWS works in partnership with the WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature), one of the world's most well-known global conservation organizations.

**GFN:** Global Footprint Network is a charitable social-benefit organization with the mission of making ecological limits central to decision-making everywhere. Together with over 70 partner organizations around the world, GFN coordinates research, develops methodological standards, and promotes innovative applications to provide decision makers with tools that will help the human economy operate within the Earth's ecological limits. GFN serves as the steward for the National Footprint Accounts, which calculate the Ecological Footprint and bio-capacity of 150 nations from 1961 through the present. These accounts have helped the Ecological Footprint become one of the most globally successful and widely applied sustainability communication and education tools.

**For further information:**

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