



EA/23/10/38/AQK-mc
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Dear Sir,

Subject: Celebration of World Wetland Day

We are pleased to inform you that the Kingdom of Bahrain had organized in February 2010 the following initiatives and activities as part of its commitments to promote the environmentally-sound management of wetlands:

(1) Launching the Rehabilitation Program of Tubli Bay

On 24th February, 2010 H.H. Shaikh Abdulla Bin Hamad Al-Khalifa (President of the *Public Commission for the Protection of Marine Resources, Environment and Wildlife*) officially launched the "Rehabilitation Program of Tubli Bay". A designated RAMSAR site, Tubli Bay is a productive bay with particular importance as roosting and feeding ground for a number of migratory seabird species.

This promising program aims to impose strict effective measures to better conserve the marine environment in Tubli Bay through: (1) banning of treated wastewater discharge in the bay via fully-recycling all treated wastewater effluent for agricultural purposes, (2) cleaning-up the seabed from organic deposits accumulated around the sewage outfall, (3) promoting water movement in Tubli Bay and exchange of seawater between Tubli Bay and the Arabian Gulf as well as (4) delineating the reclamation line in Tubli Bay.

Also, the program will promote the bay as an important national touristic and recreational momentum. Parks with entertainment facilities will be constructed to attract local people as well as tourists. Visitor centers will be established to raise public awareness towards the biodiversity richness of and ecosystem services provided by wetlands.

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(2) Launching the Mangrove Planting Program

On 24th February 2010 the Public Commission for the Protection of Marine Resources, Environment and Wildlife (PCPMREW) announced the launching of a planting program of the Black Mangrove *Avicennia marina*.

The program will involve constructing a nursery to propagate the mangrove. The mangrove seedlings will be transplanted in Tubli Bay (a designated RAMSAR Site) as part of a comprehensive restoration program. Additionally, the mangrove will be planted in Arad Bay which is an intertidal wetland attracting resident and migratory seabirds.

The PCPMREW stated that one of the key objectives of the mangrove planting program will be to promote the fixation of Green House Gases (GHG) in the atmosphere by expanding the population and extending the spatial coverage of the Black Mangrove in Bahrain.

We would like to avail this opportunity to confirm the commitment of the Kingdom of Bahrain towards the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands and will periodically inform you about our initiatives and activities in this matter.

Thank you for your kind and continuous co-operation.

Best regards,

Dr. Adel Khalifa Al-Zayani
Director General

Encl.:

- Color photos of the official launching of Tubli Bay Rehabilitation Program.

Cc:

- League of Arab States