



# Protecting Our Environment

## WHAT OTHERS ARE DOING ❖ HOW YOU CAN HELP

### A Nation That Protects The Environment

(NAPSA)—Surprisingly, one of the world's leading oil producers has also turned out to be a global leader in environmental matters.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE), a federation of seven emirates that border the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Gulf, holds nearly 10 percent of the world's proven crude oil reserves. Yet it is the country's forward-looking environmental policies that have drawn international attention.

“Under the leadership of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al Nahyan, the UAE has been able to develop economically and socially while protecting the environment,” says Al-Asri Al-Dhahri, UAE ambassador to the U.S.

Sheikh Zayed's efforts to maintain this delicate balance have earned him the World Wildlife Foundation's Gold Panda Award, making him the first sitting head of state to be so honored. His environmental initiatives include:

- A yearly increase in the variety of the country's bird life, which at last tally included over 400 species.
- The creation of marine parks to preserve coral reefs in the Emi-

rate of Fujairah.

- A ban by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries on the catching of turtles or the taking of their eggs.

- The sponsorship—along with the United Nations—of an international conference on creating strategies for blending sustainable economic development while protecting the environment.

- The creation of a number of wildlife reserves that promote breeding programs and the preservation of endangered species, such as the Arabian oryx, the Arabian leopard and the flamingo.

- Efforts to “green” the desert that include the creation of 39 public parks, occupying an area of 3.7 million square meters.

“While it is common knowledge that, as a member of OPEC, the Emirates produce nearly 2.1 million barrels of oil a day, what is not as nearly well-known are the country's exemplary environmental policies,” says Al-Dhahri.

To learn more about the country and its environmental policies and efforts, visit the Web site at [www.emirates.org](http://www.emirates.org). 