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ABU DHABI 2011 SUMMIT

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AGEDI

ABU DHABI GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL DATA INITIATIVE

Informing a sustainable world.

Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative (AGEDI) was launched by the United Arab Emirates Government, under the guidance and patronage of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan at the United Nations World Summit for Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002, to address the impact of missing or weak environmental data on emerging economies' efforts to achieve sustainable development.

Socio-economic and environmental sectors throughout the world, and particular those of emerging economies, are potentially losing valuable assets as a result of inaccurate decision-making caused by the lack of useable quality data.

AGEDI was also formed to address the UAE's concerns regarding the approach and criteria used for the results of the Environmental Sustainability Index (ESI), produced by the World Economic Forum in February 2002, which had ranked the UAE 141 out of 142 countries. It was recognised that the application of non-region specific measures and associated indicators presented skewed results. The need to ensure readily accessible, accurate and relevant data from which to inform sound environmental management, monitoring and performance was emphasised.



Today, AGEDI works with Partners, Members and stakeholders throughout the world to achieve a more sustainable future through 'best-impact' access to environmental and societal data, to meet the challenges that have grown beyond those faced in 2002.

Water scarcity, food security and climate change are issues of policy that require action and solutions that extend beyond political boundaries. The need for collaboration, information and understanding is greater than ever.

AGEDI provides user-friendly access to high-quality environmental information, through a variety of information products. While Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD) champions AGEDI locally, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) champions it regionally and globally. AGEDI works closely with international networks to facilitate and enhance information exchange.

AGEDI's objectives

- Enhance environmental data collection and assessment
- Increase data capacities for local, national, regional, and global environmental decision making
- Ensure sustainable development planning is based on timely, useable, and updated data and information of high quality
- Boost the accessibility of data and information by all
- Enhance national and international information processing and exchange mechanisms
- Enhance national information handling and communications capacities.



AGEDI's flagship local product is the Abu Dhabi State of the Environment report, accessible at www.soe.ae. AGEDI collaborates on a number of projects with strategic partners including Emirates Wildlife Society in association with WWF (EWS-WWF), UNEP and EAD, working together to achieve the shared aim of ensuring effective access to the world's expanding pool of environmental and societal data by all of those who need it.



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