

## Emirates Soil Museum

Ongoing



### Duration

2016 - Present



### Beneficiaries

Researchers, environmentalists, decisionmakers, land use planners, corporates, students, school-children and members of the public



### Objectives

The Emirates Soil Museum aims to:

1. Serve as a unique repository of knowledge about soil diversity and heritage in the UAE.
2. Raise awareness about environmental protection and sustainable agriculture.
3. Educate different segments of society about soils and their role in providing ecosystem services.



### SDGs



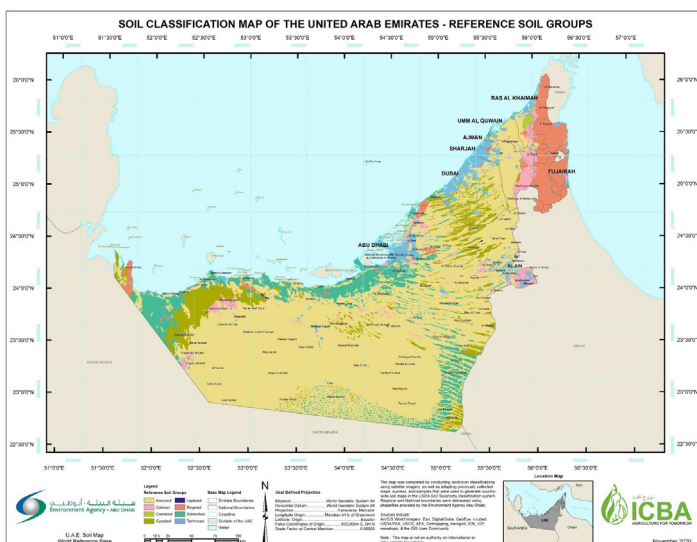
### Countries

United Arab Emirates



### Funders

Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD)



The Emirates Soil Museum serves as a unique repository for soil-related knowledge and information.

### Background

Inaugurated in December 2016 with financial support from the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development, the Emirates Soil Museum is a unique facility that promotes **environmental protection and soil conservation**. Located at ICBA, the museum is dedicated to the

role of soils in the environment, agriculture, food security, and the types of soil found in the UAE. Since its opening, it has grown into **a knowledge hub** for everyone interested in soil conservation in the UAE and the Gulf region.

The museum has **external and internal exhibits** that allow visitors to immerse themselves in the world of soils. Outside the museum, a custom-designed landscape includes a diversity of desert plants and rocks found in the UAE.

And exhibits inside are arranged around themes such as climate change and food security. In addition to the displays, there are also interactive simulators of dune formation and water infiltration in different soil types such as sand, silt, and clay. The museum also boasts **a library of soil information resources** and touchscreen stands to access soil maps of the UAE.

### Activities

The museum offers **a range of educational and awareness activities and programs** for schoolchildren, students, corporates and members of the public on soil conservation, food and water security, agricultural innovation, and sustainable management of natural resources, among other things.



The museum regularly welcomes visitors from the UAE and other countries.



Students, researchers and other visitors benefit from resources available at the museum.

Moreover, it runs **special workshops and other activities** where participants learn about topics such as soil formation, soil and water analysis, composting and regenerative agriculture, urban farming, controlled environment agriculture, and sustainable production and consumption through hands-on experiences.

The museum also **hosts sustainability camps and competitions for youth**, team-building activities for corporates, healthy cooking sessions under the Halophytic Kitchen Lab program, temporary art exhibitions, and talks by scientists for different audiences.

## Outcomes

Since 2016, **around 9,000 people**, including ministers, decisionmakers, researchers, farmers, students and members of the public from around the world have either visited the museum or participated in its programs and activities.

To date the museum has also hosted three art exhibitions and workshops and organized various sustainability youth camps. In addition, it has become the venue for healthy cooking sessions under the Halophytic Kitchen Lab program.

Many students and researchers have benefited from resources available in the museum's library.

The museum has also arranged various awareness events for corporates involving the planting of different trees such as Ghaf.

## Future Directions

The museum will continue to build up its reputation as a one-of-its-kind institution of education about soils, sustainable development, and agricultural innovation. It aims to expand the range of its educational programs and exhibitions with a specific focus on the most pressing environmental challenges and engaging corporates, youth, and the community for a more equitable social, economic, and environmental development.

The museum also aspires to forge its partnerships with local and international organizations to continue promoting soil conservation, educating its stakeholders about soil diversity and its relationship with human activity.

The museum will also continue to expand the scope and range of its offerings through sponsorships and other forms of financial support.

### About ICBA

The International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA) is a unique applied agricultural research center in the world with a focus on marginal areas where an estimated 1.7 billion people live. It identifies, tests and introduces resource-efficient, climate-smart crops and technologies that are best suited to different regions affected by salinity, water scarcity and drought. Through its work, ICBA helps to improve food security and livelihoods for some of the poorest rural communities around the world.