

THEMES BIODIVERSITY

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The UAE's hot and humid climatic conditions limit biological diversity to a great extent. Despite the harsh environment, there is a relatively rich flora and fauna that the country can boast of. 49 mammal species, 382 bird species and 67 amphibian and reptile species have been identified in addition to the wide variety of plants that are found adapting to the varied ecosystems existing in different parts of the country.

According to the WWF, biodiversity is life; the world; the variation of life for the entire planet. We depend on it for food, fuel, medicine and other essentials that we simply cannot live without.

Schools must take the lead in maintaining the biodiversity in and around their community. Your Environmental review will give a basic idea of the biodiversity status within your school grounds. As you grow into the Eco-Schools programme, you should look into the community beyond your school grounds as well.

Also remember to visit the following sites for more information on Biodiversity in the UAE and how you can take part in sustaining its richness:

1. <http://www.uaeinteract.com/nature/>
2. www.beatiwatani.com
3. <http://uae.panda.org/>