



EAD demonstrates their commitment to the environment and health & safety performance

Customer Objectives

- Be seen as an environmental leader in the UAE
- Improve environmental and sustainable performance
- Safeguard and enhance employee welfare and operations
- Create an integrated and holistic management structure
- Demonstrate commitment to providing an outstanding service

Customer benefits

- Demonstrate industry best practice
- Greater understanding of environmental implications
- Clearly defined set of goals and objectives
- Improved efficiency
- Embedded culture of safety and lower accident rate
- Created a culture of continuous improvement
- Improved employee awareness and engagement

Customer Background

Established in 1996, the Environment Agency Abu Dhabi (EAD) is committed to protecting and enhancing air quality, groundwater as well as the biodiversity of the desert and marine ecosystem. By partnering with other government entities, the private sector, NGOs and global environmental agencies, EAD embrace's international best practice and innovation to institute effective policy measures. One of the core aims is to raise environmental awareness, facilitate sustainable development and ensure environmental issues remain one of the top priorities for the UAE national agenda.

The key focus is to ensure that the growth of Abu Dhabi is achieved in a way that ensures a sustainable future for the emirate, which includes the well-being of its residents and a good quality of life for all, now and in the future.

Since 1996 the EAD has achieved some significant milestones, such as developing a comprehensive enforcement framework, which includes a range of tools such as inspections and prosecutions. EAD have also gained a deeper knowledge of the fisheries, helped bring the Arabian Oryx back from the brink of extinction, preserved the world's densest dugong population and achieved a substantial increase in general public awareness of environmental issues.

Why Certification?

The EAD's core mission and commitment is to protect and conserve the environment for people's wellbeing and create a better life for all in the UAE, achieving certification to ISO 14001, Environmental Management Standard and BS OHSAS 18001, Occupational Health and Safety Management Standard illustrates their effort to maintain this promise.

The adoption of ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001 was driven by EAD's commitment to integrate key processes of sustainable develop-

ment into all operational practices and culture. The EAD pride themselves on providing clients and stakeholders with a source of extensive knowledge on the environment, hence gaining certification to ISO 14001 demonstrates their objective in building organizational sustainability.

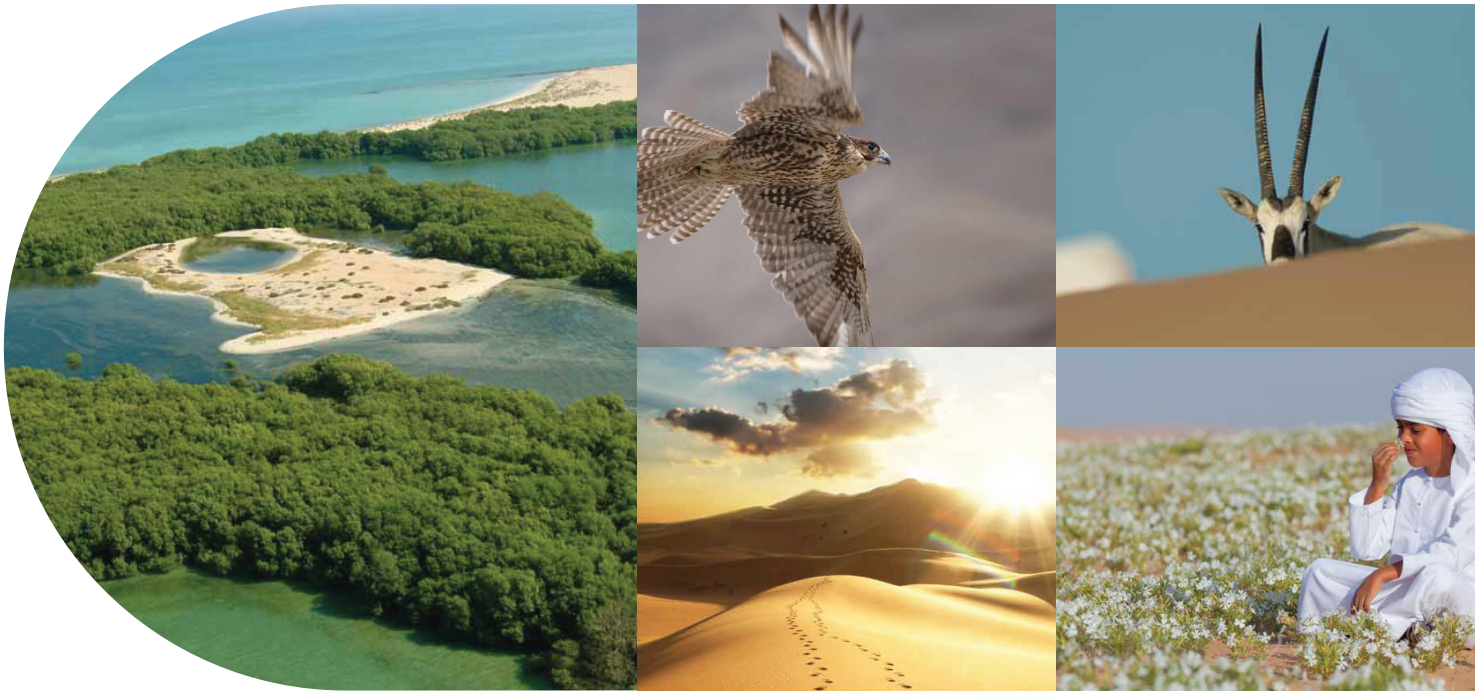
As the regulatory body for all environmental aspects, it is vital to protect and develop to minimize environmental impacts in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. EAD wanted to develop a robust framework that identifies and controls health and safety risks, reduce potential accidents and improve overall performance.

Implementation process

EAD already had some good practices in place but there were two main challenges. Having multiple sites across the Emirate of Abu Dhabi ranging from hub offices, island office, laboratories, ranger stations, animal facilities and warehouses meant that it was challenging to document their processes in a systematic and coherent way. With various nationalities across the organization it was important to create the right mentality for them to embrace the changes.

Implementing ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001 required strong support and commitment from the senior leadership and the wider team. In order to prepare for implementing the standards EAD enrolled a number of their employees on BSI's lead auditor training courses for ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001. Once their employees had attended the training courses they were able to conduct a gap assessment to take a closer look at their existing system and compare it with each of the standard requirements. This allowed EAD to identify areas which needed improvement quickly.





Benefits

There have been multiple benefits in obtaining certification for these standards. ISO 14001 has provided EAD with a more resilient environmental management framework that enables them to identify environmental impacts.

With a more streamlined documentation process and a defined set of goals and objectives for all employees, it has helped EAD ensure their system is effective. Implementing OHSAS 18001 provided EAD with an effective framework to identify and manage hazards as well as engage and motivate employees with better and safer working conditions.

Furthermore EAD have been able to demonstrate to their stakeholders, customers and employees that health and safety is at the forefront of their values.



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