

Workshop No. 3

Nature-Based Solutions for a Circular Economy Transformation in the GCC Countries

Workshop Schedule

Workshop Directors

Prof. Alexandros Stefanakis
Laboratory of Environmental Engineering & Management, School of Chemical and
Environmental Engineering, Technical University of Crete
Greece

Dr. Tahra AlRashdi
College of Applied Sciences and Pharmacy, University of Technology and Applied
Sciences
Sultanate of Oman

First Workshop Day - Wednesday, 23 July 2025

08:15 - 08:30 – Welcome coffee and tea

08:30 - 09:00 – Introduction of Workshop and Participants

09:00 – 09:45 – Paper 1

Alexandros Stefanakis, Technical University of Crete, Greece

The feasibility of Constructed Wetlands as green infrastructure for sustainable wastewater treatment and reuse in the GCC

Discussant: Stergios Vakalis

09:45 - 10:30 – Paper 2

Hadeel Hosney, IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, Netherlands

Biochar-Integrated Constructed Wetlands for microplastic and pharmaceutical removal from wastewater

Discussant: Othman Almashaqbeh

10.30 - 10.45 – Coffee break

10:45 - 11:30 – Paper 3

Othman Almashaqbeh, Royal Scientific Society (RSS)-Jordan

Removal of micropollutants from secondary treated wastewater by constructed wetlands as nature-based solutions using raw zeolitic tuff

Discussant: Hadeel Hosney

11:30 - 12:15 – Paper 4

Abdessamad Ghacha, Abdelmalek Saadi University, Morocco and Aicha Chorak, Laboratory of Systems, Control and Decision (LSCD), New Science School of Engineering, Morocco

Innovative Nature-Based Solution for Sewage Sludge Recovery: A Scalable Model for Sustainable Urban Development

Discussant: Tahra AlRashdi

12:15 - 13:00 – Paper 5

Musaed Aklan, Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies, The Netherlands

Nature-Based Solutions for a Circular Economy Transformation in the GCC Countries: Leveraging Water Harvesting and Traditional Water Management Practices

Discussant: Nitin Agarwala

13:30 - 15:00 – Lunch break (lunch is served at 13.45, please make sure to be on time as it is roughly a 15 minutes' walk to King's College from the workshop venue)

15:15 - 16:00 – Paper 6

Imene Tabet, INCEIF University, Malaysia and Blake Goud RFI Foundation Malaysia

Nature-based Solutions for Sustainability in the GCC: Assessment and Opportunities

Discussant: Musaed Aklan

16:00 - 16:15 – Coffee break

16:15 - 17:00 – Paper 7 (recorded)

Nitin Agarwala, CENJOWS, India

Nature Based Solutions for Transformation of Circular Economy and Improved Sustainability in GCC Countries

Discussant: Imene Tabet and Blake Goud

End of First Workshop Day

Evening Free

Second Workshop Day - Thursday, 24 July 2025

08:15 – 08:30 – Welcome coffee and tea

08:30 - 09:15 – Paper 8

Abdulaziz ALMaashani, Dhofar University, Oman and Hesham Abdelmageed, Dhofar University, Oman

Purple Economy and Its Role in Achieving Sustainable Development Strategy Dimensions in the GCC: The Case of Frankincense in the Sultanate of Oman

Discussant: Farhad Zulfiqar/Balqees Al Hudar

09:15 - 10:00 – Paper 9

Farhad Zulfiqar, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman and Balqees Al Hudar, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman

Assessment of the nature-based solution adoption in the context of circular economy in the food industry of Oman

Discussant: Ahmed Mushtaque/Khalid Al Jabri

10:00 - 10:45 – Paper 10

Stergios Vakalis, University of the Aegean, Greece

Advancing Circular Bioeconomy in the GCC Region through Hydrothermal Treatment: Insights from BioFairNet's Pilot Site

Discussant: Alexandros Stefanakis

11.00 - 11.15 – Coffee break

11:15 - 12:00 – Paper 11

Ahmed Mushtaque, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman and Khalid AlJabri, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman

Is reuse always cost-effective? A case study from Oman

Discussant: Linda Smail

12:00 - 12:45 – Paper 12

Amira Al Salhi, Statistical Centre for the Cooperation Council for the Arab Countries of the Gulf, Oman

Assessing Climate Change using Temperature Forecasting Model: The case of GCC countries

Discussant: Muhammad Salman Shabbir

12:45 - 14:15 – Lunch break (lunch is served from 13:00 till 14:00 at the workshop venue)

14:30 - 15:15 – Paper 13

Muhammad Salman Shabbir, York St John University, United Kingdom

Exploring Corporate Sustainability through the Lens of UNSDGs: Insights from a Bibliometric and Systematic Review

Discussant: Abdulaziz AlMaashani and Hesham Abdelmageed

15:15 - 16:00 – Paper 14

Linda Smail, Zayed University, UAE

A Bayesian Network Model for Integrating Socio-Economic Variables in Urban Planning: Enhancing the Efficacy of Nature-Based Solutions and Gray Infrastructure

Discussant: Amira Al Salhi

16:00 - 16:15 – Coffee break

16:15 - 17:00 – Next Steps and Submission of Online Evaluation Forms

End of Second and Final Workshop Day

19:00 Farewell Dinner at King's College