# [***ADNOC uses innovative drone technology to plant mangroves***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:67JC-K7G1-JDJN-62HG-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Body**

ABU DHABI, 18th January, 2023 (WAM) -- Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) today announced it has signed a contract with Distant Imagery, a UAE-based environmental technology company, to plant 2.5 million ***mangrove*** seedlings across Abu Dhabi using innovative drone planting technology adopted by the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD).

The new contract signed at the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW) comes within the framework of the Abu Dhabi ***Mangrove*** Initiative and the existing partnership with EAD. It enables ADNOC to accelerate its ***mangrove*** planting activities by deploying drones that can disperse over 2,000 ***mangrove*** seeds in roughly eight minutes, reinforcing the company's commitment to plant up to 10 million ***mangroves*** in Abu Dhabi by 2030.

Ibrahim N. Al Zu'bi, Senior Vice President of Sustainability & Climate at ADNOC, said, "Through our Net Zero by 2050 ambition, we are placing sustainability at the centre of our growth, and we are building on our proud legacy of environmental stewardship to create lasting and sustainable value for the UAE and its people. ***Mangroves*** can provide a living defence against the impact of climate change, by preventing erosion, stabilizing Abu Dhabi's coastlines and enhancing biodiversity, as well as significantly contributing to the quality of life in the area for future generations."

As part of the first phase of the programme, special custom-built drones and rigging equipment, built by Distant Imagery and supported by EAD, were used to plant more than 200,000 ***mangrove*** seeds in Abu Dhabi's Mirfa coastal lagoon. The germination and growth of the ***mangroves*** will be monitored for the next year; in parallel ADNOC will proceed with aerially planting a total of 2.5 million ***mangroves*** over three years.

Ahmed Alhashmi, Executive Director of Terrestrial and Marine Biodiversity Sector at EAD, commented, "This ADNOC-driven project of planting 2.5 million ***mangrove*** seedlings in different areas across Abu Dhabi will contribute greatly to the larger emirate-wide Abu Dhabi ***Mangrove*** Initiative, as well as to Abu Dhabi's contribution to the UAE's national goal of planting 100 million ***mangroves*** by 2030. ADNOC has always been a longstanding and significant partner to us at EAD, and its efforts in ensuring our national goals are met are crucial. We are looking forward to working with ADNOC on this ***mangrove*** project to ensure that we all achieve our objectives of combatting climate change through nature-based solutions as ***mangroves*** are very resilient and are hugely important thanks to their qualities as effective carbon sinks."

An extensive volunteer programme will be part of ADNOC's ***mangrove*** planting initiative, with opportunities for volunteers to participate in each point of the planting process, from picking seeds to helping monitor the growth of the ***mangroves***.

Jane Glavan, Co-Owner of Distant Imagery, said, "Rehabilitating ***mangrove*** ecosystems is an effective way to mitigate the effects of climate change and restore natural habitats and biodiversity. At Distant Imagery, we are taking an ecological-restoration approach to the ***mangrove*** planting, from site selection to planting patterns, and we are honored to be involved in such an impactful project that supports ADNOC's Net Zero by 2050 ambition and promotes Abu Dhabi's natural ecosystem."

ADNOC is committed to leveraging nature-based solutions as integral, ready and cost-effective offsets in support of climate change adaptation, mitigation and resilience, balancing energy systems and ***blue carbon*** ecosystems.

In collaboration with the Environment Agency Abu Dhabi, ADNOC has been restoring ***mangrove*** ecosystems for over a decade and has planted approximately 2 million ***mangrove*** seedlings at its operational sites and accross Abu Dhabi, helping to restore these natural carbon sinks. These efforts support the UAE's aim to plant 100 million ***mangroves*** by 2030, as well as the United Nations conventions on conserving biodiversity.

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