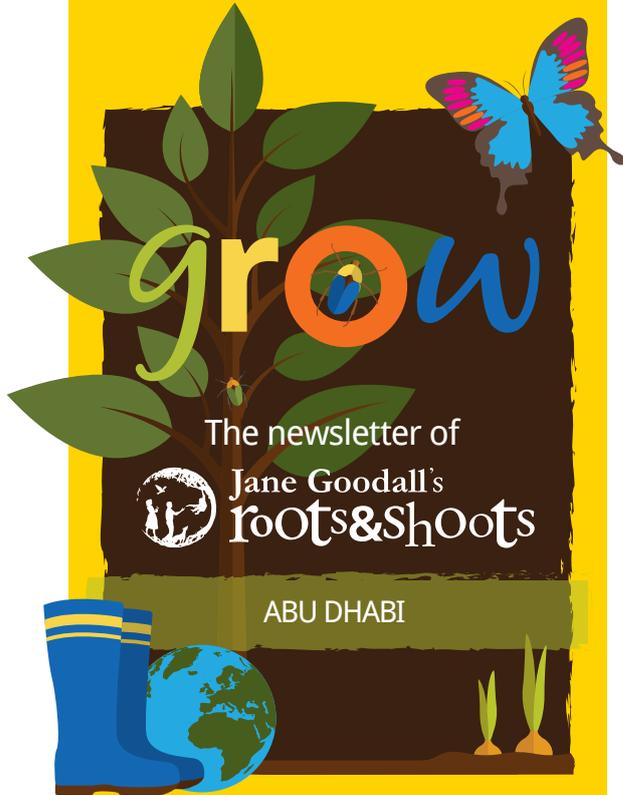


**NEWS** INSIDE...



The newsletter of  
**Jane Goodall's  
 roots&shoots**

ABU DHABI



**Sunrise English Private School – Page 4**



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**Norwich Science Festival – Page 6**



**Dear Members,**

Another year comes to a close.

It definitely feels as if time is speeding up, not slowing down. Someone once told me that the older we get, the faster

time goes. All the more reason to enjoy the precious moments that we are blessed with!

Just a few of our highlights this year include our inspirational events with Dr Jane, our ambassador's Arctic reflections and our amazing twinning programme on both sides of the water which, once again, is bringing out the creativity and resourcefulness from our young members.

Recently, I've been thinking a great deal about the nature of giving.

It seems appropriate to devote a few thoughts to it. After all, giving is what it really is all about.

True giving lies in not wanting anything in return; to give without being attached to any particular reward or outcome.

That seems to be the general philosophy of our young members here at Roots & Shoots.

As another productive year comes to a close I wish each and every one of you a Happy New Year in 2020.

May you enjoy the art of giving in whatever form it takes.

Tara Golshan  
 Executive Director, Education



**Reflections from the Arctic,**  
 by Suparna Mathur

Photos: Suparna Mathur

**I never thought I would go on an expedition to the Arctic...**

...Yet there I was this June - one of 86 members from 27 countries selected from over 2,000 applicants - for the "Leadership on the Edge" program with Robert Swan and the 2041 Foundation; a proud ambassador for Roots & Shoots and a new member of ClimateForce 2019.

It feels impossible to convey just how breathtaking the top of the world is. If I close my eyes, I can still feel the freshest air I've ever breathed fill my lungs. I can hear the melting of the ice crackle echo around me in the deafening silence. I can feel the immense gift and responsibility of seeing and being in such a remote part of the world. I share this journey with you now, no longer hoping you will act for our planet but knowing that our very survival depends on it.

Here are my top 4 takeaways from my journey to the top of the world:

**1. The Wonder of the Wild**

There is nothing quite as humbling as the vastness of the ocean around you. I have always struggled to meditate, but the closest I have ever felt to an inner peace was standing on the side of our National Geographic ship; mesmerized by the crystal blue waters and icebergs, soothed by the white floating ice sheets, and brightened by the seemingly never-ending midnight sun.

And then there was the awe of seeing the wondrous wildlife native to the Arctic circle. We were graced with sightings of whales, including the rare and elusive bowhead, one of the oldest living mammals on the planet at up to 200 years old. Even on the morning I forgot to wear my thermal pants, I spent almost two hours shivering yet enthralled for fear of a

continued

# Reflections from the Arctic, by Suparna Mathur

▶ moment of missing out on the opportunity to witness these living legends.

We hiked along the footprints of Arctic foxes, and witnessed Arctic reindeer playfully galloping across the Tundra. My new winter spirit animal is most certainly the walrus. These iconic Arctic giants can weigh over 1,000 kg or 1+ tons, and alternate between 80+ hours of swimming to hours of snoozing on land or ice. While they appear bulky on land, they turn to ballerina-like grace underwater!

Last but certainly not least, the animal perhaps most synonymous with global warming: the polar bear. We were so fortunate to see a mother and her two cubs, and all I can say it's no wonder these bears have captivated the world's attention.

I urge you to design experiences that inspire awe and get you away from urban man-made surroundings to be connected with nature. We were made to be a part of this planet, not apart from it.

## 2. Disconnect to Reconnect

"The greatest revelation is stillness." Mirroring the quiet of the pristine beauty around us, we also quieted our inner selves because guess what? We had no wifi. Stilled by the disconnection from digital distractions and surrounded by the infinite peace around us, we were acutely aware of the power that nature has to restore and recharge us.

No day in the Arctic went according to the original itinerary. Yet despite all the changes, we saw and experienced almost everything we hoped to. Our adventure guides needed to pivot based on whether ice sheets shifted to allow us through; our National Geographic naturalists scouted for best places and times for wildlife sightings that were safe. At any moment, the captain could announce an excursion and we had to be ready within 15 minutes notice, which meant being dressed in waterproof winter gear 24 hours a day. It was simultaneously unpredictable and challenging, beautiful and freeing. I realized the importance of adopting the pace of nature - one that was not governed by the clock, hours, or schedule but rather one that adapted to the weather, rhythms, and beats of the world around us.

When was the last time you slowed down, disconnected, and immersed yourself in your surroundings without a plan?

## 3. Choose Hope

On our expedition, I'm disheartened to share there wasn't a single shore in the Arctic where we did not find plastic waste. None of this originated from the Arctic

1. From left to right, Yusuph Masanja (Tanzania), Sir Robert Swan, Wendy Gediman (UK) and Suparna Mathur (UAE)

2. A curious walrus  
3. Arctic's blue ice  
4, 5 & 6. Plastic waste everywhere



Photo: Trenton Branson



Photo: Suparna Mathur



Photo: Trenton Branson

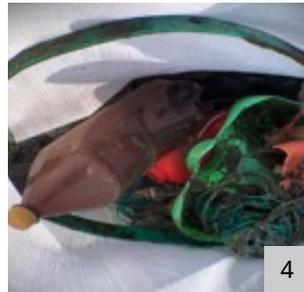


Photo: Humaid Kanji

circle. Even in the most remote places on the planet, our impact is evident. We need to build movements that rise higher than the seas and build communities that replenish faster than they destroy.

It's easy to feel disheartened by the complexity of the crisis but there is hopeful news all around. One of the most inspiring parts of my expedition was learning from incredible naturalists & change makers from around the world working on solutions towards restorative climate action. There are so many people, groups & organizations out there working to save each and every single one of us. Support them by fighting any tendencies to despair and by celebrating the good news.

Embrace a more conscious lifestyle by doing simple yet powerful things - be it planting trees, reducing your waste, or making more environmentally friendly consumer choices. As my new friends from Green is the New Black say, sustainability is a journey and we all need to take little green steps.

Surrounded firsthand by the magnitude of this planet's pristine beauty, it was difficult to ignore its fragility and the magnitude of the climate crisis we have created. I may have left the Arctic, but the memories of this Arctic journey will move me for a lifetime.

## 4. You(th) Matter

Watching a 16-year old Greta Thunberg ignite a movement of 4+ million people around the world for the climate crisis, there has never been a clearer moment in history to be convinced of the power and promise of youth and advocacy. It's why I was so incredibly proud to hold the Roots & Shoots flag as a global ambassador. In my hands I held not just cloth, but also Jane Goodall's relentless belief in the indomitable human spirit, and the hope she has always inspired in each of us.

*"There is a powerful force unleashed when young people resolve to make a change."*  
- Jane Goodall.

*Youth matter. You matter.  
The world is listening; the time for (accelerated) action is now.*

**Does your school or eco-group want to hear Suparna's adventure and sustainability journey firsthand?** Interested organizations can submit a speaker request by emailing Jasmina Georgovska at [jasmina@janegoodall.org.uk](mailto:jasmina@janegoodall.org.uk)

# Al Ittihad National Private School – Abu Dhabi

The ultimate goal of environmental education is to improve the environment and prevent its degradation while sustaining its wellbeing. Students should take up different projects that allow them a powerful understanding of environmental issues and the challenges that the human race faces.

We, at [Al Ittihad National Private School](#), believe in practicing sustainability rather than preaching it. We believe that if our youngsters have sustainable practices embedded in their activities, it will lead them to a better future, a future that they deserve. Our school is committed to the intellectual and personal development of each student by providing them with programs that inspire and empower them to become active national and global citizens. As educators we are expected to build cognitive, intrapersonal and interpersonal competencies. What better way to do so than by educating our students on the issues that endanger our environment every day? We believe in engaging our students in projects that embed sustainability as a practice into their daily lives.

One of the projects that we are successfully undertaking is managing our waste by segregating, reducing, reusing and recycling. Through segregation, waste is transformed into useful materials. We recycle plastic water bottles and exchange them with “Simply bottles” for T-shirts, caps and bags. We also change quite a good amount of Paper into recyclable material. Finally we make art pieces from waste.

As for our healthy food initiative, we believe in an “*A healthy body breeds a healthy mind*” philosophy, so we encourage our young ones to eat vegetables and fruits daily, and to plant vegetables and take care of them. As part of our initiative we also built a greenhouse in school that supplies our students with lettuce, green peppers and tomatoes.

A good way we have adopted to engage the entire school is by planning various awareness campaigns in celebration of environmental days such as World Health Day, Clean up Arabia Day, International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, World Cleanup Day, Arab Agricultural Day, and Houbara Conservation Day. This gives the students an opportunity to raise



1. Turning plastic into art
2. The school's wonderful greenhouse
3. The international funds of Houbara conservation IFHC education ceremony
4. Greenhouse produce
5. Planting a Ghaf tree
6. Enjoying planting
7. Classroom projects

awareness within their community on the day while highlighting its importance to the UAE.

In order to fully engage our students, a number of students were selected as Sustainable Ambassadors, which is a program, sponsored by Mubadala Company (MASDAR). As part of this program, students are provided with

opportunities to develop their core knowledge, skills training, work experience and networking skills through various events and workshops. These workshops challenge the students to allow them to develop as individuals and prepare them for Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week, which we have been taking part in for several years.

# Sunrise English Private School

We have been so busy this year! Here is a glimpse into some of our Sustainable Missions:

## 1. Save the Planet Campaign

Save the planet Campaign was done in Capital Mall, Musaffa on 8/11/2019. Students, teachers and parents took a decision to fight against single use of plastic thereby protect our marine life. An awareness campaign was conducted and the members of ECOS - Eco Club of Sunrise, supplied ecofriendly plastic bags to the customers and explained to them the harmful impact of plastic on our environment and marine life.

## 2. Started a vegetable garden and Microgreens in the school premises

We have a sustainable garden comprising of a hydroponic farm and vegetable garden with microgreens. Microgreens are vegetable greens harvested just after the cotyledon leaves have developed. They are highly nutritious and rich in antioxidants. It is very effective to fight against obesity, heart disease and high blood pressure. We don't need a garden-only sunlight.

The water recycling system ensures the usage of less water thereby keeps it sustainable.

## 3. Effective recycling of cans and paper

The enthusiastic and the responsible students of the school keep a penchant



Save the Planet campaign



Microgreens from the vegetable garden

on collecting cans and newspapers in bulk and have demonstrated that they will always remain active when it comes to safeguarding the earth in every possible way.

This year we collected more than 2,000 kg of paper and 40 kg of cans, which were given to EEG by the school for effective recycling.



Learning about smart waste management

## 4. Smart waste management in school

Students of Eco club in sunrise English private school do their commendable part to help UAE by converting food waste into compost and reducing landfill areas. Students collect food waste from their home and deposit them in the bin placed at the school which will be converted into organic fertilizer by using the compost machine. Once the Fertilizer is produced, it will be used for the school organic farm and the rest will be sold among the parents and the community. Our machine can turn food scraps into organic manure in 4 hours thereby transforming food waste of the day into organic fertilizer for your vegetable garden before you go to bed.

For more, please visit [our page](#) on the Roots & Shoots website.

Photos: Sunrise Private School

## Our ED's Autumn UAE Adventure

Every UAE trip we organise for our ED is hectic, but so exciting! This trip was no different! No free time, but so much to be inspired by!

Here is a brief window into her busy schedule:

- Meetings with our amazing and proactive teachers from Yas and Mayoor Private School.
- Inspirational visits to some of our amazing member schools (Mubarak Bin Mohammed School, St Joseph's School, American Community School Abu Dhabi, Bangladesh School, Fairgreen International School and Al Ittihad National Private School – Abu Dhabi); to learn about their current and future project plans.



Tara visiting the Fairgreen International School in Dubai



Tara receiving her well deserved Award and recognition

- Meetings on our exciting 2020 Awards Event and delivering workshops on our Twinning Programme
- Accepting a very special Award from Bangladesh School
- Setting up Dr Jane's Legacy and attending inspiring events

- And of course meeting with our sponsors and supporters, we truly cannot do this without them!

The two weeks are never enough, but our ED comes back recharged and full of hope!



Tara looks forward to seeing even more of her early next year!



Greenhouse at Al Ittihad National Private School – Abu Dhabi

Photos: Roots & Shoots

Photos: Al Ittihad National Private School – Abu Dhabi

# My Arctic Expedition With Robert Swan,

By Yusuph Masanja, Tanzania

During the expedition, I learned and participated in many constructive things. Among other things, the following changed my life and worldview immensely: Meditation and yoga practices I performed daily under the guidance of experts in the ship. In addition to the inspiration from other participants, I was gripped so much by the Climate Change sessions.

The story and inspiring speeches of Robert Swan and all the expedition leaders added to this newly formulated pursuit: creating the 'Global Sustainability Learning Center in Tanzania'.

Yes, having been inspired by the Arctic expedition, I resolved to start working towards facilitating the understanding and hopefully inspiring solutions of climate change globally (but starting small, in my local planet – Tanzania) using the already existing network of the Roots & Shoots.

I plan to create the sustainability learning center that will showcase physically the micro solutions that everyone can adapt in their daily life to live more sustainably... solutions such as proper waste management, circular economy, renewable energy etc.

I plan to implement this idea at the forest where your friend Mr. Costa Coucoulis works to save the forest (Congo Forest, near the Saadani National Park). The reason being: helping to save



Yusuph and Robert Swan

Photo: Yusuph Masanja

such forest and the threatened wildlife corridor, providing a learning space for people in the Nature (as opposed to regular concrete air conditioned classrooms!!), strengthening the partnership between Costa's efforts, JGI's R&S and the Global Compassion, while collectively – sharing resources in making the difference.

I am still in the initial discussions with Costa about this, but my aim is to launch the space (which is going to be an example –built 100% sustainably) on February next

year when Robert Swan visits Tanzania. It is my hope that you will also be around at that time so that together (you, Robert, Costa and other JGI / SANA/ Global Compassion team) could participate in launching the learning center.

I am going to need so much help in terms of connection with people, labs and research institutes dedicated to solving the climate issue in the world. I would also be needing assistance in endorsing my actions to people like Costa so that partnerships becomes easier to establish –that way, we can start moving quickly with both micro solutions (educating young generation) and macro actions (influencing policy actions at country and continents level).

Please watch this short video of Sir Robert Swan and myself in the Arctic: [https://youtu.be/3G5\\_s9jii4E](https://youtu.be/3G5_s9jii4E)

# My amazing Windsor Week

Having returned from my week at the global youth leadership meeting at Windsor Castle, I am feeling inspired and motivated to continue my work with Roots & Shoots. Windsor was an amazing gathering where I met 26 youth leaders all across the globe and collaborated on upcoming projects and campaigns. It reinforced the fact that Roots & Shoots is a global network of inspiring leaders who work tirelessly in their effort to make the world a better place. I am so grateful that I was selected to be the UK ambassador this year and am delighted to share the details of my [exciting week!](#)

Over the course of the week, each ambassador was invited to present the work of Roots & Shoots from their country. This gave us all a boost of motivation and planted new ideas to progress our own projects further. I heard of many amazing peace day campaigns, tree planting projects and urban community projects which are benefitting thousands of people and animals across the globe, helping to combat climate change and alleviate social problems in many diverse communities.

One of the main goals of the Windsor gathering was to work in teams to design campaigns to be implemented over the next 12 months, and beyond. Topics included peace, climate change, pollution, habitat loss, and Forever Wild. I would like



Dr Jane, HRH Prince Harry and Roots & Shoots Global representatives

Photo: Kirsty Wigglesworth

to share the campaign that I will be working on to tackle habitat loss: Embrace the Wild. The campaign will encourage individuals or groups to observe the animals found in their local area, whether that's a garden, balcony, community centre, or school playground, and create a new type of habitat to attract more wild animals to their local spaces. We will be providing a range of ideas for how to use recycled materials to create habitats for different animals, such as bug hotels and bird feeders, and encourage weeds and wildflowers to grow. I will be working on this project with 5 other leaders from Australia, New Zealand,

Germany, Slovakia and South Korea. We hope to gather updates from everyone who chooses to take part and will share all of the stories on a world map – let's make the world turn green with new habitats and try to tackle this issue together!

Alongside designing new projects and campaigns, we discovered on Tuesday that we would be visited by a very special guest, HRH Prince Harry! None of us could believe this was happening and the whole experience was a life changing moment. He attended our meeting for one afternoon to hear about the work of Roots & Shoots. Six ambassadors were asked to give a short presentation on some of their successes and I was asked to present stories from the UK. Prince Harry also visited each project team and discussed our ideas for upcoming projects. This was an incredible experience and after all of the nervous excitement building up to his visit, we did a great job at showcasing the importance of Roots & Shoots in our local communities. I think that he was left inspired!

Sometimes the reality of the environmental situation the world is in, and the social problems that thousands face can seem bleak and disheartening, but Roots & Shoots gathered a group of the most optimistic and encouraging leaders which has certainly given me hope for the future.

**Georgia Law, UCL Roots & Shoots, UK**

# Never give up – the story of Wounda

When this special chimpanzee arrived at the Tchimpounga Chimpanzee Rehabilitation Centre (TCRC) she was named Wounda meaning ‘close to death’ and never was a chimpanzee more aptly named.

Only through the amazing skills of resident vet, Rebeca Atencia and Wounda’s determination to get better did she pull through. Wounda grew from strength to strength and so remarkable was her recovery that she was chosen as one of the chimps to be moved to Tchibebe Island, one of three islands within the Tchimpounga Reserve. Jane Goodall was visiting the TCRC on the day Wounda was released. Jane, Rebeca and three of the carers at Tchimpounga sanctuary escorted Wounda to her new home. Jane had not met Wounda before placing her in the crate earlier in the day, which makes what happened when Wounda was released even more remarkable. Wounda went over to her friend Rebeca and then jumped on the crate and gave Jane a huge hug, Wounda seemed

Wounda and Jane



to be thanking Jane for all she has done to help chimpanzees. Jane would recognise that this was one of the most amazing moments of her life. Click on [this link](#) to watch the video which very quickly went viral.

Wounda quickly became friends with Kefan, the alpha male on the island. After a few months on Tchibebe, Wounda became pregnant due to a failed contraceptive device. Although the team at Tchimpounga is not sure, Kefan is likely to be the father of the baby, named Hope.

**Wounda’s story really does have a happy ending!**



Wounda and Hope

Photo: Fernando Turmo



## Where is Jane?

It was a busy summer and autumn for Dr Jane! Here is just a window into her [hectic UK diary!](#)

**October** – Dr Jane opened a state-of-the-art science building at the University of East Anglia (UEA). The four storey facility cost £30m and will be used by staff and students from the Environmental Science, Computing, Biology, Physics, Engineering, Chemistry and Pharmacy departments.

Dr Jane said: *“I am delighted to have the opportunity to see this new building today and look forward to developing an ongoing relationship with UEA and discussing the potential for Roots & Shoots.”*

Dr Katherine Deane, Access Ambassador and senior lecturer in the School of Health Sciences at UEA, said: *“A lot of the accessible features in the New Science Building seem like minor innovations to a lot of people but they make such a huge difference to those who really need them.”*

*“Over 8% of UEA students have a declared disability, and they have the same rights to access education as anyone else, so it’s fantastic that they have been considered from the outset and we’ve delivered a building that is accessible for everyone on our campus and beyond.”*

[www.itv.com/news/anglia/2019-10-24/new-30m-science-building-opened-at-uea/](http://www.itv.com/news/anglia/2019-10-24/new-30m-science-building-opened-at-uea/)

The day continued with Dr Jane taking part in the Norwich Science Festival. She sat down with festival patron Prof Ben Garrod, discussing her work and the programmes



Dr Jane opening the University of East Anglia’s New Science Building

Photo: Neil Hall, University of East Anglia

of the Jane Goodall Institute, the future of conservation and how our actions make a difference every single day.

**November** – Dr Jane was a speaker at the Simmons Leadership Conference in Dublin, Ireland. This year’s conference theme, **Designing Success**, focuses on the need for women leaders to constantly reinvent themselves and redefine what it means to succeed.

The Simmons Leadership Conference furthers the mission of Simmons University founder, John Simmons — to enable women to acquire independent livelihoods. The Conference is a non-profit fundraiser for graduate scholarships at Simmons University and as such, helps ensure the viability of women’s education for generations to come.

Dr Jane was delighted to take part, especially as all proceeds support scholarships for students in graduate programs at Simmons University.

## A truly inspirational youth summit – One Young World

The annual One Young World Summit convenes the brightest young talent from every country and sector, working to accelerate social impact. Delegates from 190+ countries are counselled by influential political, business and humanitarian leaders such as Justin Trudeau, Paul Polman and Meghan Markle, amongst many other global figures.



Dr Jane during her keynote

Photo: One Young World

The One Young World Summit 2019 took place in London this October.

Not only did Dr Jane give an inspirational, standing ovation Key Note talk to over 2000 delegates, but our Executive Director, Tara Golshan had a full house for her workshop! [You can watch the keynote and workshop here.](#)