

Saudi Solar Park Becomes a Breeding Ground for Threatened Wildlife in Global First

- **A global-first initiative combining 250MW solar energy infrastructure with wildlife rewilding.**
- **38 Sand gazelles introduced into the solar park as part of the Prince Mohammed bin Salman Royal Reserve breeding program.**
- **Herd is expected to reach 600 animals by 2031.**
- **New model demonstrates how renewable energy and biodiversity conservation can advance together, delivering a double-green dividend.**

Riyadh, 05 October 2026: Prince Mohammed bin Salman Royal Reserve is pioneering a global conservation first by breeding threatened gazelle within an operational solar park.

The 505ha facility is built and managed by the Amaala Sustainable Company for Energy (ASCE), a joint venture bringing together EDF Group and Masdar, alongside SUEZ and Korea East-West Power (EWP). While powering Red Sea Global's AMAALA destination with 100% renewable energy, the 250MW solar park also provides a protected environment in which Sand gazelles can breed and establish viable herds for future reintroduction into the wild.

This innovative approach, known as ReWildingVoltaics, creates a double-green dividend: generating decarbonized electricity while supporting biodiversity restoration.

Following a seven-month proof-of-concept exercise launched in October 2025 with Sand gazelle, Mountain gazelle and Arabian hare, the program entered its breeding phase in May 2026, with 33 female and five male Vulnerable Sand gazelles introduced into the solar plant. The first offspring are expected this December. Population modelling by the Reserve's Scientific Services Division indicates the herd will grow to around 600 by 2031. A minimum founder population of 500 is required for successful reintroduction into the 24,500km² Reserve.

Andrew Zaloumis, CEO of Prince Mohammed bin Salman Royal Reserve, said: “Our rewilding goal is to build self-sustaining wildlife populations that can survive in the wild without ongoing human intervention. This collaborative innovation not only accelerates that work but also introduces a novel 'double-green' framework with global scalability. We are calling it 'ReWildingVoltaics.’”

The initiative supports the Saudi Green Initiative's ambitions to protect 30% of the Kingdom's land and sea and generate 50% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2030, while progressing toward net-zero emissions by 2060. Saudi Arabia's protected-area footprint share has grown from 4.2% to 18.3% over the past decade.

Omar AlDaweesh, CEO Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, EDF Group, said: “This initiative demonstrates how renewable energy infrastructure can create value beyond the clean electricity it generates. By bringing biodiversity conservation into an operational solar facility, we are showing how energy infrastructure and nature can coexist. Through ASCE, EDF is proud to contribute to an innovative model that supports Saudi Arabia's renewable energy and conservation ambitions, with the potential to inspire similar approaches beyond the Kingdom.”



The proof of concept confirmed that the solar park can successfully support wildlife husbandry. Its predator-proof perimeter provides a controlled environment, while the solar panels create shade that reduces ground temperatures by approximately 5°C to 10°C. Some 73% of the 505ha site is usable habitat for captive breeding, comprising shaded areas under solar panels as well as open habitat with natural features, including rocky outcrops.

The protected environment has increased the Reserve's husbandry capacity 15-fold and enables continuous monitoring of animal behavior, health and reproductive success by the Reserve's specialist ranger team. Sand gazelles were selected for their ecological importance and suitability for the site. As grazers and browsers, they help manage vegetation, disperse seeds and contribute to restoring the Reserve's natural food chain. Their size allows them to move freely beneath the solar panels without affecting the infrastructure.

Aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, ReWildingVoltaics goes beyond using solar sites as habitats for wildlife. It uses the protected environment created by renewable-energy infrastructure to develop founder populations for future reintroduction into the wider landscape.

Findings from this global-first program will inform future initiatives in other regions where large-scale renewable-energy infrastructure and wildlife restoration programs coexist.

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About Prince Mohammed bin Salman Royal Reserve

One of eight Royal Reserves, the 24,500 km² Prince Mohammed bin Salman Royal Reserve stretches from the lava plains of the Harrats to the deep Red Sea in the west, connecting NEOM, Red Sea Global and AIUla. It is home to PIF's Wadi Al Disah project and Red Sea Global's Destination AMAALA.

The Reserve encompasses 15 distinct ecosystems. At just 1% of the Kingdom's terrestrial area and 1.8% of its marine area, it boasts over 50% of the Kingdom's bird and mammal species, making it one of the most biodiverse protected areas in the Middle East.

The Reserve is committed to restoring and conserving the natural and cultural environment. This includes the reintroduction of 23 historically occurring native species, 14 of which have already been reintroduced, including the Arabian oryx, Persian onager, Sand gazelle and Mountain gazelle, as part of a wide-ranging rewilding program.

Prince Mohammed bin Salman Royal Reserve is one of eight Royal Reserves established by royal decree and overseen by the Royal Reserves Council chaired by His Royal Highness the Crown Prince. The Reserve's program is integrated with Saudi Arabia's wider sustainability and conservation programs, including the Saudi Green and Middle East Green Initiatives.

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About EDF power solutions

EDF power solutions is an international energy player, fully owned by the EDF Group - the state-owned French electricity utility company.

EDF power solutions develops, builds and operates renewable and low-carbon energy production facilities as well as flexible power and electricity transmission solutions.

As a major company in the energy transition worldwide, *EDF power solutions* deploys, within EDF, competitive, responsible and value-creating projects. In 20+ countries, our teams show their commitment to local stakeholders every day, adding their expertise and capacity for innovation to the fight against climate change.

EDF power solutions operates 52GW of gross power and storage capacity worldwide. Leveraging on its technological and commercial skills as well as local knowledge, the company develops innovative offers, to support the move towards decarbonisation and develop more efficient electrical systems.

EDF power solutions offer a large range of technologies to produce low carbon electricity (wind power, solar, hydropower, biomass), increase power system flexibility (battery storage, PSP,

low carbon thermal hybrid solution etc.) and to reduce our customers' carbon footprint (electrical mobility, hydrogen, off-grid)

In the Middle East, EDF power solutions covers the full energy value chain. From low-carbon generation, through innovative transmission networks to energy efficiency solutions and fully off-grid energy systems.

Since 2017, *EDF power solutions* developed 14.1GW of low-carbon projects (gross capacity), 3.2GW submarine transmission line, and one giga off-grid renewable project.

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Image: A breeding herd of Sand gazelles is released into ASCE's solar plant in Prince Mohammed bin Salman Royal Reserve



Image: Ranger Nourah Al Aqabawai, former ASCE CEO Daniel Blanco, Reserve CEO Andrew Zaloumis, EDF Group CEO Saudi Arabia and Bahrain Omar AlDaweesh and Reserve Chief of Conservation Maen Al Smadi release a Sand gazelle into the solar plant



Image: Sand gazelles released into the ASCE solar plant use the shade created by the panels