

Emirates
Nature



WWF



CLASSIFY THE WILD

HANDBOOK

SELF-LED VOLUNTEERING

WHAT IS CLASSIFY

THE WILD PROJECT?

This project aims to harness the power of community to help scan images collected from camera traps out in nature, so our experts can spend more time in the field.

The cameras are deployed in different habitats to monitor and track wildlife in the UAE. This project includes image and video data collected by camera traps set by our volunteers during our 'Track Terrestrial Wildlife' excursions.

With just a few minutes of your time, you can help us to sort and analyze these images, identifying any wildlife captured in the photos. Everyone is welcome to take part, but those who have been involved in the setting of the cameras will find this particularly exciting. Together we can significantly impact wildlife conservation in the UAE!



WHAT IS MAMMAL WEB?

Mammal Web is the platform we use to involve volunteers in the assessment and analysis of images and videos. The platform enables people and researchers around the world to collaborate and monitor wildlife with camera traps!

There are a wide range of projects, some of which focus on just one species, and others (like Emirates Nature- WWF's project) on a specific area

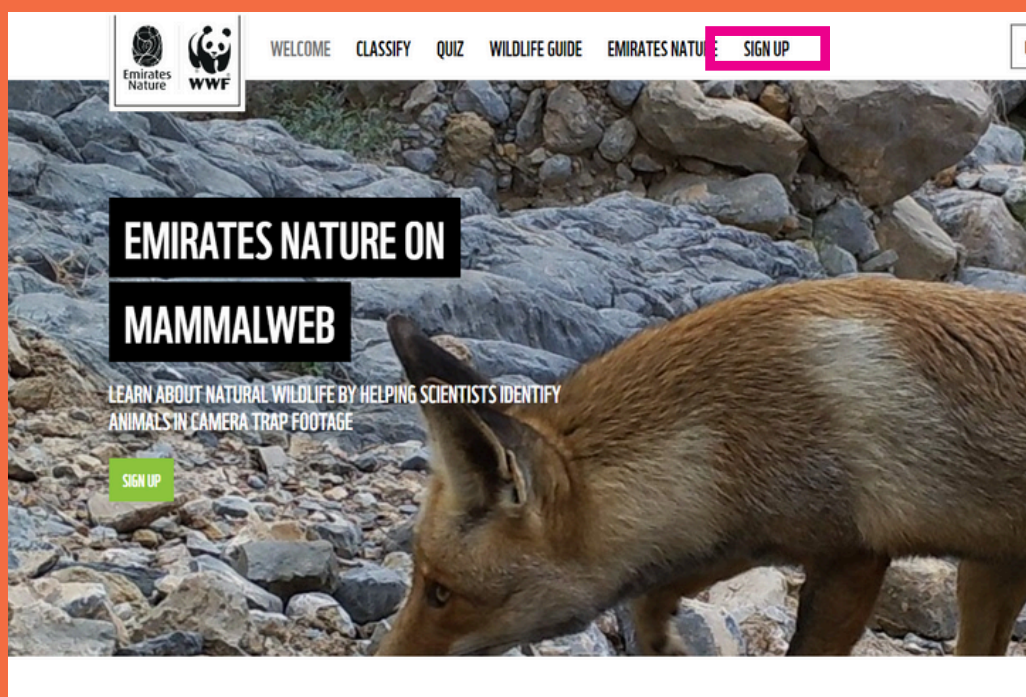
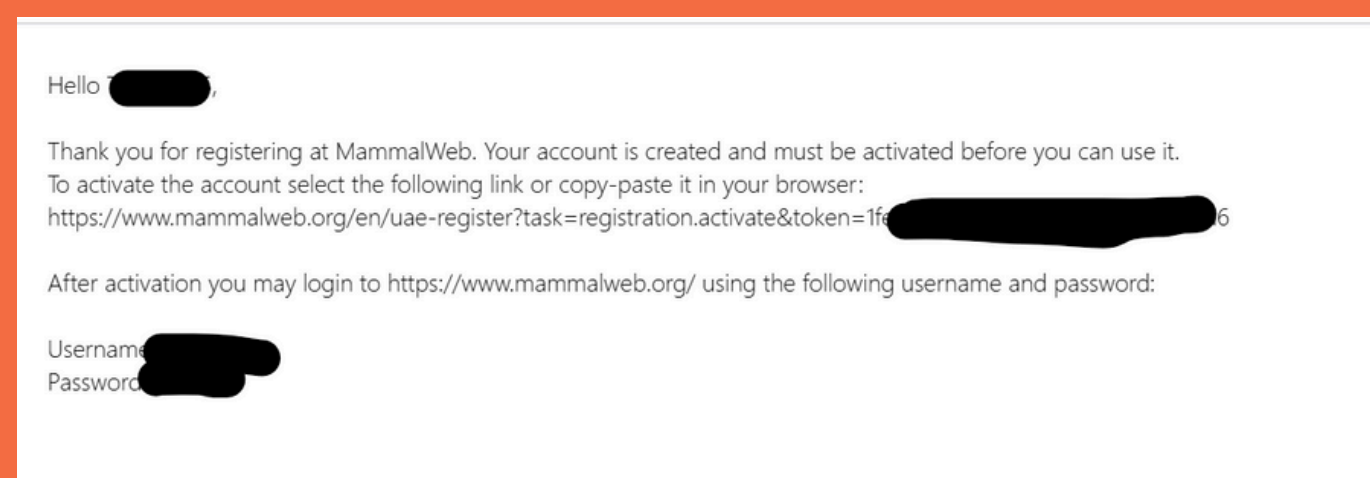
WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Data collected from camera traps improves our knowledge about the distribution and abundance of wildlife in an area. They provide a better understanding of the ecology of species and their response to current changes in the environment, ultimately providing us with a holistic overview of biodiversity and possible solutions to pressing wildlife environmental issues. By taking part, you are playing a role in being an active citizen scientist. Since there may be thousands and thousands of images, your help to identify what's in those photos is crucial!

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

1.0 CREATE AN ACCOUNT!

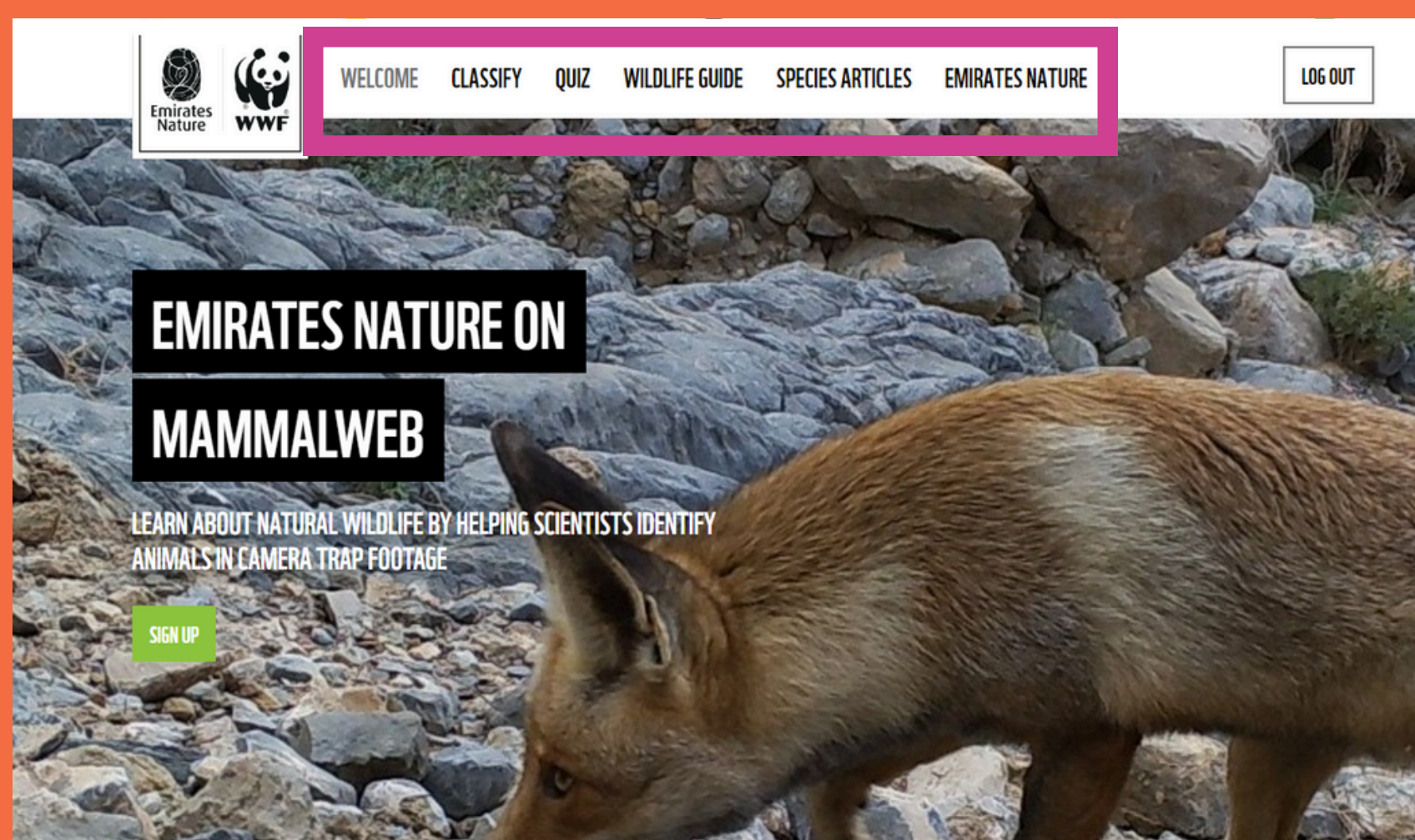
Go to the Emirates Nature-WWF page on Mammal Web and click "Sign Up" to create an account using your Leaders of Change email. This will allow us to monitor your activities and document your progress and volunteering hours. After signing up, check your email for a verification link—Click the link, log in with your username and password, and you will be directed to the Emirates Nature page on Mammal Web to start classifying.

A screenshot of the User Registration form. The form is titled "User Registration" and includes a "Required field" section with the following fields: Name, Username, Password, Confirm Password, Email Address, and Confirm Email Address. Each field has a corresponding input box.

FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF

WITH THE NAVIGATION BAR!

Once your account is created and verified, you are ready to take part in the project. At the menu bar at the top of the page, you have multiple options to help equip you with information and familiarize you with the process before starting. Check out the Wildlife Guide and quiz!



HOW TO PARTICIPATE

2.0 WILDLIFE GUIDE

This provides you with a list of all the species you might encounter while analyzing the images and are very useful as these give you information about the appearance of the animals and other distinguishing characteristics that will help you to identify different species correctly.

Arabian Red Fox:



Scientific name:
Vulpes vulpes arabica

Arabian Tahr:



Scientific name:
Arabitragus jayakari

Family:
Bovidae

Black-winged Kite:



Scientific name:
Elanus caeruleus

Family:


2.1 QUIZ!

The quiz option provides you with a little training on the exact process of classifying a species on Mammal Web!

A random selection of species is displayed, and you are required to identify the displayed species correctly (if there are any, as some images may not have any animals in them).

You can also always look at the list of species on your right. Click on a species to read its description, and only click on save changes if you have selected this species to match the image displayed for identification. Once done, click on 'next sequence' to move on to the next image.

What can you identify here?



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Location Next Sequence

Q Search... Feral donkey

UAE-Terrestrial	
Arabian oryx	Arabian red fox
Arabian tahr	Blanford's fox
Brandt's hedgehog	Eastern Spiny Mouse
Feral cat	Feral donkey
Feral goat	Wagner's Gerbil
Black-winged Kite	Common Myna
Desert Lark	Grey Francolin
House Crow	Hume's Wheatear
Laughing Dove	Striated bunting
White-eared Bulbul	
Don't Know	Other
Nothing	Human

Classify the animal

Feral Donkey:



Scientific name:
Equus asinus

Family:
Equidae

Appearance:
Colour varies and can be white, grey, brown or black. Pattern also varies from solid colour to spotted, speckled or striped.

Habits:
All donkeys in the UAE are considered feral donkeys, descended from released domesticated animals. They pose a threat to native flora while grazing. Donkeys are strong and intelligent, and they have an incredible memory – they can recognise areas and other donkeys they were with from up to 25 years ago, and they can live for over 50 years. A donkey is stronger than a horse of the same size.

Close Save changes

Save changes

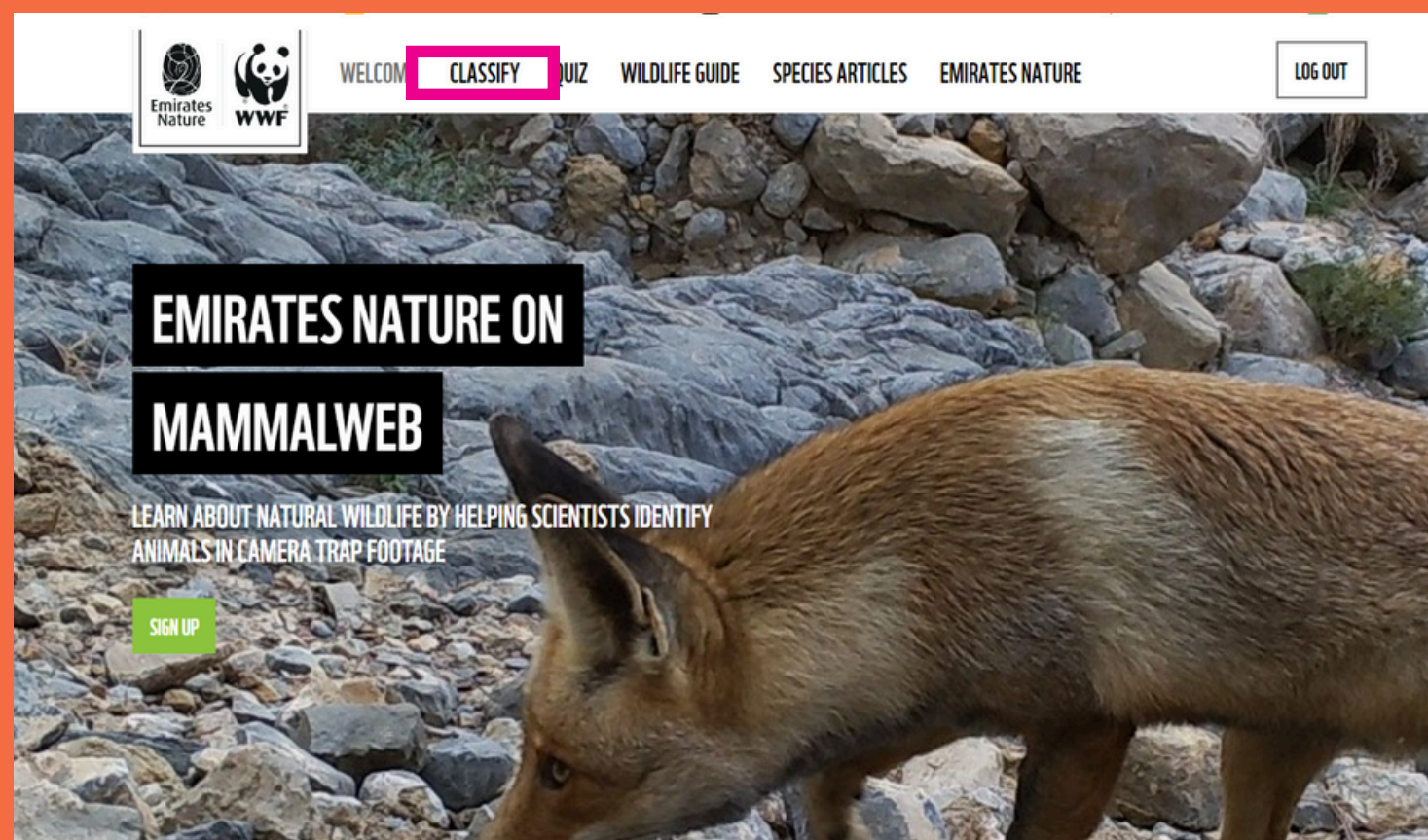
HOW TO PARTICIPATE

3.0 BE A SPOTTER!

‘Spotting’ is the activity of identifying wildlife in the existing camera trap images. You may be interested in becoming a ‘trapper’, which involves uploading your own data from your deployed camera traps with date, time, and project name!

4.0 CLASSIFY!

Once you are ready, click on ‘Classify’ to be taken to the Emirates Nature-WWF page where you can begin identifying species immediately



5.0 TRACK YOUR PROGRESS!

By clicking on ‘Classify,’ you will see your contributions, including the sequences you have classified and your activity as a spotter. In this project, please note that your role will be solely as a spotter

6.0 CLAIM YOUR HOURS AND CERTIFICATE!

To verify your classification hours, please send us a screenshot of the summary of your Spotter activity displayed under the ‘Classify’ section at support@enwwf.ae. Each 120 images classified is equal to 1 volunteering Act hour. Once you classify **2000** images, you’ll also receive a special certificate recognizing your efforts!

7.0 TAKE YOUR TIME!

While analyzing the images. Spend at least a minute on each sequence to be as accurate as you can be in identifying the correct data.

HAPPY SPOTTING!



Emirates Nature-WWF is a non-profit organisation established to conserve the United Arab Emirates' natural heritage and build a future where people and nature thrive. The organization was founded in 2001 under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Ruler's Representative in the Al Dhafra Region and Chairman of the Governing Board of the Environment Agency–Abu Dhabi, as a legacy of the late Sheikh Zayed's vision for the United Arab Emirates. For two decades, Emirates Nature–WWF has been a prominent and active partner in environmental conservation in the MENA region. We work in association with WWF, one of the world's largest and most respected independent conservation organisations. As a local conservation organisation and volunteer platform, we empower, convene and mobilise civil society, government and business to support the UAE's sustainability agenda and deliver transformative impact at scale for the benefit of people and planet alike.

For more information about Emirates Nature-WWF, please visit emiratesnaturewwf.ae