



دار بلومزبري - مؤسسة قطر للنشر
B L O O M S B U R Y
Q A T A R F O U N D A T I O N
P U B L I S H I N G



NEW NATURE SERIES HELPS CHILDREN DISCOVER QATAR

For Immediate Release: London and Doha, 19 November, 2013

Qatar Nature Explorer, published by Bloomsbury Qatar Foundation Publishing, is a series of six books for young readers on the flora and fauna of Qatar. Produced in a boxed set in both English and Arabic, the colourfully illustrated books highlight the birds, mammals, marine life, insects and arachnids, plants and reptiles native to Qatar and its surrounding seas.

Author Frances Gillespie, a former teacher and resident of Qatar for almost 30 years, said, "I wrote these books because there was nothing like this available for children. I was shocked when I visited a class of primary school students to find they were working on natural history projects using the book *Discovering Qatar* that I wrote in 2006 on the environment of Qatar as their primary source of information. Because *Discovering Qatar* is aimed at adult readers, I realized then that there is a real need to provide young readers with information presented in a colourful and interesting way that will make them want to learn more. My hope is that the *Qatar Nature Explorer* books will help all children in Qatar respect and help protect the natural environment through learning about it."

Occidental Petroleum of Qatar Ltd. (Oxy Qatar) and Bloomsbury Qatar Foundation Publishing (BQFP) provided copies of *Qatar Nature Explorer* book sets to the Supreme Education Council for distribution to all school libraries during a press conference held at the Tornado Tower in Doha.

Director of Education Institute of the Supreme Education Council, Ms. Haya Al-Kuwari, commented: "*Qatar Nature Explorer* will be an effective tool to help Qatar students to recognize their environment. These books are very interesting and children will be motivated to read the books because of their colourful pictures and the way the information is presented. The Education Institute will be keen to encourage the utilization of these books in schools, which, as a result, will serve the ultimate long-term goal of preserving the environment of Qatar through promoting a sense of belonging and instilling it in future generations."

Arend Kuster, Director of BQFP, commented, "Qatar and its environment are important topics we are proud to be representing through the QNE series with the generous support of Oxy. We look forward to making the QNE series the go-to resource for young people who want to learn about Qatar's plants, animals and other creatures. We are hopeful that the books will encourage local communities to explore the surprisingly rich and diverse wildlife and environment around us."

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Note to Editors

About Bloomsbury Qatar Foundation

Bloomsbury Qatar Foundation (BQF) is owned by Qatar Foundation and managed by Bloomsbury Publishing Plc in London. BQFP is based in Doha, Qatar, and has four core aims:

- **Publishing:** To publish books of excellence and originality to the highest editorial, design and production standards, in Arabic and in English. The list ranges from board books for babies, children's books, fiction and non-fiction for adults, information and reference, and academic monographs.
- **Connecting local research with the global research community** through publishing original peer reviewed academic articles, book and journals through QScience.com and manage scholarly communication services to advance the research capability of Qatar.
- **Reading and Writing Development:** To encourage lifelong literacy in Qatar and the Arab World.
- **Knowledge Transfer:** To transfer publishing and related skills to Qatar and the Gulf region via training and other initiatives.

About OXY: Oxy is the second-largest oil producer offshore Qatar and a partner in the Dolphin Gas Project, which supplies natural gas, produced from Qatar's North Field and processed in Ras Laffan City, to customers in the UAE and Oman. www.oxy.com

To speak to the author Frances Gillespie or representatives from BQFP or OXY, or receive copies of the QNE books, please contact Sophia Blackwell in the London Bloomsbury office:

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