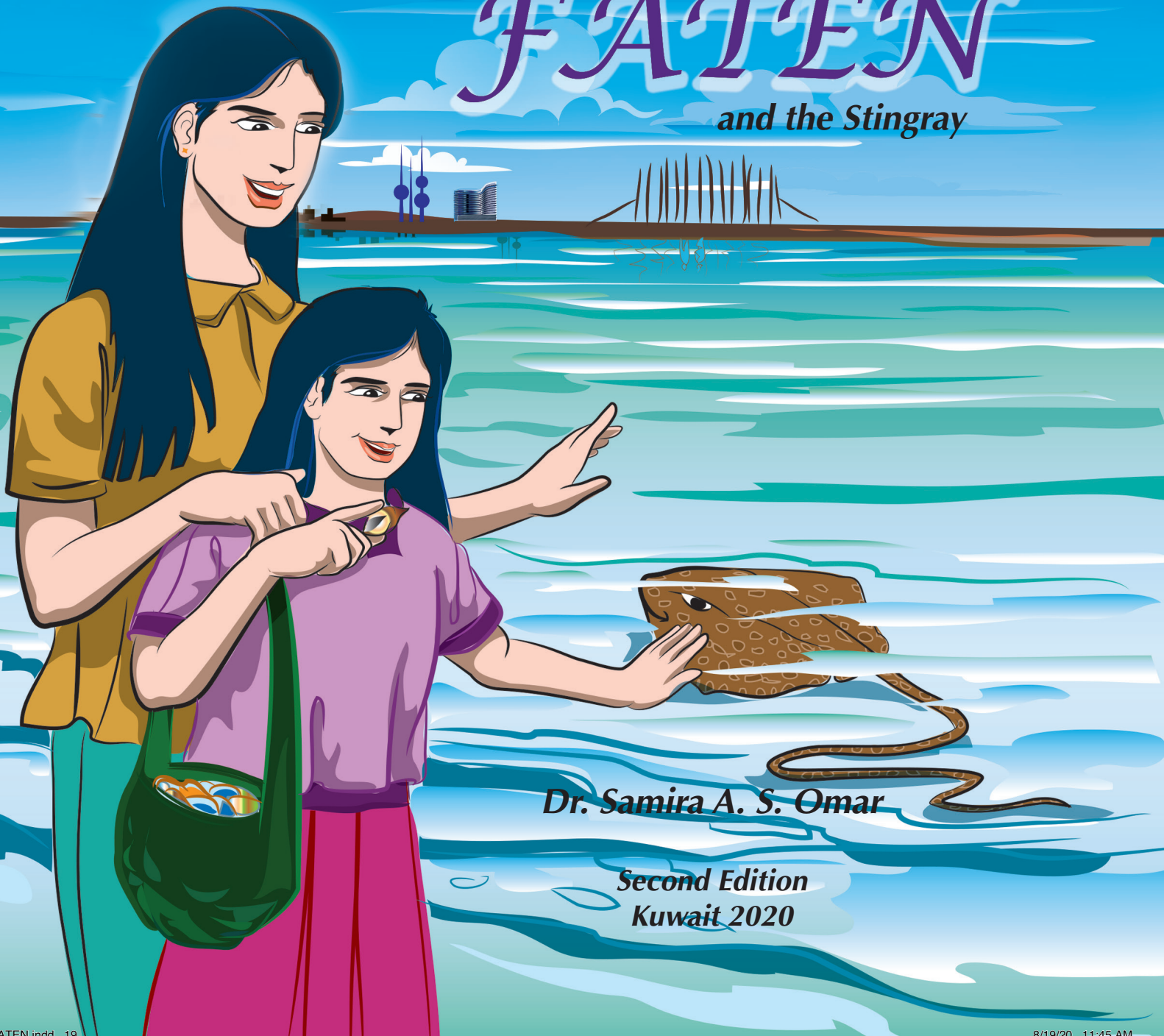


FATEN

and the Stingray



Dr. Samira A. S. Omar

*Second Edition
Kuwait 2020*



Faten and the Stingray

by

Dr. Samira A. S. Omar

Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research

Kuwait 2020



**Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research
Children's Publication Series on the Environment**

Printed by Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research
P.O. Box: 24885, Safat. 13109, Kuwait.

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National Library of Kuwait Cataloguing in Publication
The Sad Cormorant/by Samira A.S. Omar

Kuwait:KISR, 2004.
ISBN: 99906-41-32-3
Depository Number: 2004/00016

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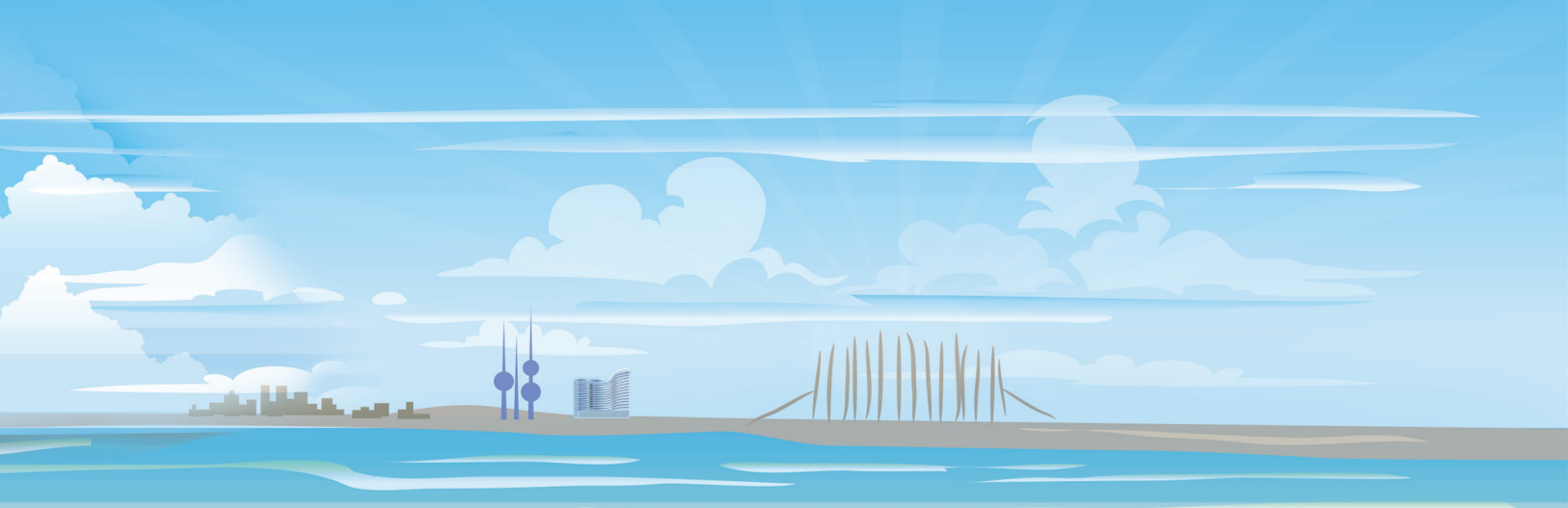
Prologue

The Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) visits the Arabian Gulf shores every year during winter, visiting in considerable numbers for few days and departing suddenly during early spring. The environment of Kuwait was severely damaged during the Iraqi invasion. More than 780 oil wells were exploded and detonated by the Iraqi forces before they retreated from Kuwait. This caused the formation of hundreds of oil lakes. Oil lakes were formed from the gushing crude oil that accumulated in low lands and depressions, forming shallow to moderately deep lakes.


Cormorants were found dead in oil lakes because they were deceived by sky reflected light and landed mistakenly in them.

Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), in collaboration with the Japan Cooperation Center, Petroleum (JCPP) carried out a research project to remediate soil of some oil lakes by using bioremediation technology. This technology is used because it is environmentally safe, allowing naturally growing bacteria to degrade the oil. A garden was established at Ahmadi named "Ahmadi Bioremediated Soils Park" by utilizing remediated soils to demonstrate remediation efforts and the potential of using the treated soil in greenery enhancement projects.

The objective of this book is to inform children about land degradation in Kuwait and means by which they can be rehabilitated. All illustrations presented in this book are made by the author.



**This book is dedicated to all those
who care about the environment and
with the intent to protect it.**



Faten is a young girl who cares about the environment. She loves nature and shows fondness for animals that lives and grow in different habitats, especially those of the seashores life.

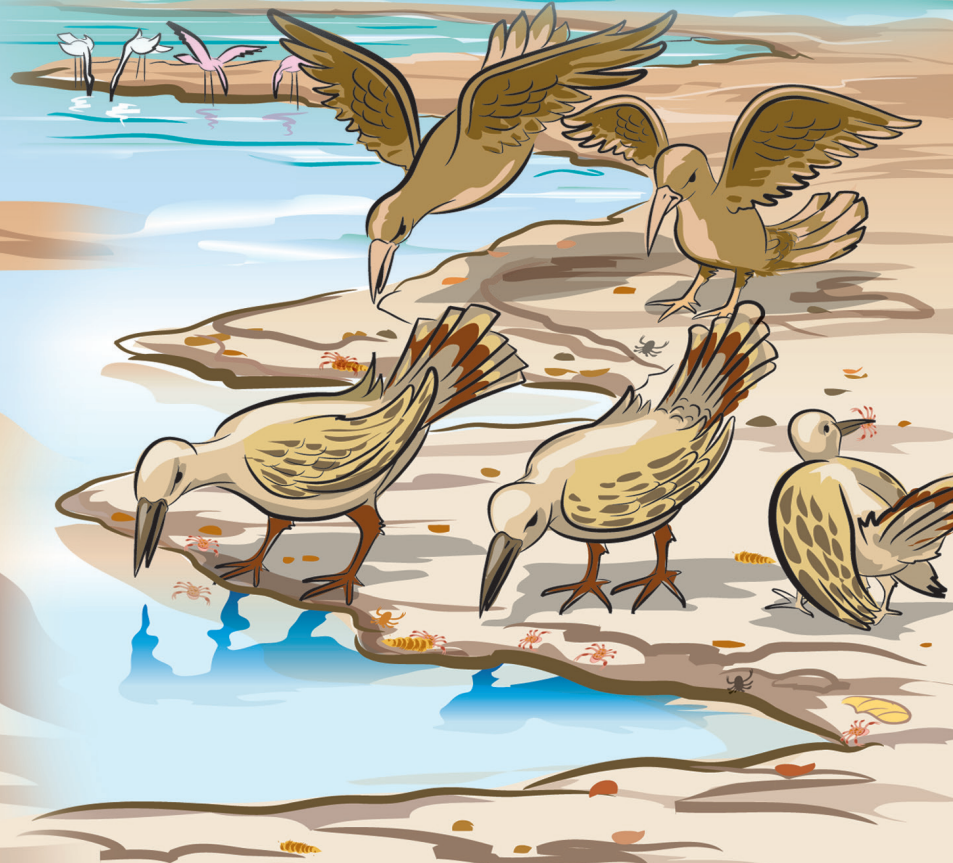
One day, early in the morning, she went to the beach to find some seashell.

It was very peaceful quiet day, and the wind was calm and pleasant.

There were several types of birds on the beach. These included the Grey plover, the Black-winged Stilts, the Egrets and the Terns.

They were moving around gracefully, catching small crabs and little creatures that live under the surface of the sea and become exposed as the tide goes out.

The birds skillfully caught some fish with their strong beaks.

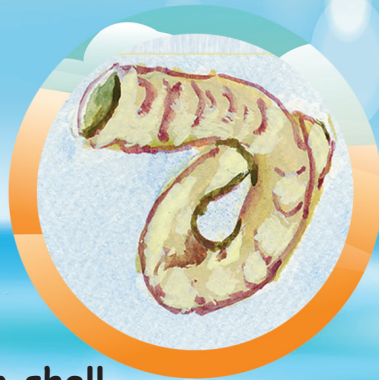


Faten found some lovely shells, along the shore, which came in different types and shapes, such as the warm shell, spiral shell, variable topshell, strombus, and horn shell

She also found some algae, jellyfish, and sponges. Faten cared about the seashore life. She left animals and plants where they belonged and put them back after she had looked at them. She was very careful to leave few marks of her presence.



Topshell



Warm shell



Spiral shell



Horn shell

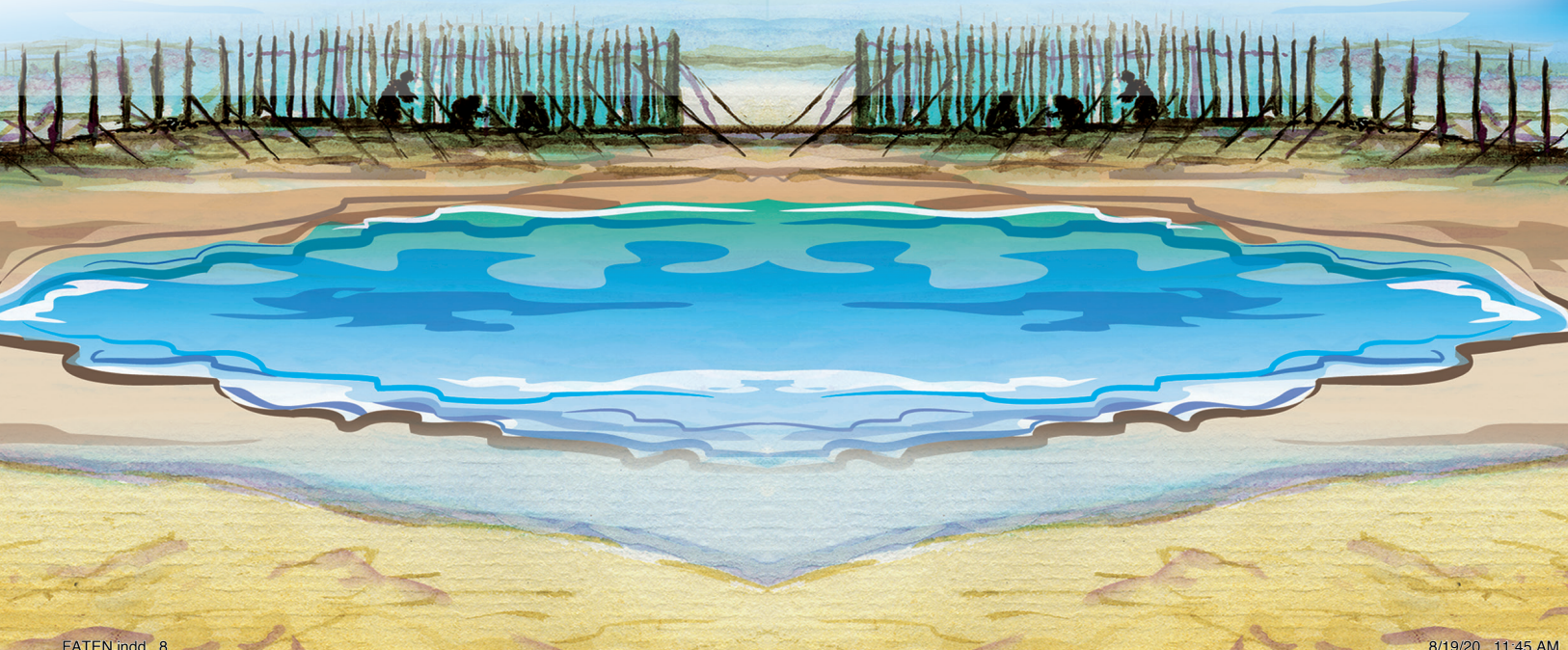


Strombus



Suddenly, she heard noises coming from the coastal fish trap (Hadra). She saw some children moving inside the enclosure.

Faten asked herself:
"I wonder what these kids are doing there!"?
And she went to check on what was
happening.



When she came to the place where the noise was coming from, she saw children trying to catch the fish that were caught in the Hadra. They were also trying

Faten was terrified by the scene and she yelled, "No, No, don't kill the stingray"

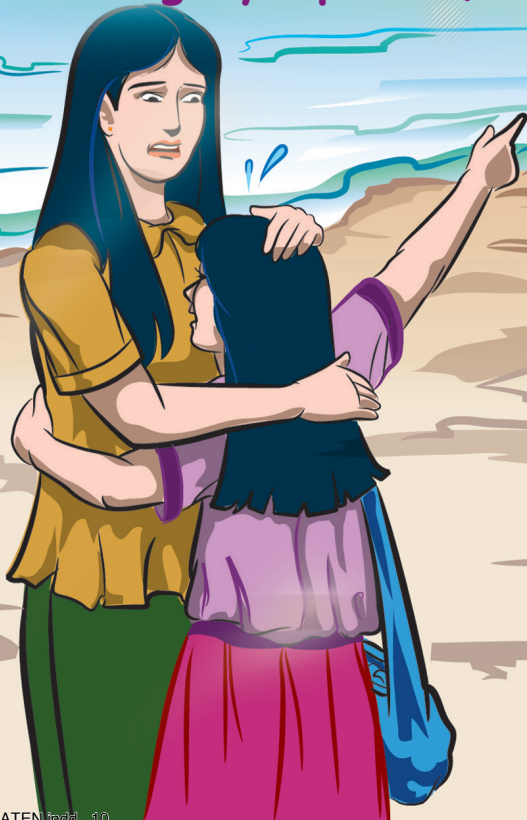


She rushed to meet her mother, who is an advocate of the environment. She spoke anxiously to her mother: "Mom, they're going to kill it!"

Her mother asked: "What are they going to kill?"

Faten replied: " They are going to kill the stingray... please, mom help me save it."

Her mother said: " Don't worry, Faten. We shall try to solve this problem together. Come with me." And they went to the Hadra together.



Faten and her mother entered the enclosure of the Hadra.

Her mother started to explain to the children the importance of protecting the seashore life. She told them that Kuwait's marine life is under threat from over fishing, urban expansion and rising levels of pollution.

She asked the children not to kill the stingray but, instead to help release it to the open sea.

The children listened to Faten's mother, and they agreed to release the stingray out of the Hadra.



The stingray was finally released into the open sea, away from danger. It gained life and freedom.

Indeed... there is nothing more valuable than life and freedom...

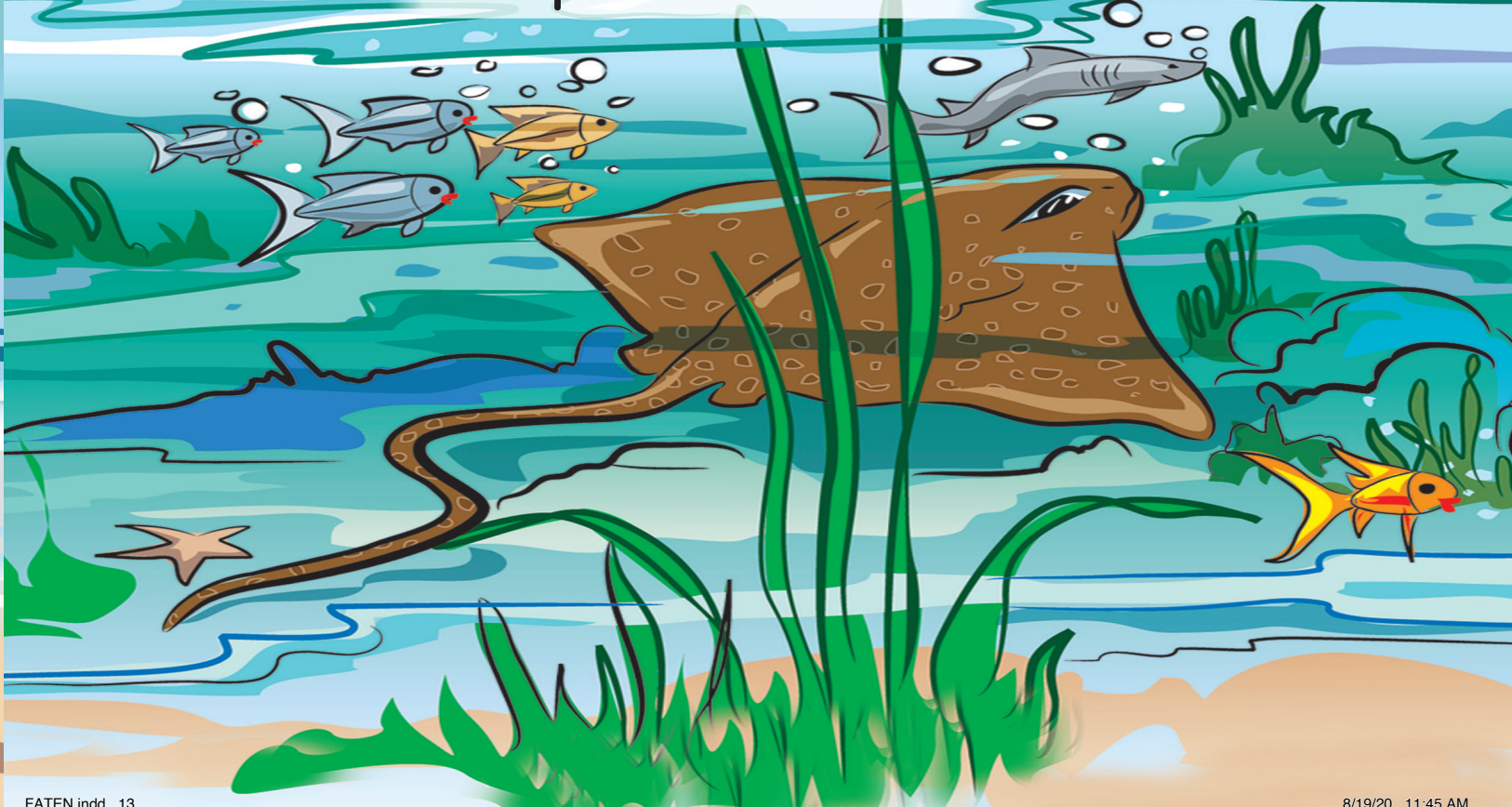
The stingray was left to live its life happily in the open blue sea. Faten felt very happy and thanked the children and her mother for saving the stingray.

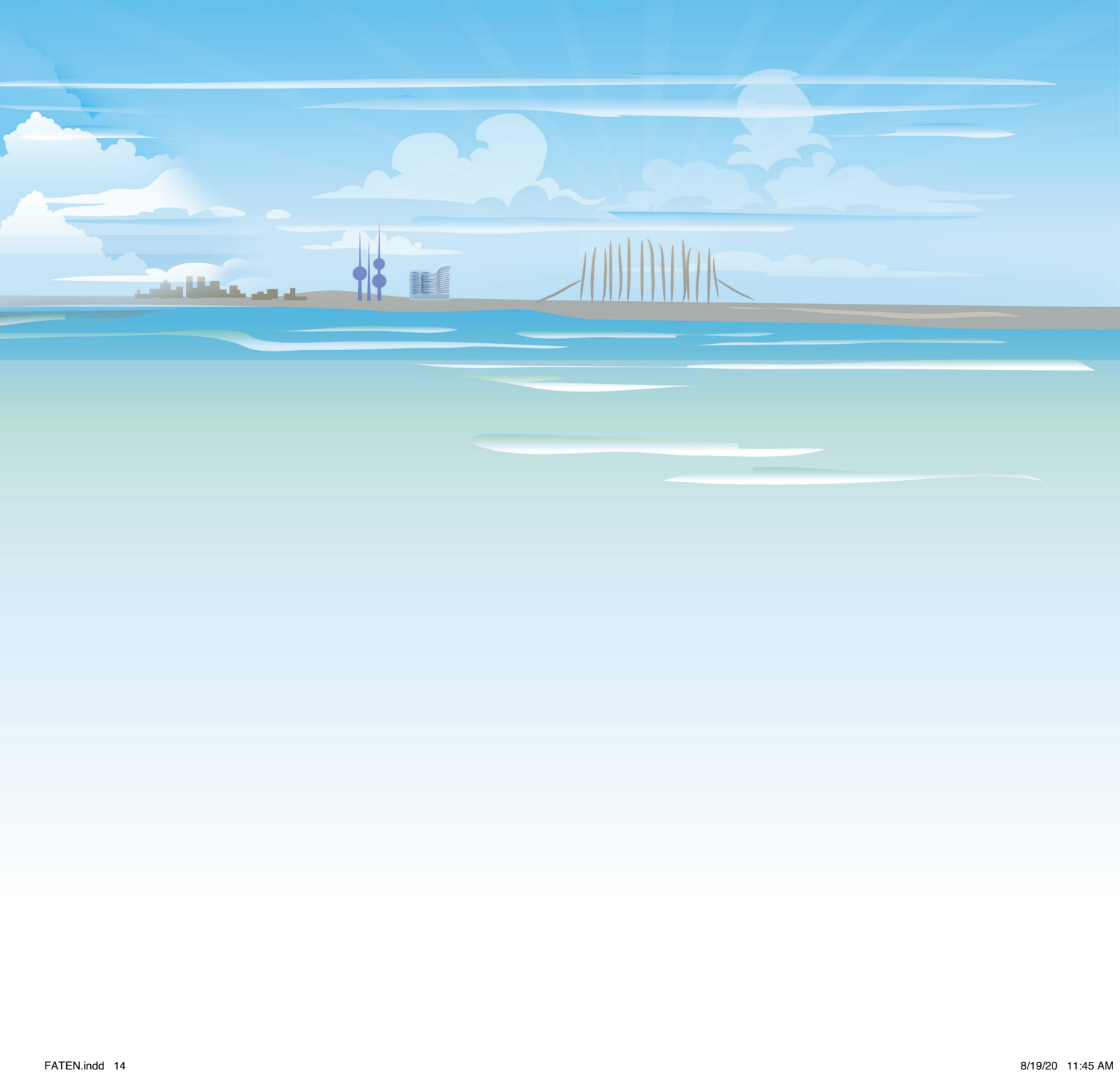


Thereafter, stingray has lived a wonderful life in the beautiful waters of Kuwait. It now live in peace among coral reefs and fish.

However, this is not the end of the story because the protection of marine wildlife is a national duty and a shared responsibility for both the young and the old.

○ There is a longest call:
So let us all preserve our Environment!



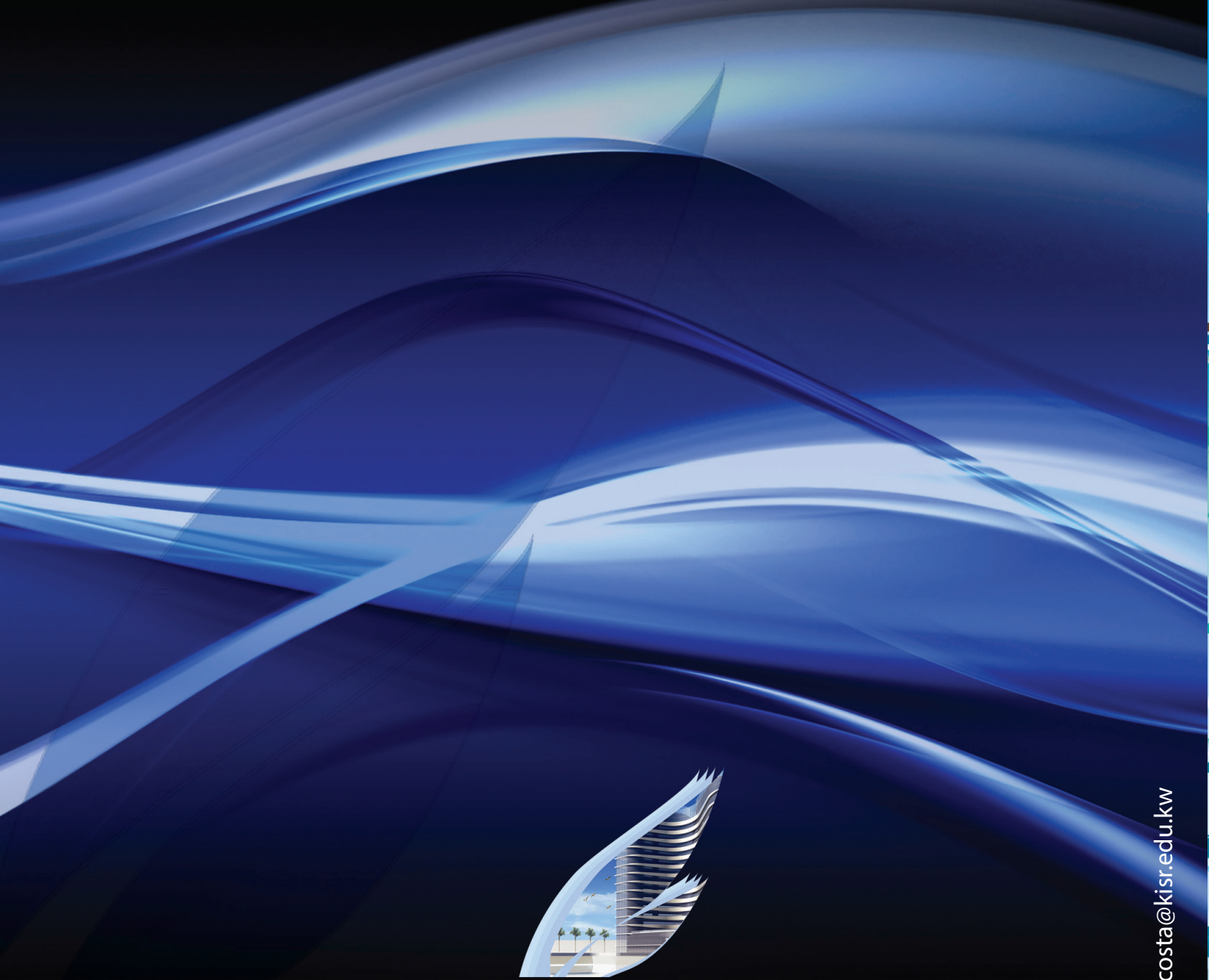




About the Author

Samira A. S. Omar is a Kuwaiti Senior Research Scientist who has been working in Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) since 1973. Dr. Samira is graduated from the University of California, Berkeley in 1990 with a Ph.D. in Natural Resources Management and Conservation. She was the project leader for the two phases of the National Park/ Nature Reserve projects (1981 and 1986), which resulted in the establishment of the national park/nature reserve in 1989 (Re-named "Sabah Al-Ahmad Nature Reserve" in 2004). Through her efforts she has been able to make a significant contribution to the conservation, management and rehabilitation of the desert environment of Kuwait. She has many hobbies, include painting, photography and writing stories for children..





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