

ARAB ENVIRONMENT IN 10 YEARS



2017 Report of the Arab Forum for Environment and Development

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY FRAMEWORK

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OUTLINES

- Institutions
- Strategies
- Policies (Energy, Air quality, water, Food, WEF nexus)
- Response to International Agreements
- Conclusions and Recommendations.



INSTITUTIONS

Globally

The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) for sustainable development to replace the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD).

Regionally

- Institutions that are part of the League of Arab States (LAS)
 - Regional Joint Secretariat
 - JCEDAR
 - Department of Sustainable Development and International Cooperation.
 - Arab committee on sustainable development,
 - the Committee for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
- Institutions that are part of the UN system
 - ESCWA has established a Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM)
 - the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development (AFSD)
 - UNDP has played a lead role in implementing country programs to achieve MDGs.
 - ESCWA and UNEP (with LAS) form the Technical Secretariat to support the work of JCEDAR.
- Institutions created because of adopting regional conventions (PERSGA, ROPME)
- Non-government organizations (NGOs) (AFED, RAED, ANND, ...etc)

INSTITUTIONS

“The time has come to build an effective regional institutional framework for sustainable development that addresses past challenges and weaknesses experienced with the MDGs”

The first Arab sustainable development report (2015)

REGIONAL STRATEGIES (EXAMPLES)

- Many regional strategies
 - The Sustainable Development Initiative in the Arab Region (SDIAR).
 - The Arab Strategic Framework for Sustainable Development (ASFSD)
 - The Strategy for Water Security in the Arab Region
 - The Sustainable Agricultural Development Strategy for the Next Two Decades
 - The Arab Framework of Action on Climate Change
 - The Arab Regional Strategy for Sustainable Consumption and Production
 - The Arab Strategy for the Development of Renewable Energies
- Weak implementation and monitoring

REGIONAL STRATEGIES

“It is time to move from political declarations and rhetoric to implementation on the ground”

AFED 2016 Report

NATIONAL LEVEL

- Environmental institutional framework is ill-equipped to address the expanded multi-sectoral scope of sustainable development issues.
- Responsibilities for SD are spread across a wide range of ministries
- Ad hoc National Councils for SD in some countries.
- Morocco was pioneering in establishing a multi-stakeholder economic, social and environmental council.
- National strategies for SD (Bahrain 2030, KSA 2030, Egypt 2030,...etc.)
- Civil society organizations are active on issues of poverty eradication, health, education and public awareness.
- Policy mechanisms for civil society involvement in decision-making were weak.

EVOLUTION OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES

ENERGY PRICING POLICIES

- Heavy energy subsidy for many decades and for different reasons.
- Subsidies reform started with oil importing countries (Jordan, Morocco), and followed by oil exporting countries (GCC).
- Different approaches in reforming energy subsidies
 - **Ad hoc basis by government decisions (Egypt, KSA, Bahrain)**
 - **Automatic adjustment mechanisms (UAE, Qatar, and Oman).**
- Energy price reform as climate mitigation policies in NDCs of Paris agreement (Egypt, Morocco, and UAE)
- Subsidies reform as part of economic reform programs (KSA, Egypt)

POLICIES OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- Least energy efficient region globally.
- Regionally : NEEAP, NREAP by the LAS
- The Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE) has developed the Arab Future Energy Index (AFEX)
- World Bank: a global scorecard (The Regulatory Indicators for Sustainable Energy (RISE))
- Tunisia, the UAE, and Jordan stand as best performers in the two scales.
- EE Policies adopted (EE targets, EE action plans, fiscal incentives, (MEPS), energy efficiency labels for appliances and vehicles, developing green building codes, and others)

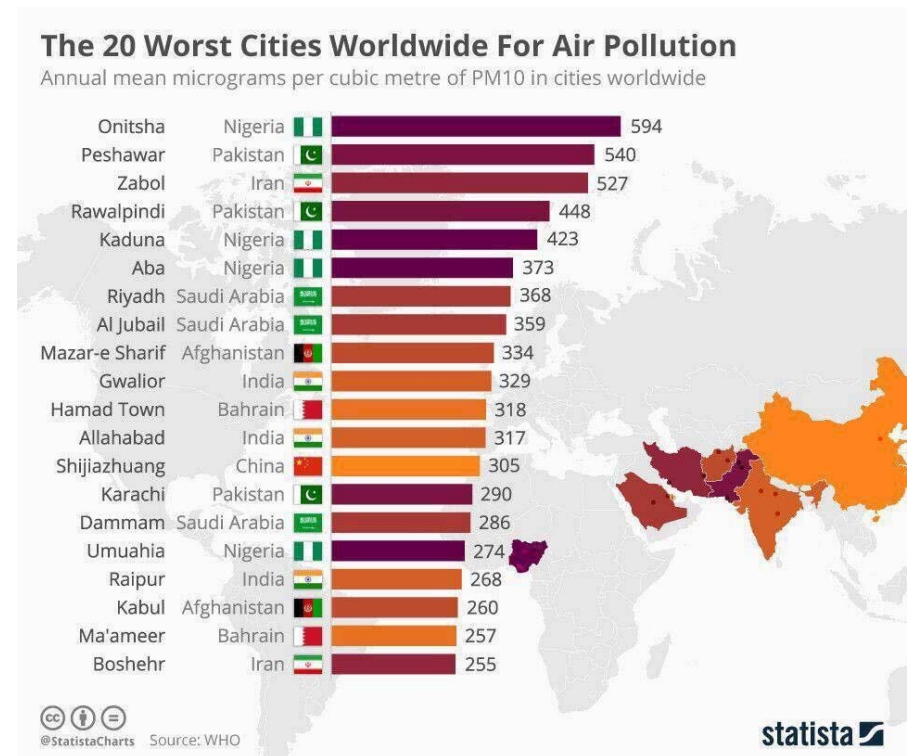
TABLE 2 RANKING OF EE INITIATIVES IN SELECTED ARAB COUNTRIES

Country	RCREEE EE Index (2015)	World Bank (SE4ALL) EE Score (2016)
Tunisia	66	68
Jordan	58	55
Morocco	55	42
Palestine	55	N/A
UAE	55	63
Qatar	42	50
Algeria	41	55
Lebanon	39	35
Egypt	38	48
Bahrain	36	27
Saudi Arabia	33	50
Syria	31	N/A
Sudan	30	19
Kuwait	26	30
Yemen	25	13
Libya	18	N/A
Iraq	18	N/A

Sources: RCREEE, 2015 and World Bank, 2016.

POLICIES TO IMPROVE Air QUALITY

- Developments of energy policies have positive impacts on improving environmental quality.
- Phasing out lead from gasoline has contributed to reducing lead concentration in the ambient air.
- Production of low-sulfur diesel has reduced the SO₂ emission from vehicles, power stations, and industrial plants.
- several Arab countries are aiming at complying with Euro 5 by 2018.



POLICIES OF WATER RESOURCES

- Severe water scarcity.
- In 2010, the Arab Ministerial Water Council (AMWC) launched the “Arab Water Security Strategy 2010-2030”.
- The GCC countries launched “GCC Unified Water Strategy and Implementation Plan 2016-2035”.
- Prevailed heavy subsidies of water services caused water inefficiency, overuse, and environmental degradation.
- Recent water pricing announced by Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain, and Egypt.
- National water policies incorporate many elements of IWRM (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and Tunisia).
- Adaptation strategies:
 - **Gulf countries have adapted by relying on fossil-based desalination.**
 - **Egypt, Iraq and Syria have developed renewable water resources.**
 - **Countries with limited renewable water resources and weak financial capability, such as Jordan, have pursued water reuse, water harvesting and demand management initiatives.**

POLICIES OF FOOD SECURITY

- The Arab region is the highest food deficit and the highest food-importing region globally.
- Profound and direct impacts of climate change on agriculture and food systems
- Drastic CC threats to food security in the Arab region are:
 - **increasing temperatures**
 - **declining and more unpredictable rainfall**
 - **more frequent extreme weather**
 - **higher severity of pests and diseases.**
- Land degradation, populations increase and economic growth increase food per capita consumption, widen the gap between food production and consumption, and increase dependence on food importation
- Considerable foreign investment in Sub-Saharan Africa and Central Asian countries to contribute to national food security.

“strengthen regional cooperation among Arab countries, based on comparative advantage in agricultural and investable capital resources, coupled with coordination and harmonization of agricultural development strategies and programs”

AFED 2014 Report

WATER-ENERGY-FOOD NEXUS

- The nexus approach was well recognized in The Arab Strategic Framework for Sustainable Development (ASFSD) adopted by LAS in 2014
- Current institutional structures are not supportive.
- Mainstreaming the nexus approach into development plans at the national level still needs to be seen.

RESPONSE TO MEAs: THE CASE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

- The Arab region ranks among the most vulnerable in the world to the impacts of climate change (Food security, water scarcity, public health and economic livelihoods)
- Climate Change comes on top of pre-existing development challenges (security, poverty, high levels of unemployment, aridity, water scarcity).
- Some regional initiatives:
 - **The Arab Climate Resilience Initiative**
 - **the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction adopted by CAMRE in 2010.**
 - **Arab Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) in 2012**
- All Arab countries signed the Paris agreement except Syria.
- Currently, 14 Arab countries have ratified the agreement, and
- 13 Arab countries have submitted their first Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

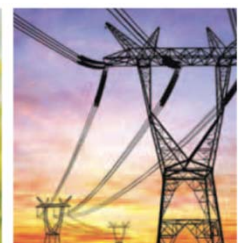
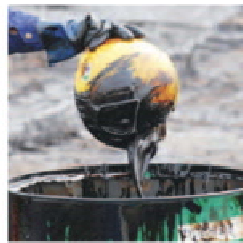
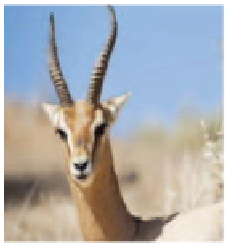
CONCLUSIONS

- Governance for SD changed dramatically since Rio (1992), supported by a parallel development of the regimes of the (MEAs).
- LAS, supported by UN organizations, and NGOs play a central role in addressing SD issues.
- Many Regional Strategies with ineffective implementation and monitoring and weak influence on national efforts.
- Energy and Water prices reforms are a major shift in public policy.
- To achieve the global goals, LAS and other regional institutions need to move from rhetoric declarations to implementation on the ground.
- Arab countries need to strengthen their legislative and institutional frameworks.



Thank you

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