



## POLICY PROGRAM

### ○ Annual report on the state of Arab environment

AFED's expert-written policy-oriented annual reports have become the main reference on the state of Arab environment. After its 2008 ground-breaking report, Arab Environment: Future Challenges, AFED released seven more reports: Impact of Climate Change on Arab Countries (2009), Water: Sustainable Management of a Scarce Resource (2010), Green Economy: Sustainable Transition in a Changing Arab World (2011), Survival Options: Ecological Footprint of Arab Countries (2012), Sustainable Energy (2013), Food Security (2014), and Sustainable Consumption (2015).

Findings and recommendations of AFED's reports have been endorsed by national and regional bodies throughout the Arab region. Reforms in energy and water subsidies, championed by AFED to encourage more efficient use of resources, attracted wide support, with six Arab countries implementing actual measures to phase out subsidies.

AFED's reports are key references in studies, reports and reprints published by regional and international organizations, including UNEP, ESCWA, World Bank, League of Arab States (LAS), Kuwait Development Fund, FAO, CIHEAM, and in major journals.

### ○ Annual convention

AFED organizes an annual convention where its annual report findings and recommendations are discussed. The most recent AFED convention, held in Beirut in November 2015, was about sustainable consumption for better resource management in the Arab region. It brought together over 750 officials and delegates from public and private sectors, research centers, civil society and media. Previous conventions in Manama, Sharjah, Amman and Beirut covered the themes: Food Security, Sustainable Energy, Ecological Footprint, Green Economy, Water, Climate Change, and Future Challenges.

AFED conventions issue recommendations for action, which are discussed with governments and other stakeholders. These recommendations have contributed to changes in national policies.

### ○ Policy advisory role

AFED enjoys full consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission (ECOSOC) and observer member status with UNEP, UNFCCC, LAS and other bodies. AFED continues to execute its advisory role to the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE), as part of its observer status with the League of Arab States (LAS).

Internationally recognized as an Arab think tank, AFED has played a major role in international negotiations on environment and development, including advising Arab governments and regional organizations on matters such as climate change, green economy, water and energy management and sustainable development.

### AFED's main programs:

- Policy Program
- Green Economy and Corporate Environmental Responsibility Program
- Awareness and Education Program

#### For More Information

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# AWARENESS AND EDUCATION PROGRAM

### ○ Al-Bia Wal-Tanmia magazine

Al-Bia Wal-Tanmia (Environment & Development) magazine is AFED's main awareness vehicle, published bi-monthly in Beirut and circulated throughout the Arab region. It now hosts the largest Arab social environment community. Its portal ([www.AFEDmag.com](http://www.AFEDmag.com)), which includes all its archive since 1996, attracts more than 2 million monthly visits. Its Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/afedmag](http://www.facebook.com/afedmag)) has more than 930,000 followers.

14 leading newspapers in the Arab region publish monthly environment pages in cooperation with AFED and Al-Bia Wal-Tanmia.

### ○ Environmental education

AFED has developed an environmental education program for schools, supported by a comprehensive handbook and website ([www.afed-ecoschool.org](http://www.afed-ecoschool.org)). It provides all material needed to initiate environmental activities in schools and incorporate environment in academic curricula. Thousands of teachers were trained on environmental education in workshops based on this program, which expanded its reach to schools in Lebanon, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Algeria and other Arab countries.

AFED publishes the Green Bulletin, a wall chart for environmental education. AFED school competitions targeting environmental action attract thousands of entries. AFED donated to Arab public schools, through ministries of education, more than 10,000 environmental books published by Al-Bia Wal-Tanmia magazine, to enhance their environment libraries.

AFED's 2015 public opinion survey on consumption patterns attracted 31,000 participants from 22 Arab countries.

### ○ Documentaries

AFED produced 12 environmental educational documentaries. Five were produced in 2015: Consuming the Future, Manmade Deserts, The Seas Support Lives, What to Do with Our Wastes, and The Air We Breathe. They added to the previous documentaries: Testimony of an Old Man (2008), Wet and Dry (2009), The Last Drop (2010), Green Change (2011), Survival Options (2012), Powering the Arab Future (2013), and Feeding 400 Million Arabs (2014). AFED documentaries are aired on national and regional networks.

### ○ Internships and fellowships

Future Environment Leaders Forum (FELF): Students from universities which are AFED academic members and other universities meet in FELF network. They join internship and exchange programs and participate in AFED's reports and conferences. They also organize activities in their universities to promote sound environmental management and sustainable development. AFED's short internship program, in cooperation with member universities in different Arab countries, hosted 50 senior students and fresh graduates in AFED 2015 annual conference.

AFED Media Club: Journalists active with AFED operate through AFED Media Club network. 18 journalists are currently supported by AFED for its media fellowship program.

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## GREEN ECONOMY / CORPORATE ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY PROGRAM

### ○ AFED's Arab Green Economy Initiative (AGEI)

IN 2009, AFED launched its Arab Green Economy Initiative (AGEI), designed to facilitate the transition of governments and businesses to more environment friendly practices. It triggered the development of green growth strategies at the national and regional levels.

AFED plans to engage all sectors by offering facilitation, capacity building, and technical assistance to enable these partnerships become a driver for green economy. Specifically, AFED will launch the following programs as a backbone for an Arab Green Economy Initiative: Economics of Ecosystem Investing, Corporate Environmental Responsibility (CER), Arab Green Enterprises, Public Policy Recommendations, Sustainability Reporting, New Business Models and Sustainability, Product Stewardship Workshops, Environmental Housekeeping Handbook, Web-based Consumer Education.

AFED is an active member of the Global Green Growth Forum (3GF), where it presented the Green Economy vision in Copenhagen. AFED is also a main contributor at the Green Growth Knowledge Platform (GGKP), participating in its various activities, meetings and programs.

AFED's annual report, Green Economy: Sustainable Transition in a Changing Arab World, published in 2011, was presented and discussed in regional and international meetings, and used to develop green growth strategies in many Arab countries.

### ○ Corporate Environmental Responsibility (CER)

In 2007, AFED launched its Corporate Environmental Responsibility (CER) initiative in Abu Dhabi, at the conclusion of the Arab CER Summit organized by AFED and Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi. Over 120 CEOs, representing major business sectors from across the Arab world, committed to advance CER principles and set a target to reduce energy and water consumption by 20% in their operations by 2012. More AFED members are doing so.

AFED's Environmental Sustainability Reporting Initiative will enable corporate members to adopt a set of environmental accounting tools to communicate their environmental performance to the larger public. The CER program organizes workshops to present methods, tools, processes, and case studies for planning and implementing CER projects.

### ○ Water and Energy Efficiency

AFED produced two handbooks identifying opportunities to increase energy and water efficiency in industry, buildings and agriculture in Arab countries. Investment in this endeavour normally pays back through reduced operating costs.

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