UNEP signs Landmark Agreement with League of Arab States to Strengthen Partnership on Environment and Sustainable Development

A bilateral meeting between UNEP and PERSGA

UNEP and the Islamic Development Bank discuss future ways of collaboration

UNEP calls on the Arab countries to engage in the process of preparation for the second United Nations Environment Assembly in June

Organization of Islamic Cooperation and UNEP discuss the common area of cooperation

Talks about the establishment of a Green Economy Center of Excellence in Dubai are gaining new momentum

Al Sayer Group provides 50 Thousand dollars to support UNEP International Children Painting Competition

UN Crisis Response Plan for the Arab region

Arab Forum for Environment and Development convene its 7th Conference on the theme of Food Security

United Nations and Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi

Enhance International Cooperation for Migratory Species of Wild Animals

First national stakeholder consultation workshop on combating desertification in Kuwait
I. GOOD TO KNOW

UNEP signs Landmark Agreement with League of Arab States to Strengthen Partnership on Environment and Sustainable Development

Efforts to address environmental challenges across the 22 countries of the Arab region were enhanced with the signing of a new agreement between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the League of Arab States (LAS). UNEP Deputy Executive Director Ibrahim Thiaw and H.E. Mr. Mohamed At-Twaijri - Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs of the League of Arab States signed the new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) - at the 26th Meeting of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE), held in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The MoU - which builds upon a previous agreement signed in 1986 - provides the basis for enhanced cooperation between UNEP and LAS. It reflects the two organizations’ shared priorities and responds to the outcome of the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development in June 2012, which strengthened the role of UNEP as the world’s leading global environmental authority.

UNEP and LAS agreed to reinforce cooperation and coordination in the planning and implementation of global and regional environmental programmes in the region. The renewed cooperation will cover a wide range of activities, programmes and projects in areas such as the green economy, post conflict assessments and recovery, climate change, water resources, biodiversity, sustainable consumption and production, and environmental governance.

The new MoU is developed in accordance with the joint UN-LAS strategic priorities for Economic, Social and Environmental Clusters for the period 2013-2017.

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It also acknowledges the outcomes and decisions of the relevant specialized Arab Ministerial Councils and their subsidiaries committees/groups that intersect with UNEP mandate and Programme of Work in particular the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for Environment (CAMRE) and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN). A cooperation mechanism between UNEP and LAS has been agreed upon to ensure the efficient implementation of joint activities and initiatives. UNEP has continued its support to LAS through the CAMRE over the years, with emphasis on priority programmes identified at the annual Ministerial Meetings. The regional MOU signed in 1986 between UNEP and LAS enabled the consolidation of available resources and ensured that regional activities focus on the priorities identified by the Ministerial Councils and within the UNEP global environmental programme.

A Bilateral meeting between UNEP and PERSGA took place

UNEP Deputy Executive Director Ibrahim Thiaw met with the Secretary General of the Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA), Dr. Zyad Abugharara marking a new step towards enhancing the collaboration between the two parties.

Mr. Thiaw expressed his commitment to expanding the UNEP-PERSGA partnership. Ties between the two organizations are rooted in the shared desire for achieving equity and sustainable development purposes. The ecosystem based adaptation project carried out by PERSGA with the collaboration of UNEP in Djibouti was a successful experience and demonstration project which could be replicated in other countries of the region. The discussions aimed at identifying common ground for collaboration where the geographical and thematic strategies coincide between the two organizations.

وقد تم الاتفاق على آلية للتعاون بين برنامج الأمم المتحدة وجامعة الدول العربية لضمان التنفيذ الفعال للأنشطة والمبادرات المشتركة. كما كان برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة قد أصل دعمه لجامعة الدول العربية من خلال مجلس الوزراء العربي المسؤولين عن شؤون البيئة خلال السنوات الماضية، مركزاً على البرامج ذات الأولوية التي تحدد في الاجتماعات الوزارية السنوية. وقد ساهمت مذكرة التفاهم التي وقعت في عام 1986 بين برنامج الأمم المتحدة وجامعة الدول العربية في توحيد الموارد المتاحة، وتجنب الإزدواجية في النشاطات والتركيز على الأنشطة الإقليمية وفقاً للأولويات التي حددتها المجالس الواقية ووفقاً لبرامج العمل العالمية لبرنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة.

لقاء ثنائي يجمع برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة والهيئة الإقليمية للمحافظة على بيئة البحر الأحمر وخليج عدن

التقى نائب المدير التنفيذي لبرنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة، السيد إبراهيم ثياو بالامين العام للهيئة الإقليمية للمحافظة على بيئة البحر الأحمر وخليج عدن - برسجاء، الدكتور زياد ابو غرارة في خطة جديدة نحو تعزيز التعاون بين الطرفين.

وقد أعرب السيد ثياو عن نية برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة بتوعيس الشراكة مع برسجاء، التي تتمثل بالرغبة المشتركة لتحقيق الأهداف مثل الإنصاف والتنمية المستدامة. وكان مشروع التكيف القائم على النظم الحيوية الذي نفذته الهيئة بالتعاون مع برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة في جيبوتي تجربة ناجحة يمكن تكرارها في بلدان أخرى في المنطقة. كما هدف اللقاء إلى تحديد مجالات التعاون بين المنظمتين خصوصا تلك التي تسق من خلالها الاستراتيجيات الجغرافية والموضوعية التي وضعها كل من الطرفين.
UNEP and the Islamic Development Bank discuss future ways of collaboration

A high level meeting between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) has been held in Saudi Arabia on the sideline of the meeting of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE) to discuss the key modalities of collaboration in the several environment and sustainable development areas including, among others, the promotion of the sustainable transport, capacity building to enhance IDB staff’s skills on environmental assessment, knowledge sharing especially on climate change.

Committed to developing internal standard-setting policies that are equivalent to the best international environmental practices, IDB intends to establish in collaboration with UNEP, the Environment Safe Guards. The Bank has also established a coherent environmental policy to tackle the dry lands systems, innovative financing, green Waqf, and sustainable energy for all.

The concrete actions that are intended to be translated into a memorandum of understanding to be signed by UNEP and IDB in early 2015 are as follows:

- UNEP brings its expertise to train and share knowledge with IDB staff on environmental issues and challenges.
- IDB brings its expertise to train UNEP staff on Islamic finance.
- To explore possible role of IDB in the UNEP finance Initiative.
- To work together on the key environmental issues such as agriculture, food security, Environment and climate change, eco-innovation and Islamic finance.

UNEP and the Islamic Development Bank discuss future ways of collaboration

برنرمج الامم المتحدة للبيئة والبنك الاسلامي للتنمية

 يناقشان سبل التعاون المستقبلية

تم عقد اجتماع رفيع المستوى بين برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة والبنك الإسلامي للتنمية للتكامل في المملكة العربية السعودية على هامش اجتماع مجلس الوزراء العرب المسؤولين عن شؤون البيئة، بهدف مناقشة سبل التعاون في مجالات عدة على علاقة بالبيئة والتنمية المستدامة بما في ذلك، من بين قضايا أخرى تعزيز النقل المستدام، وبناء القدرات لتعزيز مهارات العاملين في مجال التقييم البيئي، وتقاسم المعرفة خاصة في مجال تغير المناخ. كما يسعى البنك الإسلامي للتنمية والذي يعرف عن التزامه بتطوير السياسات ووضع المعايير لأفضل الممارسات البيئية الدولية، إلى التعاون مع برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة لتعزيز الضمانات البيئية.

ويعمل البنك الإسلامي من خلال سياساته البيئية على معالجة قضايا متعددة منها نظام الأرضي الجاف، والتمويل المبتكر، الوقف الخضر، والطاقة المستدامة للجميع، وتتضمن الإجراءات المتموسة التي ستترجم في مذكرة تفاهم يوقعها كل من برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة والبنك الإسلامي للتنمية في أوائل عام 2015، الخطوات التالية:

- يقدم برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة خبراته لتدريب وتبادل المعارف مع موظفي البنك الإسلامي للتنمية بشأن القضايا والتحديات البيئية.
- كما يقدم البنك الإسلامي للتنمية خبراته في مجال التمويل الإسلامي لتدريب موظفي برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة.
- تحديد الدور المحتمل للبنك الإسلامي للتنمية في مبادرة التمويل التي أطلقتها برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة.
- الاتفاق على آلية العمل المشترك لمعالجة القضايا البيئية الرئيسية مثل الزراعة والأمن الغذائي والبيئة وتغير المناخ، والابتكار البيئي، والتمويل الإسلامي.
The 26th Session of CAMRE was opened by H.E. Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Jasser-President of Presidency of Meteorology and Environment (PME) of Saudi Arabia, H.E. Mr. Mohamed At-Twaijri- Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs of the League of Arab States, Deputy Executive Director of UNEP, Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw along with Ministers and Heads of Environment Authorities from 13 Arab countries.

In his key note address, Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw noted the importance of collaboration between UNEP and the League of Arab states which was translated into the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen partnership and commitment to address the environmental challenges and opportunities of the region. Mr. Thiaw emphasized the growth that many countries of the region is witnessing including the new infrastructures. But at the same time, there are many questions about the sustainability of some approaches, such as the energy efficiency of these buildings and the water policies adopted, as well as the land management systems. In other words: how sustainable are our production and consumption patterns? Admittingly, these are difficult questions that all countries, not only Arab countries, have to face, said Mr. Thiaw.

He added that Arab countries are highly committed to adopt greener, cleaner and sustainable policies each according to its national priorities but all in the same right direction. He encouraged all Arab countries to actively and constructively engage in the process of preparation for UNEA-2 and ensure the reflection of the regional priorities in the themes and agenda of the 2nd Environment Assembly of UNEP in 2016.
Mr. Thiaw praised the commitment towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by Arab countries despite the challenging conditions the Arab region witnesses over the last few years.

He also highlighted several of key emerging issues important to the region and globally including the uniqueness of the region in terms of its environmental fragility, potential impact of climate change on compounding the scarcity of ecosystems services and Conflicts, and in particular armed ones, long and short term impacts on development, and on environmental and human well-being. He also referred to key success stories from the Arab region on areas of food-water-energy nexus as well as climate change adaptation, moving forward with the green economy principles by many member states and other examples of success stories from the region.

The renewed cooperation will cover a wider range of activities, programmes and projects in areas such as the green economy, post conflict assessments and recovery, climate change, water resources, biodiversity, sustainable consumption and production, and environmental governance.
A bilateral meeting between the representatives of UNEP and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) took place at the sidelines of the 26th session of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE). The meeting focused on the importance of coordination and consultation between the two parties on issues of common interest and the need to follow-up the implementation of the terms of the amended agreement of cooperation between the two organizations.

The two parties addressed a set of issues of interest to both organizations, particularly terrorism in the Arab region and possible means to contribute to resolving the crises in some countries of the region.

UNEP discussed with OIC the ways to develop joint environmental actions in the various environmental fields. OIC is preparing the Summit of Heads of State and government on the science and technology relating to the environmental degradation and climate change where UNEP will be engaged in the technical preparations to this summit. OIC expressed its willingness to involve UNEP in the capacity-building and training activities, including the mobilization of the political commitment for diplomats and parliamentarians.

Organization of Islamic Cooperation and UNEP discuss the common area of cooperation

A عقد اجتماع ثنائي بين ممثلي برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة ومنظمة التعاون الإسلامي وذلك على هامش الدورة السادسة والعشرين لمجلس الوزراء العربي المسؤولين عن شؤون البيئة.

ركز الاجتماع على أهمية التنسيق والتشاور بين الطرفين حول القضايا ذات الاهتمام المشترك وضرورة متابعة تنفيذ بنود اتفاقية التعاون بين المنظمتين. كما تناول الطرفان مجموعة من القضايا ذات الصلة المشتركة، وخاصة تأثير الإرهاب في المنطقة العربية والوسائل المتاحة للمساهمة في حل الأزمات في بعض بلدان المنطقة.

وناقش برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة ومنظمة المؤتمر الإسلامي سبل تطوير الإجراءات البيئية المشتركة في المجالات البيئية المختلفة.

وتستعد المنظمة لعقد قمة رؤساء الدول والحكومات حول العلم والتكنولوجيا المتعلقين بتغير المناخ والتهديد البيئي ويسارك برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة في التحضيرات التقنية لهذه القمة. وقد أعربت منظمة المؤتمر الإسلامي استعدادها لإشراك برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة أيضاً في أنشطة بناء القدرات والتدريب، بما في ذلك برنامج تعبئة الالتزام السياسي للدبلوماسيين والبرلمانيين.
Minister Rashid Ahmad bin Fahad of the Ministry of Water and Environment of UAE announced the establishment of a Green Economy Center of Excellence in Dubai during the first global Partnership on Action for Green Economy (PAGE) conference, last year. The Centre of Excellence, whose mission is to deliver scientific and technical services in the area of greening the Arab region economy, is part of PAGE strategy to help countries to develop their green economy strategies and conduct sectoral assessments.

Discussions between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Ministry of Water and Environment of UAE reached an agreement to finance a study to assess both supply and demand for services that the Centre of Excellence in Dubai might provide and how the centre can complement what already exists. The study will also help identify scenarios for the purpose and functioning of the centre based on the existing experiences with centres of excellence.

Talks about the establishment of a Green Economy Center of Excellence in Dubai are gaining new momentum

المحادثات حول إنشاء مركز التميز الدولي للاقتصاد الأخضر في دبي تكتسب زخما جديداً

كان قد أعلن معايلي الدكتور راشد أحمد بن فهد وزير المياه والبيئة في دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة عن إنشاء مركز التميز الدولي للاقتصاد الأخضر في دبي، وذلك خلال المؤتمر الأول للشراكة العالمية للعمل من أجل الاقتصاد الأخضر الذي عقد العام المنصرم.

وتمت مسألة مركز التميز في تقديم الخدمات العلمية والتقنية في مجال تخصيص الاقتصاد لمساعدة البلدان على وضع استراتيجيات الاقتصاد الأخضر وإجراء القيادات القطاعية.

وتواصل الفريقان من خلال المناقشات إلى اتفاق لتمويل دراسة تقييم كل من العرض والطلب على الخدمات الذي يمكن لمركز التميز أن يقدمها أو الخدمات التي سيكملها. سوف تساعد هذه الدراسة أيضاً على تحديد سيناريوهات سير العمل في المركز، وأهدافه والاستفادة من خبرات مراكز التميز الموجودة.
Al Sayer Group is one of the major trading companies that maintains a high reputation both in Kuwait and overseas as a leading business which has been built up since 1954 when the company was first established to engage in general trading and car imports. Since then, the Group has been expanding and diversifying to have a wide range of activities and companies. Al Sayer Group supported UNEP/ROWA youth activities in 2013, namely the UNEP International Children Painting Competition (ICPC). The company has organized an environmental event in Kuwait to encourage 500 kids to participate in the competition.

Al Sayer Group has expressed its willingness to collaborate with UNEP on Youth activities in the region. Therefore, UNEP and Al Sayer Group representatives agreed to partner for the International Children Painting Competition (ICPC) 2014-2015. The agreement resulted in the financial contribution of fifty thousand US dollars that shall cover activities relating to the ICPC costs at the global level. In his address, UNEP Regional Representative, Mr. Iyad Abumoghi noted the key role that the business sector plays to enhance the implementation and achievement of the sustainable development goals. He underlined the importance of partnership with businesses to raise awareness and reduce the environmental challenges and open new opportunities. The UNEP visit to Kuwait has also included a visit to the Green Camp that AL Sayer Group is organizing to promote sustainable and renewable energy.
UN CRISIS Response Plan for the Arab region

The West Asia, and wider Arab region, is currently home to a number of conflict and security-related situations that impact on many, have seen a large number of internal and cross-border refugees and have environmental impacts for which UNEP’s technical inputs have been sought by member states and the UN system. A UNDP Sub-regional Facility has been established to lead, with UNHCR, a resilience-based development response to the Syrian Crisis, which aims to coordinate humanitarian and development assistance under a single framework. The resilience-based development paradigm includes ‘sustainable natural resource management’ as one of its focal areas, and as such UNEP has been providing ongoing technical guidance to the ongoing work. To operationalise this, and provide an umbrella framework for the national based response plans, a Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) has been prepared.

At the national level, the Jordan Response Plan (JRP) is being developed, led by the Government of Jordan and engaging UN agencies and civil society. The aim of the JRP includes protection of people and humanitarian emergency assistance to the estimated 1.3 million Syrian refugees in the country, as well as to support and strengthen the resilience of host communities in dealing with the refugee influx. UNEP is working with the Jordan Response Platform Steering Committee (JRPSC) Secretariat to focus efforts of the various Sector Task Teams to ensure that environment is mainstreamed across the proposed interventions and that “do no harm” extends to the environment. In parallel UNEP is undertaking a rapid assessment of the environmental impacts of the refugee crisis in Jordan, in cooperation with UNDP. This will serve to support the development of further environmentally-related interventions. In Lebanon, the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan is also being prepared, and again UNEP has promoted the inclusion of environment, with the latest move being to include this as a cross-cutting issue in the same way as in Jordan.
II. UNEP ON THE GROUND

Arab Forum for Environment and Development convene its 7th Conference on the theme of Food Security

Sustenance and food were in part some of the major drivers sparking human civilization in the region; the cultivation of crops and domestication of farm animals paved the way for the historical role the Fertile Crescent played as the cradle of civilization. Thousands of years later, food and its security are as relevant in today’s societies as they were back then, remaining a question of great concern to the Arab region.

Continuing UNEP’s 2013 campaign to “Think. Eat. Save”, and stemming from its continued relevance to the United Nations and the region, UNEP participated alongside 750 delegates from 45 countries in the 7th Annual Conference of the Arab Forum for Environment and Development on Food Security in Amman, Jordan 26-27 November. Participants included government representatives, regional organizations, UN agencies, civil society and a focused set of Young Leaders from universities across the region.

Dedicated to discussing the recently published AFED Food Security Report, the Conference endorsed a number of recommendations that prove the effectiveness of an integrated sustainable model in what at times seems like near impossible circumstance. The 11 recommendations came at an opportune time as the world gears up towards the Post 2015 Development Agenda, and Sustainable Development Goals, with themes relevant to the international community but central in their focus including:

- strengthening regional cooperation based on comparative advantage (south-south model);
- action to address deteriorating agricultural resources, and sustain their bio-capacity to produce;
- boosting water and crop efficiency to reach self sufficiency;
- strengthening investment in scientific research and development;
- sustainably developing livestock and fisheries;
- raising awareness and advocating for informed consumer decision making;

المؤتمر السنوي السابع حول الأمن الغذائي

منذ العيش والغذاء،هما جزء من العناصر الأساسية اللزمة لتكوين أثر الحضارة الإنسانية في المنطقة؛ إذ أن زراعة المحاصيل وتدجين الحيوانات مهدت الطريق للدور التاريخي للهلال الخصيب الذي يعتبر ميد الحضارة. فمنذ آلاف السنين كان وما زال الأمن الغذائي في المجتمعات مسألة تثير قلقاً كبيراً خصوصاً في المنطقة العربية.

ولتعزيز حملة برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة "فكر. كل. وفر", شارك برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة جنباً إلى جنب مع 750 مندوباً من 45 دولة في المؤتمر السنوي السابع للمنتدى العربي للبيئة والتنمية حول الأمن الغذائي في عمان، الأردن، من 26-27 تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر.

وكان من بين المشاركين ممثلي الحكومات والمنظمات الإقليمية وكوكوات الأمم المتحدة والمجتمع المدني ومجموعة من القادة الشباب من الجامعات في مختلف أنحاء المنطقة.

هدف المؤتمر لمناقشة تقرير المنتدى العربي للبيئة والتنمية حول الأمن الغذائي الذي نشر مؤخراً، وقد أيد المؤتمر عددًا من التوصيات التي تمت خلال المؤتمر في العديد من المواضيع الأخرى بما في ذلك:

- تعزيز التعاون الإقليمي على أساس الميزة النسبية (نموذج الجنوب والجنوب);
- العمل لمعالجة تدهور الموارد الزراعية، واستدامة الفترات الحيوية على الإنتاج.
- تعزيز كفاءة استخدام المياه والمحاصيل للوصول إلى الإكتفاء الذاتي.
- تعزيز الاستمرار في البحث العلمي والتنمية.
- تطوير آيات استدامة الثروة الحيوانية ومصادر الأسماك.

رفع مستوى الوعي وتحفيز صنع القرار لدى المستهلك.
The Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), administered by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD) have agreed to extend their arrangement by which an office for the Convention was established in Abu Dhabi in 2009. H.E. Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak, Secretary General of EAD and Mr. Bradnee Chambers, Executive Secretary of CMS, signed the agreement in Abu Dhabi and Quito, respectively, as part of the Eleventh Meeting of the Convention’s Conference of the Parties (CMS COP11) taking place in Ecuador this week.

The original agreement was signed in October 2009 following an offer by EAD on behalf of the Government of the United Arab Emirates to host an office of the CMS Secretariat in Abu Dhabi. The Office has been located at EAD Headquarters ever since. Many migratory species of interest to the UAE are also the focus of the Convention. CMS Office - Abu Dhabi coordinates activities to address common threats to migratory species of national and regional importance including birds, marine mammals and marine turtles.

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H.E. Al Mubarak added, “The two CMS agreements support the conservation activities of Abu Dhabi and the UAE, and provide a platform for the nation to co-operate both regionally and globally with other countries that share these migratory animals as they pass through our marine and terrestrial environments at different times of the year.”

Mr. Lyle Glowka, Executive Coordinator of CMS Office - Abu Dhabi, noted that the Office represents a major collaboration between the Convention on Migratory Species, the United Nations Environment Programme, and EAD on behalf of the United Arab Emirates to conserve migratory species for the benefit of present and future generations. “The Office serves 147 countries across Africa; Europe; Central, Western and Southern Asia; and the Western Pacific regions”, he said, adding, “EAD’s investment has been critical to our mission of promoting international cooperation across the vast range of the migratory animals we work on, and is one of the many ways the UAE has demonstrated its global leadership on migratory species conservation”.

وذكرت سعادت رزان المبارك: "تدعم اتفاقيتي المحافظة على الأنواع المهاجرة من الحيوانات القطرية الجهود التي تبذلها إمارة أبوظبي ودولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة للمحافظة على الأنواع، كما أنها توفر منصة لدولة الإمارات لتعزيز التعاون الإقليمي والدولي مع الدول الأخرى التي تشارك في استقبال هذه الطيور المهاجرة في بيئاتها البحرية والبرية في أوقات مختلفة من العام.

في حين أشار لويلي جلاوكا، المنسق التنفيذي لمكتب معاهدة المحافظة على الأنواع المهاجرة من الحيوانات القطرية – أبوظبي إلى أن المكتب يمثل تعاوناً كبيراً بين معاهدة المحافظة على الأنواع المهاجرة، وبرنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة، وهيئة البيئة - أبوظبي نيابة عن دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة للحفاظ على الأنواع المهاجرة لصالح الأجيال الحالية والمستقبلية. وأضاف أن المكتب يقدم خدماته لـ 147 دولة في أفريقيا وأوروبا ووسط وغرب وجنوب آسيا ومنطقة غرب المحيط الهادئ، مشيراً إلى أن مشاركة هيئة البيئة – أبوظبي تعتبر ضرورية جداً في مهمتنا لتعزيز التعاون الدولي عبر النطاق الواسع للحيوانات المهاجرة الذي تعمل من خلاله، كما أنه أحد الوسائل الهامة التي تعبر بها دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة عن ريادتها في مجال المحافظة على الأنواع المهاجرة."
First national stakeholder consultation workshop on combating desertification in Kuwait

UNEP/ROWA, the Kuwait Environment Public Authority and the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science (KFAS) organized the first national stakeholder consultation workshop on combating desertification was held in Kuwait, 16-17 November 2014. The workshop is an important milestone within the process of developing National Action Programme to Combat Desertification (NAP) and its alignment to the 10-Year Strategic Plan of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification. The NAP is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). About 100 participants representing government agencies, private sector and non-government organizations (NGOs) actively engaged in the workshop deliberations. In his opening speech, the Deputy Director General of KEPA, Eng. Mohammed Al Enezi, highlighted Kuwait efforts to combat desertification and the new mandate given by the newly issued environment law (No. 42 of 2014) to KEPA with regard to regulations of activities that lead to land degradation and responsibilities for ecosystem restoration.

He referred to the most important statement in this law is to activate the environment police that will deal with environmental violations and reduce the destruction of vegetation and overgrazing in Kuwait. He also pointed out that the GCC states have to cooperate to combat this phenomenon that represents a real threat. UNEP representative, Dr Abdul-Majeid Haddad, highlighted the regional and global dimension of desertification and praised Kuwait for progressing on a number of indicators, notably the percentage of land area under environmental protection. During the workshop, participants learnt about the status of desertification in Kuwait, future trends on droughts based on climate models and relationship between drought, desertification and dust storms and the regional implications.

Several limited surveys and studies at the country level indicated that the terrestrial ecosystem is at the threat of high rate of desertification, especially within the context of a much hotter and drier climate in the future.

The workshop outcomes included 1) review of the baseline, 2) agreeing on a set of indicators, targets and actions aligned the UNCCD 10-Year Strategic Plan, 3) institutional mapping and 4) assessment of level of awareness on the UNCCD and desertification in general and capacity needs at the individual and institutional level.