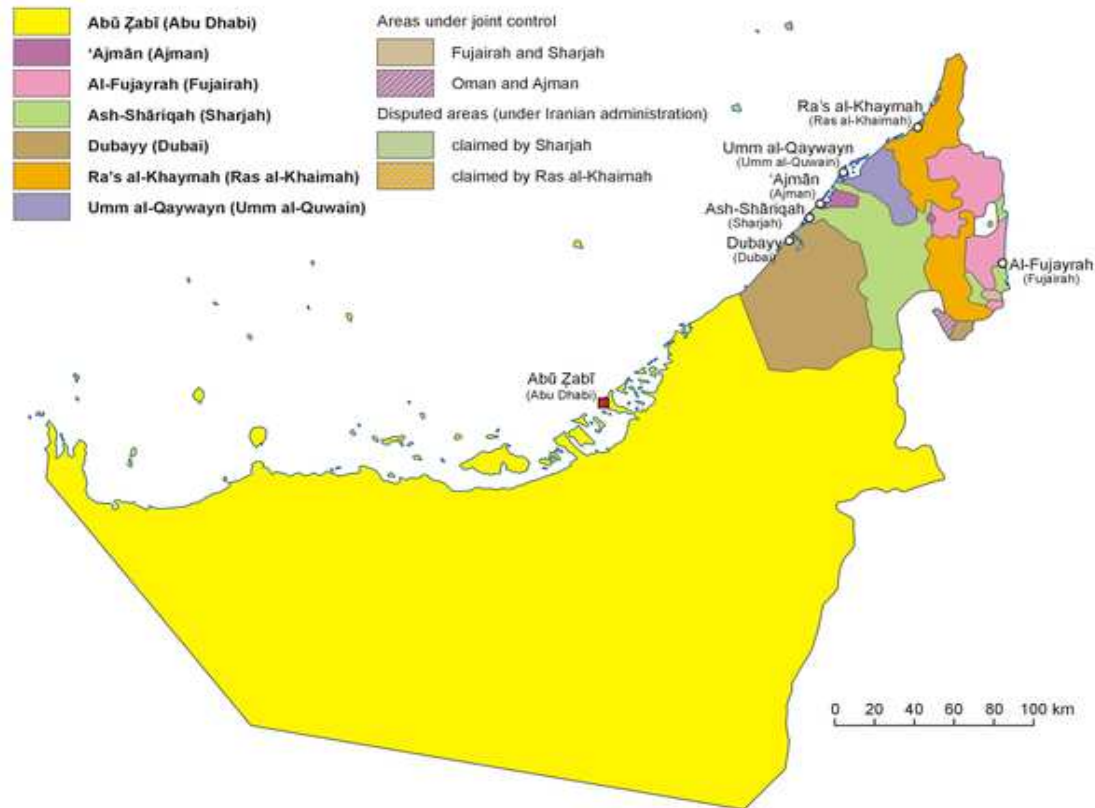


Action Plan for Implementing the Programme of Work on Protected Areas of the Convention on Biological Diversity



(INSERT PHOTO OF COUNTRY)

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Submitted to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity [DATE]

Protected area information:

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Lead implementing agency: (Add name of primary government agency)

Ministry of Environment and Water

Description of protected area system

Coverage

UAE Covered by more than 60 protected areas (marine and terrestrial protected areas), meanwhile only 21 are officially declared as shown bellow:-

Officially declared Marine Protected areas

Emirate	Protected area
Abu-Dhabi	Marawah PA
Abu-Dhabi	Al Yasat
Dubai	Ras elkhure
Dubai	Jabal Ali
Sharjah	Sir bunair
Fujairah	Bird island
Fujairah	Albadia
Fujairah	Alekka
Fujairah	Dedna

Officially declared terrestrial protected areas

Emirate	Protected area
Dubai	Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve
Sharjah	Wadi-Eihelw
Sharjah	Al-gheil
Sharjah	Khur kalba
Sharjah	Al-Berdy
Sharjah	Waset
Sharjah	Al-zolimaa
Sharjah	Al-madina
Sharjah	Jabal Al-Fayah
Ajman	Al-Zawraa
Ajman	Wadi Al-Naseem
Fujairah	Wadi Al-Wereah

Governance types

(Summary matrix of governance types)

- Government Protected Areas, 20 out of 21 officially declared PA are governmental
- Co-managed Protected Areas, one protected area is Co-managed protected area (Wadi Al-Wereah)

Progress in and plans for achieving the goals of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas

Progress: 0 = no work, 1 = just started, 2 = partially complete, 3 = nearly complete, 4 = complete

Goals of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas	Progress 0-4
• Progress in establishing and strengthening national and regional systems of protected areas (1.1)	2
• Progress in integrating protected areas into broader land- and seascapes and sectors so as to maintain ecological structure and function (1.2)	2
• Progress in establishing and strengthening regional networks, transboundary protected areas (TBPAs) and collaboration between neighbouring protected areas across national boundaries (1.3)	
• Progress in substantially improving site-based protected area planning and management (1.4)	2
• Progress in preventing and mitigating the negative impacts of key threats to protected areas (1.5)	2
• Progress in promoting equity and benefit-sharing (2.1)	1
• Progress in assessing and implementing diverse protected area governance types (2.1)	
• Progress in enhancing and securing involvement of indigenous and local communities and relevant stakeholders (2.2)	2
• Progress in providing an enabling policy, institutional and socio-economic environment for protected areas (3.1)	2
• Progress in assessing the contribution of protected areas to local and national economies (3.1)	
• Progress in building capacity for the planning, establishment and management of protected areas (3.2)	2
• Progress in developing, applying and transferring appropriate technologies for protected areas (3.3)	2
• Progress in ensuring financial sustainability of protected areas and national and regional systems of protected areas (3.4)	2
• Progress in strengthening communication, education and public awareness (3.5)	3
• Progress in developing and adopting minimum standards and best practices for national and regional protected area systems (4.1)	2
• Progress in evaluating and improving the effectiveness of protected areas management (4.2)	2
• Progress in assessing and monitoring protected area status and trends (4.3)	2
• Progress in ensuring that scientific knowledge contributes to the establishment and effectiveness of protected areas and protected area systems (4.4)	3
• Progress in marine protected areas	2
• Progress in incorporating climate change aspects into protected areas	1

Priority activities for fully implementing the Programme of Work on Protected Areas:

Action 1: *(Strengthen the communication and cooperation among concerned stakeholders)*

Key steps	Timeline	Responsible parties	Indicative budget
Establish a permanent joint committee for protected areas to ensure effective participation of all concerned parties and stakeholders	2013-2015	MoEW – competitive authorities	

Action 2: *(Integration of conservation work and issues)*

Key steps	Timeline	Responsible parties	Indicative budget
Specify the priority conservation hotspots	2012 - 2014	MoEW – competitive authorities	
Define the roles of each stakeholders regarding protection of biodiversity hotspots	2013 - 2014	MoEW – competitive authorities	
Develop and implement National Communication Plan	2014 - 2015	MoEW – competitive authorities	

Action 3: *(Issue necessary legislation on protected areas designation and governance)*

Key steps	Timeline	Responsible parties	Indicative budget
Review and update the existing legislation for PAs	2013 -2014	MoEW	
Implement and enforce the legislation	2014 - 2020	MoEW – competitive authorities	

Action 4: *(Development, implementation and Review of protected areas management plans)*

Key steps	Timeline	Responsible parties	Indicative budget
Develop/establish site-specific management plans for 40% of existing protected areas	2013 - 2020	MoEW – competitive authorities	
Conduct management effectiveness evaluation for 50% of existing management plans for protected areas	2013 – 2020	MoEW – competitive authorities	
Capacity building for MoEW and competitive authorities' staff on protected areas management, evaluation effectiveness and monitoring.	2013 - 2020	MoEW – competitive authorities	

Action 5: *(Developing best practices and minimum standards for protected areas)*

Key steps	Timeline	Responsible parties	Indicative budget
Development, testing, review and promotion of protected areas standards and best practices on planning and management.	2016 - 2020	MoEW – competitive authorities	
Develop and implement an efficient, long-term monitoring system	2014 - 2020	MoEW – competitive authorities	
Use monitoring results to adapt and improve protected area management based on the ecosystem approach.	2016 – 2020	MoEW – competitive authorities	

Develop appropriate methods and indicators for protected area management.	2014 - 2016	MoEW – competitive authorities	
Use of new technologies including geographic information system and remote sensing tools for monitoring protected areas.	2014 - 2020	MoEW – competitive authorities	

Key assessment results

Ecological gap assessment

- Isolation of protected areas
- Habitats fragmentation

Management effectiveness assessment

- Lack of clear management plans for most protected areas
- Deficiency in communication and cooperation between related agencies

Sustainable finance assessment

- Sustainable finance is not yet established in the management plans of some protected areas
- Lack of clear vision for ecotourism in some protected areas
- Allocation of necessary funds for protected areas conservation and management

Capacity needs assessment

- Capacity building for PAs designation, planning and management
- Capacity building for conservation activities
- Capacity building for scientific research and use of modern technology
- Provide incentives for skilled work force in PAs

- Strengthen scientific expertise integration and networking among related agencies
- Establishment of a rangers system for protection and monitoring

Policy environment assessment

- There is a need to develop National Biodiversity Strategy (it will be finalized by the end of 2013) in addition to updating the existing National Protected Areas Strategy (by the end of 2012).

Protected area integration and mainstreaming assessment

- There is a need to develop guidelines for integrated management plan for protected areas (it will be ready by the end of 2012).

Protected area valuation assessment

- There is a need to develop valuation of ecosystems services in UAE.

Climate change resilience and adaptation assessment

- There is a need to know status of protected areas under climate change impacts. UAE is currently preparing a comprehensive plan for different scenarios of climate change resilience and adaptation within PAs.