

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



(State of Kuwait)

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# Protected area information:

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## **Lead implementing agency:**

Environment Public Authority

## **Multi-stakeholder committee:**

Environment Public Authority  
Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Resources  
Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research  
Kuwait Municipality  
Ministry of Interior  
Ministry of Defense  
Kuwait Volunteer Center

# Description of protected area system

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## National Targets and Vision for Protected Areas

- Protection and conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity,
- Conservation of cultural values,
- Scientific researches,
- Public awareness,
- Sustainability of resources,
- Ecotourism,

## Coverage

Current and proposed protected areas cover about 3606.935 km<sup>2</sup>. The area represents 20% of Kuwait's total area.

## Description and background

No	Name	Status
1.	Jahra Pool Reserve	Established in 1987
2.	Doha Reserve	Established in 1988
3.	Sabah Al-Ahmad Natural Reserve	Established in 1987, renamed in 2004
4.	Sulaibikhat Bay Bird Sanctuary	Established in 2000
5.	Mubarak Al-Kabeer Reserve	Declared in 2010
6.	Um Neqa	Declared in 2011
7.	Al-Howaimeliah	Declared in 2011
8.	Um Qudair	Declared in 2011
9.	Wadi Al-Batin	Declared in 2011
10.	Khadmah/Khuwaisat Area	Declared in 2012, added to Jahra Reserve area
11.	Transboundary Area	Declared in 2011

## Governance types

No	Name	Governance
1.	Jahra Pool Reserve	EPA (Government Agency)
2.	Doha Reserve	EPA (Government Agency)
3.	Sabah Al-Ahmad Natural Reserve	KCVW (NGO)
4.	Sulaibikhat Bay Bird Sanctuary	KCVW (NGO)
5.	Mubarak Al-Kabeer Reserve	EPA, PAAF (Co-managed, Government Agencies)
6.	Um Neqa	EPA, PAAF (Co-managed, Government Agencies)
7.	Al-Howaimeliah	EPA, PAAF (Co-managed, Government Agencies)
8.	Um Qudair	EPA, PAAF (Co-managed, Government Agencies)
9.	Wadi Al-Batin	EPA, PAAF (Co-managed, Government Agencies)
10.	Khadmah/Khuwaisat Area	EPA (Government Agency)
11.	Transboundary Area	EPA, PAAF (Co-managed, Government Agencies)

## Key threats

- Human activities (hunting, over-grazing, off-road driving, camping, etc..)
- Pollution
- Climate change

## Barriers for effective implementation

- Lack of necessary funds
- Lack of inter-organizational communication and integration

# Status, priority and timeline for key actions of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas

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## Status of key actions of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas

Status of key actions of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas	Status
• Progress on assessing <b>gaps in the protected area network</b> (1.1)	1
• Progress in assessing <b>protected area integration</b> (1.2)	1
• Progress in establishing <b>transboundary protected areas</b> and <b>regional networks</b> (1.3)	1
• Progress in developing <b>site-level management plans</b> (1.4)	1-2
• Progress in assessing <b>threats</b> and opportunities for <b>restoration</b> (1.5)	3
• Progress in assessing <b>equitable sharing</b> of benefits (2.1)	2
• Progress in assessing protected area <b>governance</b> (2.1)	2
• Progress in assessing the <b>participation</b> of indigenous and local communities in key protected area decisions (2.2)	(No local communities in PAs)
• Progress in assessing the <b>policy environment</b> for establishing and managing protected areas (3.1)	2
• Progress in assessing the <b>values</b> of protected areas (3.1)	3
• Progress in assessing protected area <b>capacity</b> needs (3.2)	3
• Progress in assessing the <b>appropriate technology</b> needs (3.3)	1
• Progress in assessing protected area <b>sustainable finance</b> needs (3.4)	1
• Progress in conducting <b>public awareness</b> campaigns (3.5)	2
• Progress in developing <b>best practices and minimum standards</b> (4.1)	1
• Progress in assessing <b>management effectiveness</b> (4.2)	2
• Progress in establishing an <b>effective PA monitoring system</b> (4.3)	2
• Progress in developing a <b>research program</b> for protected areas (4.4)	2
• Progress in assessing opportunities for <b>marine</b> protection	3
• Progress in incorporating <b>climate change</b> aspects into protected areas	1

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

## **Priority actions for fully implementing the Programme of Work on Protected Areas:**

- Strengthen the communication and cooperation among concerned stakeholders.
- Integration of conservation work and issues
- Issue necessary legislation on protected areas designation and governance.
- Review and implementation of protected areas management plans.
- Developing best practices and minimum standards for protected areas.

## **Timeline for completion of key actions**

- 2-3 years

## **Action Plans for completing priority actions of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas**

- Strengthen the communication and cooperation among concerned stakeholders.
  - Establish a permanent joint committee for protected areas
  - Ensure effective participation of all concerned parties and stakeholders
- Integration of conservation work and issues
  - Specify the priority conservation issues
  - Define the role of each organization
  - Develop, communicate and implement action plans for each organization
- Issue necessary legislation on protected areas designation and governance.
  - Review the proposed legislation for PAs
  - Follow up steps necessary for the issuance of the legislation
  - Implement and enforce the legislation articles

- Development, implementation and Review of protected areas management plans.
  - Develop/establish site-specific management plans for protected areas
  - Declare the management plan of each protected area
  - Evaluate management plans for protected areas
  - Implement the management plans
  - Review of management plans within the PAs committee
  
- Developing best practices and minimum standards for protected areas.
  - Collaborate with other Parties and relevant organizations, particularly IUCN, on the development, testing, review and promotion of protected areas standards and best practices on planning and management, governance and participation.
  - Develop and implement an efficient, long-term monitoring system
  - Use monitoring results to adapt and improve protected area management based on the ecosystem approach.
  - Develop appropriate methods, standards, criteria and indicators for evaluating the effectiveness of protected area management and governance, and set up a related database.
  - Implement national and regional programs to monitor and assess the status and trends of biodiversity within protected area systems and sites.
  - Use of new technologies including geographic information system and remote sensing tools for monitoring 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	3-6 months	EPA	
Ensure effective participation of all concerned parties and stakeholders	3-6 months	EPA, PAAF, KM, KISR, KCVW, MOI, MOD, KOC,	

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

Key steps	Timeline	Responsible parties	Indicative budget
Specify the priority conservation issues	6-12 months	EPA, PAAF, KISR, KCVW, MOI	
Define the role of each organization	6-12 months	EPA, PAAF, KM, KISR, KCVW, MOI, MOD, KOC, etc..	
Develop, communicate and implement action plans for each organization	6-12 months	EPA, PAAF, KM, KISR, KCVW, MOI, MOD, KOC, etc..	

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

Key steps	Timeline	Responsible parties	Indicative budget
Review the proposed legislation for PAs	3-6 months	EPA	
Follow up steps necessary for the issuance of the legislation	3-6 months	EPA	
Implement and enforce the legislation articles	1-2 years	EPA, PAAF, KM, KOC	

**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 protected areas	6-12 months	EPA, PAAF, KISR, KCVW	
Declare the management plan of each protected area	3-6 months	EPA, PAAF, KISR, KCVW	
Evaluate management plans for protected areas	3-6 months	EPA, PAAF, KISR, KCVW	
Implement the management plans	1-2 years	EPA, PAAF, KM, KISR, KCVW, MOI, MOD, KOC, etc..	
Review of management plans within the PAs committee	3-6 months	EPA, PAAF, KM, KISR, KCVW, MOI, MOD, KOC, etc..	



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

<b>Key steps</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible parties</b>	<b>Indicative budget</b>
Collaborate with other Parties and relevant organizations, particularly IUCN, on the development, testing, review and promotion of protected areas standards and best practices on planning and management, governance and participation.	1-2 years	EPA	
Develop and implement an efficient, long-term monitoring system	1-2 years	EPA	
Use monitoring results to adapt and improve protected area management based on the ecosystem approach.	6-12 months	EPA	
Develop appropriate methods, standards, criteria and indicators for evaluating the effectiveness of protected area management and governance, and set up a related database.	2-3 years	EPA	
Implement national and regional programs to monitor and assess the status and trends of biodiversity within protected area systems and sites.	2-3 years	EPA	
Use of new technologies including geographic information system and remote sensing tools for monitoring protected areas.	1-2 years	EPA	

# Key assessment results

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## **Ecological gap assessment**

- Fragmentation of protected areas (habitats)
- Not all ecosystems are covered in protected areas

## **Management effectiveness assessment**

- Lack of clear management plans for some protected areas
- Lack of communication and cooperation between related agencies

## **Sustainable finance assessment**

- Sustainable finance is not yet established in the management plans of protected areas
- Lack of clear vision for ecotourism

## **Capacity needs assessment**

- Allocation of necessary funds for protected areas conservation and management
- Capacity building for PAs designation, planning and management
- Capacity building for monitoring
- 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**

- An Environmental strategy as well as a Biodiversity strategy is available but implementation is not equally enforced for all articles
- There is a proposed legislation to establish several terrestrial and marine protected areas in Kuwait. This legislation is still undergoing deliberations.

## **Protected area integration and mainstreaming assessment**

- Protected areas (current and proposed) are integrated into Kuwait Municipality Master Plan to ensure that land use is controlled
- All proposed projects sites and EIAs are forwarded for study and approval by EPA

## **Protected area valuation assessment**

- EPA is currently working in collaboration with World Bank for valuation of ecosystems and resources in Kuwait

## **Climate change resilience and adaptation assessment**

- Kuwait recently declared a number of protected areas for environmental rehabilitation