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**Arab Climate Resilience Initiative**

**PROJECT CLOSING REPORT**



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| **Implementing Partner:** | United Nations Development Programme |
| **Responsible Parties:** | United Nations Development Programme |
| **Atlas Award ID:**  **Atlas Project ID:**  **Project Title:** | 79194  89263  Arab Climate Resilience Initiative |
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**Acronyms**

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| --- | --- |
| ACDRP  ACRI  ACSAD  ADME  AF  AFEX  AGEDI  ANME  AUIRED  AWC  AWP  BDP  BPPS  CAMRE  CDM  CEBC  CEDARE  CO  COP  CPEIR  CRNI  CTA  GAC  GCF  GEF  GHG  GIZ  ICBA  ICPAC  IFPRI  IGAD  IsDB  IUCN  LAS  LECB  LoA  MoU  NDC  NAMA  NASA  NIE  PV  QEERI  QNSFP  RAED  RBA  RBAP  RBAS  RCREEE  RICCAR  SDG  Sida  SSC  UNDP  UNESCWA  UNFCCC  UNISDR | Arab Cities Disaster Resilience Project  Arab Climate Resilience Initiative  Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands  Agence Djiboutienne de Maîtrise de l'Énergie  Adaptation Fund  Arab Future Energy Index  Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative  Agence Nationale pour la Maîtrise de l'Energie (Tunisia)  Arab Union for Investment and Real Estate Development  Arab Water Council  Annual Work Plan  Bureau for Development Policy  Bureau for Policy and Programme Support  Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment  Clean Development Mechanism  Clean Energy Business Council  Center for Environment and Development in the Arab Region  Country Office  Conference of the Parties  Climate Public Expenditure and Institutional Review  Climate Risk Nexus Initiative  Chief Techinical Advisor  Global Affairs Canada  Green Climate Fund  Global Environment Facility  Greenhouse gas  Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit  International Center for Biosaline Agriculture  IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre  International Food Policy Research Institute  Inter-Governmental Authority on Development  Islamic Development Bank  International Union for the Conservation of Nature  League of Arab States  Low-Emissions Climate Building  Letter of Agreement  Memorandum of Understanding  Nationally Determined Contribution (*these national climate plans prior to and in preparation for the Paris Agreement, were also referred to as INDCs, intended nationally determined contributions)*  Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action  National Aeronautics and Space Administration  National Implementation Entity  Photovoltaic  Qatar Environment & Energy Research Institute  Qatar National Food Security Programme  Arab Network for Environment & Development  Regional Bureau for Africa  Regional Bureau for Asia Pacific  Regional Bureau for Arab States  Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency  Regional Initiative for the Assessment of Climate Change Impacts on Water Resources and Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region  Sustainable Development Goal  Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency  South-South Cooperation  United Nations Development Programme  United Nations Economic and Social Council for Western Asia  United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change  United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction |
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1. **Project Overview**

***Background on Climate Change in the Regional Context***

As the most arid region in the world, already experiencing severe water scarcity, drought, desertification and land degradation, and with a rapidly growing and urbanizing population, high food-import dependency and declining agricultural yields amidst surging food prices, and a dramatic escalation in conflicts and displacement in the region emerging in recent years, the Arab region is set to experience climate change as a major threat multiplier of some of its major development challenges. Over the course of the project climate change has become an ever more pressing challenge to the region’s efforts to overcome ecological and socioeconomic fragility and to restore development gains across the region, as many of the countries currently struggling with poverty, social exclusion, and conflict are also hotspots of environmental changes.

From 2006-2010, the Arab region suffered from severe drought, leading to famine (e.g. Somalia) and huge levels of displacement (e.g. Syria). It is expected that an additional 80 – 100 million people will experience water stress by 2025 as a result of the drier conditions and consequent reduced river flows and groundwater recharge rates, while water demand is expected to increase by 47% by 2030 (compared to 2005 levels) in line with the region’s growing population and economies. This will increase the pressure on groundwater resources, which are already abstracted at near to unsustainable levels in certain parts of the Arab region. Increased water shortages as a result of climate change are also likely to create challenges with regards to effective transboundary water resource management. Furthermore, hotter and drier conditions will hamper agricultural production, with projections of output decreasing by 21% by 2080, and with peaks of an almost 40% decrease in countries like Algeria and Morocco. Accelerated desertification rates and a decrease in agricultural production will have direct consequences for food security and income streams, and place pressure on rural livelihoods and other vulnerable populations.

Sea-level rise (SLR) also threatens millions of people in the coastal areas within the region and is projected to negatively affect populations, infrastructure, groundwater resources and economic activity and livelihoods along coastal zones through both direct coastal inundation and through saltwater intrusion. Low-lying coastal areas in Tunisia, Qatar, Libya, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Kuwait and particularly Egypt’s Nile Delta are at risk of being adversely affected by SLR.

While the region’s contributions to climate change (i.e. GHG emissions) are, taken as a whole, relatively low (only 5% globally), there is huge contrast in the region between per capita emissions in higher-income, high-consumption, oil- and natural-gas-exporting countries (e.g. those in the Gulf) versus the very low emissions from countries such as Djibouti, Sudan and Yemen. Despite the region producing about 25% of the world oil and gas needs, millions of households still do not have access to energy or suffer from unreliable electricity sources. In rural areas an average of 22% do not have a secured energy access, causing households to incur high expenses for kerosene, firewood and other fuels to cover basic energy needs. With population expansion and urbanization, energy intensity and demand across the region has also grown significantly in recent years, and for these many reasons more sustainable energy has over the course of the project become a strategic priority for development across the different sub-regions. Most of the region has huge untapped potential for solar expansion, and since the project began there has been major growth in renewable energy markets globally, driving down the cost of making the energy transition, and making the renewables sector more accessible to countries across the region. For oil-producing states, this presents a major opportunity for diversification, and for much of the region, with the correct policies and incentives in place, concerted decentralized sustainable energy programmes paired with some of the larger infrastructural projects can provide more reliable, and consistently affordable energy access for communities, both for household and economic purposes (e.g. water pumping). They can also play a major role in recovery efforts in crisis areas for the poor and displaced by supporting a range of development needs such as cooking, water provision, heating, lighting, health and generating new livelihoods.

***Programming context and project development***

The impetus for developing a regional climate change initiative grew out of the many climate risks outlined above, which were evidenced by the findings and analyses in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 4th Assessment Report in 2007. At the time there was also acknowledgment by countries across the region, as expressed in the Arab Declaration on Sustainable Development in 2002, the Arab Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change in 2007, and the Arab Action Plan on Climate Change (2010-2020), that a systematic approach to collaboration and partnerships on climate change at the regional and sub-regional level would be as important for tackling climate challenges as individual efforts at the national level, given the cross-national, cross-cutting nature of both climate impacts and low-carbon development solutions.

Internally, ACRI emerged also amidst the momentum for action on climate change across all levels of UNDP, in alignment with UNDPs Global Strategy on Climate Change and was an outcome, in particular, of the demands made at the 2009 UNDP-RBAS Resident Representative Cluster Meeting. Designed to meet the criteria laid out in the Environment and Sustainable Development focus area of the UNDP-RBAS Regional Programme Document (RPD) for 2010-2013, which called for developing capacity and enhancing regional debate to mitigate and adapt to climate change, ACRI was later (in 2014) incorporated under the new RPD, and aligned directly with the new UNDP-wide Strategic Plan, under RP/SP Outcome 1: “Growth is inclusive and sustainable, incorporating productive capacities that create employment and livelihoods for the poor and excluded”, and specifically under RP Output 1.4: “Scaled up action on climate change adaptation and mitigation across sectors which is funded and implemented”.

Over the course of the project, there were also major shifts at the global institutional level that have put climate change issues at the core of development aspirations, both globally and within the region, and that have provided the project with an increasingly dynamic and receptive context in which to operate, with expanding opportunities to contribute to climate solutions. These included: the release of the updated IPCC 5th Assessment Report in 2014; the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, which set a new vision for development policy that prioritized resiliency and the inextricable link between environmental changes/risks and social and economic development potential at all levels; and the passage of the new Paris Agreement on Climate Change in 2015 along with enactment of countries’ national climate plans (known as nationally determined contributions, NDCs), which has mainstreamed the idea of low-carbon, climate-resilient development.

In line with UNDP’s Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures, ACRI was also formulated through extensive consultation with stakeholders (both expert, ministerial, community-based, and with integral CO collaboration) during 2009-2010, when the Regional Programme identified key climate change issues, initiatives and actors in the region, drafted objectives, and held four thematic consultative regional events, resulting in the priority issues (water scarcity and drought; sea-level rise and coastal erosion; and sustainable energy) and main focus areas for project interventions: 1) capacity development at all levels to facilitate planning around climate change and mainstream climate change into existent development plans and budgeting; 2) knowledge building and networking around scientific, climate resilient research, databases on climate change indicators, early warning systems, modeling, green technologies, and academic exchanges to reduce uncertainty in policy development and enhance cross-national collaboration; 3) technology transfer among stakeholders (governments, private sector entities, financial institutions, NGOs and research/educational institutions) and partnerships for adaptation and mitigation; 4) climate change finance to mobilize necessary resources to fund various actions required; and 5) public communications and awareness raising. This Framework of Action, was validated through a Regional Forum and converted into the Project Document, which was signed during 2012 by 10 countries across the region: Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, Palestine, Sudan, Somalia, Yemen. For more on the project’s launch phase, see the summary report under Annex I.

The Arab Climate Resilience Initiative officially began implementation in 2013, with the aim to support national partners and regional stakeholders in formulating integrated, cross-sectoral and regional responses to the challenges of climate change and to facilitate low-carbon development pathways, through activities under the following outputs:

* Output 1: Institutional capacity to address climate change adaptation, mitigation and negotiations strengthened
* Output 2: Resilience to the negative impacts of climate change strengthened and opportunities to enhance the production and use of sustainable energy created
* Output 3: Knowledge management, advocacy and awareness in countries of the Arab region on climate change adaptation, mitigation and negotiations improved

The project was originally envisioned to be structured with a project board of key stakeholders with donor representation, a technical support group (TSG) of senior advisors providing input on activity design, support to key ministries and stakeholders, and for events and trainings under the project, with implementation overseen by a CTA, and coordination coverd by a project manager. Given the difficulties faced in mobilizing external resources and committed long-term donors, the project did not have a dedicated project board and was not able to hire a CTA. However with a project manager in place, ACRI was able to build on existing national efforts and implemented activities in close collaboration with country offices and with agreement and participation from relevant line ministries and national counterparts. Following the UNDP-wide restructuring process, ACRI also benefitted from advisory and technical support on implementation from internal staff within the Regional Hub for Arab States (including the Regional Team Leader for Climate Change, DRR, and Sustainable Energy, the regional Climate Change Specialist, the regional Energy Advisor, and regional DRR Specialist) via a UNDP-cost recovery model, particulary for regional partnership building and delivering on regional-level activities (e.g. events, knowledge products, network building).

Within UNDP, ACRI complemented ongoing work through establishing synergies with ongoing regional and global initiatives, including the Africa Adaptation Programme, the LECB (Low-Emissions Capacity Building Programme), climate finance readiness initiatives, and the wide portfolio of GEF projects in the region.

***Overview of project output and results***

Over its five years, ACRI delivered roughly $2.5 mill in activities and though, due to resource constraints, was not able to achieve in-depth results with every single signatory country or across all of the different pillars of work encompassed in the $10 mill project document, did gain ground at national and regional levels around climate finance, climate risk, sustainable energy, enhancing knowledge, and institution and network building. Below is an overview highlighting the main activities, partnerships and results over the five years of the project specifically within the framework of the four, guiding areas of the Regional Programme, while an extensive review of the five years of implementation of the project by outputs and results indicators can be found in the subsequent section.

1. *Building a regional knowledge base to support evidence-based regional development agenda*

During ACRI’s launch phase, a significant baseline setting and mapping exercise was conducted to collate and expand on as much of the existing research and analysis on climate change impacts, and issues addressing low-carbon development, across the region as possible. Nine background papers and reports were produced covering current and future environmental impacts (such as water scarcity, drought, coastal erosion and sea-level rise, extreme weather and flooding), social and economic impacts and projections, technological and policy opportunities in renewable energy and energy efficiency, institutional needs for managing climate policy, and the climate finance landscape. The experts involved in their production were also integral to the consultative events that shaped the design of the project and it was from this broad knowledge base that ministers across the region agreed the priority focus of the project.

The project’s most significant contribution in this area was around producing data and developing analytical tools for countries to expand sustainable energy access, production, and diversify its applications. Through a four-year and ongoing partnership with the Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE), which serves the same member countries and national counterparts as ACRI, three editions of the Arab Future Energy Index (AFEX) were produced and disseminated as a benchmarking tool to monitor and analyze sustainable energy competitiveness across 20 Arab countries according to 20-30 indicators on regulatory and institutional structures, technical capacities, governing strategies, financial innovations, socioeconomic data and low-carbon investments. The reports have also provided recommendations for countries to help improve their transition towards sustainable energy development pathways, and the process of producing and disseminating and fostering discussion around AFEX has been central to countries’ goal-setting and monitoring on SDG 7 (expanding access to sustainable energy), and will provide an important baseline for engaging with national counterparts to accelerate implementation of the League of Arab States’ Arab Renewable Energy Strategy.

ACRI has also supported the production of regional market assessments on the potential for investment and developing local business models for off-grid applications to convert from diesel to hybrid diesel/solar systems in Djibouti, Sudan, Egypt and Yemen where reliance on diesel (i.e. household or business generators and agricultural applications) is significant in some sectors. The “Diesel to Solar Transformation: Assessing Untapped Solar Potential in Existing Off-grid Systems” provided a useful baseline for some of the Energy+ (i.e. sustainable energy capacity support and interventions with the greatest potential for poverty reduction and equitable economic and human development outcomes) interventions currently seeking resource support under the project. This includes decentralized energy solutions and the use of mini-grid and off-grid options, as well as support to ‘de-risk’ the investment context, thereby creating an enabling environment for private sector investment. The project has also initiated a baseline in the region for linking SDG7 to conflict recovery though the “Sustainable Energy in Fragile Contexts: Expanding Access for Resilient Recovery in the Arab Region” policy brief.

The project also fostered knowledge building around climate risks and resilience building in the region’s urban contexts through support for the Arab Cities Resilience Report, which established a baseline on urban disaster and climate resilience by analyzing urban exposure, vulnerability, risks, capacity needs and best practices and incorporates and complements the outcomes of the Arab Cities Resilience Programme, whichs enabled 10 high-risk cities to better respond to a range of disaster and climate risks in line with the priorities laid out in the Aqaba Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

1. *Solidifying partnerships with key regional institutions to support their role in development results*

ACRI has contributed significantly to solidifying partnerships with intergovernmental institutions in particular through direct engagement with and capacity support to the League of Arab States under the 2012 UNDP-LAS Cooperation Agreement, specifically within their environmental unit (the Department of Environment, Housing and Water Resources and Sustainable Development) since 2014, and now to their newly established Sustainable Development Department. The project sponsored a Senior Technical Advisor on Climate Change Adaptation and Risk Reduciton to sit within the department and to provide technical and policy input internally and through outreach to generally strengthen their coordinating function on these issues among member states. While this post only lasted a year and half, the presence of an Advisor raised the profile of climate issues within the League and relationship building has given the project a sustained, collaborative platform at LAS to launch a full multi-agency programme called the SDG-Climate Nexus Facility, established in 2016 with ministerial council approval to support the achievement of SDG13 on climate action and to manage climate and disaster risks, combat water and food insecurity, as well as social vulnerability and fragility, in the region, and bring development co-benefits to the achievement of other climate-related SDGs (with more detailed interventions and partners outlined in the subsequent section). Leveraging and validating the development of the SDG-Climate Nexus Facility with and through the League has also accelerated regional partnerships with the Arab Water Council and a collaborative, OneUN approach to regional implementation with partners WFP, UNEP, UNISDR.

As mentioned above, the project also partnered closely with RCREEE, a technical body mandated under the League of Arab States, both for knowledge production and project development, and has benefited greatly from their technical capacity, while ACRIs local network and relationships through the country office system has in turn provided a platform for RCREEE’s own coordination and visibility in the region. Several funding proposals have been developed in conjunction with RCREEE and UNDP’s partnership with them will sustain beyond the life of the project through pushing for joint support under the LAS Arab Sustainable Energy Strategy to promote effective policies for the energy transition and investment, to mobilize private sector involvement in sustainable energy markets in the region, to improve knowledge management and monitoring of countries’ targets, to scale and replicate successful decentralized energy approaches, and to ensure regional communication, exchange and dissemination of outcomes.

ACRI also developed a private sector partnership at the regional level, through an MoU and collaboration with the Abu Dhabi-based Clean Energy Business Council which, with its broad base of regional and international companies, has provided the opportunity to engage with the private sector on clean energy, insurance, water, technology, and communication sectors across the Arab region. In addition to roundtables and a joint conference, the partnership created the potential for member companies to be incorporated into lines of work already under development with country offices and within regional energy funding proposals, and has familiarized a broad range of companies with UNDP’s climate work in the region, and its human-development-centered approach to a sustainable energy transition and energy-water nexus issues. It has also fostered a greater convening platform for government and non-governmental stakeholders in the region to connect with and learn about climate relevant businesses outside of their national contexts.

Lastly, through a joint event on development finance for sustainable energy and water conservation, as well as new jointly-developed regional sustainable energy+ projects, ACRI has partnered with the Islamic Development Bank and in line with an updated global MoU, has sought to renew the cooperation to reinforce multistakeholder partnerships, to focus on effective trilateral partnerships for project implementation between UN bodies, IFIs and national governments, and foster opportunities for blending Islamic financing with private sector resources to achieve the SDGs.

1. *Fostering networks of exchange among key stakeholders with a focus on key development issues*

ACRI has hosted a range of regional events to spread knowledge, foster exchange of national experiences and put a wide range of stakeholders (ministerial, private sector, media, scientific and academic) in contact with one another to catalyze greater regional collaboration, as well as connect stakeholders to experience and expertise from other regions globally. Beyond the broad themes covered by the many launch phase events, the project has most significantly facilitated these networks of exchange through 1) providing training, breifings, technical guidance and roundtables around the international climate negotiations (the annual UNFCCC Conference of the Parties) and 2) bringing countries together to learn and share on a wide range of climate finance issues, from interfacing with large international mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund, to harnessing private sector and IFI investment into sustainable energy access and water management.

The project has also been active in promoting ideas (from the sustainable energy transition and energy+ development approaches, to climate links with peace and security, to science in decision-making for adaptation, to the energy-water-food nexus) within a wide range of international conferences and regional events every year, targeting generally government partners and other international development coordination partners, in order to shape the regional dialogue over climate change and consistently seek out opportunities and maintain a partnership network on climate resilience.

Additionally, the project has directly supported more engaged south-south cooperation (SSC) in the region, specifically through facilitating an advisory relationship between Tunisia’s energy conservation agency and Djibouti’s newly (in 2014) established energy efficiency agency. The need to support the institutional capacity, national strategy development, and programming prioritization of the new agency under Djibouti’s Ministry of Energy was identified through the country office. The project conducted a series of exchange missions and workshops between the two agencies, with coordination support from the Tunisia CO, through which Tunisian officials could demonstrate the success and best practices in their energy conservation policies and interventions and provide advice on ways forward for Djibouti. An MoU was signed and action plan agreed by the two agencies around institutional strengthening, developing energy efficiency indicators and programmes, assistance with studies and planning, managerial staff training, and exchange of professionals in energy management fields, and consultants were procured to draft an energy balance study in Djibouti and national energy efficiency strategy.

1. *Supporting and complementing country results through regional work and facilitating catalytic, as well as innovative, pilots at the country level*

ACRI had a number of in-country interventions earlier on in the project, which were intended for duplicaiton or expansion and scale-up regionally, but remained somewhat adhoc due to resource constraints and the tight timing of annual TRAC allocation. For example the SSC between Tunisia and Djibouti was originaly intended to be a pilot model for SSC on energy efficiency and replicated in other countries. However, in leveraging the previous success of UNDP’s national support within Tunisia around sustainable energy, which has helped to make it a regional leader on energy conservation, and facilitating a way to bring knowledge and institutional support more directly to at least one other country in the region, the project tried generally to scale up and prolong the sustainability of the national successes within the RBAS country office portfolio.

ACRI has also collaborated in blending funds with the GEF programme at the national level, with particular success on greatly expanding the scope of an energy efficienct lighting project in Egypt. The catalytic funding rapidly increased the scale and extent of the demonstration project (expanding beyond certain spending conditions set by the GEF funds) to build consumer confidence in the quality and huge cost-saving opportunities of indoor and outdoor LED lighting. ACRI’s investment helped to drop the costs of initial purchase and installation and expand the project to fifteen demonstration sites across a wide range of sectors and buildings.

Lastly, the project has provided catalytic funding, technical advise, and coordination and procurement support, in collaboration with both the GEF Regional Technical Advisor and the Regional Hub, to position countries in the region as quickly as possible to access project financing from the Green Climate Fund once it became operational in 2015. In total four countries have been assisted with the complex process of developing concept notes, feasibility studies and full proposals, with one project approved for financing by the GCF Board at the end of 2017.

1. **Progress Review: Key Activities and Results, 2013-2017**

**Section 1: Overall progress against outcomes**

**ACRI** has contributed to **RP/SP Outcome 1** – **“Growth is inclusive and sustainable, incorporating productive capacities that create employment and livelihoods for the poor and excluded”**, and specifically to *Output 1.4: Scaled up action on climate change adaptation and mitigation across sectors which is funded and implemented*.While not explicitly stated in the 2014-2017 regional programme document, the project also contributes to *Output 1.5: Inclusive and sustainable solutions adopted to achieve increased energy efficiency and universal modern energy access (especially off-grid sources of renewable energy)*. There are two Outcome level indicators relevant to the project: “3. Annual emissions of carbon dioxide” and “4. Coverage of cost-efficient and sustainable energy, disaggregated by energy source and beneficiary, sex, rural/urban and excluded groups” (note, at the Outcome level the SP has no adaptation related indicators for Outcome 1).

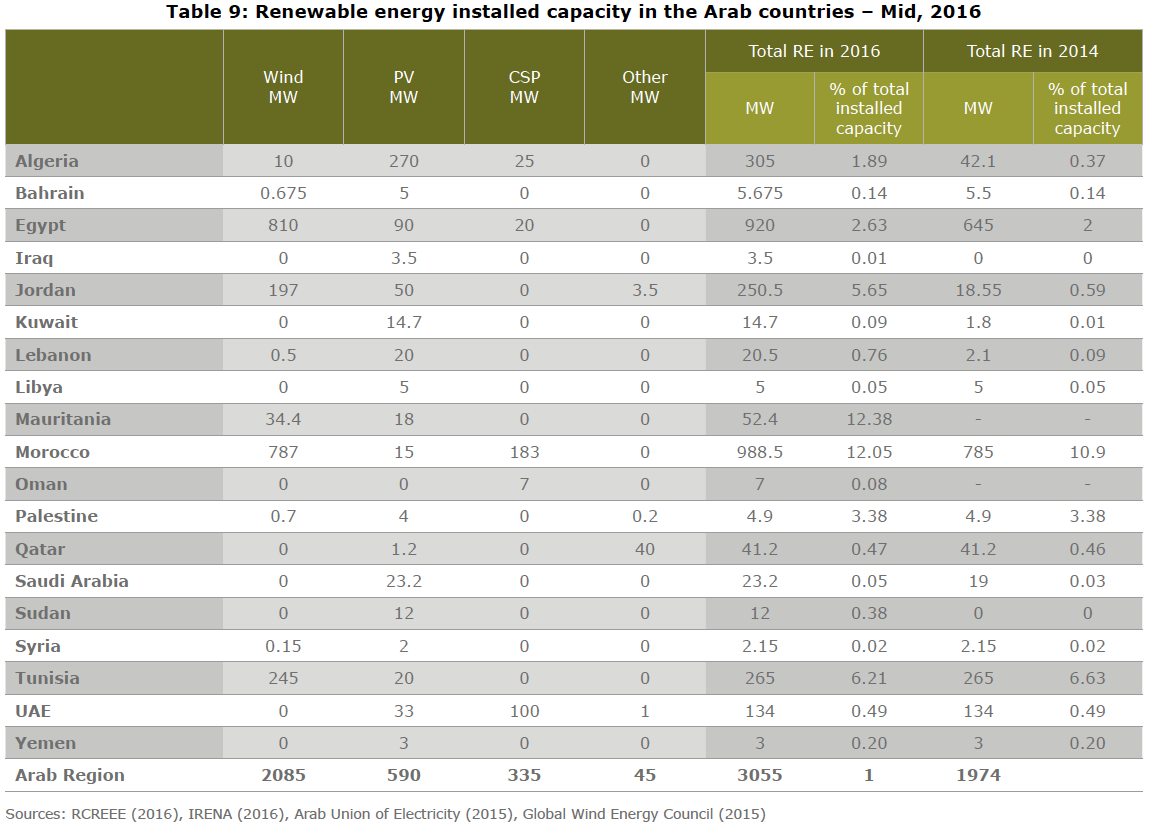
Under **Outcome 1, Indicator 3 (Annual emissions of carbon dioxide),** CO2 emissions in the region can be found in the table below (note: accurate region-wide emissions data was available only up to 2014, and omitted data for OPT).

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CO2 Emissions (kt)** | | | | | |
| **Country Name** | **2010** | **2011** | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** |
| Algeria | 119177.5 | 121187.016 | 129987.816 | 134465.223 | 145400.217 |
| Bahrain | 29266.327 | 28650.271 | 26673.758 | 31312.513 | 31338.182 |
| Djibouti | 517.047 | 473.043 | 517.047 | 608.722 | 722.399 |
| Egypt | 202715.427 | 217163.407 | 217068.065 | 213412.066 | 201894.019 |
| Iraq | 112195.532 | 134384.549 | 152723.216 | 165506.378 | 168443.645 |
| Jordan | 21180.592 | 21668.303 | 24444.222 | 24389.217 | 26450.071 |
| Lebanon | 20047.489 | 20443.525 | 22632.724 | 22581.386 | 24070.188 |
| Morocco | 55958.42 | 57685.577 | 62731.369 | 59082.704 | 59863.775 |
| Kuwait | 89625.147 | 91029.608 | 102334.969 | 98345.273 | 95408.006 |
| Saudi Arabia | 518491.798 | 499878.106 | 564842.678 | 541047.515 | 601046.969 |
| Oman | 47417.977 | 54029.578 | 59159.711 | 61378.246 | 61169.227 |
| Qatar | 72507.591 | 80435.645 | 94124.556 | 85023.062 | 107853.804 |
| Syrian Arab Republic | 61605.6 | 56908.173 | 44730.066 | 36438.979 | 30703.791 |
| Sudan | 15940.449 | 15658.09 | 14642.331 | 15474.74 | 15364.73 |
| United Arab Emirates | 160812.618 | 165440.372 | 176386.367 | 170706.184 | 211369.547 |
| Somalia | 612.389 | 605.055 | 608.722 | 608.722 | 608.722 |
| Tunisia | 27660.181 | 26021.032 | 27003.788 | 27667.515 | 28829.954 |
| Libya | 61961.299 | 39702.609 | 52683.789 | 56266.448 | 56996.181 |
| **Arab World** | **1,645,558.916** | **1,655,808.181** | **1,796,962.012** | **1,775,095.691** | **1,895,700.321** |

*(World Bank, 2017. data.worldbank.org)*

As has been the case for many years, there is a sharp contrast in the region between emissions in higher-income, oil- and natural-gas-exporting countries vs. emissions from LDCs in the region, such as Yemen, Djibouti, Sudan, Palestine, etc., with GCC countries accounting for the largest portion of CO2 emissions (growth and total). While it was not possible to quantify the project’s specific contribution to emissions reductions across the region, the project engaged in emissions reduction work through pilots and policy support to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy intensive consumption in several countries (see activities under Output 2 below) and generated research and awareness in the region on transitioning to low-carbon development pathways (see Output 3 activities below).

Under **Outcome 1, Indicator 4 (Coverage of cost-efficient and sustainable energy, disaggregated by energy source and beneficiary, sex, rural/urban and excluded groups)**, an overview of sustainable energy coverage in terms of renewable energy mix can be found in the table below, taken from one of the core knowledge products generated by the project (AFEX 2016), which is elaborated upon further under Output 3.



There was significant improvement within the region in recent years, particularly in middle income countries and for the first time in 2016, the total share of renewables in the region exceeded 6%, the majority of which came from hydro (4.73%), and the rest from solar and wind. While it is difficult to ascertain specific disaggregation of these energy sources by cost-efficiency across beneficiaries (by sex, rural/urban and excluded groups), the project did develop a focus on energy access for SMEs in developing the D2S initiative (see Output 3 activities below) and a number of partnerships and resource mobilization efforts focused around “energy+” activities, sustainable energy access for crisis affected populations and IDPs.

Though not contained/monitored within the RP 2014-2017, **ACRI** and the **Arab Cities Disaster Resilience Programme (ACDRP)**, asub-project housed under ACRI from 2015-2017, also contributed to **SP Outcome 5**: **“Countries are able to reduce the likelihood of conflict and lower the risk of natural disasters, including from climate change”**, particularly to **indicator 4, “the percentage of countries with disaster and climate risk management plans fully funded through national, local and sectorial development budget”**. While the project did not have data on this percentage, the Arab Cities Disaster Resilience Programme (ACDRP) has produced disaster- and climate-risk assessments for the region as a whole through the production of the *Arab Cities Resilience Report*, and throught lifespan of the ACDRP three cities (1. Ain Drahem (Tunisia), 2. Saida (Lebanon), and 3. Khartoum (Sudan)) developed Action Plans for City Disaster Resilience, established local units for planning and management of disaster risk reduction strategies and development municipal training programs, and established local municipal funds for disaster risk mainstreaming. Lastly, within ACRI, the multi-year process of establishing the SDG-Climate Nexus Facility (outlined in Output 1 activities below) was undertaken to create a regional platform through which countries could systematically develop their climate risk management plans, along with tools for financing their implementation.

**Section 2: Monitoring and Evaluation[[1]](#footnote-1) of activities**

While ACRI did not engage in any formal evaluation activities (beyond the Mid-Term Review conducted across the entire Regional Programme in 2015/2016), a number of monitoring activities were built into project activities. For all of the activities conducted in country (e.g. the CPEIR set-up process in Lebanon, the south-south cooperation between Djibouti and Tunisia, the Egypt energy-efficient lighting pilot, and GCF access support), intensive communication between the project manager and country office focal points ensured that consistent and flexible dialogue with ministries and other national counterparts was maintained, and progress was monitored on time lines agreed between the project and focal points. Additionally, significant input on procurement processes (including input on and review of ToRs, sourcing of consultants, etc.) was provided by the project.

For the support to regional institutions and networks, such as the development of the SDG-Climate Nexus Facility, deliverables of the Senior Technical Advisor were closely overseen by the project manager on an agreed timeline, and quarterly, and at times more frequent, meetings with partner agencies were held, generally in Cairo as LAS is headquartered there. The project manager attended some of these meetings and also received significant support from the Regional Hub (i.e. the regional Team Leader for Climate Change, DRR and Sustainable Energy and the Climate Change Specialist) in fostering these partnerships when she could not attend.

For all of the knowledge products produced, several reviews of drafts were conducted between the Project Manager and/or the regional Energy Specialist and regional DRR Specialist in the Hub (depending on the publication), as well as any partner institutions and consultants involved before final publication, in most cases including several review meetings.

**Section 3: Progress against each output**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Project Output 1: Institutional capacity to address CC adaptation, mitigation, and negotiations strengthened** | | |
| **Output indicators** | **Targets** | **Progress against targets** |
| 1. Number of countries NIE accredited and having access to international funding for climate change | **Baseline**: 2 (2013)  **Target**:  **2014:** 2  **2015:** 2  **2016**: 2  **2017:** 1 | **Cumulative total:** 5  **2014:** 2  **2015**: 2  **2016**: 3  **2017**: 2 |
| 2. Number of partnerships between governments and private sector addressing climate change established | **Baseline**: 0 (2013)  **Target**:  **2014**: 1  **2015:** 2  **2016**: 2  **2017:** 1 | **Cumulative total:** 1  **2014:** 1  **2015:** 0  **2016**: 0  **2017:** 0 |
| 3. Number of research initiatives on climate change launched in the Arab region | **Baseline**: 0 (2013)  **Target**:  **2014:** 0  **2015:** 1  **2016**: 1  **2017:** 0 | **Cumulative total:**  **2014:** 0  **2015**: 0  **2016**: 1  **2017:** 0 |
| 4. Extent to which climate change resilience measures integrated into development and poverty reduction plans including gender equality at a national and local level | **Baseline**: Low (2013)  **Target**:  **2014:** Partial - One country implementing climate finance readiness measures through public expenditure and institutional reviews and two countries initiating design of reviews  **2015:** Partial - One country implementing climate finance readiness measures through public expenditure and institutional reviews  **2016**: Moderate - At the regional level, climate risk and resilience measures integrated into SDG agenda priorities through LAS  **2017**: Moderate | **Cumulative total:**  **2014**: 1.4 Low - Design of review process in one country prepared, but implementation delayed 2015  **2015:** Low - Funding for review process lost and implementation delayed  **2016**:Moderate - SDG Climate Nexus Facility formally endorsed by CAMRE and ECOSOC bodies at LAS to mainstream climate risk management in the region.  **2017**: Moderate |

**Key Activities:**

Under Output 1, ACRI developed activities regionally under four main areas: 1) Building capacity to access international funding mechanisms and other forms of climate finance and investment; 2) Facilitating a platform for public-private partnerships; 3) Strengthening the capacity of countries to engage at multi-lateral negotiations (i.e. the annual UNFCCC Conference of the Parties); and 4) Developing institutional capacity to improve climate-data and climate-risk informed decision-making and resilience planning through a regional platform.

***Support for Climate Finance Readiness and Access:***

As part of ACRIs role to support the region in attracting, preparing for, accessing and managing climate related finance, the project aimed to begin piloting **Climate Public Expenditure and Institutional Reviews (CPEIRs)** during 2013 and 2014. A CPEIR tags and assesses the use of public funds that are primarily dedicated to addressing climate change issues in a country and is a strategic tool for mainstreaming climate change (in adaptation sectors, and in mitigation) into existing development planning processes, expanding interministerial dialogue and integration of climate-related policy making, and enhances countries’ overall “finance readiness” in terms of their capacity to absorb, manage and implement donor funds and funding streams from global and bilateral financing mechanisms. It is the first step to building a climate fiscal framework, as well as strengthening integrated, cross-ministerial approaches to climate policy and action by supporting institutions to better budget for, track and report on climate change expenditures, and UNDP had recently had significant success in Asia conducting CPEIRs across five countries. ACRI sought advisory support from the RBAP climate finance team and mapped countries in the Arab region that would be best placed in terms of capacity and government buy-in to conduct a review, with each CPEIR estimated at between $100,000-200,000. After country identification, in 2013 ACRI supported three countries to attend and present at the “Global Forum on Using Country Systems to Manage Climate Change Finance” (Dec 2-3, Korea), a cross-regional exchange for best practices and lessons learned, so as to foster momentum for CPEIR pilots in the region in the coming year. Attendees included a team of three staff from the Ministry of Finance in Lebanon, one representative from Jordan’s Ministory of Planning and International Cooperation, and another from Morocco’s Ministre de l'Energie, des Mines de l'Eau et de l'Environnement.

In 2014, ACRI initiated a first CPEIR with Lebanon through collaboration with UNDP focal points within the Ministry of Finance, and after a few month’s delay due to parliamentary changes and ministerial turnover, received the green light from the Minister to proceed and launch procurement for the reviewers. Coordination of a national workshop and broader regional learning/exchange workshop on CPEIRs for 2015 was also initiated, however due to the budgetary shortfall across UNDP in early 2015, the CPEIR procurement in Lebanon was canceled and the project was no longer able to pursue these reviews across the region. Relying solely on TRAC funds to support piloting of complex and expensive CPEIR initiatives in the region proved to be too risky both for the project and for the national partners, and finding donor interest and national co-financing was a challenge.

However, ACRI moved on to a new area of work to support climate finance access in 2015, after the capitalization and official operationalization of a new international climate financing mechanism, the **Green Climate Fund (GCF)**, launched in anticipation of the milestone Paris Climate Agreement with a formal agreement among mainly wealthier natinos to jointly mobilize $100 billion per year by 2020 through grants, loans, equity or guarantees. There was surging demand from countries to strategically engage with this new mechanism as early as possible, in line with localized climate goals laid out in respective national climate plans, known as NDCs (nationally determined contributions), under the Paris Agreement. ACRI collaborated with the GEF technical advisor in the region, who was tasked with GCF coordination in the region, to ensure the balance bewteen types and timing of submissions from different countries, including the potential for multi-country submissions, in line with the GCF’s rigorous and evolving criteria. During 2016 and 2017, $100 million worth of new proposals were generated across the region, with ACRI focused on contributing to adaptation grant proposals around climate and disaster risks, resilience building, and water and food security.

The cost of preparing full proposals (including the initial “concept note” submission and all feasibility studies, etc.) has been quite high globally ($200-250k). In most cases, ACRI provided supplementary funds and consultancies to help catalyze concept notes or to expedite the finalization of full proposals, combining with funding streams at the national level. The project provided varying levels of support (research, drafting, and/or review) for 4 countries (Somalia, Djibouti, Sudan, Tunisia) for concept note submissions, and assisted 1 country (Egypt) in completing a full proposal, which was successfully approved for funding by the GCF board in 2017. Below are the countries’ proposed project areas, with more documention on each project available in the ACRI climate finance files:

***Djibouti***: “Enhancing flood management and water security in the context of climate change for Djibouti City and upstream communities” ($35mill) - to address resilience to flooding impacts for Djibouti City, the nation’s capital, in conjunction with ensuring water security for city residents and farmers and pastoralists upstream.

***Somalia***: “Climate Smart Approaches for Rural Communities of Somalia” ($34mill) - to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable smallholder farmers and pastoralists who are facing increasing risks of rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, and extreme events attributable to climate change, particularly women, by empowering them with climate-resistant farming and husbandry practices including an improved ability to exploit agricultural and livestock value chains sustainably.

***Sudan*:** “Building resilience in the face of climate change within traditional rain fed agricultural and pastoral systems in Sudan” ($40mill)

*Tunisia***:** Adaptation solutions in water and agricultural vulnerability in the coastal areas

***Egypt*:** “Enhancing Climate Change Adaptation in the North Coast and Nile Delta Regions in Egypt” ($31.7mill) – to target farmers and fisher-folk people directly and people in urban/rural communities indirectly along the Mediterranean coastline of Egypt, the project wil install coastal protection structures at five sea level rise vulnerability hotspots spanning 69 km in the Nile Delta; and, Development of an ICZM plan for the entire North Coast of Egypt. The five vulnerable hotspots lie within the Nile Delta, and were identified during an engineering scoping assessment. These coastal protection measures are in the Port Said, Damietta, Beheira, Dakahlia, and Kafr El-Sheikh governorates. A second component of the project involves the development of an integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) plan for the entire North Coast to manage long-term climate change risks and provide Egypt with adaptability to impending flood risks.

***Facilitating a platform for public-private partnerships:***

From the conception of the project, one of the valuable roles of a regional climate project was the potential to leverage regional and global networks to link countries with private sector entities that would help to scale up certain climate sectors (from sustainable energy projects to insurance to infrastructure) through investment and technological support. While the project was not able to launch a full fledged Business Forum (as originally envisioned), a partnership established through a 2014 MoU with the **Clean Energy Business Council (CEBC)**, based in Abu Dhabi, has provided the opportunity to engage with a broad base of member companies that span the clean-energy sector across the Arab region, in addition to some focus on the water-energy nexus and broader business services for climate resilience and awareness (e.g: Standard Chartered, GE, Deloitte, Energetics Inc, Yingli Solar, Enel, Adenium Energy Capital, Ambata Capital, Acore, First Solar, Masdar, Fleishman Hillard, etc.). Their main goal is to establish a dialogue between the public and private sectors in the region to drive the development of appropriate regulation and policy to support the development of sustainable energy, as well as assist governments, industry and communities to reach low-carbon and sustainability goals.

To this end, in addition to yearly roundtables with members to raise the profile of UNDPs climate work and discuss potential regional collaboration projects and entry points for connecting with country offices, ACRI and CEBC, along with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), coordinated a “Regional Conference on Financing for Sustainable Energy and Water Conservation” in 2016. The conference brought together 24 national counterparts (from ministries of energy and water) from 7 countries, and 6 companies, as well as NGOs and academics to exchange experience and opportunities for partnership around the socioeconomic benefits of energy conservation, de-risking sustainable energy investment, energy access in crisis contexts, innovations in the energy-food-water nexus, and the leveraging the Green Climate Fund.

***Strengthening capacity of countries to engage at multi-lateral negotiations*:**

During the development and launch phase consultations for ACRI in 2010 and 2011, there was growing demand from countries for networking and preparative support for the yearly international climate negotiations at the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties, particularly given the wide range in capacity, years of experience, and political leverage across countries in different parts of the Arab region and the desire among less experienced countries to better position their needs and goals at the COPs. RBAS began by hosting a Training for Negotiators in Amman in **2010** in partnership with UNITAR to prepare negotiating teams for COP16, covering the legal aspects of the negotiation process, strategic points on adaptation and mitigation, policy mainstreaming and financing, and the role and political dynamics of different negotiating blocks. In **2011**, as the project was being finalized, further briefing sessions and roundtables in preparation for COP17 were held at the ”Climate Change and the Road to Rio+20” regional forum in Algeria in 2011, an event that aimed to establish a regional conversation to position climate issues within the development of the SDGs.

Qatar held the UNFCCC Presidency in **2012** (an annually rotating position) and the government established a partnership with UNDP through ACRI for coordination and advisory support in hosting COP18. In addition to this support, ACRI helped host two side events, one with Qatar National Food Security Programme (QNSFP) on water and food security, and one with NASA and QEERI (Qatar Environment & Energy Research Institute) to highlight the role of scientific research across the the region in climate policy conversations, particulary around drought and groundwater.

In **2013**, the first official year of implementation for the project, ACRI hosted a “Climate Change Negotiations and Climate Finance: Opportunities and Challenges for the Arab States” workshop in Bonn, Germany, following the UNFCCC mid-year intersessional meeting that took place. The workshop brought together Arab government negotiation delegations to share information and experiences on the key issues for the upcoming COP19 and to build leadership for advancing their national and regional objectives. This workshop focused specifically on climate finance modalities and the sharing of regional expertise, challenges and strategies in accessing, managing and delivering finance, as well as a briefing on the anticipated GCF. It was attended by 39 participants, with representation from 12 country delegations (Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Tunisia, Qatar, and Yemen), 8 UNDP country offices, and UNISDR, was co-facilitated by climate change negotiations and climate finance specialists from BDP, as well as input from two representatives from the UNFCCC and the UNDP Environment and Energy Practice leader for the Arab region.

A similar event for COP20 prepartion was in the **2014** AWP, however a very similar training workshop was unexpectedly organized by UNESCWA for countries in the region earlier in the year. So as not to duplicate efforts, the ACRI training was canceled. This duplication issue became a risk for future support events for future years.

During **2015**, a milestone year that saw the negotiation of a new climate change agreement to replace the Kyoto Protocal at the COP21 in Paris, the operationalization of the GCF and the establishment of the Sustainable Development Goals and 2030 agenda, a larger forum was planned to support and strengthen countries in their final preparations for COP21, to take stock of lessons learned in integrating and implementing climate policy, and to chart out actionable ways of grounding the climate-development nexus within the broader framework of the SDGs to be passed in Fall of that year. In terms of more targeted support for countries on the preparation of INDCs (Intended Nationally Determined Contributions) which formed the core of the Paris Agreement, this was offered already through a handful of BPPS global workshops. While the project suffered a budget cut mid-year, event planning moved forward as the government of Algeria agreed to support and host, and a more high-level Ministerial policy forum was planned in line with the government’s plans. Unfortunately after a couple months of preparation in conjunction with the CO, there was ongoing disagreement between MoFA and MoE in Algeria on the direction of and scale and direction of the forum, and the project was not able to finalize the event.

Due to the variety of complications in previous years and significant decreases in annual budget allocation, as well as a shifting landscape of the international regime and also support needs following the Paris Agreement, it was decided that the negotiations trainings would no longer be the most effective use of resources going forward in **2016 and 2017**. Implementation of the Agreement through actionable plans based on respective NDCs, be it through accessing the GCF and other forms of development finance, as well as monopolizing on a rapidly growing global sustainable energy market, became more tangible areas for the project to focus on beyond the positioning capacity of countries at the annual negotiations.

However, using the platform of the COPs as a means of gaining visibility for UNDPs work in the region and positioning specific issues of particular importance to the region remained a strategic objective for the project. In particular the project benefitted from support from our regional Team Leader for climate, DRR, and sustainable energy at recent COPs, either through the co-hosting of or promotion at side events on a range of issue areas for which the project has aimed to launch new, second-phase work. These include significant support to mobilizing the region around: the COP22 Climate Governance Day; centering the link between climate change and social, economic, and political vulnerability and crisis contexts through Climate Change, Peace and Security events; an events highlighting sustainable energy access opportunities in the region, including the role of ACRI-RCREEE work on Arab Future Energy Index (AFEX) in low-carbon transition planning (e.g. the “Carbon Shift - Arab Future Energy 2030” event at COP22 in 2016). *See Output 3 for an overview of AFEX and the Partnerships Section for the broader RCREEE partnership*).

***Developing institutional capacity to improve climate-risk informed decision-making and resilience planning through a regional platform***

In **2014**, ACRI took initial steps to improve the capacity of regional institutions by developing a **climate** **risk** **knowledge and information network** through a parternship with the Department of Environment, Housing and Water Resources and Sustainable Development at the League of Arab States (LAS). A Senior Technical Advisor on Climate Change Adaptation and Risk Reduction was supported by the project and hosted within LAS to improve their technical and policy advisory role vis-à-vis member countries under the Arab Framework Action Plan on Climate Change (2010-2020) and the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (2010-2020). The project also used this platform within LAS to bring together national and regional institutes and policy bodies to establish a climate knowledge network, that over the course of **2014-2015** evolved into the **Climate Risk Nexus Initiative (CRNI**) to address food security, water scarcity and social vulnerability in the region, and in **2016** grew further into a full multi-agency programme, the **SDG Climate Nexus Facility** to support the achievement of SDG13 on climate action to manage climate/disaster risks, combat social vulnerability and fragility in the region, and bring development co-benefits to the achievement of other climate-related SDGs.

The first consultation on the content and direction of the CRNI was held at the Arab Water Forum in Cairo in 2014, followed by two more expert roundtables in **2015** to review existing work in the region from 5 UN agencies (UNDP, UNISDR, WFP, ESCWA, FAO) and the Arab Water Council (AWC, a technical body that works in conjunction with the Arab Ministerial Water Council, mandated through the League of Arab States to implement their Arab Water Strategy (2010-2030)), as well as a range of other institutions, including: IUCN, ICBA, AGEDI, and RAED, CEDARE, ACSAD, GIZ, WMO and IFPRI, and several academic institutes. These meetings sought to get a better understanding among stakeholders of climate data production, information and of the scattered initiatives across the Arab region and ways they might support governments in a more coordinated manner for more cohesive policy-making around the climate, water scarcity, food security and socio-economic vulnerability nexus. It took about two years of partnership-building to establish a more formal, regional platform, and to agree on the types of membership and administration under the umbrella of LAS to create an effective, sustainable resource for countries across the region.

The CRNI partnership framework was developed based on $160,000 of preparatory grants provided by UNDP and WFP in 2015-2016 and formally established under LAS in 2015 with four partner entities, UNDP, WFP, UNISDR, and the AWC through approval by the ministerial body CAMRE, and announced later that year at the COP22 in Morocco. The CRNI sought to harness the range of strengths of each institution (e.g. monitoring food security and risk-informed humanitarian responses under WFP; policy development, and local- and national-level climate mainstreaming within multiple development sectors, under UNDP; global disasater-risk knowledge exchange, advocacy and research under UNISDR; networks of regional water sector stakeholders and water management programs under the AWC). To operationalize this new framework of action, the **SDG Climate-Nexus Facility** would be launched in 2017 after endorsement by ECOSOC under LAS in 2016, and with the addition of the UNEP Finance Initiative to the partnership, to bring together partners from regional institutions, governments, UN, the private finance sector, civil society and academia to undertake a series of activities that would build resilience and adaptive capacities to climate risks and natural disasters; integrating climate measures into broader SDG-affiliated policies and plans; and develop capacities for accessing climate finance that would concurrently support achievement under other overlapping SDGs, including SDG1 on poverty, SDG2 on food, SDG3 on health, SDG6 on water, SDG10 on inequality, SDG15 on land degradation and SDG16 on peace. This multi-agency Joint Programme (with joint implementation, management and monitoring) contains $10 million in proposed activities across two broad outcomes:

**1) *Mapping, assessments and agenda setting ($2 million)***, will include an initial region-wide analysis on ways to achieve SDG 13 and fulfill NDCs in a way that brings co-benefits to other key SDGs; a regional mapping of social vulnerability and climate risks; an assessment of needs and opportunities for the role of banking, insurance and investment to scale up climate-related mitigation and adaptation finance; a series of SDG-Climate roundtables with regional bodies, the UN, governments and private sector; and help designing the next Arab Action Plan on Climate Change (2020-2030)

**2) *Capacity development and country actions for climate-resilient SDGs ($8 million)*** will be based on the original CRNI action areas, with countries will be selected based on climate vulnerability for local actions, including:

a) ***Science and Data Readiness for Decision-Making***: To address gaps across the region in the generation of data and information needed to craft effective climate resilience policies and actions, a network of institutions would be created to coordinate existing scientific capabilities for use in understanding risks. It would develop inter-disciplinary alliances among scientific think tanks and increase synergies between datasets, as well strengthen institutional capacities to analyse data at various scales. A hub would be created to characterize hazards, vulnerabilities and exposure for assessment and monitoring purposes, to improve the quality and uptake of climate impact and disaster loss databases;; and generally advance the understanding of root causes of climate and disaster impacts, land degradation and food/water insecurity. Remote sensing, geographical information systems (GIS), management information systems (MIS) and modelling techniques would be made available to countries to more reliably predict temporal and spatial distribution of risk in the region, forecast severity and frequency of extreme temperatures, evapotranspiration, drought, etc. This would also support enhanced understanding of overlays with human development indicators and social vulnerability data on the communities most subject to climate and disaster risks.

b) ***Tools, Systems and Technology for Risk-Informed Development:***Building on an improved base of scientific data and information, the initiative will support the use of innovative tools and technology for decision-making to educate on changing risk contexts (e.g. risk literacy), strengthen resilience through knowledge-based prevention, and support better communication of risk information and reliable warnings to potentially affected communities. The partnership would support both the production of high-level reports on the state of multi-dimensional risk trends in the region, in particular capturing findings of climate-induced social vulnerability that are unique to the Arab region, and improve early-warning mechanisms and systems with reliable and predictable dissemination of observations, monitoring and predictions, including weather and hydrological monitoring, forecast capabilities and use of risk assessment methodologies in agricultural advisories, flood risk monitoring etc.

c) ***Climate Leadership and Governance for SDG-Climate Nexus:*** The Facility would engage risk management expertise for training sessions with local and community leaders on specific climate and DRR issues. This would include: developing theories of change around the risk and resilience agenda; overviews of key risk trends; global best practices to mainstream risk in development policy; and tools to de-risk and scale up investments into priorities such as climate change and DRR actions; developing toolkits for mainstreaming climate and disaster risks into existing natural resource and human development policies, systems for de-risking development investments and social protection programmes, and enabling regulatory environments that provide incentives for institutional and private sector investors to take on a nexus approach.A special focus would be put on addressing the nexus of climate risks with security and displacement trends for confict-affected contexts, including integrating climate and drought factors into conflict prevention policies and recovery efforts.

d) ***Sustainable climate finance****:* The project would conduct awareness raising campaigns and engage with a range of financial sector actors depending on the country, particularly banks, insurers , investors, regulators, and central banks to scale-up climate finance around risk reduction, to stimulate investment in resilient infrastructure, and track investment impacts on energy, food, and water. The Facility would help mobilize green finance (lending, insurance, and investment) by accelerating green sukuks, green bonds and green insurance for a broad range of potential opportunities in climate-smart agriculture, solar expansion, energy efficiency, construction, etc.

The programme was promoted throughout **2017** for resource mobilization with potential partners and donors, including within the region at the Arab Sustainable Development Week, at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Cancun, and at COP23 in Bonn.

**Key Results** (on project document indicators)**:**

1. **Number of countries NIE accredited and having access to international funding for climate change**

The total of 5 from 2013-17 reflects the number of countries supported with international climate financial mechanism access through adaptation submissions to the GCF, rather than the original NIE (national implementing entity) accreditation indicator, which refers specifically to establishing country access to the Adaptation Fund. The Adaptation Fund, a mechanism that was financed in part by governments and private donors, and also from a two percent share of proceeds from Certified Emission Reductions issued under the Kyoto Protocol’s Clean Development Mechanism projects, had struggled to mobilize adequate funds to justify the complex process of NIE accreditation for many countries, and in the Arab region this became a less and less relevant goal during the early years of the project. Instead, the project sought to provide early, catalytic support to the region around the larger GCF, just as the Fund became capitalized and and fully operational in 2015. UNDP was the first UN agency able to access the Fund's resources for developing countries, and ACRI sought to leverage this with varying levels of technical support to 5 countries in their concept note and/or full proposal submissions from 2015-2017.

**2. Number of partnerships between governments and private sector addressing climate change established**

From 2013-2017, the project established 1 climate partnership, with the Clean Energy Business Council and its wide base of companies, however specific PPPs on national projects at the country level were not successfully facilitated.

**3. Number of research initiatives on climate change launched in the Arab region**

From 2013-2017, the project developed one network with research components, the CRNI, which then became the second pillar of work under the SDG-Climate Nexus Facility in 2016 when endorsed through LAS. The *Science and Data Readiness for Decision-Making* and *Tools, Systems and Technology for Risk-Informed Development* components in particular seek to bolster research and information sharing in the region for better adaptation planning.

**4. Extent to which climate change resilience measures integrated into development and poverty reduction plans including gender equality at a national and local level**

The extent to which climate change resilience measures integrated into development and poverty reduction plans, has grown from low to moderate over the lifespan of the project, however this project progress is largely at the regional level, with the formally endorsed SDG-Climate Nexus Facility linking together climate resilience building processes to planning and goal-setting around other SDGs

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| **Project Output 2: Resilience to the negative impacts of climate change strengthened and opportunities to enhance the production and use of sustainable energy created** | | |
| **Output indicators** | **Targets** | **Progress against targets** |
| 1. Number of evidence based CC responses integrated into development planning, policies, strategies and programmes | **Baseline**: 0 (2013)  **Target**:  **2014:** 0  **2015:** 1  **2016**: 1  **2017:** 1 | **Cumulative total:**  **2014:** 0  **2015:** 0  **2016:** 0  **2017:** 0 |

**Key Activities:**

Under Output 2, the project supported a number of country-level activities in collaboration with country offices that focused specifically around policies, programmes and pilots to improve sustainable energy access and energy conservation. A number of partnerships and project proposals were developed under this Output as well, however those are discussed later in the Partnerships section, with the below covering only implemented activities.

***Strengthening capacity of policies and programmes to improve sustainable energy access and energy conservation:***

In 2013, ACRI initiated catalytic support to energy conservation initiatives in the region, the first being a capacity building **south-south cooperation facilitated between the Tunisian energy efficiency agency (ANME) in support of a newly formed Djiboutian energy efficiency agency (ADME)**. Tunisia had in recent years made significant progress in establishing the necessary regulatory and institutional frameworks to attract private-sector-led development of on-grid wind power and experience in developing a climate finance framework (i.e. policy development around finance readiness, awareness raising, policy dialogue, etc) around NAMAs (nationally appropriate mitigation actions), which led to the development of the Tunisian Solar Plan. Given the successes under ANME, in part attributable to support received from UNDPs CO there, this SSC with Tunisia was facilitated to share expertise and best practices with the rest of the region, with Djibouti specifically signaling a request for support on energy efficiency, a relatively new programming area for their Ministry of Energy as they began the set up of ADME. After an initial field mission in **2013** coordinated under the project, Djibouti prioritized 4 areas of capacity support: 1) building knowledge and data on Djibouti’s energy sector and an energy balance inventory; 2) energy policy management (priorities, creating ADME’s structure, awareness raising); 3) improvement of energy efficiency specficially in the building sector through a national strategy, regulatory frameworks, and energy audits; and 4) developing a portfolio of potential NAMA/CDM projects.

In **2014,** a delegation of 5 representatives from the Djiboutian Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Environment, as well as from ADME, was supported on a capacity building visit to ANME in Tunis, as well as the Ministry of Industry and Energy, the Department of Legal Affairs and Procedures, and several other technical teams, to get advice, guidance and experiential learning on the above areas. An MoU was signed and action plan agreed by the two agencies around institutional strengthening, developing energy efficiency indicators and programmes, assistance with studies and planning, managerial staff training, and exchange of professionals in energy management fields. Subsequently, ToRs were drawn up under the agreed action plan for the recruitment of an IC and 2 NCs to draft an energy balance study and national energy efficiency strategy. Sustaining momentum for growing these initiatives was an ongoing risk and concern for the project as ADME had limited capacity and funding from its central ministry, so the project also supported the establishment of a lab within ADME to issue certifications for appliances to generate revenue for the agency. Unfortunately, with the significant budget cuts across RBAS and other bureaus in **2015**, ACRI could not support the final stages of this SSC project, which included a final cross-agency mission and full-scale results workshop, however a smaller workshop was planned via the Djiboutian government later that year. Ideally this catalytic support from ACRI were not intended to last beyond 2 years in any case, so as to prevent over reliance on UNDP funds and ensure sustainability through ownership and integration of future project activities by the stakeholders.

**…**

In **2014**, ACRI also provided catalytic policy support to **Tunisia** as part of their 2020 strategy for a sustainable energy transition and low-carbon development, through funding a baseline **study projecting** **scenarios for low-carbon development through 2050**. Based on multiple economic analyses, comparison with low-carbon policies globally, and local consultations with policy makers, industry representatives, and local associations and civil society groups, the study provided a foundation for a framework for action and low-emissions economic growth planning. The report was comprised of three sections: a methodological note; international and national comparative experiences; and and elaboration on socioeconomic and energy scenarios, and evaluation of the potential for and goal of GHG mitigation. The report findings were also disseminated among a range of stakeholders as part of a side event on the Tunisian 2020 strategy at the COP20 in Peru.

***Piloting programmes and technology to improve sustainable energy access and energy conservation:***

During **2014 and 2015**,ACRI supported a variety of pilot demonstration projects as part of the expansion and **scaling of the energy efficient lighting market in Egypt** in conjunction with a larger GEF-funded energy efficient improvement project with the Ministry of Electricty, targeting the lighting sector as it accounted for 25% of Egypt’s total electricity consumption. This catalytic funding rapidly increased the scale and extent of the GEF-funded programme (in some cases to offset certain spending constraints on GEF funds) and to build consumer confidence in the quality and cost-saving opportunities of indoor and outdoor LED lighting, with ACRI’s investment helping to drop the costs of initial purchase and installation. Fifteen demonstration sites were coordinated with energy efficient lighting installation contracts across a range of sectors and buildings, and cost-benefit calculations were recorded.

Pilot sites saw a 25-40% savings on total electricity consumption and all beneficiary buildings were satisfied with the results. One bank in the project went on to contract 160 of their branches nationwide to switch the LED installation, and likewise with a major hotel chain, based on the pilot results. The potential for scale up was furthered by the adoption and showcasing of the LED technology at the Ministry of Electricity and Energy building and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs building. In 2017, this national project received a Special Recognition Award under the Emirates Energy Award at the Green Climate Summit in Abu Dhabi in recognition for achievements in the energy efficiency in a variety of public and private sector building to confirm the technical and financial feasibility of converting to LED. It catalyzed the private sector to expand use of LED technologies and to scale up conversion to efficient lighting in chains of hotels, shops, supermarkets, gas station, administrative buildings, government buildings, such as all branches for CIB , Alex Bank, Alexandria Library (*pictured above)*, administrative buildings, depots and gas stations for Exxon Mobil, the offices of the Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe, all branches of Metro Supermarket, Carrefour, Raya Communications and others which reduced electricity consumption by tens of millions of KWhr/year and thousands of tons of GHG emissions.

**Key Results** (on project document indicators)**:**

**1. Number of evidence based climate change responses integrated into development planning, policies, strategies and programmes**

While the project did not make quantitatively measurable progress on this indicator, under the SSC between Tunisia and Djibouti on energy efficiency, Djibouti’s development of a national energy conservation strategy was informed by the lessons learned by Tunisia’s energy conservation agency in setting up and implementing their own national strategy.

Additionally, the evidence on cost- and energy-savings generated by the energy efficienct lighting pilot in Egypt led to the integration and scale up of these installation methods and technologies the within the operational plans of private sector participants.

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| **Project Output 3: Knowledge management, advocacy and awareness in countries of the Arab region on climate change adaptation, mitigation and negotiations improved** | | |
| **Output indicators** | **Targets** | **Progress against targets** |
| 1. Number of CC knowledge products produced and discussed. | **Baseline**: 10 (2013)  **Target**:  **2014:** 2  **2015:** 2  **2016:** 2  **2017:** 2 | **Cumulative total: 7**  **2014:** 0  **2015:** 2  **2016:** 1  **2017:** 4 |
| 2. Number of CC knowledge products downloaded from ACRI website | **Baseline**: N/A  **Target**:  **2014:** N/A  **2015:** N/A  **2016:** N/A  **2017:** N/A | **Cumulative total:** N/A  **2014:** N/A  **2015:** N/A  **2016:** N/A  **2017:** N/A |
| 3. Number of CC-related knowledge products translated into Arabic and French | **Baseline**: 1 (2013)  **Target**:  **2014:** 0  **2015:** 0  **2016:** 0  **2017:** 0 | **Cumulative total:** 1  **2014:** 0  **2015:** 0  **2016:** 0  **2017:**  1 |

**Key Activities:**

During the **project development phase (2009-2010),** nine knowledge project were generated, including: several mappings of current and future climate change impacts in the region and their implications for development outcomes; a number of in-depth background papers around the priority issue areas covered by the consultative process (water scarcity and drought, sea-level rise, and sustainable energy); and a climate change funding overview. More detail on these papers and reports can be found in Annex I within the Launch Phase Summary. Additionally, in **2012** just prior to the official launch of implementation of the project, a policy briefing under the sustainable energy pillar of the project on “Energy Subidies in the Arab World” was pubished as part of the AHDR Research Paper Series. Additionally a website was created during the launch phase to announce event and activities, as well as house a knowledge product archive, however there were limitations in the original site design that prevented smooth administration of the site, and easy updating by member of the project working from different locations. An overhaul of the ACRI website was planned during 2014-15 to allow for a more flexible and dynamic format, however due to ongoing budgetary constraints this was not considered the most efficient use of limited funds, and this was postponed indefinitely until a more consistent funding stream for the project from donor(s) would support this process.

**…**

In **2014**, ACRI embarked on a partnership with the Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE) and began formulating the regional **Diesel to Solar (D2S) Initiative**, aimed at finding decentralized energy solutions for povery alleviation and increased food and water security through demonstrating the technical, financial and economic viability of solar energy (PV) hybridization of conventional (diesel) power generation for small and medium sized, off-grid power systems. The focus countries (Djibouti, Egypt, Sudan, Yemen) were chosen for the extent of reliance on localized diesel power systems (either in remote, rural areas, or at the firm level in towns and cities), which leads to vulnerability to increasing fluctuations in diesel prices and is generally an indication of unrealiable energy availability. Through market assessments, awareness building, technological and financial capacity building, and pilot projects for regional scaling, D2S would promote decentralized, clean-energy business models that also would support sustainable livelihoods. In **2015**, ACRI and RCREEE began the research process for the preparation of **national**, **market assessments** and analyses of project barriers, and identification of relevant stakeholders.

The **“Diesel to Solar Transformation: Assessing Untapped Solar Potential in Existing Off-grid Systems”**  market assessment report explored the market potential for introducing solar PV into existing off-grid diesel-based energy systems in four countriers: Djibouti, Egypt, Sudan and Yemen. In doing so, it identified market segments and business applications that show significant promise for profitable investment by the private sector through offgrid solar photovoltaic (PV) retrofitting projects. To ensure technical and economic feasibility, the report focuses on partial introduction of (PV) into diesel-based energy systems to create “hybrid systems.” Ideally, this type of partial substitution is merely a stepping stone toward complete replacement of diesel generation for more cost effective, renewable and reliable energy access. While the D2S project itself did not in the end mobilize resources to launch, the work that went into these assessments provided a useful baseline on the four countries for future energy-access proposals, as outlined further in the Partnerships section.

**…**

Since **2014**, ACRI has also collaborated with RCREEE to produce the flagship **Arab Future Energy Index (AFEX)**, with alternating years focusing on either renewable energy or energy efficiency, and 3 reports published total during the project: **AFEX 2015: Energy Efficiency**; **AFEX 2016: Renewable Energy**;and **AFEX 2017: Energy Effiiency**



AFEX is a benchmarking tool and report to monitor and analyze sustainable energy competitiveness in the Arab region, with quantitative and qualitative analyses for key renewable energy and energy efficiency market dimensions. Each year up to 20 countries are ranked by 20-30 indicators on their regulatory and institutional structures, technical capacities, governing strategies, financial innovations, socioeconomic data and low-carbon investments. The reports also provides tailored recommendations for countries to help improve their transition towards sustainable energy pathways. The information and analyses in AFEX, which involve extensive communication with and feedback from national partners, have proven to be a useful tracking tool for goal-setting and monitoring progress on SDG 7 (expanding access to sustainable energy), as well as giving countries a way to assess themselves vis-à-vis their NDC goals, and their regional peers under the Arab Renewable Energy Strategy.

The launch events for the report, and coverage of the rankings, have also provided an opportunity for countries to learn from one another’s renewable energy and energy efficiency approaches and experiences in more detail. **AFEX 2015: Energy Efficiency** had two main **launch events**, a regional one in Cairo at the LAS Energy Summit with all of delegations from ministries energy across the region, and a global launch through an expert session for about sixty people at the SE4All Forum in New York, with interventions from the government of Palestine, the UAE, and the World Bank. UNDP and RCREEE then launched **AFEX 2016: Renewable Energy** in collaboration with IsDB at the “Carbon Shift – Arab Future Energy 2030” side event at COP22, input from which provided an opportunity to highlight several advances in the region, including by the host country (Morocco), which received the top ranking in the index and had the most ambitious goals for scaling up renewable energy (i.e. to install 2,000 MW each of wind, photovoltaic (PV) and concentrated solar power (CSP), with 42% of Morocco’s energy supply renewable by 2020). Lastly,  **AFEX 2017: Energy Efficiency** was in production and ready for distribution at the time of writing this report, and RCREEE will be launching it in 2018s.

AFEX has provided information to help private and public partners plan future policies and investments and has created a new dialogue on the governance and institutional arrangements that are needed for the transition to sustainable energy, for de-risking sustainable energy investments, and more determining the developmental efficacy of policy initiatives such as energy subsidy reforms in the region.

**…**

Lastly, in **2017** the project produced three further knowledge products:

1) an energy policy brief on **“Sustainable Energy in Fragile Contexts: Expanding Energy Access for Resilient Recovery in the Arab Region”** that supports project proposals and resource mobilization efforts to harness sustainable energy for resilience building in crisis and conflict contexts across the region;

2) an **“Arab Climate Resilience Report”** that provides an overview of the impacts of climate change in the region and an in-depth overview of national-level climate adapation in the region. This overview draws links between and lessons learned from much of UNDPs climate work at the country-level, adding a region-wide perspective to the portfolio of work; and

3) the **“Arab Cities Resilience Report”**, which aims to establish a baseline on urban disaster and climate resilience by analyzing urban exposure, vulnerability, risks, capacity needs and best practices. It promotes new ideas on addressing challenges to sustainable urban development, covering demographic and socio-economic trends in the region, and case studies to illustrate interventions across the resilience continuum implemented by local authorities with support from the UN agencies and international development partners. The report was part of the **Arab Cities Resilience Programme**, a project originally funded by the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation to enable 10 high-risk cities to better respond to a range of disaster and climate risks in line with the priorities laid out in the Aqaba Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. This sub-project was subsumed under ACRI in 2015 and ACRI contributed specifically to the production of the report, including 3 events that year as preparation for the report: 1) an expert consultation on the design of the report; 2) a consultative forum with urban stakeholders from across the region; and 3) a consultative forum in Kuwait to specifically address the needs and experiences of Gulf countries.

**Key Results** (on project document indicators)**:**

1. **Number of CC knowledge products produced and discussed**

From 2013-2017, 7 knowledge products were produced, and some of them discussed (as outlined above), including the following:

* 1. Diesel to Solar Transformation: Assessing Untapped Solar Potential in Existing Off-grid Systems
  2. Arab Future Energy Index (AFEX) 2015: Energy Efficiency
  3. Arab Future Energy Index (AFEX) 2016: Renewable Energy;
  4. Arab Future Energy Index (AFEX) 2017: Energy Effiiency
  5. Sustainable Energy in Fragile Contexts: Expanding Energy Access for Resilient Recovery in the Arab Region
  6. Arab Climate Resilience Report
  7. Arab Cities Resilience Report

1. **Number of CC knowledge products downloaded from ACRI website**

Because the website set up during the launch phase ceased to be an efficient means of updating on the project, this indicator was not measured.

**3. Number of CC-related knowledge products translated into Arabic and French**

Most of the knowledge products produced throughout the life of the project were produced in English, however one (the Arab Cities Resilience Report) was translated into Arabic.

1. **Key Challenges, Lessons Learned and Recommendations**

Limited and unpredictable stream of resources:

While originally designed to absorb and deliver up to $10 mill, ACRI was unable to mobilize significant external resources to support the extensive range of activities forseen during the launch phase and laid out in the project document. The project thus relied heavily on TRAC,

with allocations fluctuating annually, and occasionally mid-year, and with funds expiring at the end of each year, which created challenges for long-term planning, procurement, and activity coordination, as well as for commitments with national counterparts around certain areas of work. In 2013 the project recruited a Project Manager, but due to the resources gap and uncertainty, was not able to finalize a recruitment process for a dedicated, in-region CTA (during 2014) to catalyze strategic resource mobilization, partnerships, and to scale up delivery.

As it was difficult to initiate and achieve progress across some of the wide ranging activity areas without a consistent project office, early on the project focused more on implementation of catalytic, national level activities (e.g. those outlined under Output 2) with implementation coordinated through country offices. From around 2015 onwards however, the project benefitted greatly from significant assistance in partnership building in the region and strategic direction from the Team Leader for Climate Change, DRR, and Resilience from the regional hub. The project was able to leverage the capacity within the new Hub (reformed under UNDP’s structural review process) through collaboration with RBAS/BPPS positions created there via a standard cost-recovery model for internal staff services to project implementation. Valuable and dedicated support for ACRIs climate activities was provided by UNDPs Regional Climate Specialist, ACRIs energy activities by UNDPs Regional Energy Specialist and ACDRP sub-project by UNDPs Regional DRR Specialist. This particular form of collaboration between a regional project and the Hub, along with specific consultants when/where needed, proved to be successful for the project’s delivery and growth, and alleviated some of the difficulties of the project’s resource gap.

Looking back, one recommendation in light of resource constraints would be to narrow the project scope early on and use the TRAC more efficiently to focus the prepration of activities, institutional network building, and resource mobilization and overall momentum of the project around one issue area, instead of trying to deliver small, sometimes short-term gains at different levels (sub-national to regional) across the many issues and priorities encompassed in the project document. While some of this trial and error across a broad range of issues was necessary in the beginning to be responsive to country needs and to find opportunities and niches for the project, over time greater impact may have been achieved by devoting the project manager’s time to building up a single pillar of the project.

Supporting national capacity while ensuring sustainability:

Complementing country office results and providing catalytic support/funding around issues of regional concern, though not the only aim of the regional projects, was an important focus area for the project. In navigating these collaborations with country offices, one challenge that arose was selecting catalytic areas and pilot options that could be rolled out across multiple countries for a regional perspective, given the limited resources of the project. One recommendation, despite the sometimes urgent timeline for delivery, would be to allow for a more extended planning phase to ensure concrete discussions and commitments up front about the potential for co-financing from national partners, and/or agree on a clear sustainability plan around maintaining capacity after the expiration of catalytic funds.

For example, in investigating the potential for running CPEIRs in several countries in the region, the cost per country was generally around $150,000 and it was difficult to get external donor resources devoted to regional coordination of this type of interministerial capacity-building, climate financing/mainstreaming activity. While this type of capacity support around climate mainstreaming is a strong area for UNDP generally, as well as other policy-level, institution-building climate interventions, the project often found that donor governments preferred to have direct bilateral engagement country by country, rather than engaging and partnering at the regional level. To use the project’s TRAC funds catalytically would require, in addition to buy-in from Ministries of Finance, some co-financing from government partners for a properly full review in multiple countries, which was generally more likely for the MICs in the region. The project focused its support to start with Lebanon as a demonstration country, given the in-built capacity already in place in their Ministry of Finance, however this national investment proved most difficult for countries (especially LDCs) that would have benefitted most from such an activity and where capacity building demand was greatest (e.g. in Yemen, prior to the current conflict). Eventually with Lebanon also, there was not significant enough blending of funds to support the consultants required after TRAC resources declined in 2015.

The question of building sustainable capacity arose also under the SSC activities to support the development of Djibouti’s energy efficiency agency and policy-making. Once the priority areas of support had been established within ADME, through consultation with the Tunisian counterparts, there was some lack of clarity over how long certain national consultants would need to be supported within the agency, balanced with the need to ensure that the government had a plan to invest in the agency’s staffing in the longer term for the sustainability of of the national strategy development and knowledge transfer. The project was not able to continue providing support after about two years, and in future it is recommended that a wider range of international partners be included along the way to attract more sustainable funding for these longer term consultancies. And while some of the advising provided during the missions to the sister agency in Tunisia covered the building up of agency structure, a a more strategic discussion should be had early on with the ministerial counterparts regarding mutual expectations for the staffing capacity required for different, long-term activities.

Duplication of activities with other regional institutions:

The challenge of duplication and sometimes overlapping mandates between regional institutions is not an uncommon challenge for regional and global UNDP projects. While many of the the themes addressed by the project, including water security, climate mainstreaming, building up a sustainable energy transition, etc. were “busy” areas of work across regional NGOs, among donor countries, and also between UN agencies, the project did intentionally aim to address this through developing quite specific activity areas during the extended consultation process over the year and half launch phase. Part way through project implementation however, duplication issues did arise with the cancellation of the project’s international negotiations support workshops (one of ACRI’s specific and successful areas of speciality) due to duplication from another UN agency, ESCWA.

In general, a more concerted level of communication with other UN agencies may have helped prevent this duplication, and this was taken into consideration later with other areas of ACRI work, such as the SDG-Climate Nexus Facility, which pointedly aimed to take a OneUN approach to service delivery and policy messaging to countries (and with the case of ESCWA, consulted to incorporate the eventual outcomes and lessons of their climate programme, RICCAR [Regional Initiative for the Assessment of Climate Change Impacts on Water Resources and Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region]). Additonally, on the negotiations support specifically, a dedicated Negotiations Advisor retainer position would be recommended to provide consistent and more personal engagement with countries throughout each year.

Coordination within UNDP on climate areas

The project strove to maintain regular communication with other bureaux (namely BPPS and RBA) and the GEF programme, to ensure the project was always aware of either any shared climate work areas and/or targeted countries and sub-regions, and to plan, adjust, establish boundaries, provide/seek input or collaborate accordingly. Generally this process was fairly straight forward, with the project establishing successful channels of communication and delegation, while other times maintaining boundaries was a challenge.

With the IGAD support programme (“Strengthening the Capacity of IGAD in Building Resilience in the Horn of Africa”) launched by RBA, for which they initially spearheaded activities without RBAS input, ACRI estabished oversight and monitoring on RBAS countries/communication (i.e. for Djibouti, Somalia, and Sudan desk), and also provided project co-financing of about $165k (following the 2015 budget, however, this financial support had to be rescinded). Likewise, in 2015 during the build up to the adoption of the Paris Agreeement, ACRI aimed to provide countries with advisory support in developing their INDCs (Intended Nationally Determined Contributions), the voluntary country commitments that were to make up the core of the agreement, however after considered consultation with BPPS, it was decided that this would duplicate the support already planned under a global project providing various rounds of regional workshops on INDC production, with RBAS countries included in their Asia and Africa regional workshops.

With the GEF programmes, which made up the largest portfolio of environmentally oriented work in the region, the project maintained consistent contact with regional technical advisers on their portfolio of mitigation and adaptation projects, while keeping an eye on the added value that the regional project could provide beyond the GEF mandate in terms of regional activities, regional partnership building, and more policy oriented work. In some cases, collaboration with the GEF proved highly successful, such as with the pilot energy efficiency project in Egypt (outlined above under Output 2), in which the blended funding from ACRI’s support allowed rapid and exponential scale-up of demonstration sites, and broadened the scope of activities beyond certain restrictions contained within the GEF funds.

In other cases, coordination of new areas of work in collaboration with the GEF presented some challenges, such as with seeking suitable support for countries’ development of concept notes and proposals to the GCF during 2016-2017. COs were seeing a surge of demand from governments for support to GCF project development, and the ability of COs to respond with only in-house capacity was limited. While GCF submission coordination across UNDP was to be coordinated in the regions centrally through the GEF technical advisors for climate adaptation, funding for the development of submissions was not provided through the GEF and as such the multi-country support provided by ACRI would be of great balue to COs. The GCF proposal process was highly complex and time sensitive, requiring a number of in-depth studies and broad ranging inputs, and in most cases needed support from highly experienced consultants (both technically and in terms of local knowledge). Engaging quality consultants for long-term support was a challenge, as these individuals were in high demand across UNDP and from other entities supporting the GCF process. While it was agreed with the GEF and Tunisia CO for example that ACRI would finance procurement to support their concept note development, obstacles arose over several months to secure full commitments from the consultant chosen due to cross-commitments with another UNDP global project. There was some confusion between the GEF coordintation and ACRI during this process over the management arrangements and sequencing of work, such that some regional TRAC funds were lost. Eventually, support was re-coordinated and it was agreed that RBAS countries could access certain consultants through the longer term retainers put in place via the other UNDP global adaptation project. While this did casue some delays for the Tunisia submission development, ACRI redirected funds towards finalization of another proposal with Egypt, and supplementary funds then provided laterto Tunisia from the Regional Team Leader in the hub.

Overall, the lesson learned is that the provision of consultancy support under ACRI to COs as part of GCF prep support required more clearly established lines of coordination with regional technical advisors in terms of timing, and managing of expectations between the country offices, global projects and the GEF. As UNDP generally as been developing more and more experience in dealing with the GCF and determining the capacities and strategies required for successful GCF approvals for countries, some of these intial confusions have subsided and ACRI’s involvement has been an effective and flexible means of bringing on board expertise with specific capacities needed for each proposal and each CO context, in addition to the useful advisory support of more generalist regional advisors from the GEF unit and the Hub. With the potential of a second phase of climate work in the region, the regional project hopefully can continue to serve this useful role in future, alongside any generalist fixed-term GCF or climate finance related positions that arise at the Hub level.

1. **Risk log with mitigation measures**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Risks** | **Mitigation Measures** |
| **Risk 1:**  **Lack of commitment by signatory countries around certain intervention areas** | Strong stakeholder involvement took place early on as part of programme design, including 3 regional workshops and a high level, ministerial regional forum, resulting in stakeholder and political buy-in from signatory countires at the start. The project communicated with the UNDP country offices (and through ongoing activities with ministries and the stakeholders) to map out any growing or shifting priorities across the different countries, and this process has also dictated why the project conducts certain activities in certain countries and not others. Overall, there have not been any highly sensitive intervention areas where lack of commitment has been an issue, though in some countries certain issues were more relevant (e.g. water security in countries with heavily depleted water supply, or promoting decentralized sustainable energy in countries with larger rural populations or less reliable electrification, or promoting CPEIRs in countries that have both the human capacity and political will to conduct a financial review across ministries). |
| **Risk 2:**  **Limited engagement and involvement of government ministries beyond Ministries of Environment (i.e. Ministries of Finance, Foreign Affairs, Energy, Agriculture, etc)** | Throughout the consultative process and events held as part of the launch of ACRI, a wide range of ministerial representatives were successfully engaged around ACRI’s different thematic areas. The project has promoted an integrated approach to dealing with climate change impacts and in supporting mitigation efforts and in some countries, ministries of finance, ministries of water, ministries of energy, ministries of planning, etc. uildingted in and responded to project engagement quite easily (e.g. Lebanon and Egypt and Tunisia and Morocco), while in others engagement was still siloed through MoEs or Ministries of Foreign Affairs, though this was usually with countries who were not signatory the project as yet (e.g. Algeria). To further address this risk, the project targeted specific ministries based on the specific event, knowledge product, pilot project or capacity uilding activity, and promoted respective activities as specific to water, energy, integrated finance and development effectiveness, etc. Consistent and flexible feedback from country office focal points assisted greatly in this targeting process. |
| **Risk 3:**  **The mobilization of adequate financial resources to support the cost of implementing intended Project outputs fails.** | Given the original scope and aims of the project document in terms of the expected level of resource mobilization, this particular risk was the largest and most impactful of the 4 risks. Though the project tried to be strategic with the annual TRAC allocation, it did not attract any significant, long-term donors with which to grow the project team and sustain longer term and wide reaching activities. Numerous proposals were drafted and new relationships sought with many different kinds of partners both with in the region and globally (including major donor countries like Japan and Sweden, financial institutions like the IsDB, and private sector membership organisatinos like CEBC) but attracting significant resources into the project has been difficult, partly due to shifting priorities within the region among the traditional donor community (e.g. the urgency of the many unfortunate conflicts and emerging crises in the region often shifted funding priorities). In other cases, there was a preference for certain activities to be funded bilaterally and directly with countries or country offices instead of through a regional mechanism.  In some years, the fluctuations in TRAC allocations on which the project relied, as well as the yearly TRAC expiration, made the activity and partnership planning process somewhat unpredictable, with one main limitation being that ACRI was not able to recruit a full CTA and project office with dedicated technical experts and project staff to implement activities. However, from 2015 onwards (and more significantly and formally in 2016-2017), the project benefited greatly from more active collaboration between with technical specialists and the Team Leaders in the Hub for direction and delivery of the project, which was successful in mitigating some the risks associated with the project’s resource gap. |
| **Risk 4:**  **The engagement and involvement of signatory governments in project activities fails due to political unrest or transformation.** | To address Risk 4, the project closely followed political developments across the region and aligned the scope of regional activities accordingly. In particular, support across many activity areas was put on hold in Syria and Libya early on in the project, and later on with Yemen. In response to these various conflicts in recent years, and their wide-reaching impacts across the region, ACRI incorporated these circumstances into the development of new initiatives and resource mobilization efforts (such as through climate security activities in the SDG Climate Nexus proposal and refugee/IDP host community support in the Energy for Resilience proposal), as well as by using public forums to elevate awareness of the linkages between climate change impacts and international security, while highlighting the interlinkages between climate-related development efforts and humanitarian efforts. |

1. **Partnerships and Sustainability**

Over 5 years, ACRI developed four main institutional partnerships at the regional level, including: a membership-based private sector organization; the League of Arab States; and two non-governmental organizations with regional intergovernmental mandates, one working on water issues and the other sustainable energy. Additionally the project established a partnership with one international financial institution, the Islamic Development Bank. At the national level for specific in-country activities, ACRI relied on the well established network of UNDP environment/energy/climate/water focal points within RBAS country offices for engaging and liaising with government partners and specific ministerial teams. Below is a brief analysis of the main project partnerships, as well as an overview of partnership development for resource mobilization, with a record of the various proposals and concept notes.

As mentioned under Output 2, with the guidance of the Regional Team Leader for CC, DRR and Sustainable Energy, RBAS signed an MoU through the project with the **Clean Energy Business Council** at the World Green Economy Summit in Dubai in 2014, with the aim to work with the CEBC and its broad range of member companies (including Standard Chartered, GE, Deloitte, Energetics Inc, Yingli Solar, Enel, Adenium Energy Capital, Ambata Capital, Acore, First Solar, Masdar, Fleishman Hillard, etc.) on regional dialogues and awareness building, joint knowledge production, and facilitation of national project partnerships around sustainable energy and the energy-water nexus. While the Council itself had somewhat limited staff capacity for implementing projects, through roundtables in 2015 and 2016 with member companies, ACRI aimed to incorporate certain member companies into more specific lines of work already under development, such as involving First Solar in the installation activities under the Energy+ initiatives (energy access for displaced communities) under discussion with various donors, or developing communications campaigns for better public awareness around climate issues. These activities through company partnerships were still to be fully realized by the end of 2017, but more generally the process of familiarizing and striving to engage a broad range of companies with UNDP’s climate work in the region, particularly the human-development centered approach to a sustainable energy transition and energy-water nexus issues in the region, has been valuable for future project development within the regional programme and for country offices. Additionally, the partnership has added value to the regional convening power of project, with the co-hosted “Regional Conference on Financing for Sustainable Energy and Water Conservation” providing a platform for companies like Energetics Inc., Blue Pearl Management, Itron Middle East, and Deloitte to establish reltaionships with water and energy authorites in Jordan, Lebanon, Tunisia, Oman, Morocco, and Algeria.

**…**

The project’s partnership with **RCREEE**, based in Cairo, began in 2014, and many of their goals and activities have aligned closely with ACRI’s. It is an international not-for-profit organization mandated through the 2008 Cairo Declaration under LAS to initiate regional policy dialogues and promote strategies and partnerships favorable to renewable energy and energy efficiency investments in Arab member states. The first LoA was signed in 2014 with ACRI to provide co-financing for the production of the AFEX 2015: Energy Efficiency report, and subsequent LoAs for the next several years to develop subsequent AFEX reports and launch events, the D2S assessment reports and project development (which provided a valuable baseline and pilot options within the Energy+ proposals described below), and finally an MoU was established with them in 2016. The knowledge base and research capacities at RCREEE have been strong and innovative, and as they operate under a LAS mandate to help countries implement the Arab Regional Strategy on Renewable Energy and develop National Renewable Energy Actions Plans, they have been a smooth and valuable technical partner, while ACRIs broad-based, localized relationships through its country office system in the region has provided RCREEE with a strong network for coordination and visibility in the region. It has been a mutually beneficial partnership for developing collaborative project activities, and has put ACRI in a stronger position for approaching donors for combined resource mobilization as implementing partners (e.g. a 2016 joint proposal to the European Comission on the energy-water nexus, “Energizing Innovation and Growth: Pathways to a New Energy Economy in the Middle East and North Africa” ). As the project was closing, this collaboration has continued via regional colleagues in the Amman Hub with the development of the joint UNDP-RCREEE “Arab SDG7 Platform” to help countries implement the new 2030 Arab Sustainable Energy Strategy, which will be enacted under LAS in Spring 2018.

**…**

ACRI’s partnership with **IsDB** began in 2016, with the co-hosting of the “Regional Conference on Financing for Sustainable Energy and Water Conservation” (with about $17,000 directed to ACRI) as a first point of collaboration under a new global UNDP-IsDB MoU, in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda around financing for development. The joint coordination of the conference provided an opportunity to explore the specific modalities of this cooperation within the Arab region, and the project put forth best practices and experiences from its country-based sustainable energy access initiatives and pilots in de-risking scaled up investments for energy, while IsDB contributed experiences from its large scale financing capabilities. Following the conference, the project sought to leverage ISDBs new energy strategy, which for the first time identified low-carbon solutions as a priority for their investments, and tied in the MoU focus on post-confict resilience, sustainable energy, and knowledge sharing within a grant proposal under IsDB’s Energy Department: the $4mill “Energy for Resilience: Mobilizing Solar Solutions to Empower Refugee and IDP Host Communities in the Arab Region”.

**…**

In 2014, ACRI developed a partnership with the **Arab Water Council**, a non-profit, regional, technical organization that works in conjunction with the Arab Ministerial Water Council under LAS, and is devoted to promoting better understanding and management of water resources in the Arab States in a multi-disciplinary, scientific manner, with a strong focus on knowledge dissemination. Under an MoU signed that year, several areas of cooperation were established blending the aims of the RBAS’ Water Governance Programme for Arab States and ACRI around climate change impacts on water resouces and the food-water-energy nexus, and with the Arab country offices benefitting from their extensive roster of experts and stakeholder networks in the water sector. ACRI and the WGP-AS supported the AWC to host their 3rd Arab Water Forum at the end of 2014, where the project, LAS and the AWC hosted the initial climate knowledge platform brainstorming workshop that led to the formation of the CRNI. The AWC became a core partner in the development of the CRNI and SDG-Climate Nexus Facility over the next couple years, and agreed to host consultancies and technical teams in the region for certain subsets of activities around GIS mapping, meteorlogical analyses, social and geographical information collection, among their other water/drought management support projects in the region.

Direct engagement with the Department of Environment, Housing and Water Resources and Sustainable Development at the **League of Arab States** began in 2014, and in addition to positioning the project to develop certain activities for approval by various ministerial councils, the partnership helped fulfill UNDP RBAS’ commitment to improving LAS capacity and implementing activities and programmes related to water security, food security and climate change adaptation and mitigation under the 2012 Cooperation Agreement between the two organizations. After a formal request from the department head, ACRI recruited a Senior Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management Technical Advisor to provide technical advice in policy matters and strengthen institutional and research networks as part of the progressive transfer of knowledge of planning, implementation, and guidance functions and tools to counterparts at the League. The Advisor’s support included technical advice to its staff and to relevant line ministries in member countries, producing technical and policy documents,  and growing regional knowledge networks to link scientific analysis on drought to socioeconomic vulnerability and to resilience-based development policy. While LAS departments are not designed/intended to be major project implementation bodies, the partnership built early on through the temporary Advisor support position made LAS an accessible and important vehicle for formalizing the SDG-Climate Nexus Facility and validating the project’s multi-agency, One-UN approach to accelerating climate resilience at the regional level.

**…**

Given the push throughout the life of the project to mobilize resources beyond TRAC allocations, new concept notes and proposals were developed every year based on opportunities identified by the project and on the possibility of establishing relationships with donors during travels by the project manager and Team Leader for CC, DRR and Sustainable Energy for meetings and project events. New potential partnerships and sub-project concepts were greatly accelerated in the final years of the project as the support of technical colleagues in the Hub to the project became more formalized, and as momentum around various areas of climate work across the international community ramped up with the passage of the SDGs and the Paris Agreement. Below is an overview of these various efforts, including the surge of resource mobilization and partnership building during the last two years of the project, with those proposals and donor relationships that remained in play at the close of the project highlighted in yellow. Relevant documents can be found in the “Donors and Resource Mobilization” folder in the project archives.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Proposal/**  **Concept Note** | **Partners** | **Potential Donor** | **Proposed Budget (USD)** | **Notes** |
| **2013** | | | | |
| Water Efficiency in the Arab Region |  | Japan (JICA) | 700k  (+300k from UNDP) | Aimed to address water scarcity by making use of non-conventional water supply systems in a variety of local-level environments, such as urban households, on-farm uses, public buildings, schools, mosques, etc) and integrate lessons and outcomes into higher level policy processes. (i.e. pilots, policy-level capacity building, regional exchange). Countries included: Djibouti, Jordan, Palestine, Somalia, Yemen |
| **2014** | | | | |
| Sustainable solutions to energy poverty in the Arab countries |  | OFID | 7 mill  (+ 1 mill from UNDP) | Included energy poverty research, a sub-regional grants system for demo projects, community-based training, and regional exchange and knowledge sharing. Countries included: Djibouti, Somalia, Yemen, Sudan, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia |
| Proposal for Water Governance Programme for Arab States (2014-2017) | SIWI, Coca Cola | Sida | 5.35 mill | While this proposal was developed to launch a second phase of the WGP-AS, it had significant focus on climate adaptation in the water sector, including non-conventional water supply projects, and related local institutional building. If the proposal had been successful, some parts may have been managed by ACRI. |
| **2015** | | | | |
| COP 21 Side Event |  | QEERI | $61k | A colleague from QEERI/NASA who had worked with the project on a side event and supporting the COP18 in Doha approached the project to run a side event to highlight climate change related challenges and opportunities in hyper-arid regions from various perspectives of human development, science, and policy, with QEERI providing funding to bring in partners from a variety of research programs in the US and in the region. It was hoped that coordinating a COP side event might lead to actual project partnership with QEERI supporting and participating in the growing regional CRNI pillar, however the Qatari government did not want to host the COP event in the end, and the partnership did not pan out. |
| UAE Wateraid Initiative |  | Dubai Water and Electricity Authority (DEWA | $1 mill for each country proposal | This newly established foundation sought UNDP to sit on its board and provide technical assistance in the setup of the foundation, as well as a multi-country submission around decentralized water solutions in dryland and drought communities in LDCs, on crisis/disaster stricken communities, including refugee and IDP communities, and energy-water nexus climate resilience projects, such as decentralized solar water pumping and solar desalination technologies, to expand water access while also addressing sustainable energy. Included Lebanon, Djibouti and Somalia. |
| **2016** | | | | |
| Energizing Innovation and Growth: Pathways to a New Energy Economy in the Middle East and North Africa | RCREEE, AWC, ASCAME, CEBC, country partners | European Commission | $4m | The proposal aimed to support diagnostics on ways to derisk private investments for growth in the sustainable energy sector, and provide nationally-focused advisory services and capacity building activities to help countries enact new policies, regulations and institutions to achieve growth in the sustainable energy sector and to catalyse innovation research and applications for the energy-water nexus. This was to be coupled with region-wide training, public-private dialogues and networking to mobilize partners to new energy growth and innovation opportunities. Targeting national authorities in charge of energy investment and innovation in partner countries including Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Palestine, Jordan and Lebanon, the project would indirectly benefit private sector actors, universities and job-seekers around the sustainable energy sector supply chain. |
| Energy Plus: The SDG 7 Accelerator Initiative | RCREEE, country partners | OFID | $1m | Intended to complement and catalyze other sustainable energy access initiatives (e.g. the IDBG and Sida proposals below), this grant proposal sought two outputs: i) to develop countries’ capacities to implement national sustainable energy policies through derisking measures, utilizing new technology options, business models and financing solutions that help scale-up investments, accelerate SDG 7 achievement and generate Energy Plus solutions; and ii) demonstration projects in three countries on decentralized energy access for addressing the three typologies of needs - energy access for refugee-host communities (Djibouti), energy access for internally-displaced persons (IDPs) (Yemen) and energy access for combating extreme poverty in key social services sectors like health (Sudan). As budget allocations at OFID shifted over 2016-2017, this proposal was reviewed a few times, but ultimately not successful. |
| Energy for Resilience: Mobilizaing Solar Solutions to Empower Refugee and IDP Host Communities in the Arab Region | Participating country offices | Islamic Development Bank Group | $4m | In follow-up to global MOU between IDBG and UNDP and 2016 IDBG-UNDP Financing for Sustainble Energy and Water Conservation forum, this ACRI energy access concept note developed with feedback by IDBG, and full proposal was then submitted in 2017 (with coordination via their Energy Dept.) Internal reviews across all relevant IDBG depts. were ongoing at the end of 2017 to decide how best to house and fund the project. |
| Energy Plus: A Regional SDG7 Accelerator Initiative |  | Sida | $4m | Similar to the OFID submission above, this broader proposal covering 8 coutnries sought local energy+ solutions for vulnerable communities, paired with capacity development to sustain and scale-up efforts through technology options, business models and financing solutions that scale-up investments in energy+ approaches for a wide range of human development and sectoral impacts. Activity areas included: (i) energy access for refugee-host communities (Djibouti, Jordan and Lebanon), (ii) energy access for internally-displaced persons (IDPs) (Iraq, Yemen) and (iii) energy access for combating extreme poverty in key social services sectors like health and education (Palestine, Sudan and Somalia). Capacity development and technology deployment activities noted above will be provided for all selected countries. |
| Climate Change Peace and Security Initiative (2017-2020) | LAS and country partners | Sida | $3m | Developed in conversation with Sida initially, the proposal sought to build on growing momentum in the international community (particularly the G7) around the CC and peace building nexus linking climate fragility and security risks. It had 4 capacity building pillars: Risk governance; climate-induced migration/displacement; resource insecurity; and climate-resilient recovery. The standalone proposal was not successful but the concepts and activity areas were later wrapped into the SDG-Climate Nexus Facility proposal. |
| Climate Governance Initiative | LAS and COP22 CLDG Group | GAC | $3m | Focused around the convergence of SDG13 and SDG16, the proposal was developed on the back of the combined coordination of the Climate Governance Day at COP21 (with IDLO and other legal institutes and NGOs). Countries included Morocco, Tunisia, Jordan, Egypt, Palestine, and work areas covered knowledge production and exchange, legal training, institution building around risk governance, local climate governance, climate legislations, civil society mobilization and rights-based approaches. Some of these pillars have now also been incorporated into the SDG Climate Nexus Facility for broader donor funding. |
| Green Investment Facility for Low-Carbon Solutions | LAS, AUIRED | AUIRED investor members | $3m | This partnership intended to help AUIRED members and national authorities undertake local activities for solar, green buildings and real estate in the region, with a focus on solar green homes for the poor, and market and policies to support green investments in real estate. |
| **2017** | | | | |
| Climate Resilience | TBC | European Commission | TBC | Under the EC’s new regional programme (2018-2021), ACRI was exploring possible grants under Climasouth |
| SDG-Climate Nexus Facility | AWC, LAS, UNEP-FI, UNISDR, WFP | Bilaterals | 10 mill | Based on the CRNI development and a series of partner roundtables in 2016, a concept note was developed, followed by draft of a full proposal in 2017. Partners were convened at the Arab SD Week and GPDRR, and donors approached at the Fourth Arab Water Forum in 2017. |
| Arab SDG7 Platform | RCREEE | Bilaterals | $2.5 mill (with potential for expansion | Under LAS’ new Arab Sustainable Energy Strategy covering renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy access, project partner RCREEE has been mandated to help implement it, and UNDP and RCREEE are developing a joint concept note to be pitched with donors in 2018 |
| Communication initiative for Green SDGs | ECAT (Environmental Center for Arab Towns) | ECAT private sector partners | TBD | ECAT developed a concept note for UNDP review to undertake a series of regional communication activities to raise awareness on the SDG environmental pillars, with the aim of a joint project |
| Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Resources in the Arab Region | AAST (Arab Academy for Science and Technology) | AAST partners like special economic zones, ports, shipping and energy firms | TBD | AAST developed a concept in 2017 on achieving SDG 14 by addressing climate risks to marine and coastal ecosystems, solar into SEZs and ports, and risks from offshore energy. AAST exploring partnerships with special zones, ports, shipping and energy firms. |

1. **Financial Summary**

**Overview of allocation and expenditure**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Budget US$** | **Source** | **Expenses US$** | **Delivery Rate** |
| 2012 | 615,000 | TRAC | 617,081 | 100% |
| 2013 | 640,000 | TRAC | 444,701 | 69% |
| 2014 | 650,000 | TRAC | 430,403 | 66% |
| 2015 | 436,000 | TRAC | 411,184 | 94% |
| 2016 | 324,000 | TRAC | 400,567 | 124% |
| 2017 | 130,000 | TRAC | 130,000 | 100% |
| **Total** | **2,795,000** |  | **2,433,936** | **87%** |

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**Annex I: Launch Phase 2009-2011 - “Preparing for Regional Climate Change Programming for the Arab States Background to and Process for the Arab Climate Resilience Initiative”**

Over the course of 2009-2010, the Regional Programme Directorate (RPD) of the Regional Bureau for Arab States (RBAS) at UNDP has been preparing and developing the *Arab Climate Resilience Initiative* (ACRI), with the broad aim of establishing programming at the regional level that will support national and regional stakeholders in addressing climate change in the Arab countries. This report outlines the process, procedures, and methodology through which ACRI has come about, and provides an overview of the work that has been done and the results produced thus far. For a succinct overview, please see the “ACRI launch phase internal presentation” pptx located in the *ACRI Launch Phase* folder.

**Rationale for launching a Regional Initiative on Climate Change**

The impetus for developing a regional climate change initiative grew out of both an obvious need to address current and future climate change related impacts across the region, as initially evidenced by the findings and analyses in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 4th Assessment Report, as well as from acknowledgment by stakeholders within the Arab region that a systematic approach to collaboration and partnerships on climate change at the regional and sub-regional level will be as integral in tackling climate challenges as individual efforts at the national level. Furthermore, other than the Africa Adaptation Programme, which covers only certain Arab countries in North Africa, there exists no regional climate change programming to date specifically for the Arab states.

Internally, the momentum and directives for action on climate change across all levels of UNDP have also been building for a number of years, and ACRI has thus been initiated in alignment with UNDPs Global Strategy on Climate Change and is an outcome, in particular, of the demands made at the most recent UNDP-RBAS Resident Representative Cluster Meeting. ACRI is ultimately an initiative designed to meet the criteria laid out in the Environment and Sustainable Development focus area of the UNDP-RBAS Regional Programme Document for 2010-2013, which calls for developing capacity and enhancing regional debate in favor of mitigating and adapting to climate change.

As expressed in the Arab Declaration on Sustainable Development in 2002, the Arab Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change in 2007, and reiterated in the subsequent resolution at the Arab Summit on Climate Change in 2010, governments across the Arab region will broadly “strive to achieve”: the inclusion of policies to address climate change issues across sectors and within national and regional policy frameworks; the adoption of national and regional action plans to assess impacts and develop mitigation and adaptation programming in cooperation with research institutions, civil society, and the private sector; the improvement of energy efficiency in all sectors and the diversification of energy sources; and adaptation measures that address economic and social development, poverty eradication, and sustainable economic growth, with a focus on infrastructure, risk reduction and capacity building.

In line with UNDP’s Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPPs), regional projects should be formulated based on consultations with stakeholders and in a way that translates the Regional Programme into concrete outputs and activities. In order ensure this demand-driven process of project development, the establishment of ACRI during 2009-2010 took place in 4 broad consultative phases entailing the identification of key climate change issues, initiatives and actors for the region; the drafting of objectives; and a series of consultative events held within the region, and a final Regional Forum and validation process. The input from participants, both expert and ministerial, in this broader process led to the drafting of a Framework of Action, which lays the foundation for a Programme Document and implementable activities moving forward.

**PHASE 1: Identifying Priority Thematic Areas**

Over the course of 2009-2010, a total of 9 desk reviews, background papers and other pieces of research by a variety of experts have been commissioned for ACRI, a list of which can be found under ‘Research’ in Annex I. Expert researchers were selected from several fields, with particular focus on specialists from and focusing on climate change and energy in the Arab region, in order to identify in-depth the impacts and threats most pertinent to the Arab countries. After the initial phase of desk research conducted at the end of 2009 and beginning of 2010, four priority areas, both technical and policy-oriented, were extracted: **water scarcity and drought; sea-level rise and coastal erosion; sustainable energy and energy efficiency;** and **local and territorial approaches to climate change adaptation**. The following titles reflect all of the research produced for ACRI thus far:

**Desk Review and Mapping of Climate Change Issues, Initiatives and Actors in Arab States**

(Georges Akl, 2009)

**Mapping Climate Change Issues, Initiatives, and Actors in the Arab Region**

(Nazia Habib-Mintz, 2010)

**Mapping of Climate Change Threats and Human Development Impacts in the Arab Region**

(Balgis Elasha, 2010)

**Climate Change Adaptation: Options and Good Practices for the Arab Region**

(Balgis Elasha, 2010)

**Impact of Sea-Level Rise on the Arab Region**

(Mohamed El-Raey, 2010)

**Climate Change and Energy: Economic Challenges and Opportunities in the Arab Regions**

(Ibrahim Abdel Gelil, 2010)

**Climate Change Research on Energy Efficiency in the Arab Region**

(Nesreen Ghaddar, 2010)

**Approche locale et territorial du changement climatique dans les Pays Arabes**

(Meriem Houzir, 2010)

**PHASE 2: Establishing Objectives**

With guidance from liaising Country Offices, the League of Arab States, governments from four countries (Syria, Egypt, Bahrain, and Morocco) in the region, for which these specific thematic areas were perceived to have particular relevance, were then approached to partner in the consultative process scheduled to take place later in 2010.

In preparation for these consultations, a Concept Note (*see Annex I*) for ACRI was drafted, backgrounding climate change in the context of the Arab region and the impact areas mentioned above, and with particular emphasis on the role of UNDP-RBAS in connecting stakeholders to one another through capacity building, and promoting knowledge and dialogue. During this time, the main objectives of ACRI were solidified as follows:

“The Arab Climate Resilience Initiative aims to support national partners and regional stakeholders in formulating integrated, cross-sectoral and regional responses to the challenges of climate change, and to practical and cooperative adaptation to ongoing and future impacts, whilst furthering gains in human development in the Arab countries.”

In undertaking these objectives, the coordination of ACRI has aimed to adhere to a set of basic guiding principles, which include:

That it be **consultative and demand-driven**, such that it closely reflects priorities defined by the Arab countries

That it be **knowledge based**, and driven by careful, accurate research on climate change dynamics and the broader development context at nation, regional and sub-regional levels

That it be **pragmatic** in identifying not only the challenges posed by climate change, but also potential opportunities for progressing human development in the context of change

That it promote an **integrated approach**, whereby responses to problems and potential solutions are dealt with in a multi-sectoral and multi-dimensional manner

**PHASE 3: Consultation in the Region**

In the summer of 2010, the consultative phase commenced with commissioning prominent researchers from three of the four countries selected to host consultative meetings to write background papers (*see Annex I, ‘Consultative Background Papers’*), which included both in-depth, topical, technical research and data on the selected themes, as well as SWOT analyses to help frame relevant policy and activity priorities at the national and regional level. These researchers also advised closely on the content and focus of each respective consultative meeting and acted as liaisons between UNDP-RBAS and the partner institutions they represented:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Event** | **Name** | **Affiliation** | |
| Water Scarcity, Drought and Population Mobility | Note: This first consultation, which took place in Damascus, Syria was organized only in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, and not in collaboration with a further research institution | | |
| Sea-Level Rise, Coastal Erosion and Human Development | Mohamed El Raey | | Professor of Oceanography, Department of Environmental Studies, University of Alexandria- Egypt;  Regional Centre for Disaster Risk Reduction |
| Towards Sustainable Energy – Resources, Challenges and Opportunities | Ibrahim Abdel Gelil | | Vice Dean, Technological Studies  Director, Environmental Mangement program  College of Graduate Studies. Arabian Gulf University-Bahrain |
| Nesreen Ghaddar | | Endowed Qatar Chair in Energy Studies and Professor, Mechanical Engineering Department,  American University in Beirut, Lebanon |

In addition to further developing the thematic areas, a consultant in NY was hired to explore the extent of region-specific climate change knowledge available, support the coordination of the consultative events, as well as a larger Regional Forum, and to assist in launching and writing content for an ACRI website (*see below under Framework of Action and Programme Development*).

The events were designed to allow participants to expand their knowledge base around each respective thematic area, to more clearly identify national priorities and create integrated, regional synergies, and to develop recommendations and mobilize support for potential activities and policies. To achieve this, the agendas were designed to balance strong, scientific and technical interventions, and social and economic impact presentations and national case studies, with ample discussion among participants on meeting challenges and creating opportunities. Speakers and discussants were identified through a process of extensive background research (i.e. bibliographical and institutional research, and CV checking), in addition to consistent dialogue and consultation with key staff in the respective Country Offices in Cairo, Manama, and, for the Regional Forum, in Rabat. In support of this consultative process and in line with the capacity-building aims of ACRI, a corollary training event was facilitated in partnership with UNITAR in Amman, Jordan from 27-29 September, 2010 to prepare delegates from the Arab countries for the UNFCCC’s COP16 negotiations in Cancun, Mexico in November/December. The training covered the science of climate change, mitigation, adaptation, mainstreaming climate change into national development plans, and the role of different, key actors. Considerable operational assistance and logistical support for all of these events was furthermore provided by PSU staff within UNDP offices in Beirut, as well as the following contracted event organizers:

Water Scarcity, Drought and Population Mobility – Damascus, Syria: **Y2AD**

Sea-Level Rise, Coastal Erosion and Human Development – Cairo, Egypt:  **Archetype**

Towards Sustainable Energy – Resources, Challenges and Opportunities – Manama, Bahrain: **Unicom Graphics W.L.L.**

UNITAR Negotiations Training Event – Amman, Jordan: **I events**

Regional Forum – Rabat, Morocco: **Mission Conseil**

Overview of Consultative Events:

The following is a brief description of each of the events. Further information on cumulative participation at the consultations, as well as the UNITAR training and the Regional Forum can be found below, in Phase 4. The full list of participants that attended each event can be found in Annex I under ‘Consultative Process’. For a list of the documents distributed to participants to support knowledge building at each of these events, see

*Water Scarcity, Drought and Population Mobility:*

This consultation was held in Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic, from 15-16 September, 2010 in partnership with the Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs. It was attended by 113 participants, with 15 regional countries represented and included 29 speakers. Six affiliated UN agencies participated, along with representatives from nine UNDP country offices. There were 44 participants from a range of national and international institutions, and the private sector, including: 12 universities, 9 companies, the League of Arab States, the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), NASA, the WHO and the African Development Bank. The consultation included expert presentations on the scientific, environmental, and socio-economic aspects of climate change, including country case studies and pilot projects, as well as presentations on best-practice and policy guidelines. Over two days, six panels of interventions and discussion covered the following topics:

* The impacts of climate change on water resources
* The impacts of climate change on land use and threats to arable land and food security
* The exacerbation of drought and desertification by climate change processes
* The social impacts of climate change, particularly focusing on migration and public health
* Examples of national and regional adaptation measures to climate change impacts, and climate change finance opportunities
* A synthesis of climate change adaptation challenges and priorities among the topics discussed and methods of developing an integrated regional policy framework

*Sea-level rise, Coastal Erosion, and Human Development:*

This event was held in Cairo, Egypt in partnership with the National Water Research Center on 20-21 September, 2010 and was attended by 100 participants, with 15 regional countries represented and included 20 speakers. Six affiliated UN agencies participated (with the IOM showing considerable support), along with representatives from five UNDP country offices. There were 49 participants from a range of national and international institutions and the private sector, including: 23 universities and research Institutes, 3 companies, the League of Arab States, ICARDA, NASA, the World Bank, the EU and European governmental reps. It included expert presentations on the scientific, environmental, and socio-economic aspects of sea level rise and coastal erosion, including country case studies and pilot projects, as well as presentations on best-practice policy guidelines. Over two days, six panels of interventions and discussion covered the following topics:

* The projected extent of sea level rise and erosion from climate change, and the geographic and demographic vulnerability to such impacts within the Arab region
* The environmental impacts associated with sea-level rise, erosion and increasing sea temperatures
* The socioeconomic impacts associated with sea-level rise, including: migration; impacts on the agricultural sector; and impacts on the tourism sector
* Sea-level rise adaptation measures, risk reduction and experiences with impacts at the national level
* Cross-sectoral policies and interventions to meet the adaptation challenges posed by sea-level rise and coastal erosion, including: disaster risk reduction strategies, integrated coastal zone management, and mitigating damage to buildings and infrastructure.
* Synthesis and debates on the challenges, policy priorities, and opportunities for collaboration on adaptation, as well as opportunities to share interregional and national knowledge and research

*Towards Sustainable Energy – Resources, Challenges and Opportunities*

This consultation was held in Manama, Bahrain from 6-7 October, 2010 in partnership with the Ministry of Oil and Gas Affairs and Arabian Gulf University and was attended by 93 participants from 15 countries within the region, and included 25 speakers and 22 interventions. Seven different UN agencies and affiliates were represented, including 15 people from UNDP offices. 12 research institutes participated, as well as 6 representatives from the private sector, and three from NGOs and the media. Over two days, five panels of interventions and discussions covered the following topics:

* The current status supply, demand, distribution and access to energy resources across the Arab region
* The current use of and potential for sustainable energy technologies and policy mechanisms, including renewable energy forms and energy efficiency programmes and infrastructure
* The availability of technological resources and research in the energy sector in the Arab countries, and challenges and opportunities to and for technology transfer
* Mechanisms of economic and financial opportunity for development, including energy diversification, green jobs, and financial flows
* Synthesis and debates on the challenges, policy priorities, and opportunities for collaboration on sustainable energy, as well as opportunities to share interregional and national knowledge and research

*Overall Findings and Results*

The following is a summary of some of the cross-cutting outcomes and priorities established through the consultative process. For a more in depth description of the findings and outcomes of these consultations, see the “Arab Climate Resilience Initiative: Toward a Unified Response” document in Annex C.

**Capacity Development:**  Institutions at all levels (i.e. civil society, local government, national government, regional entities) require better coordination, and a stronger enabling environment to facilitate planning around climate change and mainstream climate change into existent development plans and budgeting.

**Knowledge Building and Networking:** Scientific research and development needs greater public support in the region and the regulatory environment must encourage investment in climate resilient research, technology and communications. Investment in national and regional databases of climate change indicators, early warning systems, climate modeling, green technologies, and academic exchanges would help reduce uncertainty in policy development, enhance cross-national collaboration.

**Technology Transfer:** Sharing new information and technology among stakeholders (governments, private sector entities, financial institutions, NGOs and research/educational institutions) is central to addressing impacts in an integrated manner. This involves technology needs assessments and technology transfer policies; cross-sectoral partnerships; and establishing regional forums to develop skills.

**Climate Change Finance:** Mobilizing necessary resources to fund various actions requires: integrating adaptation and mitigation efforts into economic planning and amending regulations and tax policies to support green technologies; accessing information on multilateral and bilateral sources of funding for both the national level and the local level.

**Communications and Awareness Raising:** Enhancingcommunications, advocacy and campaigning as well as integrating climate change education into curricula will facilitate adaptation efforts.

In terms of the consultations’ contribution to the development of eventual ACRI programming, the process achieved a number of concrete results. Key expertise at the national, regional and international levels were identified, as well as the main programmatic areas. Through the process of organizing and co-hosting events, momentum was built and consciousness was raised across the region around key climate change adaptation issues. Additionally, ACRI fostered guidance on addressing mitigation and key energy issues. An informal regional network of UNDP national counterparts, governmental actors, national and international research institutions, and others involved in climate change regionally was established will provide the basis for consolidated partnerships. In specific, strong alliances within UN agencies and regional entities have been created, including: the League of Arab States, ICARDA, AFED, WHO, ILO, UNEP, IOM, ESCWA, UNISDR, and the World Bank.

**PHASE 4: Validation and Follow Up - the Regional Forum and Beyond**

The Regional Forum, which took place from 3-5 November, 2010 in Rabat, Morocco, was organized in very close collaboration with the Country Office in Rabat and the government of Morocco (Ministry of Energy, Water and Mines), as well as with contributions from the expert consultants that had contributed to each of the 3 consultations. The Forum had two overarching aims: to review the overall and specific findings and outcomes of the 3 regional, thematic consultations; and to establish public validation of these outcomes by key governmental representatives from countries within the region. Participants included government officials, regional organizations, private sector representatives, environmental groups, research institutes and centers, a number of multilateral institutions, donor agencies, members of the media and youth groups.

In addition to opening statements from key figures from UNDP, the government of Morocco, and the League of Arab States, the first day of the Forum included four technical sessions in which participants reviewed the outcomes of the consultations and concretized priority areas. The fourth technical sessions included a new thematic area on local development and the territorial approach to climate change. As, Morocco had shown particular initiative in this regionally important area, ACRI commissioned a research consultant to provide a regional overview of these methodologies (for her report, see *Approche locale et territorial du changement climatique dans les Pays Arabes*, Meriem Houzir, 2010 in Annex I under ‘Consultation Background Papers’). All of the consolidated outcomes on the consultative process from this first day were then drafted for presentation by the Secretary General of the Water Department, Morocco to the plenary of ministers and members of government.

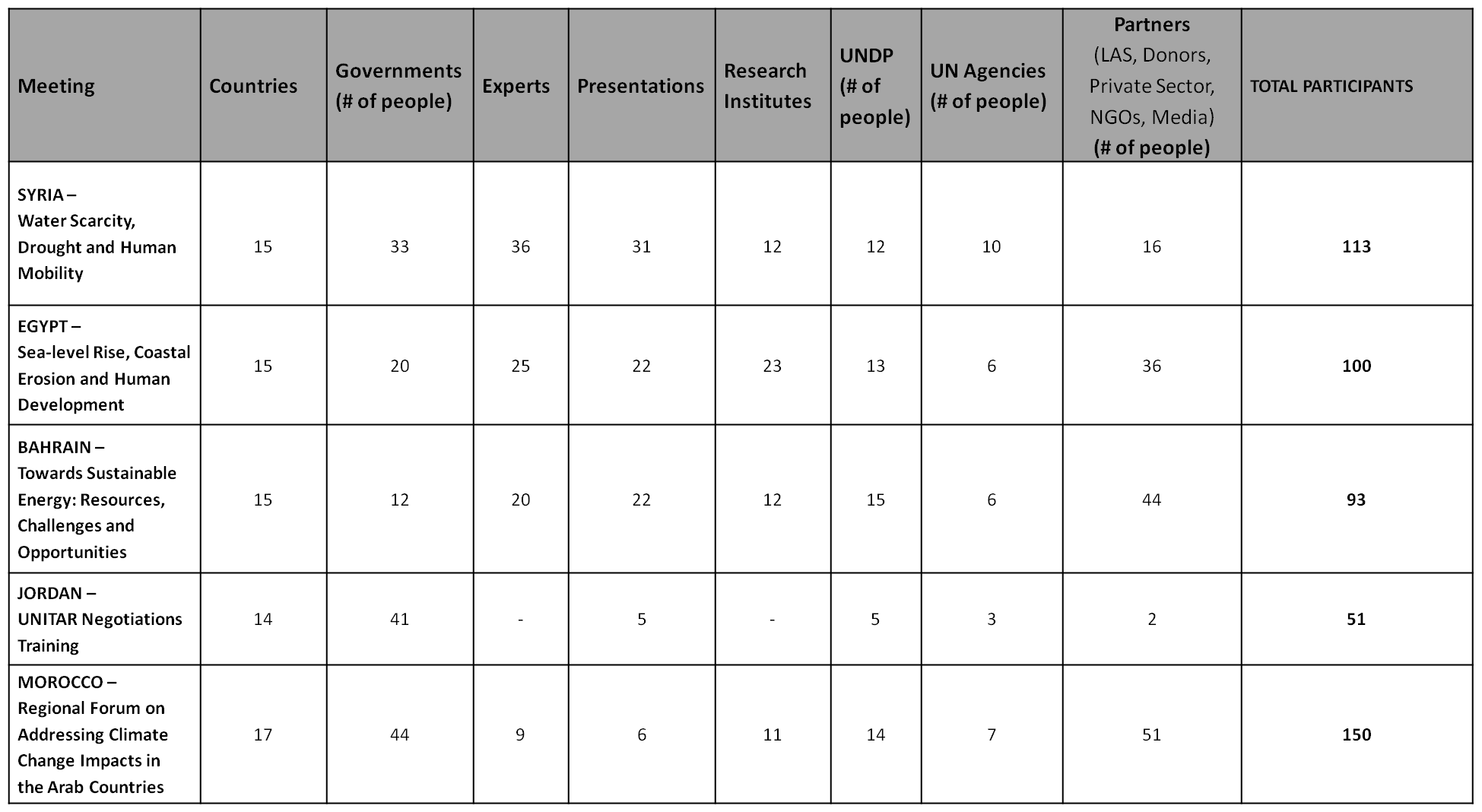
This proposal was verbally endorsed by the League of Arab States, and by five ministers from countries across the region during a high-level session on the second day. This commitment by policy makers was the central focus of the Forum agenda, and will in turn be integral to the development of regional projects around climate change through ACRI.

Additionally, the Forum served as a space of information and dialogue for the public and included a Knowledge Fair on the third day to provide leaders, innovators, think tanks and service providers from across the public sphere, the private sector and a range of multilateral institutions the opportunity both to network and to showcase new technologies, best-practices, research, knowledge products and other services related to climate change adaptation and mitigation. It included 23 exhibitors, as well as an open NASA/media side event giving scientific perspectives on climate change impacts in the Arab countries.

In total, throughout the consultative process, negotiations training, and Regional Forum, approximately 400 participants were mobilized by ACRI. A general breakdown of this participation is as follows:

**Participants at Arab Climate Resilience Initiative Launch Events**

**Stakeholders participation in the ACRI consultations and Regional Forum included: government representatives, the League of Arab States, UNDP country offices and relevant UN agencies, universities and research institutions, development banks, donor partners, private sector representatives, and regional representatives from civil society and the media.**



**Framework of Action and Programme Development**

The content of statements and the validation achieved at the Regional Forum laid the foundation for an ACRI Regional Framework of Action, covering three programme areas: the support of institutional capacity to address the impacts of climate change; the support for local approaches to climate change; and the enhancing of resilience in the three priority areas of water and food security, sea-level rise and coastal erosion, and sustainable energy. For a full description of the contents of these programme areas, see Annex C, ‘Conclusions/Framework of Action’.

Moving forward with this Framework of Action into 2011, a tentative timeline for the next-steps in the development of ACRI has been laid out as follows:

* Build up ACRI website (in English, French and Arabic) as a hub of resources, news, knowledge archive, and communication forum for all entities involved in ACRI
* Continue engagement with experts to further elaborate programming documents, with a focus on the agreed programming areas **(March 2011)**
* Partnerships: Firm up established partnerships (International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas [ICARDA], on climate resilient agriculture ; NASA, on research on water and coastal erosion; International Renewable Energy Agency [IRENA]); Target partnerships with Desertec Foundation, the EU, ICLEI, and bilateral donors)
* Convene a meeting with stakeholders including policymakers, experts, UNDP County Offices, sister UN Agencies, and other partners to agree on a framework document for the initiative (*TENTATIVE*)
* PAC the project document
* Present the agreed document to Arab governments for signature/adoption
* Mobilize resources and partnerships around initiative
* Initiate Programme Activities Implementation

**ANNEXES**

**ANNEX A: Knowledge Products**

**Consultative Process Formulation Documents:**

**Concept Note Draft**

(located in: *Climate Change Launch\* *Concept Note*)

**Conclusions/Framework of Action**

(located in: *Climate Change Launch\* *Consultations and other Events 2010-2011 \REGIONAL FORUM\_Morocco\Comments and Conclusions*)

**“Arab Climate Resilience Initiative: Toward a Unified Response”**

(located in: *Climate Change Launch\* *Consultations and other Events 2010-2011* \REGIONAL FORUM\_Morocco\Forum Report\FINAL DRAFT)

**Background Research:**

(Located in *ACRI Launch Phase\Background Papers*)

*Initial Research*

**Desk Review and Mapping of Climate Change Issues, Initiatives and Actors in Arab States**

(Georges Akl, 2009, UNDP)

**Mapping Climate Change Issues, Initiatives, and Actors in the Arab Region**

(Nazia Habib-Mintz, 2010, UNDP)

**Mapping of Climate Change Threats and Human Development Impacts in the Arab Region**

(Balgis Elasha, 2010, UNDP)

**Climate Change Adaptation: Options and Good Practices for the Arab Region**

(Balgis Elasha, 2010, UNDP)

*Consultation Background Papers*

**Impact of Sea-Level Rise on the Arab Region**

(Mohamed El-Raey, 2010)

**Climate Change and Energy: Economic Challenges and Opportunities in the Arab Regions**

(Ibrahim Abdel Gelil, 2010)

**Climate Change Research on Energy Efficiency in the Arab Region**

(Nesreen Ghaddar, 2010)

**Approche locale et territorial du changement climatique dans les Pays Arabes**

(Meriem Houzir, 2010)

*Other*

**Funding for Climate Change in the Arab Region**

(Alexandra Regner, 2010)

**Consultative Process Archives List:**

3 Consultative Meetings:

Invitations (English/Arabic)

List of Participants/Contacts

Final List of Speakers

Bios Lists

Agenda (English/Arabic)

List of Documents Distributed

Presentations and Speeches (in Knowledge Center on website)

Press Releases (English/Arabic)

Press Coverage

Photos

BTORs

UNITAR Training

Invitations

List of Participants

Agenda

Press Release (Arabic)

Press Coverage

Regional Forum:

Invitations (English/Arabic)

Knowledge Fair Form

List of Participants/Contacts

Bios

Agenda

Forum Report

Parallel Session Working Papers (with comments)

Presentations and Speeches (Regional Forum page and Knowledge Center - website)

Knowledge Fair List of Exhibitors

Press Release (English/Arabic)

Press Coverage

BTORs

**ANNEX B: PROCUREMENT**

TORs for consultants and researchers : (Located in *ACRI Launch Phase\Procurement\TORs)*

Researcher/ Consultant (Georges Akl)

Researcher/ Consultant (Nazia Habib-Mintz

Expert Researcher/Consultant (Balgis Elasha)

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**ANNEX C: Framework of Action/Conclusions of the Regional Forum on addressing climate change impacts in the Arab countries, Morocco 2010**

[**http://www.arabclimateinitiative.org**](http://www.arabclimateinitiative.org/)

The Arab Climate Resilience Initiative (ACRI) is based on the *Arab Declaration on Sustainable Development* of the Arab Ministers Responsible for Development, Planning and Environment, of 2002; on the *Arab Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change* issued by the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment, of 2007; and on the resolution of the Arab Summit on Climate Change, of 2010.

ACRI is furthermore based on studies by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which identified the potential impacts of climate change on the Arab countries.

ACRI is based as well on the outcome of regional consultations supported by UNDP in collaboration with Arab governments in Syria, Egypt, Bahrain and Morocco. During those consultations, discussions focused on climate change challenges related to water scarcity and desertification; coastal erosion and sea-level rise; sustainable energy; as well as the local approach to dealing with climate change impacts.

ACRI meetings promoted dialogue and exchange of information on climate change between government officials and experts and specialists in related fields. This approach enabled participants to recognize the appropriate regional priorities and identify strategic areas of action. Some common themes emerged during each of the consultations, such as the need to build capacity at all levels, strengthen regional cooperation, support scientific research, and increase private sector engagement. Specific proposals were made with respect to the issues discussed in these meetings and based on further consultation these proposals can be formulated in an integrated framework.

The programming areas of the ACRI framework include the following:

* 1. **Supporting institutional capacity to address the impacts of climate change;**
  2. **Supporting local approaches to climate change adaptation;**
  3. **Enhancing resilience in the three priority areas of water and food security, sea-level rise and coastal erosion, and sustainable energy.**

These areas will comprise a range of interventions, outlined as follows:

**Programming Area 1**

**Supporting institutional capacity to address the impacts of climate change:**

1. Accessing international funding mechanisms in the areas of climate change adaptation and mitigation;
2. Enhancing the capacity of the Arab countries with respect to multilateral negotiations on climate change;
3. Catalyzing public-private partnerships in the areas of the initiative;
4. Integrating climate change into development plans and particularly plans for poverty reduction;
5. Supporting capacity in the field of scientific research on climate change, linking the relevant centers of scientific excellence in the Arab countries and contributing to the dissemination of scientific production in this regard; and
6. Developing the capacities of Arab countries to enhance resilience to extreme-weather events such as floods, dust and sand storms, and heat waves.

**Programming Area 2**

**Supporting local approaches to climate change adaptation:**

Implement a programme to support area-specific and local initiatives to address climate change according to the particularities of each country, based on the following:

1. Strengthening the capacity of local actors in the integration of climate change into area-specific and local development plans, as well as poverty reduction programs;
2. Supporting the development of systems for managing information and knowledge about the local experiences and initiatives to respond to climate change;
3. Establishing a regional association for the arid areas and the oases in the Arab countries, in view of their particular vulnerability to climate change; and
4. Developing a mechanism for decentralized approaches to the climate change challenge.

**Programming Area 3**

**Enhancing resilience in the three priority areas of water and food security, sea-level rise and coastal erosion, and sustainable energy:**

Water and Food Security:

1. Supporting cooperative scientific research in the field of increasing the resilience of the agricultural sector to climate change impacts;
2. Supporting the downscaling of global and regional models for the identification of areas most vulnerable to drought due to climate change, and establishing criteria for identifying priorities for intervention in these areas;
3. Establishing a project to expand and facilitate the use of modern techniques in the search for ground water resources;
4. Increasing the efficiency of water use, and searching for new sources including groundwater and treated wastewater; and
5. Establishing training programs for the agriculture and water sectors to support capacities for addressing potential climate change impacts.

Sea-level rise and coastal erosion:

1. Supporting the establishment of monitoring systems for sea-level rise and land subsidence targeting vulnerable areas;
2. Analyzing the impact of sea-level rise and coastal erosion on affected communities, the agriculture, tourism and manufacturing sectors, as well as affected infrastructure and facilities; and
3. Developing programmes to address sea-level rise and coastal erosion, including planning for disaster reduction and relief the worst-case scenarios.

Sustainable Energy:

1. Supporting policies and programmes to improve energy efficiency;
2. Supporting strategies to deliver clean energy, in particular, to the poorest groups; and
3. Supporting studies on the production and use of renewable such as solar energy, including for the desalination of sea water.

**Implementation Plan:**

UNDP will develop a draft project document containing these components to be discussed with various stakeholders in March 2011. This document will be circulated to the various States two weeks prior to holding the consultations. For the drafting of this document, services will be sought from the experts who have contributed to the consultative meetings and task forces will also hold some meetings on the initiative components. The results of National Communications as well as regional efforts undertaken by the Arab League and other parties will also be taken into account. Following a consultation on the document, Arab governments will be provided with the final text to adopt and sign, before moving on to the implementation phase of the project in the second half of next year.

1. The latter if applicable. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)