

Work Plan
15 March 2021-14 March 2022

Title:	Sustainable Energy Acceleration Platform (SEAP): Advancing a Green Recovery in the Arab region
RPD Outcome(s):	Accelerate structural transformation of productive capacities in a sustainable and inclusive manner (RPD outcome #1)
Expected RPD Output(s):	1.4.1 Regional capacities strengthened for climate-resilient use of natural resources and transformation to clean energy and zero-carbon development (Strategic Plan 1.4.1; 1.5.1; 2.1.1; 2.4.1; 2.5.1; 3.5.1)
Implementing Partner:	UNDP, in concert with IRENA, RCREEE
Responsible Parties:	UNDP, UNEP

Brief Description

The Arab region recorded a ten-fold increase in renewable energy capacities over the past decade, with governments having set ambitious new visions and policies to expand the share of solar and wind power in their national energy mix on the road to 2030. Successes in recent years have been advanced through enhanced institutional capacities and use of market-based instruments providing greater space for private partnerships and expanding investment. Despite this progress in recent years, results are not even across the region with most large-scale renewable energy investments emerging in a handful of countries, and with benefits not always bringing co-benefits for poor and vulnerable communities. Furthermore, the COVID 19 pandemic and emerging economic crisis across the region is subduing growth across the economy, including risks for continued expansion of the renewable energy sector.

To maintain the momentum towards a low-carbon sustainable energy future in the region, new actions are required to enhance policies that de-risk sustainable energy investments by IFIs and the private sector, advance the use of innovative finance and business models and promote decentralized energy technologies as means of empowering a green recovery from the crisis for those most in need across the region. To address these issues, UNDP, IRENA and RCREEE will come together to jointly formulate a new Sustainable Energy Acceleration Platform, a platform to support a green recovery in the Arab region, implement the Arab Sustainable Energy Strategy (2020-2030) enacted by the League of Arab States and goals under the affiliated Pan-Arab Clean Energy Initiative (PACE) initiative.

The preparatory assistance through this workplan will support development of the SEAP Project to elaborate joint activities in coming years among partners, mobilize further partners from IFIs and the private sector and potential donors. It will ensure a focus on inclusivity with a special focus on de-risking energy investments by IFIs and the private sector in a way that closes the energy gap faced by the growing number of poor and displaced communities in the region, and advancing women's empowerment through the use of decentralized sustainable energy solutions.

Estimated budget:		<u>US\$ 121,853</u>
Allocated resources:		<u>US\$ 121,853</u>
Regular	TRAC:	US\$ 80,000
Other:	UNEP:	US\$ 41,853

Approved by (UNDP): Paola Pagliani, Regional Programme Coordinator, RBAS

Date: _____ Signature: 

Cleared by (UNDP): Maya Beydoun, Programme Management Specialist, RBAS

Date: _____ Signature: Maya Beydoun

PURPOSE AND EXPECTED OUTPUT

The workplan will support the emergence of a new flagship partnership in the Arab region between UNDP, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE) to help League of Arab States (LAS) Member States in the region advance the use of sustainable energy solutions as part of a green recovery from the ongoing pandemic and economic crisis in the Arab region. The work plan will provide technical assistance for development of a draft Project Document on the Sustainable Energy Accelerator Platform will help mobilise implementing partners such as IRENA and RCREEE to set our joint results under the partnership and respective roles, other institutional partners from IFIs and the private sector, and will help mobilize donors for the new SEAP initiative. This will build on the new global *Memorandum of Understanding* between UNDP and IRENA on advancing sustainable energy solutions at the regional and country levels, and the vision set in UNDPs new global offers on sustainable energy and green recovery.

Output 1.

Regional project on Sustainable Energy Acceleration Platform (SEAP) defined and developed

A scoping exercise will be supported to identify the gaps and areas of need emerging across the Arab region to close the energy gap and effectively use sustainable energy solutions as a means of empowering a green recovery from COVID-19 and its economic impacts. The need for enhanced policies for de-risking renewable energy investments, innovative finance and business models and decentralized solar technologies will be assessed and evaluated, based on innovative solutions on offer by UNDP, IRENA, RCREEE and other partners from IFIs and the private sector. The project will be designed in a way that helps country partners advance green recovery objectives, and regional partners such as the League of Arab States (LAS) to achieve goals of the new Arab Sustainable Energy Strategy (2020-2030) and its related PACE initiative. The project design will ensure a focus on principles of inclusivity achieving co-benefits for women's empowerment and harnessing the role of solar solutions in addressing the need of a growing number of poor and displaced communities in the Arab region for whom lack of energy access serves as a key barrier for a recovery from crisis.

Output 2. Partners and donors mobilized

The Plan will support a series of consultations and virtual meetings with regional partners such as IRENA and RCREEE to results in the aforementioned project document, identify needs and activities, and produce a joint workplan. It will also support mobilization of other strategic partners such as IFIs and the private sector needed to achieve the SEAP green recovery vision. Support will be provided to map potential donors, building on planned contributions by key donors towards sustainable energy and towards green recovery, and will result in initial contributions to commence the SEAP regional project. This will include a joint outreach exercise by UNDP, IRENA and RCREEE to mobilize resources for the SEAP regional project. Support will also be provided to forge strong connections and synergize with UNDPs emerging global and regional donor partnerships, aligning the regional project with UNDPs corporate strategy and offer. This will include support for positioning SEAP as part of UNDPs participation at the UN High-level Dialogue on Energy in 2021, convened by the Secretary General and key partners like UNDP and IRENA.

MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The project will be managed by UNDPs Regional Hub for Arab States, with overall programme oversight by the Regional Programme, advisory support by the Nature, Climate and Energy Team at the Hub, and operational support by the Project Management Support Unit. UNDPs Regional Energy Specialist in the Nature Climate and Energy Team will serve as Project Manager to lead coordination, technical and policy advisory support for achieving all outputs, as well as lead role in procurement of all project inputs in concert with PSU.

WORK PLAN

Year: March 2021-March 2022

Sustainable Energy Acceleration Platform: Advancing a Green Recovery in the Arab region

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Timeframe 2021-2022				RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET		
		Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1		Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount
<p>Output 1: Regional project on Sustainable Energy Acceleration Platform (SEAP) defined and developed</p> <p>Indicators: 1. A new project document following a participatory approach (<i>Feedback received from stakeholders</i>)</p> <p>Baseline: 1. Absence of a regional project to advance the energy transition for a green recovery</p> <p>Target: 1. A new project document approved by UNDP-RBAS</p>	1.1 Conducting assessment of gaps and areas of need to close the energy gap in the Arab region and advance energy transition for a green recovery from COVID-19 in line with UNDP corporate strategies	X	X			UNDP	TRAC	Consultants	\$35,280
	1.2 Designing a project document factoring in strategic areas for UNDP assistance in the region on advancing the energy transition for a green recovery			X	X	UNDP	TRAC	Consultants	\$40,000
	RPD costs (5.9% of \$80,00 from UNDP)								4,720
	Sub-Total for Output 1								\$80,000

Output 2: SEAP Partners and Donors Mobilized <i>Indicators:</i> 1. Number of funding partners engaged through funding agreements <i>Baseline:</i> 0 <i>Target:</i> 3	2.1 Holding partner consultations with IRENA, RCREEE and other entities from IFIs and private sector on ways the project can be tailored to achieve the Arab Sustainable Energy Strategy, its affiliated PACE, and green recovery goals, including elaboration of roles by partners in the project	X									
			X				UNDP	UNEP	Consultants	\$10,820	
									Travel	\$2,000	
	2.2 Forging links to donor partnerships and positioning on road to the 2021 UN Energy Summit, and consultations between UNDP and IRENA for alignment of the regional project with corporate offers on energy transition and green recovery			X	X		UNDP	UNEP	Consultants	\$10,000	
									Travel	\$2,000	
	2.3 Mapping of potential donors and consultations with donors on the proposal towards securing initial funding to initiate the regional project		X	X	X		UNDP	UNEP	Consultants	\$9,774	
									Travel	\$2,000	
	CSS (5.9% from UNEP)										\$2,159
	GMS (8%)										\$3,100
Sub-Total for Output 2 (UNEP funding)										\$41,853	
Total										\$121,853	

Annex 1: Risk Analysis

#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Mngt response	Owner	Submitted, updated by	Last Update	Status
1	Narrow fiscal spaces because of the impacts of COVID to economies could undermine allocation of public resources to clean energy transition, subsidy reform processes and other measures linked to sustainable energy initiatives	31 st / May /2021	Fiscal /budget allocation	Slow progress 20%	Aligning project activities to Government's green recovery and sustainable development priorities	UNDP	UNDP SEAP	31/5/2021	
2	Lack of data (or access to it) could undermine possibilities to inform policy, investment and financing.	31 st / May /2021	Information and data management	Slow progress 10%	Forging partnerships with stakeholders and Institutional capacity building for information and data management	UNDP	UNDP SEAP	31/5/2021	