



‘The Roadmap to Effective Sustainable Development in Arab Cities (RESDAC)’ United Nations Development Programme, Abu Dhabi

Climate change is the major, overriding environmental issue of our time, and a significant challenge facing the global community in the 21st century. A warming atmosphere, rising sea level, socio-economic consequences, effects on food security and risks to health and safety, all compose significant elements of the need to build a consensus within the United Arab Emirates and Arab cities, on how to address these prevalent climate change concerns.

Through advocacy and awareness raising, stakeholders’ engagement, and policy development, the primary objective of the RESDAC project is to build the capacity of governments in the Arab region in view of the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD), also known as Rio 2012. As outlined in the preparatory report, the highest priorities for accelerating progress towards sustainable development include: Securing a global agreement on climate change; promoting a fair transition to a green economy, increasing energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy; protecting biodiversity; promoting good environmental governance; mainstreaming education for sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals. With this in mind, the various outputs of this project will aim to secure renewed social and political commitment, assess progress to date, and address new and emerging challenges to Climate Change. The underlying central outputs of the RESDAC project are

1. Launching a ‘Sustainable Arabia Conference’ that will be attended by key stakeholders including private sector companies, civil society organisations, NGO’s, UN agencies, and government entities. The conference will include the following panels:
 - a. Sustainable Transport
 - b. Sustainable Energy/Emissions Reduction
 - c. Sustainable Water Management
 - d. Sustainable Cities (Estidama Initiative)
2. Development of policy recommendations and formulation.
3. The development of a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions web portal and calculator.

By establishing successful alliances between key stakeholders, the project will confront the priorities of sustainable development in Arab cities, that are currently not or only partially addressed by the relevant authorities. More importantly, the RESDAC project will provide potential participants with an excellent opportunity to be at the forefront of an innovative initiative and work as partners of the United Nations and Governments, to voice concerns and contributions, assist the transfer of technologies and expertise, as well as exposing individual business perspectives within a Climate Change framework, all in preparation for Rio 2012.