

PROJECT OPERATIONAL COMPLETION REPORT:

**GEF ID 5590: KUWAIT'S SECOND NATIONAL
COMMUNICATION (SNC) AND INITIAL BIENNIAL
UPDATE REPORT (BUR1)**

GEF-FUNDED PROJECT: Enabling Activity

Prepared for UN Environment Programme


| SIGNATURES | |
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PROJECT SUMMARY INFORMATION

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| GEF Project ID: | 5590 | <i>WBSE¹ no.: SB-000684.48 P1-33GFL-000882; P1-33GFL-001058; P1-33GFL-001298; S1-32GFL-000565</i> | |
| Implementing Agency: | UNEP | Executing Agency: | UNEP West Asia Office |
| Focal Area(s): | Climate Change | Expected Accomplishment(s): | Foster enabling conditions for mainstreaming mitigation concerns into sustainable development strategies through enabling activities |
| UNEP approval date: | 07 Oct 2014 | Programme of Work Output(s): | Supporting Countries to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, as well enhance their adaptation and resilience to climate change |
| GEF approval date: | 10 March 2014 | Project type: | Expedited Enabling Activities |
| GEF Operational Programme #: | GEF -5 | GEF Strategic Priority: | Climate Change: GEF-5 Strategy to support enabling activities and capacity development in climate change |
| Project start date: | 07 Oct 2014 | Planned completion date: | 31 Dec 2018 |
| | | Actual Completion date | 31 Dec 2019 |
| Planned project budget at approval: | USD 852,000 | | |
| GEF grant allocation: | USD 852,000 | | |
| Project Preparation Grant - GEF financing: | N/A | Project Preparation Grant - co-financing: | N/A |
| Geographic Scope: | West Asia | Coverage - Country(ies): | Kuwait |
| Dates of previous project phases: | 4110- Kuwait NC1 | Status of future project phase | 10167 – Kuwait NC3BTR1- GEF |

¹ Work Breakdown Structure Element

1.0 Project Description and Implementation Arrangements

The main objective of the project was to prepare the Second National Communication and first Biennial Update Report of the State of Kuwait and enable the country fulfill its obligations under the UNFCCC, in accordance with Articles 4.1 and 12.1 of the Convention while strengthening its capacity to integrate climate change concerns into national and sectoral development plans and priorities. The project was designed with the following two outputs: -

- 1.1.1 National consultations organized and Second National Communication (NC2) and First Biennial Update Report (BUR1) project implementation plan prepared and approved.
- 1.1.2 NC2 and BUR1 of Kuwait prepared and submitted to the UNFCCC by July 2019 and September 2019 respectively

Project Execution Arrangements

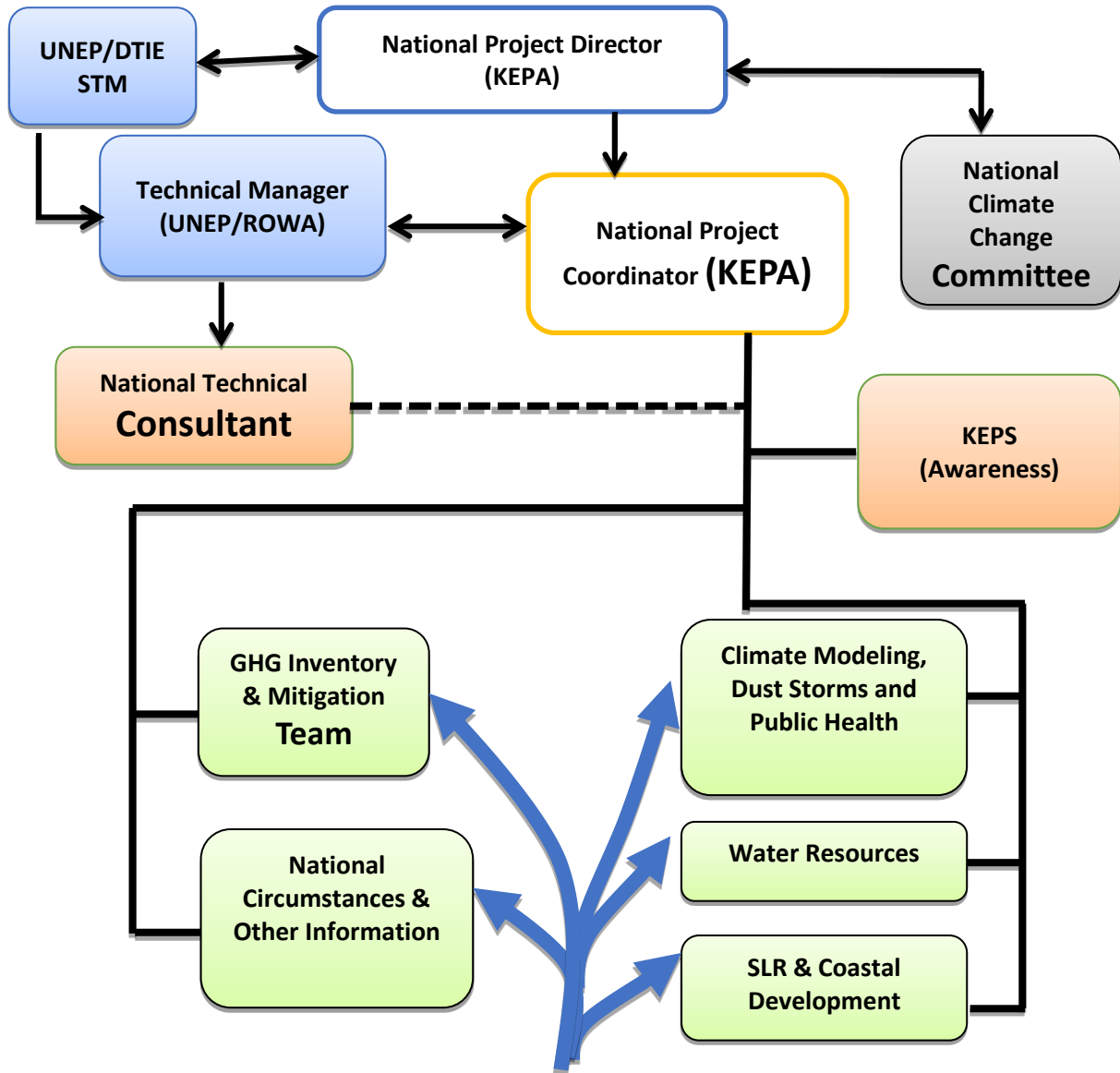
The project was implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and executed by UNEP West Asia Office. Kuwait Environment Public Authority (KEPA) was responsible for coordination and oversight of all aspects of project implementation in collaboration with line ministries and project implementation partners primarily the three national science and research institutions; Kuwait University (KU), Kuwait Institute for scientific Research (KISR) and Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science (KFAS). Collection and analysis of comprehensive environmental monitoring data was undertaken with support from the Environmental Monitoring Information System of Kuwait (eMISK) Geo-environmental Database. eMISK was also a key component for supporting KEPA in its duties and mandates for environmental monitoring, and the system manages all aspects of environmental factors. Overall coordination of the NC2 and BUR1 project was overseen by the Project Steering Committee (PSC) consisted primarily of UNEP/ROWA, KEPA and Team Leaders.

Stakeholder Engagement

The key stakeholders of the project comprised of line ministries and government departments having relevance with climate change mitigation and adaptation at the country city levels, the scientific community from research institutions, universities, and science and technology institutes, and the Directorate General of Meteorology. Participation was also sought from other stakeholders such as the private sector, civil society groups and community-based organizations including indigenous communities. The stakeholders included:

- i. Kuwait Environmental Public Authority (KEPA)
- ii. Kuwait University (KU),
- iii. Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR),
- iv. Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science (KFAS)
- v. Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) and its affiliated oil companies;
- vi. Kuwait Environment Protection Society (KEPS),
- vii. Ministry of Water and Electricity (MWE);
- viii. Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME);
- ix. Ministry of Public Health;
- x. General Directorate for Meteorology;
- xi. Secretariat of the supreme Council for Planning;
- xii. Central Statistics;
- xiii. Public Authority for Agriculture and Fisheries (PAAF)

- xiv. Ministry of Transport
- xv. Ministry of Interior - Traffic Department
- xvi. UNDP



Teams Supported by international Advisors & International Centres

Figure 1: Institutional arrangements for NC2 & BUR1 project implementation

2.0 Results Achieved

The team completed a detailed project implementation plan (PIP) – which provided a breakdown of the proposed workplan, and an annual budget. Under the 2nd output, Kuwait’s NC2 and BUR1 was completed and submitted to the UNFCCC on July 2019 and September

2019 respectively. The reports can be accessed through the links: [Kuwait. National communication \(NC\). NC 2. | UNFCCC](#) and [Kuwait. Biennial update report \(BUR\). BUR 1. | UNFCCC](#).

3.0 Project Costs and Financing

| Source | (USD) |
|--|------------|
| GEF Grant | 852,000 |
| Final Date of Disbursement | 29/09/2020 |
| Cumulative Disbursement <i>(as of final date of disbursement)</i> | 694,548.27 |
| Co-financing, if applicable | N/A |

4.0 Implementation Challenges and Adaptive Management

The preparation of Kuwait’s Second National Communication (NC2) and First Biennial Update Report (BUR1) to the UNFCCC faced several implementation challenges, including limited inter-agency collaboration, the absence of a centralized climate governance framework, inconsistent sectoral data—particularly in energy, waste, and agriculture—and low levels of public awareness and engagement in climate policy development. To address these challenges, Kuwait adopted several adaptive management strategies. These included organizing training workshops and technical seminars, establishing national climate change committees and focal points, and enhancing coordination between environmental and planning authorities. Kuwait’s experience underscores the critical role of adaptive management in overcoming institutional and technical barriers. Sustained investment in capacity building, robust data systems, and inclusive stakeholder engagement will be essential for strengthening future climate reporting and advancing national climate action.

5.0 Sustainability

The preparation of Kuwait’s Second National Communication (NC2) and First Biennial Update Report (BUR1) to the UNFCCC was designed to promote long-term sustainability, institutional learning, and continuity in climate action and reporting. To build national capacity, a series of training programs and technical workshops were held, enhancing expertise in areas such as GHG inventory compilation, vulnerability assessments, and mitigation planning. The establishment of climate change focal points and inter-agency coordination committees played a key role in preserving institutional knowledge and ensuring consistency across reporting cycles.

Significant efforts were also made to strengthen data collection systems, particularly in critical sectors like energy, waste, and agriculture, to support accurate and consistent reporting. Climate change considerations were mainstreamed into national development frameworks, including Kuwait Vision 2035, aligning climate objectives with broader policy goals. Engagement with academia, civil society, and the private sector helped broaden

ownership of climate initiatives and fostered knowledge exchange. Moreover, the reporting process laid a foundation for future climate finance strategies, including mobilizing resources for the implementation of mitigation and adaptation measures.

Lessons Learned – Main Findings

1. Strengthening Institutional Coordination

- Effective climate reporting requires strong inter-agency collaboration.
- The absence of a centralized climate governance framework initially hindered coordination, but the establishment of focal points and committees significantly improved institutional alignment.

2. Building Technical Capacity

- Sustained capacity building is essential for high-quality reporting.
- Training workshops and technical support enhanced national expertise in GHG inventories, mitigation analysis, and vulnerability assessments, reducing reliance on external consultants.

3. Enhancing Data Systems

- Reliable and sector-specific data is the backbone of climate reporting.
- Data gaps, especially in energy, waste, and agriculture, posed challenges. Investments in data systems and standardized methodologies improved consistency and transparency.

4. Mainstreaming Climate into Development Planning

- Integrating climate change into national development strategies ensures policy coherence.
- Aligning climate actions with Kuwait Vision 2035 helped embed sustainability into broader economic and social planning.

5. Promoting Stakeholder Engagement

- Inclusive participation strengthens ownership and accountability.
- Engagement with academia, civil society, and the private sector fostered broader support and enriched the quality of inputs into the reporting process.

6. Laying the Foundation for Climate Finance

- Early planning for climate finance is critical for implementation.
- The reporting process helped identify priority areas for mitigation and adaptation, positioning Kuwait to access international climate finance mechanisms.

7. Emphasizing Adaptive Management

- Flexibility and learning-by-doing are key to overcoming implementation barriers.
- Adaptive strategies—such as phased implementation and iterative learning—enabled Kuwait to navigate institutional and technical challenges effectively.