


# Simplified Operational Completion Report (OCR)

## Signatures

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## 1. Project Identification

GEF ID: 5891
Project Title: Preparation of Saudi Arabia's First Biennial Update Report (BUR1) under UNFCCC
Executing Agency: The National Committee for Clean Development Mechanism (DNA), Riyadh
UNEP Division: Climate Change
Country/Region: Saudi Arabia
Actual Implementation Start Date: August 2014
Actual Completion Date: June 2016
GEF Focal Area: Climate Change
GEF Grant Amount: \$352,000
Co-financing (if applicable): N/A

## 2. Project Implementation

1. Brief description of activities, and its link to Convention obligations.

Under the UNFCCC, Parties are required to regularly prepare and submit national climate reports to enhance transparency and inform policy. To strengthen this process, COP 16 introduced biennial reporting, and COP 17 adopted guidelines for Biennial Update Reports (BURs) by developing countries.

BURs provide updates on national GHG inventories, mitigation actions, constraints, support received and needed, and MRV systems, submitted every two years (with flexibility for LDCs and SIDS). These reports aimed to improve the frequency, consistency, and transparency of climate information and build national capacity for climate reporting. They were subject to the International Consultation and Analysis (ICA) process—a non-punitive review involving technical analysis and sharing of views—to enhance trust and accountability in global climate action.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia received GEF fund of **US\$ 352,000** to support the country in preparation and submission of its First Biennial Update Report (BUR1). The **project's objective** was to prepare and submit Saudi Arabia's BUR1 to the UNFCCC in accordance with decisions 1/CP.16 and 2/CP.17, thereby enhancing the country's capacity to meet its reporting obligations on a continuous basis.

The BUR1 provided an updated overview of national greenhouse gas inventories, outlined mitigation actions, and presented economic diversification initiatives pursuant to decision 24/CP.18, along with the development of a domestic Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) system. These efforts were aligned with Saudi Arabia's sustainable development goals and its strategy to diversify the economy while addressing climate change response measures.

## 2. Overview of implementation arrangements

Saudi Arabia's first Biennial Update Report (BUR1) was prepared by the Designated National Authority (DNA) under the guidance of the Ministry of Energy, Industry and Mineral Resources. The DNA served as an inter-ministerial and inter-agency entity responsible for coordinating climate change responses and reporting obligations.

A National Project Steering Committee (PSC) was established to provide policy guidance and oversight while a National Project Coordination Unit (NPCU) managed daily operations, supervised data collection, and ensured consistency with UNFCCC guidelines. In addition, sectoral Technical Working Groups (TWGs) were formed for major emission sectors—Energy, Industrial Processes, Agriculture, Waste, and Land Use—to compile data, develop methodologies, and validate results.

## 3. Delivery of outputs

The Designated National Authority (DNA) undertook all the activities and components as they had been outlined in the project document; and successfully completed and submitted BUR1 to the UNFCCC on 03 April 2018. The report can be accessed through the following link: BUR1: <https://unfccc.int/documents/65418>.

## 4. Project Outcome

The project successfully enhanced Saudi Arabia's institutional and technical capacity for climate reporting. It supported mainstreaming climate change into national planning and improved transparency in GHG data and mitigation tracking. The BUR submission demonstrated Saudi Arabia's commitment to the UNFCCC and readiness for future reporting obligations.

## 5. Stakeholders' involvement

The preparation of Saudi Arabia's Initial Biennial Update Report (BUR1) was a nationally driven and highly collaborative process, coordinated by the Designated National Authority (DNA) under the Ministry of Energy, Industry and Mineral Resources, with financial support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and technical assistance from UNEP. Key aspects of stakeholder engagement included:

- i. **Government Ministries and Agencies:** Active participation from key ministries like Environment, Energy, Industry, Agriculture, Water, Transport, and Municipal Affairs, ensured comprehensive data collection and sectoral coordination for GHG inventory and mitigation reporting.
- ii. **Sectoral Technical Working Groups (TWGs):** Experts from various ministries, research institutions, and statistical agencies were organized into TWGs for energy, industrial processes, agriculture, waste, and land use to develop and validate sectoral data and methodologies.
- iii. **Research and Academic Institutions:** Universities and technical centers contributed to data analysis, methodological improvements, and capacity building, enhancing the scientific robustness of the report.
- iv. **Private Sector and Industry Representatives:** State-owned enterprises and private companies, particularly from the energy and industrial sectors, provided essential emissions data and supported assessment efforts.
- v. **National Statistics Authority:** Collaborated in data verification and harmonization to ensure consistency with national economic and environmental datasets.
- vi. **Stakeholder Consultations and Validation Workshops:** A series of national consultations and expert meetings were held to review draft findings, validate the GHG inventory, and ensure transparency and ownership of the final BUR1.

## 6. Financial Summary

Source	(USD)
GEF Grant	\$352,000
Final Date of Disbursement	25 June 2018
Cumulative Disbursement <i>(as of final date of disbursement)</i>	\$337,000
Co-financing, if applicable	N/A

## 6. Lessons Learned

- Early establishment of working teams and clear roles improved coordination.
- National ownership and alignment with existing institutional frameworks were critical for sustainability.
- Capacity building and stakeholder engagement enhanced data quality and reporting.
- Flexibility in implementation allowed adaptation to evolving national priorities and data availability.
- Future projects should allocate more resources to gender mainstreaming and cross-sectoral collaboration.