



SDG 13 Observatory in the Arab Region: Sixteenth Issue

World Earth Day

Approach to raise awareness of
climate change in the Arab region



April 2023

13 CLIMATE
ACTION



Background:

The world celebrates Earth Day on April 22 every year. This Day happens to come amidst the severe consequences of climate change and human-induced natural disasters as well as irrational practices that destroy biodiversity such as deforestation, land-use change, intensive agriculture and livestock production or the growing and criminalized trade in wildlife, which are all accelerating the pace of ruining Earth. Celebrated within the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, this day comes to remind everyone of the urgent need to transition to a more sustainable economy that helps people and the planet.

In that context, on the sidelines of that day, the Arab countries launched afforestation campaigns and green initiatives in April, as well as awareness sessions, initiatives and media campaigns aimed at mitigating the repercussions of climate change.

Within the framework of its keenness to promote sustainable societies that preserve human life in a safe and sustainable manner, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights released the sixteenth issue of “SDG 13 Observatory in the Arab Region” under the title **“International Earth Day... approach to Raise Awareness of Climate Change in the Arab Region”**, in order to track the good practices as well as the challenges faced by Arab countries in achieving the SDG13 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The **Observatory** focuses on the actions and measures undertaken by the Arab countries to address climate change and its repercussions, noting that it focuses on the targets specific to SDG 13, including; i) Strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries; ii) Integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning; iii) Improving education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning.

The Observatory is divided into two axes; the first discusses the country-focus of this issue and reviews its achievements and failures in the climate change issue in light of the SDG 13 targets, whereas the second axis monitors the most prominent practices and challenges faced by the rest of the Arab countries in this regard.

Monitoring Methodology:

The SDG 13 Observatory in the Arab Region adopts a methodology of direct monitoring of previous publications in the Arab, Western and African media about government efforts to promote climate action. The Observatory focused on a number of secondary research sources,

open sources such as the Internet, and reliable news sites deeply interested in Arab countries and development paths in general.

The Observatory also relies on information and data published by the Arab environment ministries on their official websites, and what was reported by electronic newspapers and written media about the efforts of the governments of Arab countries in achieving SDG 13 as well as the challenges they faced in order to highlight them.

SDG 13 Observatory Targets in the Arab Region

The targets and indicators of the SDG 13 Observatory varied according to the scientific agenda, but given the monthly nature of the observatory, it selectively addresses them. Therefore, the **Observatory** highlights the key targets of SDG 13, which included; First: Integrating measures related to climate change into policies, strategies, and planning at the national level, second: enhancing resilience and resilience in the face of climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries, and enhancing resilience to those hazards, third: education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacities to mitigate Climate change, adaptation, mitigation and early warning.

It is noteworthy that the Observatory included monitoring the extent of the success of the Arab countries in achieving these goals in particular, in order to focus on the indicators that can be measured in the short term, and then measure the extent of the success of the countries in achieving them. Given the observatory's one-month time scope, the measure of some indicators of achieving the objectives of SDG 13 requires a relatively long time span, one year or more.

Legal Frameworks of SDG 13: Climate Action

The SDG 13 Observatory depends on an international legal reference, which is the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change of 1993 (UNFCCC), and the extent of the commitment of Arab countries to this agreement in addition to the Arab strategies developed by the governments that come in light of this agreement, and finally, the national initiatives and programs carried out by the national organizations concerned with climate change issues.

Axis I: The State Focus of the Issue "Mauritania"

First: Background on Mauritania's Climate Crisis Escalation

Mauritania came first as one of the most prominent countries in the Arab region negatively affected by climate change, where a set of geographical factors and natural conditions interfere causing the exacerbation of the climate crisis and its negative impacts,

topped by desertification and drought. The waves of droughts that have been hitting the country for years had destroyed large areas of the country's agricultural land, where a group of geographical factors and natural conditions meet to cause major crisis. The country's location north of the equator, where rain is rare and temperatures are high, the hot, dry desert climate predominates most of the months of the year, which, in conjunction with the stormy climatic changes, caused severe desertification in the Mauritanian lands.

The droughts and desertification that have struck the country continuously for years have eliminated large areas of agricultural lands, and the matter is getting worse in light of the difficulty of curbing the encroachment of desert sands into agricultural lands, as sand dunes appear in large groups heading from the northeast to the southwest. Crescent Dunes movement also expands in the north of the country.

The deterioration of the country's agricultural lands affects the productive, economic and biological capacity of the land, which is reflected in the availability of water resources and the soil's ability to store carbon. Land degradation also exacerbates poverty, food insecurity and conflicts in light of the difficulty of the population accessing and benefiting from resources.

The exacerbation of the desertification crisis coincided with the increase in calls from local and international environmental organizations for the authorities to intervene with the aim of limiting climate changes and protecting the remaining agricultural lands from desertification and drought. Stop the advancing desert sands.¹

Second: Anti-Climate Crisis Government Policies

Despite the crises that Mauritania is facing, the Mauritanian government is considered one of the most effective Arab governments in the field of climate action. In 2012, it announced the launch of the "**National Action Plan for the Environment 2012-2016**", which included acclimatization and mitigating climate changes as part of its orientation focusing on forming a coherent framework for the interference of all actors in the field of climate work.² In addition, in 2017, the Mauritanian government launched the "**Multi-Sectoral Investment Plan for the Mauritanian Coast 2018-2022**", which is one of the most prominent plans aimed at adapting to climate changes in the African Sahel region. This Plan focuses on land planning, preserving and

¹ الأراضي الزراعية تتقلص بسبب زحف الرمال.. تغير المناخ يصيب موريتانيا، العربي. <http://bitly.ws/DL6e>

² خطة العمل الوطنية من أجل البيئة، موريتانيا. <http://bitly.ws/DNAS>

developing the country's lands in line with the framework of coastal adaptation approach and protecting them from climate changes.³

The Mauritanian government is also keen to submit its nationally determined contributions periodically, the most recent of which was the nationally determined contribution submitted in 2021, which included raising the country's climate ambition to reduce its carbon emissions to 11% in 2030, in addition to ensuring a strategy that supports net-Zero by up to 92% of greenhouse gases emissions. Mauritania, through the Contribution provided, promoted mitigation and adaptation goals, including the creation of new green job opportunities in the country.⁴

It is worth noting that all Mauritanian climate action efforts are implemented within the framework of being national programs or individual projects, which do not fall under a general national strategy for climate action. The State of Mauritania has not yet developed any national climate strategy to organize its efforts within the framework of the climate file, despite having a direct impact on the country, which is considered a huge shortcoming in the Mauritanian climate action so far.

In this framework, the state's most prominent programs and government efforts to confront climate crises which caused land desertification that devoured more than 80% of the country's lands include:

a. Regional Project:

The Mauritanian government implemented a project aimed at supporting the pastoral system, which was negatively affected by desertification and the lack of water and food resources on which pastoralists depended on their trips with their livestock, thus threatened the lives of livestock and increased the danger of the widespread grazing. The Project named "Regional Project" relies on the presence of committees responsible for supporting and providing services to pastoralists in 6 African countries, namely Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal. The committees aim to protect the pastoral system through good management of resources, concern for animal health, facilitating access to markets, and diversifying income sources of pastoralists. The Project is funded by the World Bank and coordinated by the Permanent Committee to Combat Drought in the Sahel caused by climate change.⁵

³ خطة الاستثمار المتعددة القطاعات للساحل الموريتاني، (2018-2022) الإسكوا. <https://andp.unescwa.org/ar/plans/1186>

⁴ NDC Status, UNDP, <http://bitly.ws/DLks>

⁵ تغير المناخ حقيقة واقعة: مساندة الرعاة في منطقة الساحل لبناء مستقبل قادر على الصمود، البنك الدولي، <http://bitly.ws/DLqt>

b. Green Wall Project

The “Green Wall” Project is considered one of the Mauritanian government’s most important efforts to combat desertification and the negative effects resulting from it. It started in 2007 with the participation of 20 African countries, which collectively aim to reduce desertification resulting from climate change that is afflicting the countries of the continent by building a 8000-meter-long wall of trees covering the entire Sahel region, from Senegal in the west to the coast of Djibouti in the east, with the project to be fully completed by 2030.⁶

The project targets creating a natural wall capable of curbing desertification and helping to restore about 100 million hectares of desertified land. The Project targets 6 states and 6 different regions in Mauritania, where fixing sand dunes, reforestation, and improving the productivity of agricultural and pastoral lands.⁷

c. Air Seed Project:

Three of the most prominent official authorities in Mauritania, namely the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Defense and the Mauritanian Air Force Chief of Staff, have cooperated to supervise one of the most important Mauritanian projects that are reliable in combating desertification linked to climate change, which is Air Seed Project, that targets an area of 19,600 square kilometers in areas suffering from serious desertification and sand creeping in a desert environment in most regions of Mauritania, where the project organizers hope that these plants will help stabilize the sand and prevent it from moving between the north and south of Mauritania.⁸

Second: Efforts to Achieve SDG 13 Targets and Enhance Climate Action:

Mauritania has made great efforts to ensure its contribution to the protection of the environment and its resources, and the climate is an essential part of the environment. Therefore, the government has taken many measures aimed at reducing climate change, which will naturally affect the reduction of air pollution, water pollution and soil pollution. In that section, the focus will be on the government's efforts to achieve the targets of Goal 13 during the month of April, as follows:

⁶ شاهد: مشروع "الجدار الأخضر" يسعى لكبح مشكلة التصحر في موريتانيا، Euro news. <http://bitly.ws/DLdD>

⁷ المرجع السابق

⁸ البذر الجوي "أمل موريتانيا في استعادة غاباتها بمواجهة التصحر، إندبننت عربية، <http://bitly.ws/DLeK>

Target (1)	Integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning
------------	---

In the context of integrating measures related to climate change in policies, strategies and planning at the Mauritanian national level, the Mauritanian government has taken a number of important steps to achieve this target. The most important steps are:

The Mauritanian Minister of Environment, Lalia Kamra, chaired the meeting of Khaled Youssef, Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Mauritania, on April 17. The meeting included the presentation of the report of the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties on Climate, which was held during November 2022, the steps taken in the areas of adaptation, financing, strengthening the country's capabilities to implement the Paris Agreement, and ensuring that countries adhere to the rest of their obligations.⁹ The meeting also included discussions between the Minister of Environment and financial partners, interlocutors and nationals about the urgent measures that must be taken in order to achieve maximum benefit from climate finance by strengthening public and private facilities, working to develop integration regarding project proposals and facilitating access to climate finance mechanisms.¹⁰

In the same context, the Minister of the Environment, in her capacity as Deputy Head of the Bureau of the African Ministerial Conference, participated in the virtual meeting on April 20 as a representative of the North African region, in a meeting in which the report of the 18th session of the conference, which was held in Dakar in September 2022, was discussed, and the negotiators presented the outcomes of the “COP27” conference and “COP 15” on biodiversity, and the progress in negotiations to implement a binding global legal framework on plastics was also discussed.¹¹

In addition to the above, a financing agreement was signed between the Minister of Economic Affairs and the Promotion of Productive Sectors and the Director General of the French Development Agency to support the Great Green Wall initiative, which is funded by 8 million euros, and aims to strengthen field capabilities to the National Agency for the Great Green Wall (NAGGW), in order to help it support and expand its activities in the field of land

⁹ الصفحة الرسمية لوزارة البيئة والتنمية المستدامة، فيسبوك، <http://bitly.ws/DAVA>

¹⁰ الصفحة الرسمية لوزارة البيئة والتنمية المستدامة

¹¹ الصفحة الرسمية لوزارة البيئة والتنمية المستدامة

recovery, sustainable utilization of natural resources and the promotion of ecological agriculture in the regions of Brakna, Assaba and the two basins, for a period of 5 years.¹²

Target (2)	Strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate- related hazards and natural disasters in all countries
-------------------	--

The main efforts of the Mauritanian government are to enhance the country's resilience and ability to adapt and face climate-related threats. The Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Mrs. Kamra, made an inspection visit to Lake Mahmoud, located between the municipalities of Um Afandish and Biri Bava in Al-Nama district. The visit included the distribution of 4 boats to a group of municipal fishermen, and some local residents were supplied with a set of fishing equipment and tools, being a key local activity that was affected by the climate imbalance witnessed by the country, and the support of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development comes within the framework of the GEF-funded project "Continental wetlands adaptation and resilience to climate change" will be implemented by the National Agency for the Great Green Wall.¹³

During her visit, the Minister also visited a barn for vaccinating livestock, and a point for selling butane gas in the village of "Ain Awlad Weiss", where she learned about the importance of this point in providing the needs of the population of butane gas, which contributed to reducing dependence on wood charcoal and reducing pressure on trees as a resource for energy, which is considered one of the most important steps taken to enhance the resilience and ability of the population to combat climate change and contribute less to increasing negative effects.¹⁴

Target (3)	Improving education, awareness-raising, human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning
-------------------	--

The most prominent efforts made by the Mauritanian government and the Ministry of the Environment are represented in the field of improving education, raising awareness, and human and institutional capacities to mitigate climate change, adapt to it, reduce its impact and early warning, and also on the sidelines of April, the month of the Earth. Over the past period, the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development supervised the distribution

¹² الصفحة الرسمية لوزارة البيئة والتنمية المستدامة الموريتانية، <http://bitly.ws/DAVA>

¹³ المرجع السابق

¹⁴ المرجع السابق

of basic equipment for the beginning of the afforestation operations scheduled for a group of Mauritanian model schools, within the framework of the Green Schools Program, which aims to afforestation 62 public schools in the first phase, which contributes to raising student awareness in the environmental field and various fields in sustainable development.¹⁵

As the Mauritanian government focuses on raising the human capacities of citizens in the field of mitigating climate change and adapting to it, the Minister of Environment, accompanied by Mauritanian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mohamed Salem Ould Merzoug, visited the Green Basin state, and met with the regional delegate of the environment to view the most prominent achievements of the state in the field of land recovery, climate endurance, combating rural fires, and the protection of wet continental lands..¹⁶

However, the most prominent aspect of that visit was the minister's distribution of a set of agricultural equipment and alternative energy supplies to the people of the state. This came as part of the financing of the President of the Republic's "My Expanded Priorities" program aimed at encouraging local development and responsible practices by citizens with the aim of ensuring the restoration of agricultural lands, as well as the sustainable management of agricultural and pastoral spaces. The Minister also supervised a meeting with the workers in the state to review the progress made in the projects and working conditions, and discuss the work requirements to make progress in the specific projects. ¹⁷

The Secretary General of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Mr. Moulay Brahim Ould Moulay Idris, in addition to the Wali of Tiris Zemmour, Mr. Mohamed Mokhtar, supervised the launch of the first awareness-raising days during the month of April. "Allergic Days" is one of the most important means of educating citizens about the procedures that must be followed for safety from the harm of chemicals that are usually used in the field of private mining, such as mercury, and to clarify their dangerous health effects on the individual and society.¹⁸

The Director of Environmental Assessment and Control reviewed the environmental and health risks of some chemicals used in the field of mining.¹⁹ She also discussed some diseases that result from the misuse of these materials. This resulted in the distribution of awareness

¹⁵ وزارة البيئة والتنمية المستدامة، فيسبوك، <http://bitly.ws/DAVA>

¹⁶ المرجع السابق

¹⁷ المرجع السابق

¹⁸ مرجع سابق، الصفحة الرسمية لوزارة البيئة والتنمية المستدامة

¹⁹ المرجع السابق

and warning leaflets, and directing the necessary instructions to the workers in the National Mining Center at the level of the city of Zouerate, with the aim of raising awareness of the dangers of the chemicals used in this activity, and prompting workers in the field to take the necessary measures.²⁰

In addition, the Secretary-General of the Ministry and his accompanying delegation, accompanied by the governor of the state of Tiris, organized a visit on April 11 for a group of companies working in the field of semi-industrial mining. He imposed strict instructions on companies' adherence to safety standards, stressing that the failure to apply the provisions of the obligations may cause withdrawing the licenses of the violating companies and stopping their activities.²¹

The steps of the Ministry of the Environment were renewed by organizing the second day of "Allergic Days" initiative days April 14 and 15 in the city of Chami, in the state of Nouadhibou, which dealt with the environmental and health risks resulting from the use of chemical products in the private mining of gold. The Director, Environmental Assessment & Control Directorate reviewed the serious effects resulting from the use of these products and organized visits to gold processing centers and companies processing waste from national gold mining, with the aim of enabling the actors in the field to absorb the environmental and health obligations associated with gold mining and stimulating cooperation for the sustainable exploitation of natural resources.²²

Axis II: Achieving SDG 13 in Reality the Arab Region

This axis reviews the reality of goal 13 in the Arab countries, by identifying the most prominent governmental efforts that were made to enhance climate action during the month, by classifying those efforts according to targets followed by the observatory.

Target (1)	Integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning
------------	--

²⁰ المرجع السابق

²¹ المرجع السابق

²² المرجع السابق

First: North Africa:

a. Egypt

In the context of integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning, the Egyptian Ministry of Environment has taken a number of steps: The Minister of Environment and the French Development Agency's (AFD) Regional Director witnessed the signing of the project document "Transforming financial systems for the climate in Egypt" between the Environmental Affairs Agency, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the United Nations Development Program with a €1.5 million grant from the AFD. The project will contribute to supporting the national measures adopted by Egypt over the past period in the climate change file, as it will help to integrate the environmental dimension with the projects of national banks to help them finance more climate adaptation projects and strategies²³.

In addition, the Ministry of Environment (represented by the Industrial Pollution Control Program and Sustainable Green Industry at the Environmental Affairs Agency) signed a cooperation protocol with the General Authority for the Canal Economic Zone. The protocol aims to cooperate in the field of supporting and developing the Egyptian industry in its various sectors within the scope of the General Authority by facilitating access to finance for industrial companies operating within the region through industrial pollution control programs and green industry. According to the protocol, the ministry will assist in creating a sustainable development strategy for the economic authority in that region, as well as the preparation of a sustainable development strategy for industrial companies²⁴.

B. Tunisia:

The Tunisian Ministry of Environment has taken a set of significant steps in the field of integrating measures related to climate change in policies, strategies, and planning at the national level; On April 25, the Ministry of Environment organized a workshop on the country's legislative framework and its relationship to climate change. This workshop comes within the framework of the state's approach to preparing the Tunisian Environment Magazine project, with the participation of 70 representatives of national structures, ministries, Tunisian civil society organizations, and a group of experts²⁵. The progress made in the preparation of the magazine's project aimed at supporting Tunisia's approach to ensuring the ecological

²³ <http://bitly.ws/DuEj> يشهدان توقيع وثيقة مشروع "تحويل الأنظمة المالية للمناخ في مصر، وزارة البيئة – جمهورية مصر العربية، AFD وزير البيئة والمدير الإقليمي لشمال إفريقيا بالوكالة الفرنسية للتنمية

²⁴ <http://bitly.ws/DuGF> وزارة البيئة توقع مع الهيئة العامة للمنطقة الاقتصادية لقناة السويس، وزارة البيئة، استكمالاً للاستثمار البيئي والمناخي

²⁵ <http://bitly.ws/DGIQ> ورشة عمل حول الإطار التشريعي في مجال التغيرات المناخية، وزارة البيئة، الجمهورية التونسية.

transformation of the country's ecosystem and achieving the country's climate balance by supporting the establishment of mechanisms to prevent all manifestations of environmental pollution and its effects on the sustainable environmental, cultural, and social system. The Minister of Environment indicated during the workshop the importance of working on national priorities and stakes related to combating the repercussions and effects of climate change within the Tunisian Environment Magazine's work strategy²⁶.

The workshop included discussing a preliminary project proposal for topics related to climate change, discussing the content, feasibility, and ensuring its role in achieving response to the risks resulting from climate change. In light of the discussion, international commitments have been reviewed in accordance with the UN Convention and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change²⁷.

The proposed project aims to define the role and responsibilities of various parties, including local structures, ministries, public institutions, and the private sector in preparing national priorities for mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, the effects of climate change, and monitoring and evaluating it. In its first form, the project focuses on the discussion of climate action mechanisms, including national contributions and strategies to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050²⁸.

The workshop concluded with the agreement of the various parties to include the proposals that were discussed during the workshop, and pledge to continue the advisory sessions to reach a final agreement regarding the chapters proposed to be included in the environment magazine, in addition to preparing a legal text to detail the mechanisms of the future climate policy of the country, determine its responsibilities, and follow up on its evaluation²⁹.

c. Algeria:

As part of the efforts of the Algerian Government and the Ministry of Environment to integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning; Minister of Environment Fayza Dahleb participated with a number of government members in a seminar organized by Sonelgaz Foundation under the title "National Integration at the Heart of

²⁶ Ibid

²⁷ Ibid

²⁸ Ibid

²⁹ Ibid

Sonelgaz's National Strategy to Support Our Country's Economic Effort³⁰". The Minister addressed the program which the Government intends to implement in the medium and long term to support the infrastructure modernization for large-scale deployment of renewable energies, thus supporting the production of electricity from renewable energy sources. The Minister also appreciated the incorporation of local content and product requirements into the books of conditions put forward for the implementation of projects, noting the role of this in developing and promoting the local industry of local industry.³¹

The Minister noted the efforts of the Ministry of Renewable Energies in ensuring the progressive deployment of renewable energies not connected to the electrical grid at all levels, especially in isolated areas in a way that promotes domestic, industrial, agricultural, and pastoral development use; adding that the ministry has worked on drawing up a roadmap based on ecological transformation. She added that the ministry created a roadmap for ecological transformation based on a circular and green economy, which contributes to the emergence of a new economic model for the country, indicating the importance of reviewing some laws, including the Waste Law 19/01³².

The Ministry of Environment's steps were renewed on April 20, when the Green Climate Fund approved the financing of a national plan for adaptation to climate change within the framework of multilateral cooperation with both the UN Development Office and the UN system. This plan is part of the Framework Convention on Climate Change, which is expected to enhance Algeria's capacity to adapt to climate change risks³³.

Second: The Arabian Gulf:

a. Saudi Arabia:

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's main effort to incorporate climate change measures into national policies and strategies is its announcement of a budget of up to \$70 billion for the implementation of a variety of water projects in the coming years. This step comes within the framework of its endeavor to provide safe and affordable drinking water for all in light of the disruption witnessed by water resources in a number of Arab countries as a result of climate change³⁴. Abdulaziz Al-Shaibani, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Environment and Water and

³⁰ السيدة الوزيرة تشارك في ندوة منظمة من طرف مؤسسة سونلغاز، وزارة البيئة والطاقة المتجددة، <http://bitly.ws/DAXZ>

³¹ Ibid

³² Ibid

³³ <https://www.facebook.com/www.meer.gov.dz> وزارة البيئة والطاقة المتجددة، فيسبوك،

³⁴ <http://bitly.ws/DBvz> المملكة: أكثر من 80 مليار دولار لتنفيذ مئات المشاريع المائية لتحقيق أهداف التنمية المستدامة، وزارة البيئة والمياه والزراعة.

head of the Saudi delegation, explained at the New York Water Conference held during the period from (22-24) March 2023, the Kingdom's Vision 2030 is in line with sustainable development goals and the development of the public sector to be more sustainable and flexible, explaining that the water sector is one of the most important of these sectors, which prompted the Kingdom to adopt a national water strategy beginning in 2018 to reach a sustainable water sector that develops water resources, preserves the environment and provides a safe supply of resources³⁵.

Al-Shaibani also stressed that the objectives of the Kingdom's national strategy are largely consistent with Goal 6 of the Sustainable Development Goals, with its goal of providing water supply and sanitation and sustainable management for all. Within this framework, the Kingdom has established the National Center for Water Efficiency and Rationalization to rationalize water consumption and manage its limited water resources. In addition, it worked to include flexible and sustainable water management for the first time in the G-20 work map during its presidency³⁶.

B. UAE:

The United Arab Emirates has taken important steps in the field of integrating measures related to climate change into policies, strategies, and planning at the national level, most notably the presence of the Minister of Climate Change and Environment, Maryam bint Muhammad Al Muhairi, in a special session that discussed ways to use green financing as part of the "National Dialogue on Climate Ambition" initiative aimed at accelerating the country's efforts to achieve climate neutrality by 2050, in cooperation with 100 partners from the banking, investment and insurance sectors, consulting, and several ministries. Her Excellency also stressed the importance of cooperation of all concerned parties to increase the horizon of climate financing, which is a crucial path to achieving the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement³⁷.

Target 2	Strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate- related hazards and natural disasters in all countries
-----------------	--

³⁵ Ibid

³⁶ Ibid

³⁷ وزارة التغير المناخي والبيئة، 19 أبريل، فيسبوك، <https://www.facebook.com/MoCCAUEAE/>

First: North Africa:

a. Egypt:

In the context of the Egyptian State's tendency to enhance its resilience against climate hazards, it has taken several steps, Holding the first meeting of the committee formed for the Loss and Damage Fund and the countries participating in defining the operating framework for the fund³⁸; In addition, the Egyptian side is working with its Emirati counterpart in the framework of advancing biodiversity to be the heart of the upcoming climate conference COP 28; At the same time, a tripartite meeting is currently being held in Denmark to prepare for the next conference with the participation of the current climate conference president, Ambassador Sameh Shoukry³⁹.

B. Tunisia:

Tunisia's most prominent steps in enhancing resilience to climate-related risks and natural disasters and enhancing resilience to those risks are the visit of the Minister of Environment Mrs. Leila Chikhaoui, on April 19th to the Kairouan Province in a meeting with the Governor of Kairouan Mr. Mohamed Bourguiba, the meeting included a discussion on the manifestations of environmental pollution; the challenges facing the state, and the need to encourage those involved to preserve the environment and protect crops project; Emphasizing the need for natural fertilization via household waste screening and afforestation to tackle climate variability and its effects⁴⁰. The meeting discussed the state's environmental situation and the efforts of the National Director General of Disinfection. It also stressed the need to accelerate the promotion of treated water use for agriculture in Tunisia due to water scarcity from climate change⁴¹.

c. Morocco:

During April, the National Consultation Program, which is scheduled to run until May 30, 2023, was launched through the launch of the official digital consulting platform "Nasham" to enable civil society workers and all citizens interested in sustainable development to direct their opinions and proposals. The consultation program will continue to organize substantive meetings to receive the views of actors in the field of sustainable development on the priorities

³⁸ استمرارا للتعاون بين وزارة البيئة وجمعية كتاب البيئة والتنمية: 'وزارة البيئة تشهد توقيع بروتوكول تعاون لتعزيز دور الإعلام في رفع الوعي بقضايا البيئة، وزارة البيئة – جمهورية مصر العربية. <http://bitly.ws/Du9Q>

³⁹ Ibid

⁴⁰ وزيرة البيئة في زيارة عمل إلى ولاية القيروان، وزارة البيئة، تونس، فيسبوك

⁴¹ Ibid

of the national strategy for sustainable development of the Kingdom of Morocco until 2035. The Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development also initiated the launch of the #Nesshamo_All initiative, which aims to simplify the priorities and concepts of sustainable development and Spread to all Moroccans in simple language.

Second: The Arabian Gulf:

a. Saudi Arabia:

Saudi Arabia's government is taking measures to improve resilience against climate hazards and natural disasters. The most prominent of these steps are; The Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture, Eng. Abdul Rahman Al-Fadhli, signed an agreement to establish the “Rabigh- 4” station project to produce water independently in the Makkah Al-Mukarramah region, with a production capacity of 600,000 cubic meters of desalinated water, as part of the Kingdom's plan to deal with the rapid occurrence of climate change in the world and to adapt to its effects on the available water resources in the Kingdom, in addition to what the project will contribute to in terms of support for the Saudi supply system in partnership with the private sector⁴².

The project aims to implement water production projects in partnership with the private sector to improve the water supply system in all cities of the Kingdom and support the vital sector. It also aims to enhance the quality of services and contribute to achieving UN sustainable development goals, aligned with Goal 13 for climate action and the Goals of the Kingdom's vision for 2030⁴³.

The Kingdom's second most important step is represented by the signing of the award of the project to establish a monitoring, control and simulation center to respond to marine emergencies. Mr. Abdul Rahman Al-Fadhli, Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture, witnessed the signing of the award of the project to establish the Monitoring, Control, and Simulation Center for the benefit of "MIS". The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Environment, Osama bin Ibrahim, emphasized the vital role of the center in providing readiness to deal with climate-induced emergencies and prevent marine pollution from reaching Saudi shores, as the center's work will include full monitoring of the waters of the Red Sea and the Arabian Gulf⁴⁴.

⁴² الفضلي " يوقع اتفاقيات إنشاء مشروع محطة رابغ 4 لخدمة منظومة الإمداد بالشراكة مع القطاع الخاص، وزارة البيئة والمياه والزراعة، <http://bitly.ws/DKEB>.

⁴³ Ibid

⁴⁴ الفضلي " يشهد توقيع ترسية مشروع إنشاء مركز المراقبة والتحكم والمحاكاة للاستجابة للطوارئ البحرية، وزارة البيئة والمياه والزراعة، <http://bitly.ws/DKEs>.

The Head of the National Environmental Commitment Control Centre has emphasized the capacity of the Centre to deal with marine emergencies, drawing on international best practices and satellite image analysis, which is a paradigm shift in marine pollution detection. The Centre will also focus on providing solutions to marine pollution problems using the global best technology, which will be reflected in strengthening environmental balance⁴⁵.

B. Yemen:

The most prominent steps taken by Yemen are enhancing resilience to climate hazards and adapting to climate change's negative repercussions; The Minister of Water and Environment, Engineer Tawfiq Al-Sharjabi, discussed in his meeting on April 9 with the US Ambassador to Yemen, Mr. Stephen Fagin the most prominent details of the Yemen situation water sector and environmental reform, in light of the Government's efforts to cooperate with local and international companies to achieve recovery and stability in basic services for citizens⁴⁶. The meeting also reviewed the cooperation between the Government of Yemen and the United States to increase the capacity of institutions to overcome the challenges of war. For his part, the Minister of Environment praised the American efforts to support the implementation of United Nations plans to save the floating Safer oil reservoir off the coast of Hodeidah in the Red Sea and their tragedies in preventing potential natural, environmental, humanitarian and climatic disasters that may result from the explosion of the oil tanker and its impact on Yemen and the entire region⁴⁷.

c. UAE:

The United Arab Emirates is one of the most prominent countries in the Arab region that has taken meaningful steps to enhance resilience against climate-related hazards and natural disasters and increased its capacity to adapt to those risks, including these steps are; Her Excellency Mariam bint Mohammed Almhairi Minister of Climate Change and Environment, during her chairmanship of the first meeting of the National Biosecurity Committee, held on 3 April, announced the Ministry's cooperation with environmental actors in strengthening the biosecurity system through the launch of a range of relevant initiatives and activities. The meeting also witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Ministries of Climate Change and Environment and the United Arab Emirates University in the field of enhancing cooperation in biosecurity education and scientific research, which will serve the

⁴⁵ Ibid

⁴⁶ <https://mwe-ye.org/?p=1013>، وزارة البيئة اليمنية، الجمهورية اليمنية، 9 أبريل.

⁴⁷ Ibid

biosecurity system and enhance the country's ability to address climate change its effects, and risks⁴⁸.

One of the country's most notable steps the signing of a memorandum of understanding by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment on April 7 with Easa Al Ghurair Investment Company within the framework of joint cooperation for carbon sequestration nationwide. The project focuses on supporting the initiative to plant between 500 thousand to one million mangrove seeds and seedlings the next ten years, which the minister expressed her full support and noted the ministry's endeavor to adopt solutions based on sustainability to support efforts to reduce and compensate emissions, which will in the future lead to climate neutrality and support the protection of the ecosystem⁴⁹.

In addition, the UAE Farmers Council held its fourth meeting for the year 2023 on April 17, and it included a discussion of the most important ways to support local agriculture and organic production, enhance sustainability and its relationship to achieving environmental balance, and ways to combat the challenges of the agricultural sector resulting from the global climate imbalance were also discussed⁵⁰.

Qatar:

In April, **Earth Month** Qatar improved its resilience against climate hazards and natural disasters. One of the most prominent steps was the launch of a new tree planting event on April 13 in Shabhanah Municipality, as part of the two initiatives to plant 10 million trees and the farmer initiative. This initiative is one of the effective steps in the field of combating the negative effects of climate change that struck the Arab region and was reflected in the rise in temperatures and the impact of residents in a number of countries, including Qatar⁵¹.

Third: Levant countries:

a. Jordan:

Within the framework of the Arab efforts, the most prominent efforts of Jordan are represented in the framework of enhancing resilience and adapting to climate hazards and natural disasters; The meeting of the Jordanian Minister of Environment, Dr. Muawiya Radaydah and the French Ambassador to Jordan, Alexis LE Cour Grandmaison met on

⁴⁸ <https://fb.watch/kajDe-xdl/> وزارة التغير المناخي والبيئة – 17 ابريل، فيسبوك.

⁴⁹ Ibid

⁵⁰ Ibid

⁵¹ <http://bitly.ws/DJTR> فعالية تشجير ضمن مبادرة زراعة عشرة ملايين شجرة ببلدية الشحيانية، وزارة البلدية، دولة قطر.

Thursday, April 13. Their meeting focused on discussing frameworks for coordination and joint action in the field of environment, and discussed ways to enhance cooperation between the two countries in the field of economic growth, climate change and biodiversity. The meeting also witnessed the minister's review of the details of the initiative launched by His Majesty King Abdullah II during the COP27 conference, on the interrelationship between the issue of climate change and refugees, encourage local and global efforts to support it within the framework of implementing its important axes, which is reflected in taking real steps in the climate issue⁵².

B. Iraq:

Iraq is considered one of the Arab countries most affected by the severe climatic changes taking place in the region. For that, the Iraqi Ministry of Environment is taking a number of steps aimed at combating the repercussions of climate change, as; In Iraq, emphasis was on activating **international support in projects and programs that help Iraq to adapt and face climate change**, during a dialogue session entitled Accelerating Climate-Smart Development within the annual meetings of the World Bank, in which the conditions of the participating countries and the challenges they face and cooperation were reviewed. Iraq reviewed the government's program and the serious steps taken to confront the repercussions of climate change, in light of the great importance of the climate file among the actions of the Iraqi government. The World Bank presented a report on the conditions of climate and development in Iraq, so to be an analytical basis for meeting the urgent development needs and overcoming climate challenges at the same time. Therefore, there is a need to take measures to overcome the dangers of climate change and accelerate green development in Iraq in a way that helps achieve the gradual transformation of the sustainable green economy in the country⁵³.

C. Lebanon:

Despite the relative slowness of the state's steps in the field of promoting climate action, April witnessed the Lebanese Ministry of Environment taking an important step in the climate field, as the Ministry of Environment organized a workshop in cooperation with the National Council for Scientific Research and the Hanns Seidel Foundation under the title "How do we adapt to natural and climatic disasters?" and a group of researchers and specialists from Lebanese universities and research centers, in which they discussed one of the most prominent risks facing the Arab region, which is the catastrophe of earthquakes that struck several

⁵² وزير البيئة يلتقي السفير الفرنسي لدى المملكة، وزارة البيئة – المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية، <http://bitly.ws/DtWv>

⁵³ Iraq stresses the importance of activating international support to confront the effects of climate change around the world, Youm7, April 14, <http://bitly.ws/DGDP>

countries. The workshop discussed the extent of weak official and local readiness for natural disasters and extreme climatic phenomena, including floods and torrential rains that may strike the country. The workshop concluded that it is necessary to formulate a national approach and establish programs to prepare to combat and protect the country from the danger of these phenomena.⁵⁴

Target (3)	Improving education, awareness-raising, human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning
-------------------	--

First: North Africa:

A. Egypt

Within the framework of the Egyptian efforts to raise awareness and human capabilities to mitigate climate change, the Minister of Environment signed a cooperation protocol with the Environment and Development Writers Association to enhance the role of the media in raising awareness of environmental issues and implementing a set of programs, plans, events and activities aimed at serving the citizen, supporting his adaptation to the effects of climate change and mitigating climate change. She stressed in her statements that the media has a fundamental role in changing the societal view of the environment and its issues, in a way that helps the masses to put environmental issues at the top of the priorities of citizens and decision-makers alike.⁵⁵

Fouad stressed that the cooperation with the Environment and Development Writers Association aims primarily to benefit from the role of the media in disseminating the foundations of environmental education and environmental protection activities. The Ministry of Environment has also supported the coordination of efforts with environmental authorities to organize a number of activities, which include organizing seminars and workshops, and preparing guidebooks and publications to raise environmental awareness. The Ministry has also

⁵⁴ Yassin in a workshop for the Ministry of Environment on disaster management: We need rules for dealing with disasters, equipment, specializations, and public and private plans, Ministry of Environment, Republic of Lebanon, <http://bitly.ws/DJVR>

⁵⁵ In continuation of the cooperation between the Ministry of Environment and the Society for Environment and Development Writers: The Minister of Environment witnesses the signing of a cooperation protocol to enhance the role of the media in raising awareness of environmental issues, Ministry of Environment - Arab Republic of Egypt, <http://bitly.ws/Du9Q>

supported the organization of field visits to natural reserves and national projects of the Ministry.⁵⁶

One of the most prominent efforts of the Ministry of Environment is its direction to implement an environmental awareness-raising salon, which was supported by the Environment and Development Writers Association through the preparation of training programs for young journalists, to help build press cadres specialized in the field of environmental and climate journalism. The Environment and Development Writers Association, within the framework of the protocol, will also focus on issuing an annual report under the title "The State of Media, Culture and Environmental Awareness", so that the press outputs, along with the outputs of statistical reports, will be a great catalyst for public opinion and decision makers about making rational decisions in the most important environmental issues.⁵⁷

B. Tunisia:

During April, Tunisia took a set of steps aimed at raising awareness and human and institutional capacities to mitigate climate change, adapt to it, reduce its impact and provide early warning of this phenomenon. The most prominent of which is the convening of a working session on environmental education at the headquarters of the Ministry of Environment on April 7, under the supervision of the Minister of Environment, Mrs. Laila Al-Sheikhawi Al-Mahdawi, the Minister of Education, Mr. Muhammad Ali Al-Boughdiri, and the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Mr. Moncef Batter.⁵⁸

This session was held based on the government's directives related to spreading environmental culture and instilling the elements of education in order to achieve sustainable development among young people, who are considered a fundamental pillar of the national strategy for sustainable development and environmental protection. The session also discussed various projects related to the environmental and climate education file and their progress to achieve the sustainable environment "EDEN-MED", a Tunisian-Italian project in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency Cecilia, and funded by the European Union.⁵⁹

⁵⁶ Ibid

⁵⁷ Ibid

⁵⁸ Working session on projects related to environmental education, Ministry of Environment, Republic of Tunisia, <http://bitly.ws/DGJ7>

⁵⁹ The previous reference

C. Algeria

One of the most prominent efforts taken by the Algerian government in the field of raising institutional capacities to mitigate climate change and limit its effects is the direction of the Minister of the Environment, Mrs. Fazia Dahlab, to meet with representatives of the institutions active on the banks of Wadi Al-Harash and its subsidiary valleys, and whose wastes affect the ecological system of the valleys in the states of Algiers and Blida, and it was stressed the need to expedite the acquisition of treatment plants by these institutions according to the quality of their activities, in addition to the need to take measures that would comply with environmental laws and regulations.⁶⁰

D. Morocco

In April, the Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development launched the second phase of the "Program to Support Innovation in the Field of Clean Technology and Green Professions", which is one of the most prominent projects being implemented in cooperation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Global Environment Fund.⁶¹ The Ministry has opened the door to receive requests for proposals supporting innovation projects in areas such as (waste valuation, rational use of water, energy efficiency, renewable energies, and green buildings), so that self-contractors, small contracting companies, and emerging contracting companies are allowed to apply for the program.⁶² The Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development also initiated the launch of the #Nesshamo_All initiative, which aims to simplify the priorities and concepts of sustainable development and communicate them to all segments of Moroccan society in a simplified and colloquial language.⁶³

E. Sudan

During April, Ramadan weather was very strange. At first glance it was suspected, and the vast majority of people were worried that the weather would come very difficult under the scorching heat, but Ramadan weather violated all expectations and suspicions, in a way that many rejoiced, because the weather conditions were unusual, moderate breeze, and tend to be relatively cold at most hours of the day and night.

⁶⁰ Meeting with classified institutions that are active on the banks of Oued El Harrach, Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energies, <http://bitly.ws/DAsu>

⁶¹ Announcement of the call for projects for the Program to Support Innovation in Clean Technologies and Green Professions in Morocco, Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development, <http://bitly.ws/DyrE>

⁶² The previous reference

⁶³ Previous reference, continuing citizenship consultations to formulate the National Strategy for Sustainable Development 2035

These changing conditions and times brought back to mind an old prophecy made by an independent meteorologist named Al-Mundhir Ahmed Al-Haj last year, that the climate conditions in Sudan will return to their previous state a hundred years ago. The meteorologist, who enjoys the follow-up of tens of thousands on social media sites in Sudan, confirmed his strange prophecy, that the climate cycle has actually started the return journey, and upon its completion, the seasons will return to normal, a harsh winter, a short summer, and auspicious autumn and spring - noting that there is no spring climate in Sudan-except very rarely. According to meteorology, what is happening in Sudan in terms of weather fluctuations or climate fluctuations, or what we call the transitional period, and they are manifested in the fluctuations of the summer climate to winter, and from heat to cold.⁶⁴

Second: Arab Gulf:

A. Saudi Arabia

KSA has taken important steps in the field of improving education, raising awareness, and human and institutional capacities to mitigate climate change, adapt to it, reduce its impact, and early warning, the most prominent of which is the implementation of the "Your Agricultural Guide" program, which provides its services to thousands of farmers throughout the Kingdom.⁶⁵ The Director of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations "FAO", Dr. Ayman Omar, praised the Kingdom's launch of the "Your Agricultural Guide" application and the services provided by the application to various beneficiaries in the Kingdom, this was during the organization's meeting, in which the experiences of the Middle East and North Africa region in the field of digital agriculture were reviewed.⁶⁶

B. Kuwait

Kuwait is considered one of the most prominent Arab countries that have taken decisive measures in the field of improving education, raising awareness, and human and institutional capabilities to mitigate climate change, adapt to it, reduce its impact and early warning . On April 2, the Public Authority for the Environment and Implantation of Culture was keen to carry out an awareness campaign at the Andalus Cooperative Society aimed at educating citizens about the dangers of using plastic with all its products and derivatives.⁶⁷ In addition, an

⁶⁴ Al-Arabiya, Ramadan in Sudan.. Unfamiliar weather re-circulates an old prophecy, April 3, 2023, <https://bit.ly/3IucM5Y>

⁶⁵ "FAO" praises the application of your agricultural guide and confirms the excellence of its interactive services at the level of the Middle East and North Africa, Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture, <http://bitly.ws/DKBr>

⁶⁶ The previous reference

⁶⁷ Environment Public Authority, State of Kuwait, Twitter, https://twitter.com/EPA_KW

awareness campaign was launched on April 13 at the Kuwaiti Abu Fatira Awareness Society to reduce the use of plastic, coinciding with the campaign launched by the Environment Public Authority in cooperation with the United Nations Environmental Program, with the aim of supporting behavioral changes that limit single-use plastic waste.⁶⁸

C. Bahrain

The Bahraini administration has taken a number of steps aimed at improving education, raising awareness, and human and institutional capacities to mitigate climate change, adapt to it, reduce its impact, and provide early warning. Perhaps one of the most prominent of these steps was; raising children's awareness of climate and environment issues, which is considered the first future step to reduce the risk of negative effects of climate change in light of the rapid technical development and the increasing consumption of electronic devices and the waste they produce. Mohammed bin Mubarak, Minister of Oil and Environment, received one of the environmental campaign teams organized by the national Ibn Khaldun School, under the title "The Forgotten Wealth", which aims to enhance the role of students in protecting the environment and climate and achieving the SDGs. The school administration explained that the "Forgotten Wealth" campaign comes as part of the global "litter less campaign" launched by UNESCO to raise human awareness of the dangers of waste.⁶⁹

The Ministry of Environment was also keen to commemorate the World Earth Day on April 22, which is considered one of the most prominent events during which the state focuses on educating society about the importance of preserving the environment and the need to distance itself from the causes of pollution and to stop behaviors harmful to the environment and climate.⁷⁰ "Invest in our planet" was the main theme of Earth Day 2023, in which the Bahraini administration directed to strengthen the role of all members of society and governmental and private institutions towards the environment, by reminding them of the need to abide by their responsibility towards preserving the environment and preserving its resources.⁷¹

D. Emirates

The United Arab Emirates is considered one of the most Arab countries that have taken targeted steps towards improving education, raising awareness, and human and institutional

⁶⁸ The previous reference

⁶⁹ Ministry of Environment, Bahrain, Instagram, <https://www.instagram.com/p/CqncWSOMftL/>

⁷⁰ The official account of the Ministry of Environment, Instagram, <https://www.instagram.com/p/CrUwDd4IgWN/>

⁷¹ The previous reference

capacities to mitigate climate change, adapt to it, reduce its impact, and provide early warning during April. The most prominent of these steps are; the launch of the Zayed Sustainability Prize for a new category for climate action on April 6, and it is called the “Climate Action Award”, which aims to honor working institutions that support the capabilities of adapting to climate change and spreading environmental solutions, where the institutions that contribute to making a positive impact in the climate field are nominated for a valuable prize, in a move that is considered one of the most important encouraging steps for various organizations to increase their positive climate contributions.⁷²

While the second week of April witnessed the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment organizing one of the most prominent events in the field of climate, which is the "Climate Retreat", in the presence of Her Excellency Maryam bint Muhammad Al Muhairi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, with the participation of a group of ministers, more than 150 officials from 50 different parties between the government and the private sector, in an event aimed at coordinating climate action efforts in preparation for hosting COP28.⁷³ In her remarks, Minister Maryam bint Muhammad Al Muhairi affirmed that the Green Retreat represents a model befitting the country and its climate efforts, and will contribute significantly to strengthening the country's ability to provide inspiring and innovative solutions to global and local climate challenges.⁷⁴

On April 14, the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment launched the first phase of the "Tamkeen" initiative aimed at qualifying medical personnel and ensuring their contribution to strengthening the food security system in the country, and helping them acquire and enhance work skills in the agricultural and veterinary field, with the aim of increasing the percentage of citizens working in skilled jobs. This initiative is a response to what Her Excellency the Minister of Environment, Maryam bint Muhammad Al Muhairi, explained about the effects of agricultural activity and the development of livestock on the country's climate change, which necessitated the launch of such initiatives that contribute to advancing the country on the path of sustainable development.⁷⁵

On April 17, the UAE Climate Ambassadors Program received 30 students from various universities in the country to discuss a range of issues related to climate action, most notably

⁷² The previous reference

⁷³ The previous reference

⁷⁴ The previous reference

⁷⁵ Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, Facebook

ways to reduce carbon emissions and greenhouse gases in the world. The sessions were held prior to the UAE hosting the Conference of the Parties 28.⁷⁶ The Climate Ambassadors Program is considered one of the most important programs that work to create a new generation that believes in the importance of climate change, and the importance of placing this phenomenon at the top of priorities to achieve international, local and governmental efforts to address climate challenges.⁷⁷

In addition, on April 27, the Emirates Network for Climate Change Research opened the door for registration for experts, specialists, and youth to promote work in climate action research in the country, so that applicants can join to be part of the youth team or the Advisory Committee for Climate Action.⁷⁸

E. Qatar

Qatar has taken a set of important steps in the field of raising awareness and human and institutional capabilities to mitigate the effects of climate change. The ring road and the strengthening of the local trend of the recycling path, due to its very positive effects on the environment in general and the climate, especially in light of the trend to completely ban the traditional method of burning waste in a number of countries in the Arab world.⁷⁹

The Ministry of Environment also focused on raising public awareness by launching the "Environment Pioneers" initiative during Ramadan, with the aim of enhancing community participation for all members of society in the field of preserving natural resources and the climate from pollution, in addition to educating citizens on the importance of adopting positive behaviors in dealing with the environment and its resources, as the initiative focuses on raising awareness of the importance of the individual efforts and contributions of all citizens in protecting their local and global community from the effects of climate change.⁸⁰

F. Oman:

The Sultanate of Oman has taken a set of steps aimed at raising awareness and human and institutional capabilities to mitigate the effects of climate change. One of the most prominent steps is the Environment Agency's organization of a workshop on April 12 for employees from

⁷⁶ Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, Facebook

⁷⁷ The previous reference

⁷⁸ Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, United Arab Emirates, Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/MoCCAEUAE/>

⁷⁹ Awareness campaign for sorting recyclable waste in Al Shamal Municipality, Ministry of Municipality, State of Qatar, <http://bitly.ws/DJUc>

⁸⁰ Ministry of Environment, State of Qatar, Facebook, <http://bitly.ws/DJUy>

various environmental departments in the governorates of the Sultanate, to learn about the mechanism of using the national registry for waste management locally. Emphasis was also placed on finding channels and tools to achieve maximum utilization of waste and encourage investment to contribute to advancing the national economy.⁸¹ The workshop is within the framework of the efforts of the Environment Agency represented by the Department of Chemicals in managing waste and achieving the environmental and natural priority in the Sultanate's declared vision for 2040, by contributing to the provision of a high-quality environment free of pollution.⁸²

Axis III: League of Arab States Efforts to Combat Climate Change during April

During April and on the sidelines of World Earth Day; The League of Arab States (Department of Environmental Affairs and Meteorology - Technical Secretariat of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for Environmental Affairs) organized over two days the 33rd coordination meeting of the Arab negotiating group on climate change, through "visual communication technology", with the participation of more than 80 negotiators from all over the Arab countries, in addition to experts from various Arab organizations and United Nations organizations concerned with the subject.

The meeting discussed the most important results of the Conference of the Parties (COP27) and the developments of the situation on a number of technical issues, including response measures, mitigation, adaptation, financing, losses, damages, the global outcome, and just transition, where developments in the situation were reviewed by representatives of the Arab countries members of the international negotiating groups for negotiation on these issues.

The meeting referred to the efforts of the General Secretariat of the Arab League to coordinate Arab positions in the negotiations on climate change, and to inform the members of the Arab team about developments in this regard before the convening of the conference of the bodies affiliated to the Framework Convention on Climate Change, which is scheduled to be held in the first week of June 2023 at the headquarters of the Secretariat of the Framework Convention on Climate Change in Bonn, Germany.

The meeting discussed **the strategy of Arab countries to get and mobilize climate action financing (2022-2030)**, which was completed and presented to the Arab Council of Ministers

⁸¹ Environment Authority, Sultanate of Oman, Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/eaoman>

⁸² The previous reference

Responsible for Environmental Affairs in October 2022, and a greater opportunity was given to countries to review this strategy and make observations in preparation for its launch at the next Conference of the Parties (COP28) to be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, at the end of this year.⁸³

Axis IV: Climate Action in the Arab Region during April... Analytical View of What Was Monitored

The world celebrates Earth Day on April 22 every year. This Day happens to come amidst the severe consequences of climate change and human-induced natural disasters as well as irrational practices that destroy biodiversity such as deforestation, land-use change, intensive agriculture and livestock production or the growing and criminalized trade in wildlife, which are all accelerating the pace of ruining Earth. Celebrated within the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, this day comes to remind everyone of the urgent need to transition to a more sustainable economy that helps people and the planet.

In that context, on the sidelines of that day, the Arab countries launched afforestation campaigns and green initiatives in April, as well as awareness sessions, initiatives and media campaigns aimed at mitigating the repercussions of climate change, topped led by **Bahrain**, where the Ministry of Environment was keen to commemorate the International Earth Day on April 22, which is considered one of the most prominent events in which the state focuses on educating society about the importance of preserving the environment and the need to avoid causes of pollution and stop behaviors harmful to the environment and climate. The Bahraini administration choose the “Invest in our Planet” as the main theme for Earth Day for the year 2023, in which the Bahraini administration directed to strengthen the role of all members of society and government and private institutions towards the environment, by reminding them of the need to adhere their responsibility towards preserving the environment and preserving its resources.

On the sidelines of World Earth Day, the government of Mauritania; and within the framework of improving education, raising awareness, and human and strengthening institutional capacities to mitigate, adapt to, reduce climate change impact and early warning, and follow-up, launched the Green Schools Program, which aims to plant trees in 62 public

⁸³ Youm7, 'The Arab League organizes a coordination meeting for the negotiating group on climate change, April 20, 2023, <https://bit.ly/42Vz2xE>

schools in the first phase, thus contributing to raising student awareness of the environmental field and various fields of sustainable development.

In **Tunisia**; the most prominent steps of Tunisia in the field of enhancing resilience in the face of climate-related hazards and natural disasters and strengthening the ability to adapt to these dangers are the visit of the Minister of Environment, Mrs. Laila El -Sheikhoui, on April 19 to the governorate of Kairouan where she met the Kairouan governor, Mr. Muhammad Bourguiba. The meeting included emphasizing the need to intensify the afforestation operations to combat climate fluctuations and its negative effects currently and in the future, and this comes on the sidelines of the Earth's month.

In **Qatar**; during April, the month of the Earth, the government took a number of steps aimed at enhancing resilience in the face of climate-related hazards and natural disasters. It introduces the primary principles of cultivation and plant care, and this initiative represents one of the effective steps in the field of combating the negative effects of climate change.

The League of Arab States, specifically the Department of Environment and Meteorology Affairs and the Technical Secretariat of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for Environmental Affairs (CAMRE) - on the sidelines of World Earth Day - organized the 33rd coordination meeting of the Arab negotiating group on climate change on the sidelines of World Earth Day. The meeting concluded with the launch of the strategy of Arab countries to finance climate work and its mobilization, which by (2022-2030) was completed.

In addition to the above; Arab climate action efforts during the month of April shed light on the Arab trend towards strengthening the course of international partnerships with the aim of benefiting from international experiences in dealing with climate crises in the Arab region, by relying on the experience of first-world countries in the field of climate crisis management and its negative effects. The Yemeni Ministry of Environment, in its meeting with the US ambassador to Yemen, discussed the most important details of the situation of the water sector and environmental reform in the country, in light of the Yemeni efforts to cooperate with international partners to achieve stability in basic services. In Iraq, the development of joint international cooperation and international action programs was emphasized in several files, the most important of which is the climate change file and confronting its effects on all sectors of society, and the importance of the role of international support in helping Iraq achieve adaptation and confront climate changes, during a dialogue session entitled Accelerating Climate-Smart Development Within the Annual Meetings of the World Bank in Iraq.

The data also reveal a clear change in the Arab conceptual environment, which for a relatively long period of time has restricted specialized climate and environmental awareness-raising efforts to the actors in the file of changes, to be replaced by initiatives, projects and efforts to raise awareness and environmental education for all groups and ages of society, in what represents a new trend to value individual contributions and their impact on Arab Environmental Action. For example, Kuwait has organized a number of awareness campaigns for the general public, including campaigns organized by the Environment Public Authority in cooperation with the United Nations Environmental Program with the aim of supporting behavioral changes that limit single-use plastic waste.

In addition, the Bahraini administration has organized a number of awareness campaigns aimed at raising awareness of children about some of the negative effects of climate change caused by technical development and the increasing consumption of electronic devices and the waste they produce that is difficult to deal with because of the environmental damage they cause. The Bahraini Minister of Oil and Environment received one of the environmental campaign teams of the Ibn Khaldun National School, which aimed to enhance the role of students in protecting the environment.

In the context of raising awareness and enhancing the capabilities of all groups, the Ministry of Environment in the UAE launched the first phase of the "Tamkeen" initiative, which aimed at qualifying medical personnel by raising awareness and enhancing work skills in the environmental and veterinary field to gain the ability to deal with the effects of climate change on agricultural activity and animal wealth growth..

The Municipality Control Department of the North in the State of Qatar implemented a set of awareness campaigns aimed at raising awareness for shop owners and restaurants to support the waste sorting process, support the integration of all groups in the field of circular economy, promote the local trend of the recycling path, and end the culture of traditional waste burning.

In addition, the data indicates that Arab efforts are heading towards creating a complex range of overlaps in which all components of society participate in climate action, including private sector companies, civil society institutions, bodies, agencies, ministries, and even experts working in the field. One of the most prominent steps taken by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is the signing of a project to establish a monitoring, control and simulation center for marine emergency response for the benefit of the "MIS" company operating in the Saudi

market, as a way to expand the scope of contributions of private sector companies in the field of climate efforts.

Likewise, the United Arab Emirates adopted a similar path where the Ministry of Climate signed a memorandum of understanding with Issa Al Ghurair Investment Company within the framework of joint cooperation for carbon sequestration at the country level through the initiative to plant between 500 thousand to one million mangrove seeds and seedlings over the next ten years.

Recommendations:

First: Within the framework of raising Arab collective awareness, Maat recommends that media institutions in the Arab world launch television programs that take as a theme the methods of promoting climate action, provided that the programs focus on the importance of individual contributions and their impact on promoting climate efforts.

Second: On the sidelines of the International Earth Day, and this day was clearly linked to protecting the earth from climate change, the founder of Maat recommended the Arab League to establish an Arab environmental and educational cultural salon, by preparing training programs for young journalists, in a way that helps build journalistic cadres specialized in the field of environmental and climate journalism.

Third: Within the framework of the important role of the media, which has a fundamental role in changing the societal perception of the environment and its issues, in a way that helps the masses to place environmental issues at the top of the priorities of citizens and decision makers alike, Maat recommends that Arab governments launch a media strategy aimed at promoting the achievement of target 13.3 on improving education, raising awareness, and human and institutional capacities to mitigate climate change, adapt to it, reduce its impact and early warning.

Fifth: Maat encourages the efforts of the Arab League to carry out meeting on the strategy of the Arab countries to obtain and mobilize financing for climate action (2022-2030), and recommends that the Arab League quickly launch this Arab strategy and put it into force as soon as possible.

Sixth: Arab days and weeks are of great importance to Arab governments, and in light of that importance, Maat reaffirms its recommendation to the League of Arab States to launch an Arab week to address climate change in order to encourage Arab countries

and their governments to launch and develop their policies related to climate action and follow up on the implementation of international agreements on climatic change..

Seventh: Within the framework of instilling the importance of climate action in all ages, Maat recommends that the environment ministries in the Arab countries launch national programs targeting Arab school students, provided that the program focuses on clarifying the dangers of climate change and encouraging children to propose innovative solutions to confront and limit them.

Eighth: In the context of supporting ways to enhance planning for climate action in Mauritania, Maat recommends that the Mauritanian government start planning a declared national climate strategy, provided that the strategy is in line with the sustainable development goals, especially Goal 13, and its target on integrating measures related to climate change in policies, strategies and planning at the National level, also in line with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement 2016.