

Regional Collaboration Center

Dubai

July 2021



Regional Collaboration Centre – Dubai

Promoting Climate Action in the
Middle East, North Africa and South Asia

Welcome to the RCC Dubai July 2021 Newsletter

We are delighted to bring you the latest newsletter from RCC Dubai!

Here you will find information on latest climate action updates from the region and from around the world.

This edition also brings an exclusive interview with the UK government's COP26 Ambassador for the Middle East and Africa, **H.E. Ambassador Janet Rogan**, who shares her perspective on the road to COP26.

This month there are a number of opportunities for our readers to get involved - register for upcoming webinars and events, participate in consultations, take advantage of funding opportunities, access the latest reports and resources on climate action, and much more.

Read on for more!

Your partner in climate action,
RCC Dubai

An Exclusive Interview with the UK COP26 Regional Ambassador: Middle East and Africa



In your view, what are the most important elements that need to come together to deliver a successful COP26?

COP26 needs the world to unite to address the challenges of climate change, COVID19 and sustainable development. Five years after the Paris Agreement (plus one for COVID) COP26 is a checkpoint to look at progress so far and for each country to increase its level of ambition in terms of its national contributions to reducing the factors

[Ambassador Janet Rogan](#), the COP26 Regional
Ambassador: Middle East and Africa

that are leading to climate change.

The impact of the global COVID19 pandemic has been severe but COP26 gives us the opportunity to consider how to build back better and greener, bringing together global and national agendas for sustainable socio-economic growth, climate resilience and in particular the transition to renewable energy sources.

What are the priorities and challenges you perceive in MENA with regard to climate action?

The MENA region is the most water-stressed region in the world, and is highly vulnerable to climate change and environmental degradation. It is already locked into a degree of warming which is showing impacts such as more frequent extreme weather events such as droughts, floods and storms. Climate change disproportionately affects women and girls and exacerbates gender inequalities so it is important to consider gender aspects in policies.

There is an urgent global need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions which contribute to global warming to keep the goal of no more than 1.5 degrees of warming above pre-industrial levels alive. Although as a whole the region is responsible for only around 8% of global emissions, there are some high emitters, and overall per capita emissions are high. All countries, including leading hydrocarbon producers, need to adopt a Net Zero approach via NDCs and Long Term Strategies that set out a pathway to Net Zero emissions.

This global move to Net Zero is potentially a big challenge for MENA hydrocarbon exporters as the world shifts away from oil and gas. However, the region is rich in potential renewable energy resources so it is possible to see a viable transition away from hydrocarbons to renewable energy sources. The cost of renewables and other low carbon technology has fallen far more than anticipated and could create up to 2.1 million jobs in MENA by 2050. Choosing the transition to renewable energy is choosing the most economically viable and sustainable future for people in this region and there are already signs of this happening: Saudi Arabia, UAE, Egypt and Morocco have all announced increased clean energy generation targets, Morocco already has the world's largest concentrated solar plant and Egypt has recently developed one of the world's largest photovoltaic solar parks.

Pressures such as conflict and COVID19 increase the difficulties for governments and people in MENA to address socio-economic growth and a green recovery. Bringing together sustainable development plans with climate-resilient recovery plans involving government, private sector, civil society and citizens can help build a better future for the growing young and dynamic population of the region who will benefit from cleaner air, healthier communities, greener jobs, sustainable economic growth, energy security and a safer, more stable climate.

How can the various stakeholders in the region, both public and private, contribute to the achievement of a successful COP26 outcome?

The UK's aim is to host a COP26 that will unite the world on a clear path to a zero carbon economy as we all build back better from COVID-19, with a greener, more resilient, and more inclusive global economy. Our Presidency aims to secure an outcome that reflects the interests of all Parties. However, this outcome needs to accelerate action to reduce emissions, strengthen adaptation and resilience to impacts, scale up support, protect and restore nature, and empower inclusive action. Governments, public sector, private sector and civil society in the region all have to come together to achieve this.

The four core goals for COP26 aim to accelerate progress towards achieving the aims of the Paris Agreement through increased ambition in: Mitigation, Adaptation, Finance and Collaboration. Every country needs to turn their Paris commitments into concrete actions by submitting improved, more ambitious updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the overall global goals by 30 July 2021 so they can be included in the UNFCCC's synthesis report for COP26. These should contain clear and transparent targets for action at the national and sub-national level, and reflect the best available scientific evidence. For MENA , so far only Morocco, the UAE and Lebanon have

submitted their updated NDCs, and we strongly encourage their neighbours to submit their NDCs as soon as possible.

In addition, countries must take an inclusive approach and on way to do that is to strengthen women's involvement in climate action and take gender fully into account in climate policies. NDCs and National Adaptation Plans should fully mainstream gender perspectives, and women should have equal space at the table to participate in policy- and decision-making on climate issues.

We are also calling on countries to increase their use of nature-based solutions and secure ambitious biodiversity targets while increasing the coverage of protected areas. Collaboration from the private sector is essential to catalyse whole of economy transformation. Businesses should consider joining the Race to Zero where they can share experience and find new routes for climate investment. Civil society organisations, with their links to on-the-ground communities and practitioners, are agents of change and their knowledge and leadership is necessary to deliver effective local solutions. Grass root groups, NGOs and faith groups can play an instrumental part in inspiring governments to increase their ambition and we want to work with them to deliver a truly 'all of society' and inclusive COP.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the Date for the Upcoming AGYLE Webinar



17th August 2021
12:00 -13:30 (Gulf Standard Time) | 10:00 –11:30 (CEST)

The third webinar in the UNFCCC-WGEO RCC Dubai [AGYLE](#) Webinar Series will stimulate a dialogue between high-level and youth participants to share information and knowledge for a better understanding of the challenges in creating green jobs as well as the identification of promising initiatives and examples of **green jobs for youth employment creation**, with a focus on the Middle East and North Africa.

**REGISTER
HERE**

Join Leading Innovators in Fighting Climate Change at CLIMATHON 2021



The World Green Economy Organization (WGEO), in collaboration with UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment and Ideanco, is hosting the prominent Climate Change Challenge — **CLIMATHON 2021** (October 2 – 12, 2021) across nine cities to transform challenges into opportunities by creating the future and accelerating the formation of future jobs.

Climathon 2021 is a hybrid global climate change challenge which will put forth the challenges faced by cities across the globe with innovators who have the passion, expertise, and capability to crack such great challenges with the presence and support of experts, coaches, mentors, and consultants. The outcome will be real innovative solution that will be beneficial for the communities locally, regionally, and above all, globally.

Innovators will be connected to resolve three core challenges around: Agribusiness, Air Pollution, and Mobility. The chosen cohorts of innovators will tackle the set challenges in a hybrid format for a full 72-hours in each city, before pitching their ideas in front of judges and climate change experts.

These ideas will be developed into tangible sustainable solutions, projects and potential startups that address climate challenges in all cities across the globe.

Are you an innovator ready to take on the challenge?

**Register for CLIMATHON 2021
here**

REPORTING FROM CONCLUDED EVENTS

**110th Meeting of the CDM Executive Board
Outcome for CDM Stakeholder**



[The Executive Board \(EB\)](#) of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) held its 110th meeting from 17–19 May and 25–27 May 2021. The meeting was held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic, standard practice since EB 106.

A key item on the agenda was in regard to the issuance of certified emission reductions (CERs) for emission reductions (or removals) achieved from 1 January 2021 for the purposes of voluntary cancellation. The Board also approved revisions to one standard on sampling and surveys, six methodologies and tools, among others.

For a complete overview of EB 110 outcomes, see the webpage [here](#) and the press release [here](#).

The global network of RCCs continues to provide support to CDM stakeholders, including a virtual workshop series with Designated National Authorities (DNA) in Asia-Pacific and MENA region in 2020/2021 by RCC Dubai and RCC Bangkok. Read more [here](#)

[NDC UPDATES FROM THE REGION](#)

[NDCs submission update from the region and upcoming deadline for final NDC Synthesis Report](#)

[Bhutan](#), [Morocco](#) and [Sudan](#) have recently submitted their new, updated or interim NDCs.

Countries are encouraged to submit their new or updated NDCs by 30 July 2021.

The UN Climate Change secretariat is planning to publish the final version of the NDC Synthesis Report based on the NDCs recorded in the [interim NDC registry](#) as of this closing date.

The report will be prepared in advance of the [pre-COP meeting](#) scheduled for 30 September – 2 October 2021.

[OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED](#)

[Discussion: Race to Zero Consultation Process - What is the Future of the Race to Zero](#)

RACE TO ZERO

[A year after launching the UN-backed Race to Zero campaign](#), we know where we're headed, and we increasingly know what it will take to get there. The question is how do

we keep members on track to ensure they progress towards implementation and continually raise their commitments?

The High-Level Champions for Climate Action have launched a 10-week [public consultation](#) from **23 June until 3 September, 21:00 Gulf Standard Time**, in which we encourage you to submit written responses via the provided link below.

The submissions will then be made public and open to discussion as we work together to set out the future of the Race to Zero.

[Submit your responses here](#)

Find out more about the public consultation [here](#).

Grants and Funding Opportunities Around the Region



Application for the 2021 Global Ecosystem-based Adaptation Fund is Now Open!

The [Global EbA Fund](#) is a newly launched Fund to support scaling up Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) across the world. Through its International Climate Initiative (IKI), the Federal Environment Ministry of Germany has committed 20 million euros to the Fund.

It has positioned itself as a quickly deployable mechanism for supporting innovative approaches to EbA by providing small grants up to USD 250,000 for activities, with a maximum period of 36 months.

The call for proposals is open until **31 August 2021**. Interested non-governmental and private sector organizations can find more information [here](#)



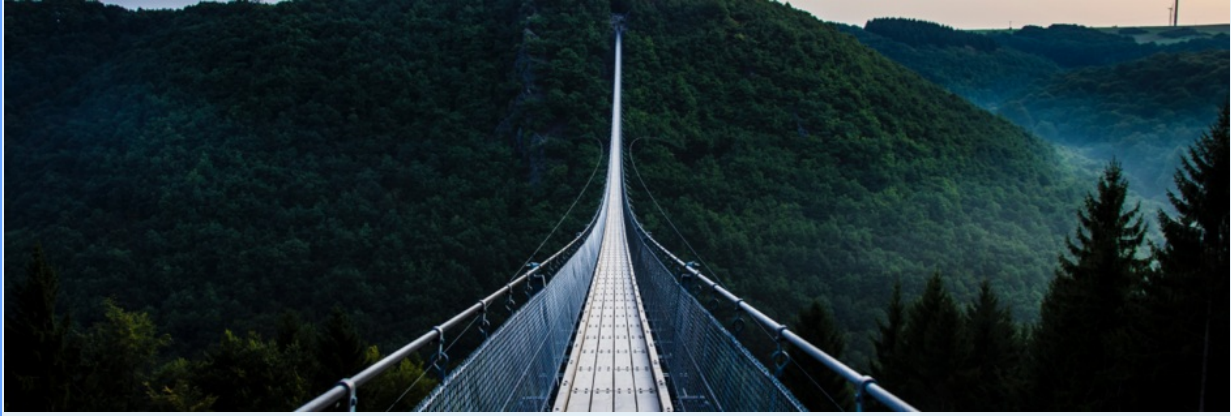
Call for Proposal: CCAC Action Programme to Address the 1.5C Challenge

The Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) Action Programme to Address the 1.5°C goal has launched a [Call for Proposals](#) for projects that support national or regional actions to reduce [Short-Lived Climate Pollutants \(SLCPs\)](#).

Eligible projects, ready to start in the first quarter of 2022, can apply for grants of up to USD 100,000 by **31 August 2021**.

Applications must be submitted by a partnership of at least two entities actively involved in the implementation of the related projects.

Detailed guidance for submitting a project proposal is available [here](#).



The [Climate Action Pathways](#) set out sectoral visions for a 1.5°C, climate-resilient world by latest 2050 and identify change levers and impact areas to transform various sectors of the economy.

The Climate Action Pathways 2021 are being updated now!

The [High-Level Champions](#) and the [Marrakech Partnership](#) for Global Climate Action have specifically focused on strengthening cross-cutting aspects such as just transition, gender-responsiveness, resilience and circular economy. This month also sees the launch of the **Finance Pathway**, the latest tool to accelerate climate action with a focus on private finance.

If you are keen to track the action, give the [Global Climate Action Portal](#) a visit, which displays the actions cities, regions, companies, investors, and other organisations have taken.

[NEWS, RESOURCES AND MATERIALS](#)

[UN Climate Change 2020 Annual Report is Out](#)



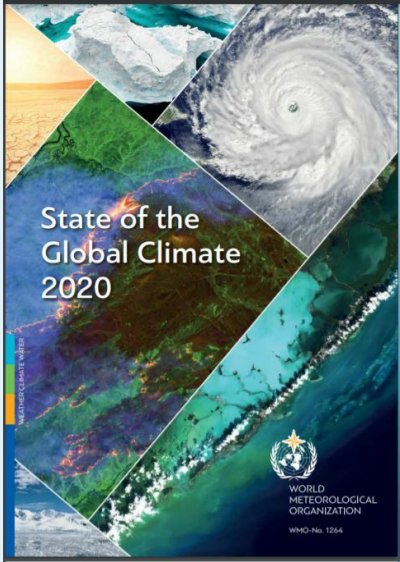
[Download the Report here](#)

2020 proved to be an immensely challenging year. As the COVID-19 pandemic continued to unfold, all UNFCCC processes continued to move forward in 2020, albeit in virtual mode. The secretariat continued to support Parties in developing their medium- and long-term commitments to zero greenhouse gas emissions and in assessing the impact of national climate responses.

Read more [here](#).

[Recommended Reading: State of the Global Climate 2020 Report Highlights the Acceleration in Climate Change Indicators](#)

In 2020 – one of the warmest years on record – the



global average temperature was 1.2 °C above the pre-industrial baseline, according to the report by [World Meteorological Organization \(WMO\)](#) on the [State of the Global Climate 2020](#), released in April. It highlighted the acceleration in climate change indicators like rising sea levels, melting sea ice, and extreme weather, as well as worsening impacts on socio-economic development.

Based on [the Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update](#), there is about a 40% chance of the annual average global temperature temporarily reaching 1.5°C in at least one of the next five years. There is a 90% likelihood of at least one year between 2021-2025 becoming the warmest on record, which would dislodge 2016 from the top ranking.

[Read Full Report Here](#)

Find out more about our work to facilitate climate action in the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia at the RCC Dubai Webpage

[Visit our website](#)

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