



هيئة البيئة - أبوظبي  
Environment Agency - ABU DHABI

ENVIRONMENT  
VISION 2030



*Environment Vision 2030 was developed in close coordination with the General Secretariat of the Executive Council and Department of Economic Development / Abu Dhabi Council for Economic Development to ensure integration among the environmental, economic and social visions, the three pillars of sustainability.*

## WHAT IS ENVIRONMENT VISION 2030?

At the request of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council, the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD) is developing the Abu Dhabi Environment Vision 2030 policy agenda as an integral part of Abu Dhabi Government's holistic policy agenda framework encompassing the driving Economic, Environmental and Social Agendas that together will steer the Emirate towards sustainable development.

Environment Vision 2030 has been developed through an extensive consultative process involving stakeholders from across the board with the intent that it serves not only to protect the environment but also to complement the economic and social agenda for Abu Dhabi, as well as build upon existing environmental initiatives.

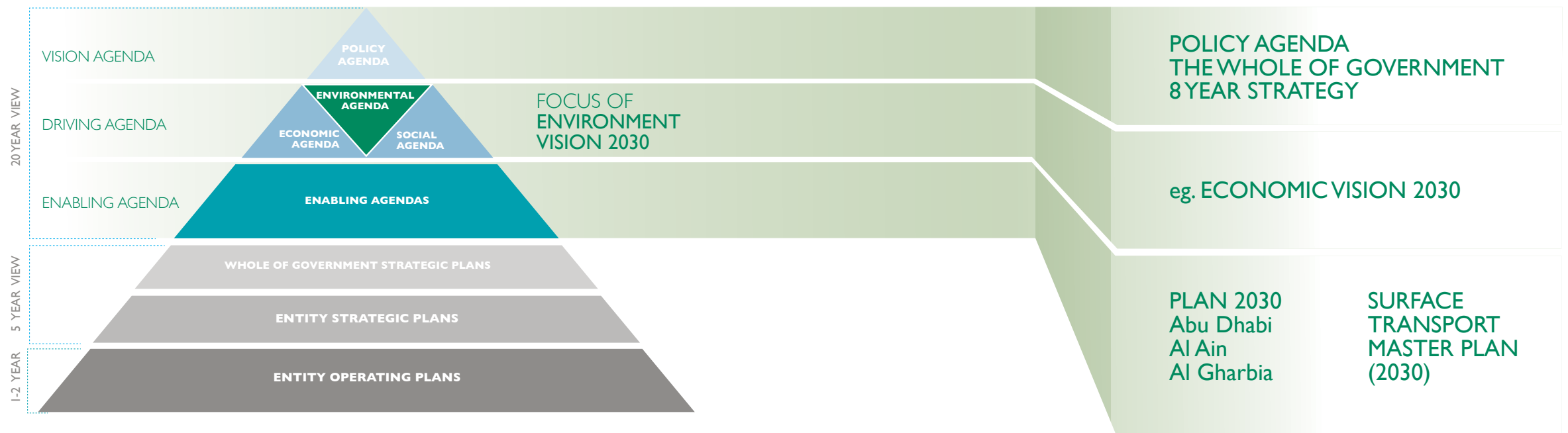
A Vision Statement has been drafted that summarises the objectives and proposed policy programme of Environment Vision 2030:

*'To preserve and enhance Abu Dhabi's natural heritage, while acting as a regional leader in the efficient use of resources and contributing to a better quality of life for all'*

## WHO WAS INVOLVED IN DEVELOPING ENVIRONMENT VISION 2030?

This is the result of collaboration between stakeholders in a highly inclusive approach that has taken into account many different viewpoints. First and foremost, it is derived from the Emirate's leadership, and the aspirations of different stakeholders. It includes a detailed analysis of the current environmental situation, and the sustainability challenges facing the emirate on its path to progress. Environment Vision 2030 also found inspiration from international best practices as well as global and local experience and knowledge. Finally, the Vision rests on engaging with the public, and creating a sense of awareness, voluntary preservation, and progressive action towards dealing with environmental issues.

In its development, Environment Vision 2030 captured data from over 100 stakeholders across public and private sectors to ensure broad-based support. Technical experts from 15 organisations were also involved and technical peer review was conducted via two workshops and feedback from EAD directors and specialists. Several international experts on environmental science and policy were also involved in content development and review. Finally, EAD has benchmarked its efforts against 30 countries regionally and around the world to ensure adherence to international best practices in environmental protection.





## STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

01

### FISH STOCKS

Fish stocks are currently at less than 20% of their 1978 levels with populations of key species, e.g. Hammour at unsustainable levels.

02

### OVERGRAZING & GROUNDWATER RESOURCES

Over a quarter of land is over-grazed with livestock levels exceeding carrying capacity by over 6 times and more than 30% of irrigated agriculture occurs in unsuitable areas. Useable groundwater is expected to be fully depleted within 55 years at current rates of use.

03

### WATER RESOURCES

Abu Dhabi has one of the highest water consumption per capita rates in the world.

04

### ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION

Similarly domestic electricity consumption per household is 10 times higher than world averages.

05

### AIR QUALITY

The levels of particulate matter (dust) in Abu Dhabi's air are naturally high. Any further additions from sources such as industry and transport need to be controlled in order to avoid adverse impacts.

06

### WASTE

Municipal waste generation is more than 1.9 kg per capita per day compared to an OECD rate of 1.5 kg per capita per day, and expected to triple by 2030.

## HOW WILL THIS VISION HELP US ALL FACE ABU DHABI'S ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES?

The first step in the process of developing consensus amongst stakeholders was for stakeholders to agree on the environmental challenges facing Abu Dhabi. In other words, this was not simply an EAD analysis of information. As part of this consensus building, information was collected from numerous stakeholders, analysed, shared and presented back to all of the entities engaged through several workshops and feedback sessions, in order to reach agreement that the information was correct and the assessment of the state of the environment was accurate.

The consensus is that unfortunately the reality of the situation makes for grim reading, which serves to underline the enormity of the task of turning around the current poor state of the environment. Of the seven key environmental system components (Biodiversity, Marine, Land, Energy, Water, Air & Climate Change, and Waste) that were analysed, all of them demonstrated sub-par performance, well below global averages, and four were in critical condition. In a nutshell, Abu Dhabi's sub-standard environmental performance is in stark contrast to its economic performance, which is amongst the best in the world.

## PRIORITY AREAS

Arising from the analysis of the state of the environment, five priority areas have been identified that provide the framework for policy development and action and these form the core of the Abu Dhabi Environment Vision 2030.

The priority areas are each further sub-divided into priorities, which in turn are further sub-divided into environmental outcomes. Each outcome has three values assigned to it:

**CURRENT VALUE** – State of the environment in 2010,

**THRESHOLD VALUE** – A pragmatic target state of the environment to be achieved in 2030 that will result in improved environmental conditions without adversely impacting upon economic 2030 aspirations, and

**SUSTAINABILITY VALUE** – The ultimate desirable state of environment in order to be sustainable (this may not be desirable economically or socially).

The threshold and sustainability values have been derived from extensive modelling of numerous policy options in a complex model that seeks to balance economic and environmental outcomes.

## IMPERATIVES FOR ACTION, SECTORAL AND CROSS-SECTORAL

In order to achieve the threshold values by 2030, a series of sector specific imperatives have been identified in consultation with the numerous entities involved. These imperatives will need to be delivered by each of the following sectors:- Energy and Utilities; Industry; Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries; Buildings and Infrastructure; Transportation; Public Realm Amenities and Forestry; Environment; and Waste Management, through actions identified in five-year action plans that each sector will develop as part of their contribution to the implementation of the Abu Dhabi Environment Vision 2030.

There are also many cross-sectoral imperatives such as the need for better data and statistics, new and improved legal instruments and incentives, as well as awareness and behavioural change.

## ACHIEVING THE VISION

In order to reach the desired environmental outcomes for Abu Dhabi in 2030 and to realise the end-benefits as stated above, there is much to do. There are areas of the current institutional framework that may need adjusting, there is a need for entities to work together to develop five-year action plans, to set up task forces to oversee the implementation of the vision and to monitor performance over the next 20 years.

To achieve even the threshold values for the environmental outcomes, each of the priority areas will require significant intervention by senior decision makers to ensure that environmental harm is minimised and the environment benefits of all future policies, strategies and projects are maximised. To achieve the sustainability values identified may be much harder to achieve and may well take much longer than 2030. In addition, potentially they may also not be economically or socially acceptable. How far the environmental agenda is pushed beyond the threshold values towards the sustainability values is a matter for the leadership of the Emirate to decide.

Even within EAD itself there is much to do in terms of a shift in focus and to strengthen capabilities to become a stronger environmental regulator, setting standards and enforcing regulations in order to better protect the environment.

## DECISIVE ACTION REQUIRED

Each of the five priority areas under the Abu Dhabi Environment Vision 2030 will require senior decision makers to know and understand the environmental priorities and to be able to identify and make the necessary interventions when required. To assist in this challenge, each of the five priorities areas is highlighted here.



## FIVE PRIORITY AREAS

01

### CLIMATE CHANGE

minimising the impact of climate change.

02

### CLEAN AIR AND NOISE POLLUTION

contributing to safe and healthy living conditions.

03

### WATER RESOURCES

efficient management and conservation of water resources.

04

### BIODIVERSITY, HABITATS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

conserved, for current and future generations.

05

### WASTE MANAGEMENT

enhanced value creation through optimised material flows and waste management.

