

## Environmental Institution Setup

Oman

February 2014

Said Mohamed Nasser Al-Saqri  
EcOman Centre Curator - PDO  
Oman  
Email: [said.saqri@gmail.com](mailto:said.saqri@gmail.com)



### Introduction

To achieve sustainability from our natural resources, the concept of environmental management (EM) has to be taken into consideration to a level of implementation. Environmental Management studies involve counting people and human capital and heavily involving them in different aspects of countries development environmental strategies. Several discussions and formal gatherings began to take place to illustrate a path of economic green growth (sustainable use of our precious natural resources) as an improvement to the current classic economic growth. As a result, many large environmental institutions were developed to deal with this aspect.

Oman, like other developing countries, is located in the arid and semi-arid zones where drought conditions prevail and fresh water is precious. As a result environmental problems like land degradation and desertification will exceed if proper water resource management is not implemented. Other environmental issues include waste management and waste water generated due to an increase in population

#### Quick facts

Zone	National Territory
Project Started	2007
Theme	Environmental Management System development
Leading Agency	Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs

## Environmental Institution Setup

Oman

February 2014

growth among other concerns which reflects the country's need to develop environmental institutions. Having such environmental institutions will assist in integrating the environmental management system into related organizations to cope with the need of having continuous economic growth with minimal environment destruction.

### Oman current status

When it comes to environmental aspects, Oman has undergone early strategies in terms of environmental management system development, followed by series of developments and improvements. The Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs (MECA) was established in 2007 by royal decree (91/2007) as a governmental responsible environmental body in Oman. MECA's main objectives are to promote environmental awareness, support the principles of sustainable development and ensure the safety of the environment and pollution control by maintaining the ecological balance in the context of sustainable development objectives as well as representing Oman in regional and international conferences concerned with the environment and climate issues. MECA's role is also to monitor the industry's compliance with environmental laws and legislations. Environmental reports like EIAs are mandated and have also been reviewed by MECA for environmental clearance. Due to this, there is a trend of involvement of the private sector and related NGOs in the environmental management scheme. Good examples (not limited to) are Bea'a (Oman environment services holding co.), a private company that is responsible for management of landfills and different categories of waste and Environment Society of Oman (ESO), a non-governmental organization with the main roles of raising public awareness of environmental (terrestrial and marine) aspects in Oman.

### Outcomes

Having environmental related institutions and organizational structures in place will effectively support the current environmentally related policies and major components of environmental management strategies. This will serve the purpose of follow-up in any en-

vironmental conservation and protection programs by mandating and monitoring the environmental documentation and reports by any new future industries that are built on natural soil grounds. Industries in Oman are obliged to conduct impact assessment reports to make sure it covers the main criteria of sustainable development strategies; this was proven to be an effective tool to ensure sustainability of the available natural resources.

Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs (MECA) in Oman is controlling the development projects that are ongoing by promoting environmental protection plans, conservation of the available precious natural resources and biodiversity protection (e.g. conservation of Mangrove trees, native trees planting projects, and costal management projects among others). MECA also developed the national strategies for protecting the Omani environment as well as biodiversity protection through management of protected areas and reserves as well as the Omani environment in general.

### References

The following documents informed the development of this paper:

Ahmed B and Sammy, G. K. Guidelines to environmental impact assessment in developing countries. London. Hodder and Stoughton 1985.

Al-Saqri, S. and Sulaiman, H. (2014) Comparative study of environmental institutional framework and setup in the GCC states. *Journal of Environmental Protection*, 5, 745-750 <http://dx.doi.org/10.4236/jep.2014.59076>

Environment Society of Oman (ESO) administrative and technical structure, [online] available Jun, 2014 : <http://www.eso.org.om>

George, C. Comparative review of environmental assessment procedures and practice. John Wiley and sons Ltd. Chichester. England; 2000.



## Environmental Institution Setup

Oman

February 2014

Karma El-Fadl, El-Fadel M. Comparative assessment of EIA systems in MENA countries: challenges and prospects Environ Impact Asses Rev 2004; 24:553-593

Ministry of environment and climate affairs (Oman), administrative and technical structure, [online] available Jun, 2014 : <http://moe-ca.gov.om/Default3.aspx>

