

CONFERENCES & ENVIRONMENTAL CONVENTIONS



The Sultanate regularly attends conferences and meetings organised by international organisations and institutions. At the conferences, all efforts are focused on finding practical solutions to solve environmental issues and concerns. Recently the Sultanate itself has hosted a number of regional and international conferences, such as:

- International Symposium on the National Conservation Strategy 1992
- Conference on Prevention of Dumping Waste from Oil Tankers and Protection of Marine Environment 1995
- Environmental Visions Conference 2001
- Programme on Combating National Desertification in the Arab World 2001
- Symposium on Man and the Environment 2001
- Conference on Management of Environmental Disasters 2001
- Oman International Conference on Sustainable Development 2001
- Desertification Symposium in Dhofar Governorate 2002
- Oman International Conference on Waste Management 2002
- International Conference on Biosafety 2004
- International Workshop on Public Participation, Awareness & Information Exchange for Water Resource Management 2005
- Workshop on Conservation & Management of Mangroves in ROPME Sea Area 2005



Commensurate with this approach, the Sultanate has also adopted the policy of adhering to the essential principles approved by the international community as well as commitments under its participation in regional and international environmental conventions such as:

First: United Nations

1. United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) - Austria 1985
2. 4 United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea - United Kingdom 1989
3. Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal - Switzerland 1994
4. UN Convention on Climate Change - Germany 1994
5. Convention on Prevention of Proliferation of Chemical Weapons - (OPCW) - Holland 1994
6. International Forum on Chemical Safety - Switzerland 1994
7. Convention on Biological Diversity - Canada 1994
8. International Convention on Combating Desertification in Countries Suffering Severe Drought and/or Desertification Particularly Africa- Germany 1995
9. Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol on Protection of the Ozone Layer - Kenya 1988
10. Rotterdam Convention on the prior informed consent procedure for certain Hazardous Chemicals in International Trade (PIC) - Switzerland 1999
11. Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety - Switzerland 2002
12. Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants - Sweden 2004

Second: Councils & Other Unions

13. International Maritime Organisation (IMO) - United Kingdom 1974
 - A. International Convention on Prevention of Pollution from Ships and its Protocols- United Kingdom 1981
 - B. International Convention on Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Waste and Others - United Kingdom 1981
 - C. International Convention on Rules Preventing Collision at Sea 1972 and Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 and February 17th Protocol, 1978 - United Kingdom 1984
 - D. International Convention on Intervention on the High Seas in cases of Oil Pollution Casualties and its Protocol for 1973 concerning Intervention in High Seas in cases of Marine Pollution by Substances other than Oil- United Kingdom 1984
 - E. International Convention on Civil Liability for Damage Resulting from Oil Pollution and its Protocol for 1976 - United Kingdom 1984

- F. International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage - United Kingdom 1994
 - G. International Convention on Salvage 1989 - United Kingdom 1991
 - H. Protocol 1992 on the Amendment on 1969 International Convention on Civil Liability Damage Resulting from Oil Pollution and Protocol 1992 on Amendments on 1971 International Convention on the Establishment of International Fund for Compensation of Oil Pollution Damage - United Kingdom 1994
14. International Union of Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources - Switzerland 1975
 15. Regional Organisation for Protection of the Marine Environment - Kuwait 1979
 - A. Kuwait Regional Convention and Protocol on Regional Cooperation Towards Combating Oil Pollution and Other Harmful Materials in Emergency Cases - Kuwait 1979
 - B. Protocol Concerning Marine Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf - Kuwait 1989
 - C. Protocol for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Pollution from Landbase Sources - Kuwait 1991
 - D. Law on the Protection of Water Resources - Kuwait 2002
 16. Arab Council of Ministers Responsible for Environment Affairs, Arab League - Egypt 1980
 17. Environment Cooperation Agreement Between Government of Oman and Government of Denmark- 1994
 18. Memorandum of Understanding Between Sultan Qaboos University and Japanese Cooperation Centre of Petroleum on Treatment of Hydrocarbonic Pollution in Rustaq - Japan 2002
 19. Convention on Conservation of Wild Life & Its Natural Resources in GCC - Kingdom of Saudi Arabia 2002
 20. Memorandum of Understanding Protection of Marine Turtle in the Indian Ocean - Thailand 2004
 21. Kyoto Protocol attached to the United Nation Convention on Climate Change - Japan 2004
 22. Japanese International Cooperation Agency - Japan



CHAPTER SIX

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT & AGENDA 21





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Sustainable Development

Sustainable development is the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainable development focuses on improving the quality of life for all of the Earth's citizens without increasing the use of natural resources beyond the capacity of the environment to supply them indefinitely.

Many other subsequent definitions have emerged from this basic definition focusing on economic, social, technical, and human and justice in sustainable development. The UN has stressed the concept of sustainable development as a significant element in the progress of developing human society and its effectiveness in utilising the human, material and technical resources. This effort by the UN has helped in spreading this term world wide and sustainability has become an important element in setting out development strategies in many countries around the world.

Agenda 21

The 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, was an important platform to ensure international co-operation based on the need for achieving integration between development and environment so as to guarantee sustainable development. In other words it means the provision of social and economic development needed by current generations together with protection of the environment and natural resources and the development rights of future generations.

The Conference adopted a comprehensive set of action programmes, "Agenda 21 and Plan of Action for the 21st Century," to promote sustainable development into the 21st century.

During the Earth Summit in Johannesburg in August 2002, the Sultanate submitted a national report that detailed the national actions adopted by the government to implement Agenda 21. The report was also issued in an independent publication of 44 chapters under the main headings of:

First: Social and Economic Dimensions of Sustainable Development

This portrays the actions adopted by the Omani government in respect of international co-operation by joining and participating in regional, Arab and international conventions and agreements. It also demonstrated the Sultanate's policies on fighting poverty, changing consumption patterns, health protection, promoting sustainable development in housing areas with accommodation for all citizens as well as integrating environment and development into decision making via implementation of the 1996 Oman National Conservation Strategy.

Second: Conservation and Management of Resources

This highlights the efforts and achievements to protect the atmosphere; planning and management of ground resources; deforestation; management of fragile ecosystems and combating desertification and drought; sustainable mountain development; promoting agricultural and sustainable rural development plus adopting procedures to conserve biodiversity. The report also reviews the environmental management of biotechnology; protection of oceans, seas and coastal zones; setting, implementing and following sound principles to protect fresh water resources and also achieving environmentally sound management of chemical substances and hazardous, solid and radioactive wastes.

Third: Strengthening the Role of the Non Governmental Sector

This illustrates the government's efforts to promote the principle of consultation with all sectors of society, such as youth, children, non-governmental organisations, businessmen, workers, traders and manufacturers, in national sustainable development decision making.

Fourth: Methods and Means of Implementation

This part of the report looks at rationalising governmental expenditures; simplification of administrative procedures; developing non-oil based revenues; providing reasonable support to productive projects; creating more jobs for secondary school graduates; encouraging voluntary participation of Omani citizens in providing basic services; using environment friendly technology; scientific basis for sustainable development; enhancing education and training; public awareness, international cooperation agreements; joining specialised organisations, conventions and agreements related to environment and sustainable development.



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CHAPTER SEVEN

ROYAL DECREES & MINISTERIAL DECISIONS







In accordance with the directives of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said, the various stages of legislative formulation have enabled direct and positive interaction between national development and the environmental sector.

This royal concern for conservation of the environment and its natural resources is a basic element within all levels of the numerous local, regional and international plans and programmes undertaken by the Sultanate as part of its leading role in these fields.

The issuance of Royal Decrees and development of supporting legislation over the last three decades have ensured effective development and progress in the Sultanate's remarkable concern for environmental conservation, some of these royal decrees are:

Sr. No.	Royal Decree	No.
1	Marine Pollution Control Law	34/74
2	Proclaiming Qurum Area as (an open protected area) Category (9)	38/75
3	Amending article (6) section 3 of the Royal Decree on Territorial Waters, Continental Shelf and Areas Prohibited for Fishing in Oman	44/77
4	Authorisation to Sign Kuwait Regional Convention on the Protection of Marine Environment from Pollution and its Protocols	23/78
5	Sanctioning the Kuwait Regional Convention on Protection of Marine Environment from Pollution	8/79
6	Establishment of Public Authority for Environment Protection & Prevention of Pollution	14/79
7	Law of National Gardens and Protected Natural Areas	26/79
8	Establishment of the Council for Conservation of the Environment & Prevention of Pollution	68/79
9	Sanctioning the Accession of the Sultanate to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling	55/80
10	Accession of Oman to International Marine Organisation for Satellite (INMARSAT)	88/80

Sr. No.	Royal Decree	No.
11	Territorial Sea, Continental Shelf and Exclusive Economic Zone	15/81
12	Sanctioning the Accession of Oman to the International Convention on Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973	25/81
13	Sanctioning the Accession of Oman to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and other matter	26/81
14	Issuing Marine Law	35/81
15	Sanctioning the UN Industrial Development Organisation Charter (UNIDO)	40/81
16	Issuing the Law on Sea Fishing and Protection of the Marine Biological Wealth	53/81
17	Law Regulating Navigation in Territorial Waters	98/81
18	Issuing Law on Conservation of the Environment and Prevention of Pollution	10/82
19	Establishment of Ministry of Environment & Appointing a Minister for it	45/84
20	Amendment of some Provisions of Royal Decree No. (68/70) to Establish Environment Protection & Pollution Control Council	46/84
21	Identification of Ministry of Environment Responsibilities	47/84
22	Establishment of Environment & Development Planning Committee - Southern Region	48/84
23	Oman Accession to Two International Conventions for Rules Preventing Collision at Sea & Safety of Life at Sea	60/84
24	Authentication of Accession of Oman to the International Convention of 1969 relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Causes of Oil Pollution Casualties and its Protocol of 1973	92/84
25	Authentication of Accession of Oman to the International Convention of 1969 on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage and its Protocols of 1976	93/84
26	Sanctioning the Accession of the Sultanate of Oman to 1971 International Convention on the Establishment of International Fund for Compensation of Oil Pollution Damage	94/84
27	Amendment of some Provisions of Law on Protecting the Environment and Pollution Control	63/85

No.	Sr. No.	Royal Decree	No.
5/81	28	Establishment of Oman Company for Marine Pollution Protection	93/85
5/81	29	Transferring of Water Resources Public Authority to Environment, Protection & Pollution Control Council	43/86
6/81	30	Sanctioning of Special Protocol on Privileges and Immunities to the (INMARSAT)	48/86
5/81	31	Identification of Environment Protection & Water Resources Council Responsibilities and Approval of its Organisational Structure	91/86
3/81	32	Identification of Ministry of Environment & Water Resources Responsibilities and Approval of its Organisational Structure	92/86
1/81	33	Appointing of Minister of Environment and Water Resources as a Member of the High Committee of Towns Planning	17/87
1/82	34	Appointing Minister of Housing as a member of the committee of development and environment planning in Southern Region	26/87
1/84	35	Establishment of Contingency National Committee	32/88
1/84	36	Sanctioning the Amendment to (INMARSAT) Chapter and its Operation Convention	57/88
1/84	37	Amendment of Royal Decree No (32/88) on Establishment of Emergency National Committee	73/88
1/84	38	Considering Water Stock as National Wealth	82/88
1/84	39	Approval of accession of Oman to the International Agreement to Protect Plants	88/88
1/84	40	Approval to sign protocol on Marine Pollution caused by Exploration and Utilisation of Continental Shelf	37/89
1/84	41	Establishing National Committee on the use of Al-Bhatina Water	47/89
1/84	42	Authentication of UN agreement of Sea Law	67/89
1/84	43	Amendment of some provisions of Law of Environment Protection and Pollution Control	71/89
1/85	44	Approval to sign protocol on Marine Pollution caused by Exploration and Utilisation of Continental Shelf	92/89

Sr. No.	Royal Decree	No.
45	Establishment of the Ministry of Environment and amending its Organisational Structure	11/90
46	Sanctioning the Amendment to (INMARSAT) Charter and its Operational Convention	22/90
47	Accession of Oman to the Convention on Preventing Illegal Acts against Marine Navigation Safety & Protocol on Preventing Illegal Acts against Safety of Existing Fixed Platforms in the Continental Shelf	66/90
48	Amendment to the formation of a National Committee for Natural Disasters	20/91
49	Approval of accession of Oman to the International agreement on Rescue of 1989	30/91
50	Oman Accession to some protocols related to Marine Environment	36/91
51	Approval of Accession of Oman to Protocol on Protecting the Marine Environment from land pollution	90/91
52	Amendment of Marine Law	12/93
53	Amendment of Law of Environment Protection & Pollution Control	31/93
54	Amendment of Some laws on Fishing and Protection of Marine Wealth	59/93
55	Establishing of Arabian Oryx Sanctuary	4/94
56	Authentication of the Environment Cooperation Agreement Between Government of Oman and government of Denmark	36/94
57	Oman's Ratification of Two Protocols related to Environmental Protection	57/94
58	Authentication of the following conventions: A. Basel Convention on Control, transfer and disposal of hazardous waste B. UN frame work Convention on Climate Change C. Convention on Biodiversity	119/94

No.	Sr. No.	Royal Decree	No.
1/90	59	Approval to Sign the Convention on Prohibition of the Production, Storage and Use of Chemical Weapons and their Destruction	122/94
2/90	60	Issuing of the Law on Handling and Use of Chemicals	46/95
6/90	61	Authorisation to Sign UN Convention on Combating Desertification in Countries Experiencing Severe Drought or Desertification especially Africa	53/95
3/91	62	Approval of accession of Oman to UN Convention on combating Desertification in hot and dry countries, especially Africa	5/96
3/91	63	Establishment of Dimaniyat Islands Natural Reserve	23/96
4/91	64	Establishment of Turtle Reserve	25/96
7/91	65	Sanctioning the Amendment on (INMARSAT) Charter and its Operational Convention	63/96
1/91	66	Accession of the Sultanate to the Agreement on Implementing Section Eleven of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982	77/96
1/93	67	Amending some provisions of the Law on the Conservation of the Environment and Prevention of Pollution	111/96
1/93	68	Implementation of the Convention on Prohibition of the Production, Storage and Use of Chemical Weapons and their Destruction	21/97
1/94	69	Establishment of Jebel Samhan Reserve - Dhofar	48/97
1/94	70	Establishment of Reserves in Some Kheran - Salalah Coast	49/97
1/94	71	Establishment of Saleel Natural Park - Al Kamal Wa Al Wafy	50/97
1/94	72	Authorisation to Sign the Supplementary Amendment to the International Maritime Organisation Convention	102/97
1/94	73	Oman's accession to the Vienna Convention on Ozone Layer protection and Montreal Protocol on Ozone depleting substances	73/98
	74	Amendment of Law of Environment and Pollution Control	75/98

Sr. No.	Royal Decree	No.
75	Approval of the Amendment to the International Convention on Protecting Plants	60/99
76	Amendment of law of Civil Defence - Changing the Name of the Committee for Natural Disaster to the National Committee for Civil Defence	75/99
77	Oman's Accession to Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent Practices for Certain Hazardous Chemicals	81/99
78	Issuing of Water Protection Law	29/2000
79	Law on Conservation of the Environment and Prevention of Pollution	114/2001
80	Law on Protection of Sources of Drinking Water from Pollution	115/2001
81	Approval of Protocol on Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste and their Disposal.	24/2002
82	Approval of Cartagena Protocol on Biological Safety Related to Biodiversity Convention	55/2002
83	Approval of Convention of Conservation of Wild Life and its Natural Resources in GCC	67/2002
84	Sanctioning Decision No. 3/1 Approved by Parties Conference of Basel Convention on Control of the Transboundary Movement of hazardous and other Waste & Their Disposal	88/2002
85	Law of Conservation of Natural Reserves & Wild Life	8/2003
86	Ratification of the Amendment of Montreal 1997 & Beijing 1999 of Montreal Protocol on Ozone Layer and Subtenants that Deplete it	106/2004
87	Ratification of the Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change	107/2004
88	Ratification of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	117/2004

Sr. No.	Ministerial Decision	No.
1	Issuing of Executive Regulations on Fishing and Protection of Marine Wealth Amended by Ministerial Decisions No. (16/86) (23/89)	3/82
2	Dumping of liquid waste into the Marine Environment by Ministerial Decision No. 159/2005	7/84
3	Regulations on dumping of Commercial and Industrial Waste	8/84
4	Implementing Environment Protection Regulations	5/86
5	Forming a Committee to specify priority regions for comprehensive procedures of assessment to protect wells and aflaj from pollution	6/86
6	Rules Regulating Sea Setbacks	20/90
7	Sharing Responsibilities towards implementing Marine Pollution Protocol	4/91
8	Establishing Committee for the Safe and Sound Management of Chemicals	167/92
9	Establishing a body to monitor Environment Violation	247/92
10	Regulations on Management of Non-Hazardous Waste	17/93
11	Regulations on Management of Hazardous Waste	18/93
12	Regulations for Wastewater Re-use and Discharge	145/93
13	Regulation to Control Noise Pollution in Public Environment	79/94
14	Regulation to Control Noise Pollution in the Work Environment	80/94
15	Obligating industrial and commercial organisations and others to apply environmental regulations as stated in environmental permits	209/95
16	Forming a Permanent Committee on Chemical Substances	910/96
17	Issuing Regulations for the Registration of Hazardous Chemical Substances and the Relevant Permits	248/97
18	Regulation on Control and Management of Radioactive Substances	249/97
19	Establishing of Committee to monitor the implementation of Chemical Weapons Convention at the National Level	426/97
20	Issuing of Regulations on Septic Tanks, Burrow Pits and Holding Tanks	421/98
21	Ministerial Decision on Fees for Issuing Permits to Handle Chemical Substances	20/99
22	Ministerial Decision on Fees for Importing, Moving, Storing and Using Radioactive Substances (Amended by Ministerial Decision No. 81/2002)	21/99
23	Amending the Regulations for the Registration of Chemicals and Permits	68/2000

Sr. No.	Ministerial Decision	No.
24	Establishment of Arabian Oryx Sanctuary	111/2000
25	Proclamation of Natural Dimaniyat Islands Reserve	112/2000
26	Establishment of Turtle Reserve	113/2000
27	Forming of Technical Committee on Chemicals Substances	115/2000
28	Management of Arabian Oryx Reserve	131/2000
29	Management of Natural Dimaniyat Islands Reserve	132/2000
30	Management of Turtle Reserve	133/2000
31	Issuing the Regulation on Control and Management of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS)	37/2001
32	Issuing of Regulation on the Issuance of Environmental permits & Final Environmental Permits	187/2001
33	Issuing of Regulation on Crushes, Quarries and Transporting of Sands from Beaches, Coasts and Wadis	200/2001
34	Banning the use of some Hazardous Chemical Substances	316/2001
35	Issuing the Regulations for the Packing, Packaging, and Labeling of Hazardous Chemicals	317/2001
36	Establishing of Saleel Natural Park Reserve - Al Kamal Wa Al Wafy	2/2002
37	Establishing of Kharaan Reserves - Salalah Coast	3/2002
38	Establishing of Jabal Saham Reserve	4/2002
39	Amendment of Regulations for Wastewater Re-use and Discharge (issued by Ministerial Decision No. 145/93)	55/2002
40	Amendment of Regulation on Management of Hazardous Waste (issued by Ministerial Decision No. 18/93)	56/2002
41	Amendment of Regulation on Management of Non-Hazardous Solid Waste (issued by Ministerial Decision No. 17/93)	57/2002
42	Renewal of Municipality & Environment Permits	71/2002
43	Forming a new of Permanent Committee on Chemical Substances	75/2002
44	Banning of Killing, Hunting and Catching of Wild Animals and Birds.	101/2002
45	Reestablishing of Committee for the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention at the National Level	135/2003
46	Amendment of Regulation on Control and Management of Radioactive Substance	281/2003
47	Regulation for Marine Environment Management	39/2004
48	Issuing of Regulation on Control of Air Pollutants Released from Stationary Sources	118/2004
49	Regulation on disposal of Liquid Waste into Marine Environment	159/2005