

**SAUDI ARABIA  
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**COUNTRY REPORT**

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## Role of National Focal Point

The role of the Meteorology and Environmental Protection Administration (MEPA) as the National Focal Point can be summarized in following actions:

1. Disseminates all received information or request for information from International UN Organizations, or from any other international and regional organization to the concerned institutions (government or none governmental institutions);
2. Follow up with the concerned institutions;
3. Review all received information;
4. Identify gaps or lack of information (especially in areas where is no response has been shown by the concern institutions to the request of information) and try to Look for other sources in order to collect the needed information;
5. Put all the gathered information into the requested format and coordinate with the concerned institutions in order to validate the information
6. Send back the information to those organizations that requested them.

## Inter-Ministerial Coordination in Preparing National Reports

The Ministerial Committee for Environment (MCE) is the highest institutional authority for environment within the Kingdom. The MCE is composed of concerned sectoral ministries as well as the President of the King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST), Secretary General of the National Commission for Wild Life Protection and Development (NCWCD), and the President of the Meteorology and environmental Protection administration (MEPA) who is been designated as Secretary General for the MCE). MCE's functions and responsibilities are as follows:

1. Establish the Kingdom 's position on environmental issues at the national, regional and international levels;
2. Establish a National Environmental Strategy; and
3. Coordinate and follow upon environmental activities within the Kingdom.

The MCE is assisted by a Preparatory Committee (i.e. Environmental Protection Coordinating Committee). The Preparatory Committee membership also includes the Deputy Ministers of the above mentioned sector ministries, as well, the President of KACST, Secretary-General of the NCWCD and the President of MEPA who is booth a member of the Committee and acts as Secretary General for the committee. The preparatory Committee is responsible for the development of studies and proposed actions, which are submitted for review and approval by the MCE (such as the National Report).

Inter-Ministerial Cooperation on environmental matter is quite variable in its forms and quality. However, such cooperation has been recently improved after the MCE requested that every ministry to establish an Environmental Unit to coordinate all environmental activities (such as the preparation of the National Report).

At present, all routine communication and information exchange is formal and thus has to be cleared with senior management of each ministry before being officially transmitted to the counter part ministry or the National Focal Point (i.e. MEPA). Nevertheless, the only coordination at the technical level is through establishment of task forces or specialized committees for specific agenda.

## How the Country has reconciled Reporting Requirements from Different UN System Bodies

Different national institutions within the country have been identified as the National Focal Points for different UN System Bodies or different environmental agreements and have been given the responsibility to coordinate and report back to those UN Bodies or Multi Environmental Agreements (MEA's).

## What Capacity and Resource the Country have in Preparing its National Report

Technical and management capacities for environmental management are unevenly distributed. However, the largest concentrations of local environmental specialists are in MEPA and NCWCD.

The Meteorology and Environmental Protection Administration (MEPA) as the National Focal Point has limited resources. The Designated Contact Person within the National Focal Point authority (i.e. MEPA) with the help of a very limited number of personal responsible for preparation of the National Report.

## Difficulties/Obstacle Encountered in National reporting

1. Data are scattered amongst numerous government, private sector institutions among which there is slow collaboration or coordination.
2. The national focal point does not have an access to the full range of data required for national assessment and reporting;
3. There are hidden gap and duplications in data resources;
4. The secrecy of some agencies which may guard their data even from other agencies;
5. The lack of cooperation from some agencies, and in some cases they do not response to request for data needed in compilation of the national report;
6. The limited capacity and resource within the national focal point.