



Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative

Facilitating a sustainable future.
Local to Global.

Dec 2013



Background

Bridging the Data Gap

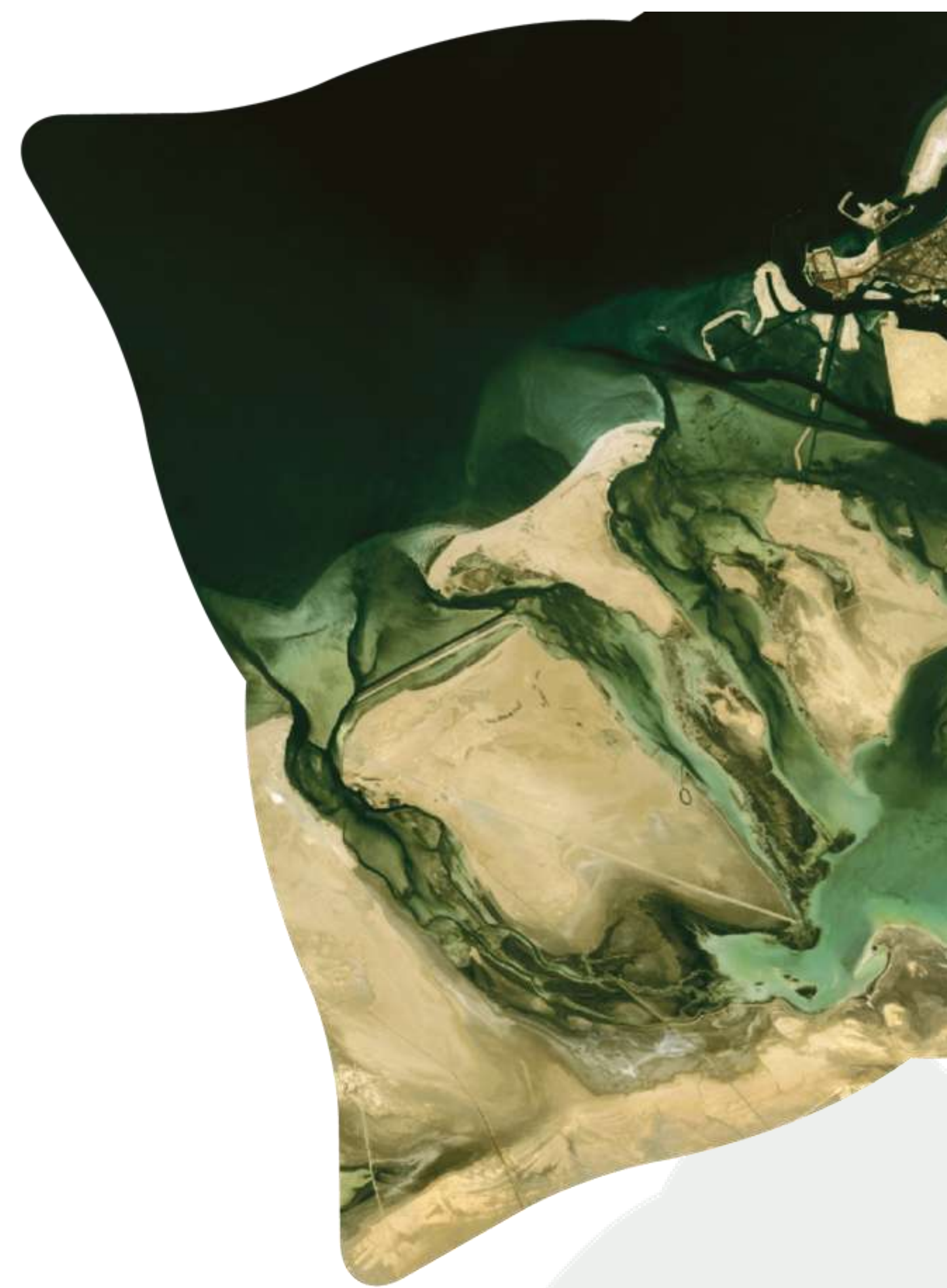
- ❖ **Issue:** Feb 2002 Environmental Sustainability Index ranked UAE **141 from 142 countries** - UAE had limited readily accessible, accurate or relevant environmental and societal data
- ❖ **Response:** AGEDI launched in Sept 2002 by H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nayhan (President of UAE) at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg
- ❖ **Goal:** to address the gap in environmental data within and between developed and developing countries, particularly in the Arab region



Partnership

The first Arab Region Type II Initiative explained

- ❖ Established as a Type II partnership – joint venture between Environment Agency (EAD) – Abu Dhabi & United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- ❖ Type II Partnership Initiative: **Partnerships for Sustainable Development.** Voluntary partnerships and initiatives to implement Agenda 21 and the Millennium Development goals
- ❖ AGEDI principles and objectives are in accordance with Rio Declaration principles, Chapter 8 & 40 of Agenda 21
- ❖ UNEP-EAD partnership is central to AGEDI - first of its kind in the Arab region
- ❖ Gives responsibility for EAD to the Arab world, as well as exposure and credibility regionally and internationally



Milestones

Facilitating a sustainable future.



- ❖ 2004: Inclusion of Abu Dhabi State of the Environment Reporting into AGEDI process

- ❖ 2006: 9 Environmental Sector Papers published



- ❖ 2009: SoE Report Abu Dhabi Published
- ❖ 2009: Hosted Global Meeting on Environmental Information Networking

- ❖ 2012: Blue Carbon Demonstration Project
- ❖ 2012: Local National & Regional Biodiversity Rapid Assessment
- ❖ **2013: Local, National & Regional NRT**
- ❖ 2013: Arabian Atlas of Our Changing Environment with UNEP

2002

2004

2006

2008

2010

2013 →

- ❖ Sept 2, 2002
AGEDI launched @ WSSD, Johannesburg



- ❖ 2006: First web based reporting in Region: SoE Report for Abu Dhabi

- ❖ 2010: Review of State of the Environment Report Abu Dhabi & Sector Papers
- ❖ 2010: Environmental Outlook
- ❖ **2011: Eye on Earth Summit & inception of 8 Special Initiatives**



Accomplishments

Key Role – Accessibility | Assessment | Capacity Building

- ❖ **Abu Dhabi State of the Environment Report**

Provides a comprehensive environmental information baseline to assist in shaping environmental policy, awareness and management decisions in Abu Dhabi

- ❖ **9 Sector Papers**

Released in 2006 & 2009: providing the basis of the State of the Environment Assessment Framework (SOE)

- ❖ **AGEDI Geo Portal**

Supporting EAD to create a central online access point for environmental data in Abu Dhabi

- ❖ **Environmental Atlas of Abu Dhabi Emirate**

In collaboration with EAD, publication of a unique reference atlas detailing the story of the Abu Dhabi Emirate's environment through anecdotes, facts, statistics and supporting cartographical maps from historical times to present day



Accomplishments

Key Role – Accessibility | Assessment | Capacity Building

❖ Eye On Earth Summit 2011

International inaugural 3.5 day summit on the sharing of environmental and societal data across networks, borders and regions to improve a more sustainable world

- Eye on Earth Summit Declaration - endorsed by 48 countries
- 8 Special Initiatives – 3 foundational, 5 thematic

❖ Abu Dhabi Environmental Performance Index (AD-EPI)

Assessment report of data and indicators critical for understanding the current environmental baseline in Abu Dhabi, as well as political and strategic planning and goal setting
2002 – ranked 141; 2012 – ranked 77.

❖ Rapid & Systematic Climate Change Impacts, Vulnerability & Adaption Assessment: Phase I

A comprehensive foundation for future Regional cooperation around these issues, identified the many impacts and potential mitigation paths forward, and identified



Outcomes

Narrowing the Environmental Data Gap

❖ Environmental Performance Index (EPI)*

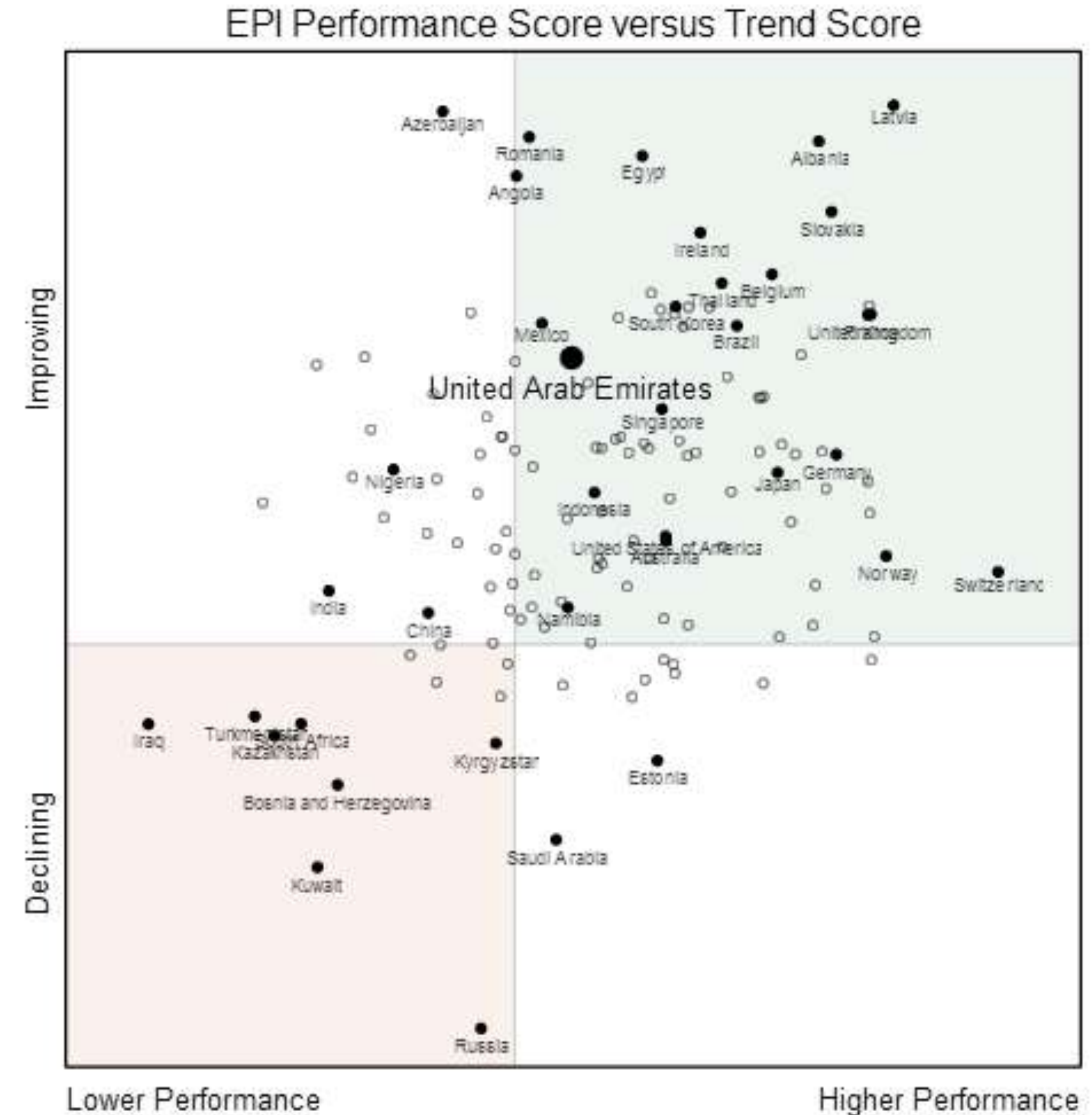
- 2002: Ranked 141 from 142 participating countries
- 2012: Ranked 77 from 132 participating countries
- 2012: 27th of overall improvement in last decade
- 2012: **2nd most improved** in the Middle East North Africa region

❖ Ecological Footprint Index*

- 2010: The Living Planet Report, the report showed that the Ecological Footprint per person was 10.68
- 2012: The Living Planet Report, the report showed that the Ecological Footprint per person was 8.88

Source: 1. http://epi.yale.edu/sites/default/files/downloads/Summary_Final-%20OnlineV3_1.pdf

2. <http://www.footprintnetwork.org/en/index.php/GFN/page/trends/unitedarabemirates/>



Outcomes

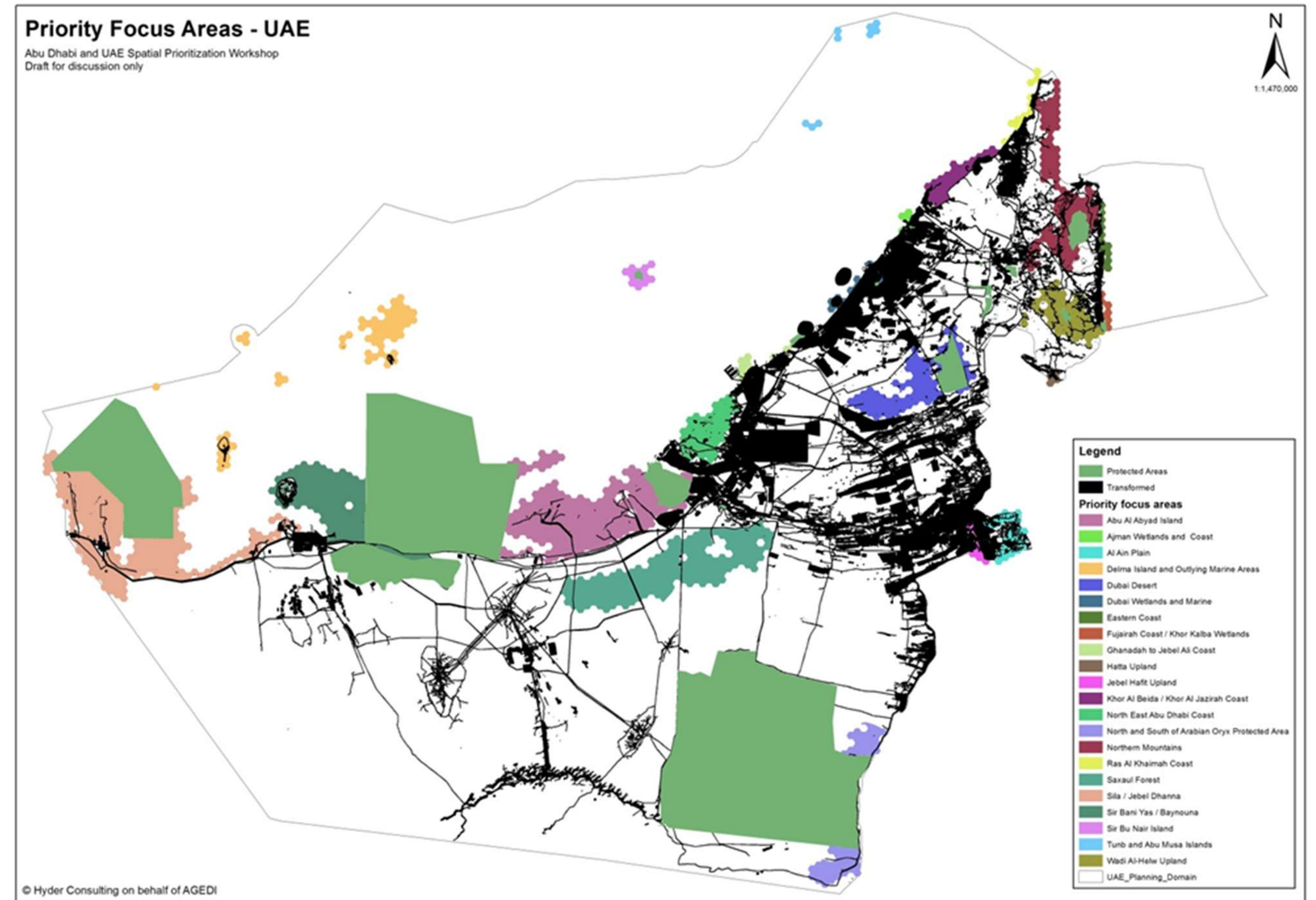
Key Products – Data | Assessment | Capacity Building

❖ Local National & Regional Biodiversity Rapid Assessment

- 12mth project - using Systematic Conservation Planning framework for assessment
- Identified *which* terrestrial and marine ecosystems most under pressure, *how* well they are represented in protected areas, and *where* the spatial priorities should be for conservation implementation in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the Arabian Peninsula
- Local & National Final reports complete
- Regional to be finalised in April 2013

Next steps:

- Capacity Building at local, national and regional levels for Systematic Conservation Planning monitoring and assessments to be integrated into organisational work plans



Commitment for 2013

EAD | Local | Regional Engagement & Facilitation

❖ National Reporting Toolkit

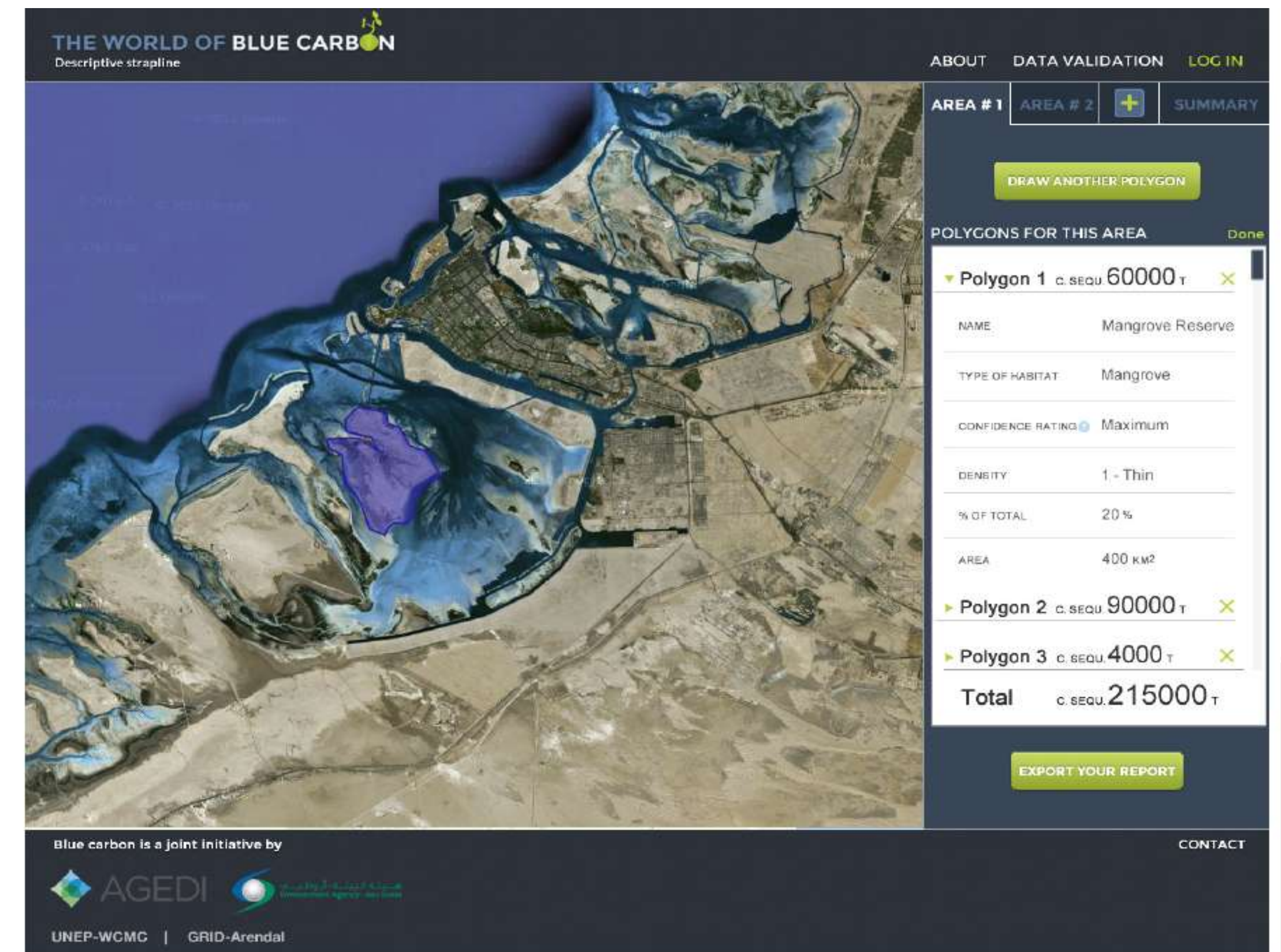
Online reporting application that provides users with capabilities to upload data and edit reports. Phase I: within EAD – final stages of ‘proof of concept’ Phase II & III in collaboration with 3 – 6 countries in the Arabian Peninsula to develop a digital country level SOER

❖ Blue Carbon Demonstration Project

Investigates the carbon and coastal ecosystems services and its potential contribution to climate change mitigation efforts, Five key assessment components: Scientific, Geographic, Ecosystem Services, Policy, Carbon Finance Feasibility

❖ Publication of Environmental Outlook of Arab Region (EOAR) in Arabic

A comprehensive policy-relevant environmental assessment report for the Arab region. To be released January 2014.



Commitment for 2013

EAD | Local | Regional | Global Engagement & Facilitation

- ❖ **Rapid and Systematic Climate Change Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment for Local, National & Regional**

12 sub-projects over a 4 year period; 2 local, 3 national and 7 regional projects across 5 strategic themes regional modelling, socio-economic, biodiversity, water resources and coastal zones

- ❖ **Arab Region: Atlas of Our Changing Environment with UNEP**

Launched 10 Dec 2013: An Atlas of the region that focuses on the impact of human activities on land, water, and air throughout the 22 countries that make up the Arab world.

- ❖ **Facilitation of the eight Eye on Earth Special Initiatives**

Continuation of the facilitation and development of the Eye on Earth community through the eight Special Initiatives that were announced at the inaugural Eye on Earth Summit in Abu Dhabi December 2011.



AGEDI Facilitation

Regional & Global Commitment



❖ UNEP – EAD Partnership renewed – March 2013

❖ Strengthening partnership with UNEP Regional Office of West Asia (RoWA)

❖ **Integrated Environmental Assessment Workshop**

Dec 2013: Over 40 regional participants for a 4 day capacity building workshop for the NRT in partnership with Center for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE) & RoWA

❖ **Phase II & III: National Reporting Toolkit (NRT)**

Incorporating 3-6 countries in the Arab region to develop their own online reporting application. Expanding the NRT to other developed countries

❖ **UNEP Live**

Web-based platform to promote access to and use of environmental information and data for keeping the State of Environment under review

❖ **Global Network of Networks (GNON) Special Initiatives**

Connecting key existing networks such as Europe's EIONET, the AfricaEIN, the Global Earth Observations System of Systems (GEOSS), while supporting the development of emerging and planned regional information networks in developing countries (the Arab region and Africa)



AGEDI Facilitation

Regional & Global Commitment



❖ Strengthen the Eye on Earth Community

Since July 2012: Monthly Special Initiative stakeholder engagement web-ex calls encourage and optimise the sharing of knowledge and information

- July 2013: Eye on Water Security Meeting: Stockholm, Sweden.
- Sept 2013: Eye on Access for All Meeting: Washington DC, USA.
- Oct 2013: Eye on Environmental Education Meeting: Manama, Bahrain
- Nov 2013: Eye on Disaster Management Meeting: Geneva, Switzerland
- Nov 2013: Eye on Community Sustainability & Resiliency Meeting: Paris, France
- Dec 2013: Eye on Biodiversity Meeting: Ankara, Turkey

❖ Administer & Monitor Special Initiative Seed Funding Projects

9 projects across the globe were selected for seed funding from the Eye on Earth stakeholder submissions. Projects were selected based on their regional or 'South' impact, implementable with measurable results in reasonable timeframe and identified as compelling and common need across EoE community.



Supporting Partner Activity

Projects | Facilitation | Contribution

- ❖ **Wind and Solar Energy Atlas-** Masdar Institute
- ❖ **Global Green Growth Initiative (GGGI)** – DECC, MoFA
- ❖ **EWS-WWF-** UAE Ecological Footprint Initiative
- ❖ **Global Footprint Network** - Letter of Agreement and associated GFN services to the UAE
- ❖ **Blue Forests Project** - Global Environment Facility
- ❖ **National Geographic** – Great Nature Project
- ❖ **Core Secretariat Member** Arab Region Data Working LAS
- ❖ **Core Secretariat member** Eye on Earth Alliance
- ❖ **GFN Standards Committee member** Global Footprint Network



Partnerships

Local | Regional | International

- ❖ EWS-WWF | ADSIC | Masdar Institute
- ❖ Ministry of Environment & Water
- ❖ Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Directorate of Energy & Climate Change

- ❖ UNEP Regional Office of West Asia
- ❖ League of Arab States | CAMRE | CEDARE

- ❖ UNEP | Global Footprint Network | European Environment Agency
- ❖ World Bank | Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- ❖ National Geographic | UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC)
- ❖ Group of Earth Observations (GEO) | World Resource Institute (WRI)



AGEDI: our horizon

'Integrator of Environmental Data & Information'

LOCAL:

- ❖ Facilitate wise environmental decision making through enhanced data collection, assessment, management, analysis and dissemination

REGIONAL:

- ❖ Support 'best-impact' access and application of data and information for decision making by delivering capability and capacity building of developing countries and emerging economies
- ❖ Facilitate achievement of the Rio+20 and Millennium Development Goals for the region as a key integrator of environmental and societal data.

INTERNATIONAL:

- ❖ Enhance global strategies and mechanisms of data access, acquisition and dissemination as a leading and respected international partner



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