



Mission

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

European Union - Brussels

Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the European Union

30 March 2021

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Green Initiative
will have
global impact!**





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On Saturday 27 March His Highness the Crown Prince presented the Saudi Green Initiative and The Middle East Green Initiative.



The initiatives provide an ambitious road map for Saudi Arabia and the region and will contribute significantly to achieve the global targets needed to confront climate change.

The Middle East Green Initiative will take place in coordination with neighbouring and sister countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states and Middle Eastern countries. While the Saudi Green Initiative is aimed at the Kingdom alone, its impact will be so large as to have a sizeable global impact.

The initiatives are in line with Vision 2030 and build on the tremendous work that has already been done. Natural reserves in Saudi Arabia have for instance been increased tremendously. From covering 4% just four years ago to covering 14%. At the same time, the overall vegetation cover has grown by 40%, underlining the will and determination in the Kingdom to drive environmental change.

With the initiative, Saudi Arabia makes clear that rejects the false opposition between protecting the environment and strengthening the economy. We must – and will – do both at the same time. The actions needed to fulfil the ambitions will spark innovation, lead to millions of new technology-based jobs and will be increasing our competitiveness.

A region hard hit by climate change

Saudi Arabia and the region already face significant challenges from the climate, and climate change is expected to worsen the situation. Dust storms alone cost the region more than €11 billion a year, while the air pollution from greenhouse gases reduce the average Saudi lifespan by an estimated 1.5 years.

What does the Saudi Green Initiative include? From planting trees and protecting the marine

environment to developing green technology and switching to renewable energy, the Saudi Green Initiative is a comprehensive and visionary plan, which involves:

- Ensuring at least 50% of all generated energy will be renewable from 2030.
- The percentage of protected land Area in the Kingdom will be increased to more than 30% - almost double the global target of 17%.
 - ◇ In Saudi Arabia, this means 600.000 square kilometres of protected land – an area corresponding to almost the entire territories of Germany, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Denmark, Austria, and Switzerland.
- 10 billion trees will be planted in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the coming decades, providing a 12-fold increase in the current tree cover.
 - ◇ This is the equivalent of rehabilitating an area of degraded land larger than Poland and the Czech Republic combined.
 - ◇ This means that Saudi Arabia alone will fulfil 4% of the global target for limiting land degradation and 1% of the global target of planting 1 trillion new trees.
- Combined with The Middle East Green Initiative the Saudi tree planting will lead to 50 billion new trees, the largest forest planting programme in the world.
 - ◇ This is estimated to reduce global carbon levels by 2.5%.
- Increased protection of the marine environment.
- Better protection of the environment.
- Reducing air pollution.
- Adapting infrastructure.



Great alignment with the EU's Green Deal

The Saudi Green Initiative is greatly aligned with the European Union's Green Deal, and share many ambitions and approaches. In both cases the use of renewable energy will be drastically increased, reforestation and afforestation will play key roles, as well protecting land and marine environments, and continuing the development of green technologies.

Working together, Saudi Arabia, the European Union and our global partners will ensure that there is an ever-developing market for new and green solutions and will invest heavily in greener infrastructure.

Together we will protect our nature and our biodiversity, both at home and abroad and we will return degraded lands to their previous state – or an even better one.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia looks forward to increasing its climate cooperation with its neighbouring countries and its partners in the European Union.

More information

For more information about the Saudi Green Initiative and The Middle East Green Initiative, please [click here](#) or contact us at brmis@mofa.gov.sa