

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Renewable Energy and Biodiversity

Multi-stakeholder Platform for Protecting Biodiversity: Inception Meeting

UN House – Beirut, Lebanon
12 & 13 July 2023



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Sweden
Sverige



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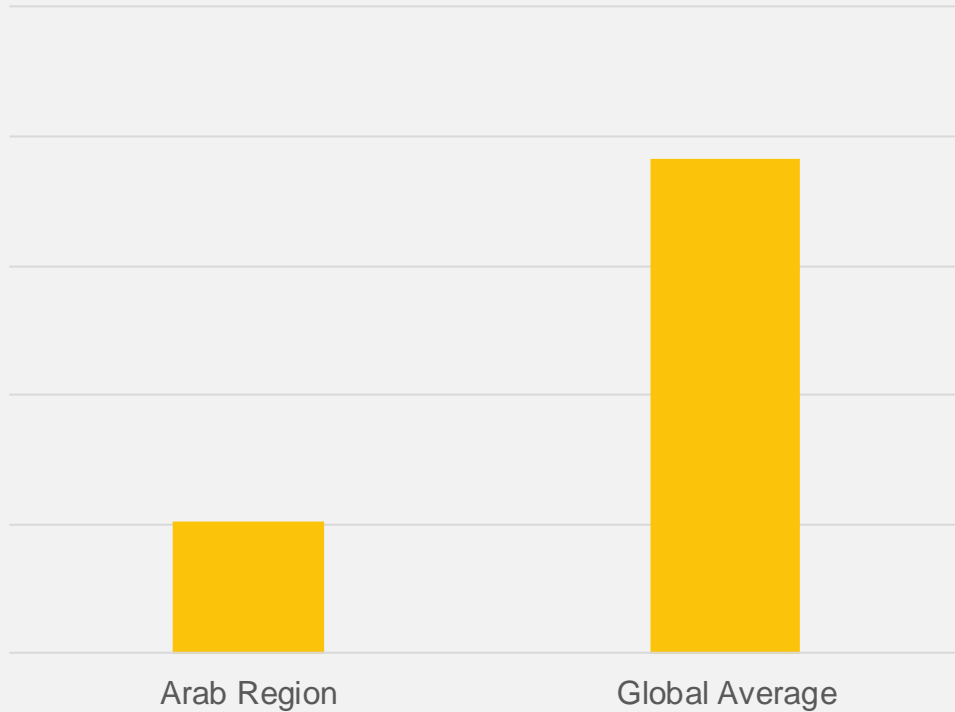
Table of content

- Current status
- Major challenges
- Opportunities for action

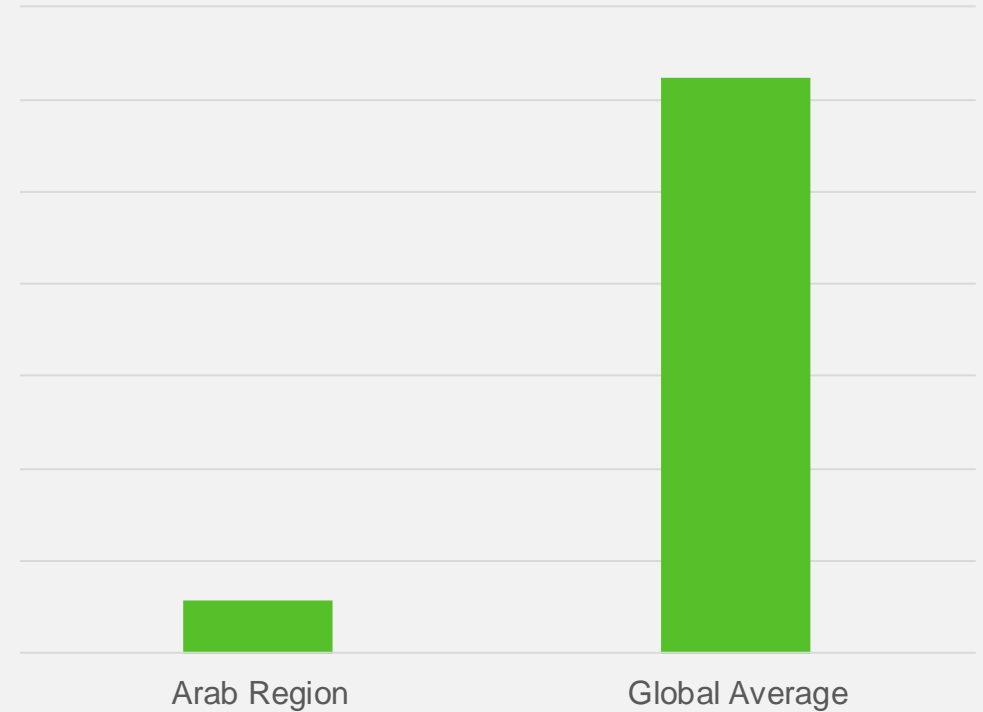
Current Status



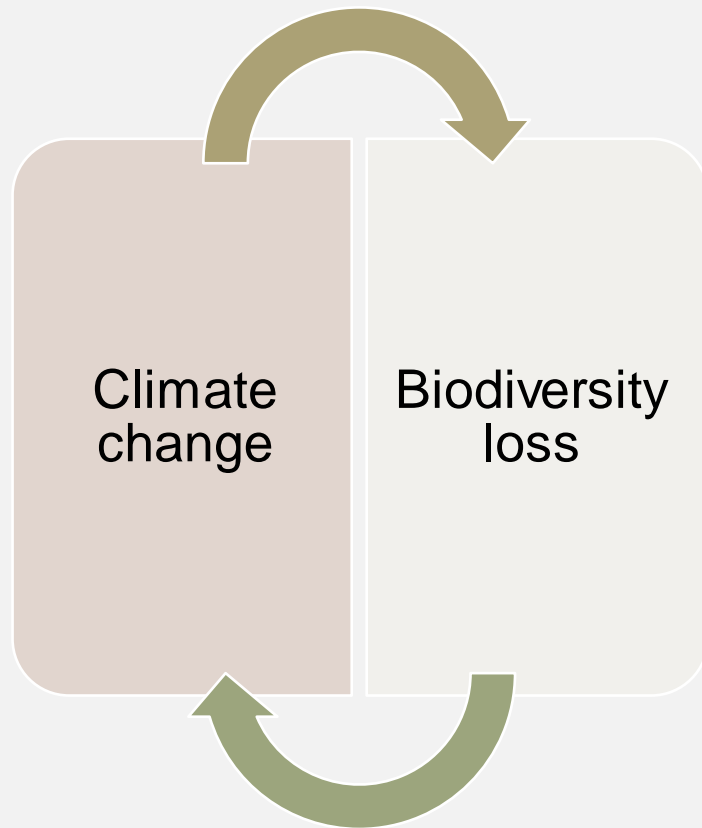
7.2.1 Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption



15.1.1 Forest area as proportion of land area



Current Status



Both the sustainable energy transition and biodiversity conservation:

- Promote sustainable development
- Involve several stakeholders and agencies
- Recognize the importance of involving local communities
- Acknowledge the adoption of different approaches to scale up solutions from local to national to regional levels.

Current Status



Renewable energy replaces fossil fuel

Current Status



Getty images



Solar panels provide shade and reduce evaporation

Current Status



Renewable energy on degraded lands

Current Status



Agrivoltaics: co-developing the same land area for both solar PV and agriculture

Current Status



Floating solar and offshore wind



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Major challenges

Major Challenges

Manufacturing of solar panels

Operation of hydropower plants

Decommissioning of wind turbines

Installation of electricity transmission lines

Raw materials extraction for RE technologies

Waste disposal from manufacturing and recycling RE components

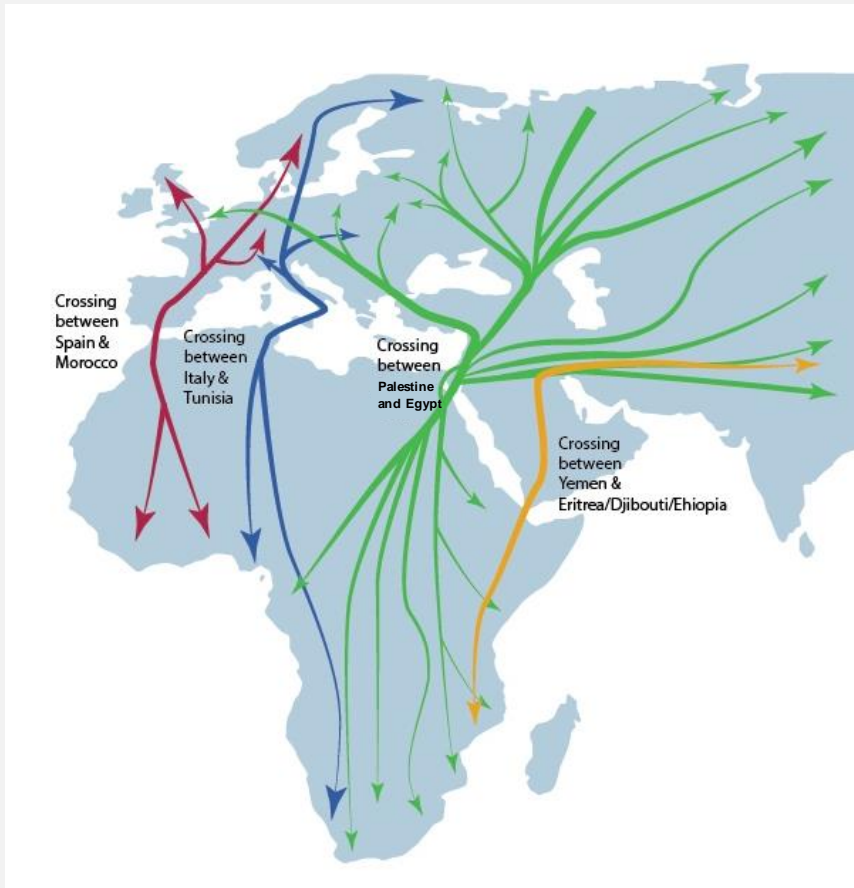
Mortality of endangered bird species from wind farms

Ingress of solar and wind farms into sensitive areas

Threat of overlap of sensitive areas with mining sites

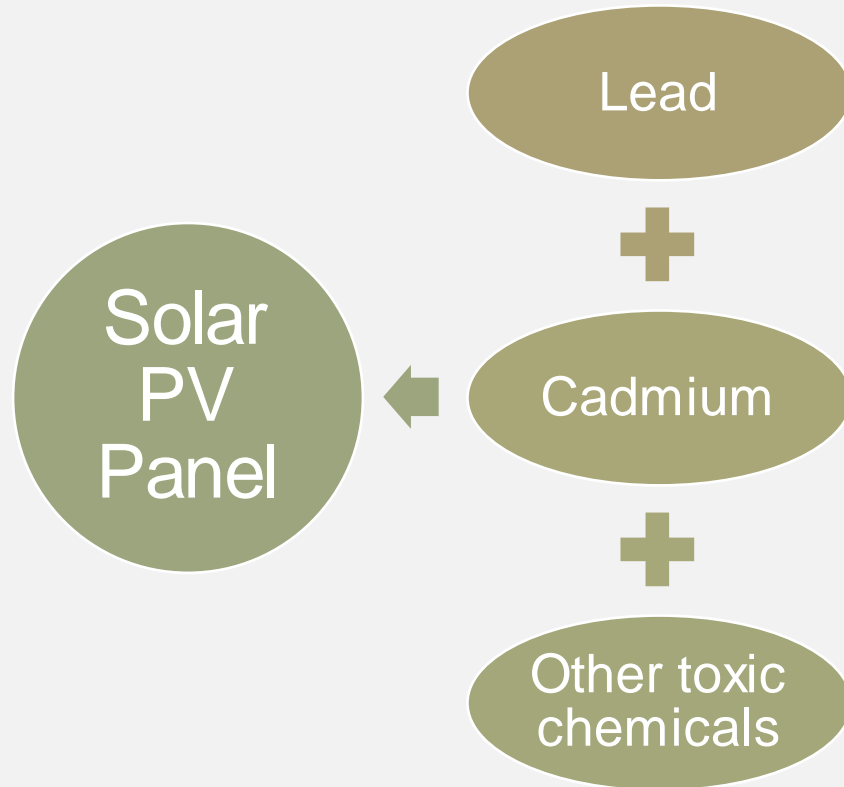
Improper disposal in landfills disrupts ecosystems and lead to habitat destruction

Major Challenges



The Arab region, located at the juncture of three continents, Europe, Asia and Africa, is the only overland bridge and acts as a giant natural funnel and a “bottle neck” for the migration of birds. More than 500 million birds pass over the region twice a year, in the autumn and spring migration.

Major Challenges



Environmental impact of the disposal of components used in renewable energy technologies during their decommissioning and their recycling/up-cycling

Major Challenges

Guidelines for RE project developers to mitigate biodiversity impacts

- Early project planning and site selection
- Renewable energy development within protected areas should be avoided
- Working with stakeholders and indigenous peoples



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Opportunities for Action

Opportunities for Action

Integrated Policies

Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation

National Action Plans

National plans with mechanisms for monitoring, reporting, and reviewing that are also compatible with increased renewable energy deployment

Adopting a mitigation hierarchy

A logical framework to address biodiversity impacts. The four sequential actions are Avoidance, Minimization, Restoration and Offsets. The first two prevent or reduce impacts, while the latter remediate impacts.

Application of overarching principles and good mitigation practices

Overarching principles to facilitate renewable energy expansion, while ensuring that biodiversity and ecosystem service risks are identified, accounted for, and effectively managed.

Financing

Investments and financing are critical for sustainable business models that protect biodiversity and ecosystem services.



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Thank you