

## Towards COP27: Arab Regional Forum on Climate Initiatives to Finance Climate Action and the SDGs Project Fact Sheet

# **Al Batina Treated Effluent Line**

## SULTANATE OF OMAN

## Climate finance purpose

Adaptation and Co-Benefits

#### Sector

Water, Agriculture and Environment

## Geographic coverage

National / 3 governorates: Muscat, Barka and Al Musana

## Description

Constructing tertiary treated effluent (TE) line with a capacity of 40,000 cubic metres per day from A' Rumais area (Barka) to Al Maghsar area (Al Musana), a length of 35 km. Omani Water and Wastewater Company (OWWSC) is working strategically to enhance utilization of tertiary treated effluent (TE) due to its environmental and economic value in various projects such as food security projects and other industrial and commercial uses.

#### Beneficiaries

The governorates: Muscat, Barka and Al Musana

## Climate rationale

As stated in the National Strategy for Adaptation and Mitigation to Climate Change for the Sultanate of Oman (2020-2040), Oman is a water-stressed country, with less than 1,000 cubic meters in freshwater availability per person per year. Keeping water supply and demand in equilibrium is a constant challenge. Soil and groundwater salinity are the most significant agricultural problem. High temperatures, less rainfall, and continuous use of saline groundwater increases the accumulation of salts in the soil. This is particularly evident due to groundwater pumping for agriculture in Al Batinah region - the most important agricultural area in the country. Over-pumping of saline groundwater since the 1990s has lowered crop yields and led to the gradual abandonment of land. The use of tertiary treated effluent (TE) from Barka–Al Musana Major alleviates water scarcity exacerbated by climate change since:

- TE is a freshwater alternative, especially for water poor countries like the Sultanate of Oman;
- TE conserves groundwater and reduces consumption of expensive desalination water, particularly in the governorates of Batinah South and North which represent 60% of the Sultanate's cultivated area;
- TE contributes directly to the expansion of the green areas for gardens, parks, home gardens or food agricultural projects.

## **Expected outcomes**

- Revival of the agricultural sector in the Al Batinah coastline, especially in areas affected by salinity.
- Supply of TE for public and private companies' strategic agricultural projects.
- Supply of TE for tourism landscaping and cooling purposes.
- Preservation of strategic groundwater reserve.
- Reduction of desalination water consumption (expensive) for agricultural and commercial purposes.
- Deployment of the green area and thus carbon emissions reduction.
- Supply of TE for the national initiative of 10 million wild trees.
- Reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions that yield out of desalination process.

Outcomes contribute to SDG 1,2,3,6, 11, 13 and 15

#### **GHG reduction target**

2,2703,373 ~ (2 Million) Ton / year reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>.

#### Project implementation period

Planned start date: 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2024 – Project duration two years after completion of the project's budgeting and completion of the necessary consultancy studies.

#### **Total Project Cost**

Amount in National Currency: OMR 16,000,000

Amount in US\$ equivalent (per 1 August 2022 exchange rate): USD 41,450,000 (\$41.5 million).

#### **Financing requirement**

Amount in National Currency: OMR 20,000,000

Amount in US\$ equivalent (per 1 August 2022 exchange rate): USD 52,000,000 (\$52 million) Due to financial constraints, there is no allocated budget for this project by government.

Expected Tenor / Duration of financing: 3-4 years

Project Status (select one): Feasibility

Contractual Structure (select one or more): Government Ownership

## **Project proponents**

Ministry of Agriculture and Fishing Wealth and Environment Authority, Oman Water & Wastewater Services Company (OWWSC) and Oman Food Investment Holding Company

## **Contact persons**

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#### Emblem/ Photo, chart or another visual asset





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