

Waste Management Outlook for

WEST ASIA

2019

WASTE TO WEALTH



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*The **International Environmental Technology Centre***

*works with developing countries to implement
sustainable solutions to environmental challenges,
with focus on holistic waste management.*

Foreword

I am delighted to introduce to you the first Waste Management Outlook for the West Asia region. It follows and complements the Global Waste Management Outlook published by UN Environment Programme in 2015 and a series of regionally focused Waste Management Outlooks. These Outlooks serve as one of the tools for policy makers, academia and civil society to help and guide them toward the sustainable and integrated management of waste.



The West Asia region includes twelve countries with unique and distinctive waste management needs. For instance, conflicts throughout this decade have had a severe impact on the environment. Countries in the Region suffer from increasingly severe climatic conditions and poor waste management systems. Common throughout the world is the need for a sustainable waste management system that incorporates a profound shift from the current “linear” economic model to a circular economy development model that reduces waste prior to its generation, reuses it or recycles it, returning it to the supply chain to deliver social, economic and environmental benefits.

The Waste Management Outlook for West Asia gives an overview of the current waste management situation in the region and analyses potential solutions to current waste management issues. The rise in population from 99 million in 2000 to 155 million in 2016 and the increased exploitation of resources are the main drivers of these waste management challenges. In 2016, while the municipal solid waste generated was estimated at 60.4 million tons, only 11% of the waste generated was treated. The treatment capacity deficiency, estimated at 46.4 million tons of waste, can be developed to create revenues through the use of the proper waste collection, treatment and disposal management systems. The life cycles of products should be fully utilized to minimize the waste and emissions generated. It is also crucial to mention that untreated waste ultimately has a great impact on the health of the population.

This Outlook for West Asia sets out a future progression of sustainable waste management that will enable the region to transition from one dependent on the low cost of dumping waste to one utilizing waste as a resource. The Outlook is set within the context of driving regional economic growth and the development of a range of investment opportunities in waste management services and added value circular economic activities. To support this, it proposes new methods to deal with waste treatment in a sustainable framework.

The Waste Management Outlook for West Asia is a ‘Regional Outlook’ commissioned by UN Environment Programme’s West Asia Office in partnership with the International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC), the Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE) and the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA). I wish to express my gratitude to these three partners in particular and indeed to everyone who contributed to the compilation and publication of the Outlook.

A blue ink signature of Sami Dimassi, written in a cursive style.

Sami Dimassi

Director and Regional Representative
UN Environment Programme West Asia Office

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Core Team:

Lead Author and Editor

Paul Dumble (Independent Waste Specialist, Paul's Environment Ltd, United Kingdom)

Co-Authors

Dr. Ihab Tarek (Ph.D, International expert on environmental legislation, Ex-Environment Governance Regional Coordinator at UN Environment Programme, Appeal Court Chief in Egypt), Abdul-Sattar Nizami (Ph.D, Assistant Professor & Head of Solid Waste Management Unit, Center of Excellence in Environmental Studies (CEES), King Abdulaziz University, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)

Authorship of the eight chapters

Chapter 1: Introduction

Ihab Tarek, Abdul Sattar Nizami and Paul Dumble

Chapter 2: Status of the Region in Waste Management

Abdul Sattar Nizami and Paul Dumble

Chapter 3: Special Regional Features

Abdul Sattar Nizami and Paul Dumble

Chapter 4: Waste Governance

Ihab Tarek and Paul Dumble

Chapter 5: Technologies, Waste Systems and Operations

Paul Dumble

Chapter 6: Business and Economic Opportunities in Waste

Paul Dumble

Chapter 7: Sustainable Development Goals

Paul Dumble

Chapter 8: The Way Forward

Ihab Tarek and Paul Dumble

Project Management Team

UN Environment Programme Project Coordination

Abdul-Majeid Haddad (Deputy Regional Director), Iyngararasan Mylvakana (Programme Officer)

CEDARE Project Coordination

Hossam Allam (Regional Programme Director), Ghada Moghny (Programme Coordinator), Terry Fahmy (Regional Programme Specialist), Rym Hazem (Programme Assistant), Lamia Nabil (Communication Consultant)

Special Acknowledgements

Peer Reviewers

Dr. David C. Wilson (Independent Waste and Resource Management Consultant, Visiting Professor in Waste Management at Imperial College London, UK), Dr. Linda Godfrey (Manager, Waste RDI Roadmap Implementation Unit, DST, Principal Scientist, Waste for Development, CSIR, Extraordinary Associate Professor, North-West University, South Africa), Dr. Prasad Modak (Executive President, Environmental Management Centre LLP, Mumbai, India), Prof. Agamuthu Pariatamby (Editor in Chief - Waste Management & Research, Editor in Chief- Malaysian Journal of Science, Head-Center for Research in Waste Management, Professor - Institute of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Science, University of Malaya, Malaysia), Dr. Otto Simonett (Director, Zoi Environment Network, Switzerland), Mr. Arne Ragossnig (Managing Director, International Solid Waste Association [ISWA]), Mohamed Tawfic Ahmed (PhD [London] DIC, Professor of Environmental Toxicology, Suez Canal University, Egypt)

Production Team

Mohamed Aman (Bahrain), Firas Shehab (Iraq), Hajar Majar (Jordan), Abdullah Al Otibi (Kuwait), Ali Mroweh (Lebanon), Ahmed Al Zadjali (Oman), Dalia Al Asmar (Palestine), Hamad Jassim Al-Bahar (Qatar), Arwa Rashed (United Arab Emirates)

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International Solid Waste Association General Secretariat

Auerspergstrasse 15, Top 41, 1080 Vienna, Austria
Tel.: +43 1 253 6001 Fax: +43 1 253 6001 99
Email: iswa@iswa.org Web: www.iswa.org

Copy Editor: Tara Cannon

Design and layout: Mohamed Solyman, Yasser Hamdy

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