



**The UNCC Follow-Up Programme for
Environmental Awards
and the Implementation of Saudi Arabia's
Projects**





United Nations Compensation Commission



The Security Council established the UN Compensation Commission (UNCC) and the UN Compensation Fund in 1991 for the purpose of processing and paying claims for loss and damage arising from the 1991 invasion and occupation of Kuwait by Iraq.



Environmental Damage



■ Kuwait

- 700 oil wells set on fire by the retreating forces
- Other wells released vast quantities of oil into the desert - 300 oil lakes
- Vast areas covered in tarcrete
- Groundwater polluted





Environmental Damage



■ Saudi Arabia

- 50% of the coastline severely contaminated by largest marine oil spill in history
- Extensive damage suffered in northern deserts from construction of military encampments, military activities and movement of a high number of military vehicles and troops in the allied offensive

■ Jordan and Iran

- Degradation of the rangeland as a result of refugee immigration whose livestock grazed the vegetation beyond its carrying capacity





Claims Processing

- Claims filed for individuals, corporations, and governments:
 - Approximately 100 governments submitted claims
 - 13 international organizations submitted claims for individuals who were not in a position to have their claims filed by government

- Approximately 2.7 million claims in six categories filed:
 - Amount claimed: approximately \$352.5 billion
 - Total amount awarded: approximately \$52 billion
 - Paid to date: \$46 billion
 - Remains to be paid approximately \$6 billion



Environmental Claims Processing



- The UNCC reviewed 170 environmental claims (‘the F4 claims’):
 - The UNCC received claims totalling approximately \$85 billion and awarded a total of \$5.3 billion in compensation for environmental and natural resource damages



Follow-Up Programme for Environmental Awards



- Established in December 2005 under Decision 258 to monitor the environmental remediation projects being undertaken by the four participating Governments of Iran, Jordan, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, using \$4.3 billion in funds awarded for environmental damages
- During the claims processing F4 panel reports with recommendations of the technical elements for each project's implementation
- Projects unprecedented in their size and complexity
- Oversight to ensure financial transparency and technical reasonableness



Saudi Arabia's Projects

- **Project 5000455 (phased project):**
\$618,974,433: military damage to terrestrial rangeland.
- **Project 5000451 (phased project):**
\$463,319,284: remediation of damage to coastal resources.
- **Project 5000463:**
\$46,113,706: compensatory project for intertidal shoreline habitats.
- **Project 5000465:**
\$6,172,274: remediation of damage to marine resources (Sunken oil).



Programme Administration and Management



- UNCC
 - Governing Council
 - UNCC Secretariat
 - Independent Reviewers

- Participating Governments
 - National Focal Point
 - Project Management Support Contractors
 - Project contractors
 - Stakeholders



Oversight of the Programme



- Biannual reporting
 - by National Focal Point (NFP)
 - by Independent Reviewers

- Programme review
 - The Secretariat
 - Independent Reviewers
 - Governing Council



Oversight of the Programme

- Project plans and phasing plans
 - Prepared by NFP
 - Reviewed by Independent Reviewers and Secretariat
 - Noted by the Governing Council
- Funding releases for phased projects
 - Request made by NFP
 - Reviewed by Independent Reviewers and Secretariat
 - Authorized by the Governing Council



Decision 269: Programme Fulfillment



- Decision 269 arises from paragraph 6 of decision 258, which provides that:

“prior to the eventual disestablishment of the UNCC Governing Council, the Council will consider further arrangements with regard to its review functions.”



Decision 269: Programme Fulfillment



- Purpose of decision 269 is to fulfill the mandate of decision 258 in the near-term through each Government's establishment of structural systems and controls coupled with assurances through which the Governments will undertake to:
 - Continue to implement the projects in a transparent manner in line with the F4 panel approved awards;
 - Ensure transparency and appropriateness through internal oversight.



Decision 269

- The systems and controls were as follows:
 - a) strong management and administration infrastructure;
 - b) reasonable project plans and related budgets;
 - c) accounting and treasury systems and procedures;
 - d) adequate and coherent audit processes to ensure that appropriate financial controls are in place; and
 - e) transparent procurement processes.

- Assurances – to be provided by Government to the Governing Council

- Advisory expert panels to assist the NFPs



Saudi Arabia: Effective Implementation, building a legacy



Achievements of Saudi Arabia:

- Continue to implement their projects in line with F4 panel recommendations
- 99% of the work is now contracted or in the tender process
- In December 2012 Saudi Arabia materially met the requirements of decision 269 with respect to the establishment of the requisite systems and controls
- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was officially released from the programme in May 2013 upon receipt of the written assurances



Saudi Arabia: Effective Implementation, building a legacy



Achievements of Saudi Arabia:

- UNCC Governing Council recognition of significant and committed progress
- Important legacy for KSA
- KSA RRP programme has taken important key steps
- It is hoped that these valuable efforts will be recognised both regionally and globally and that future beneficial environmental interventions are further initiated by the Government of Saudi Arabia



Saudi Arabia: Effective Implementation, building a legacy



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