

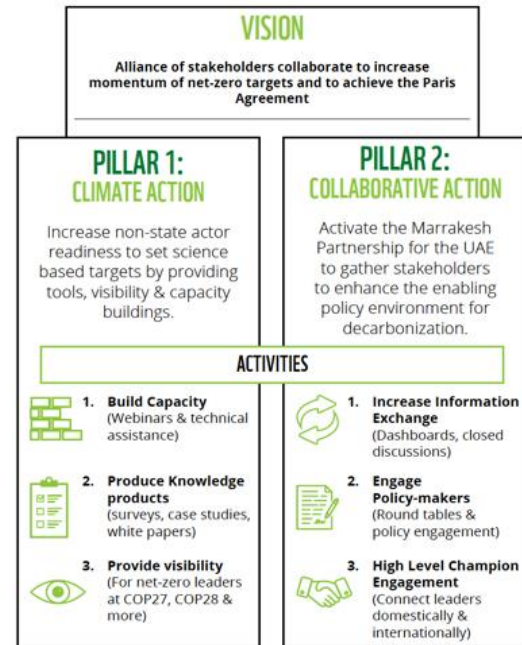
UAE Alliance for Climate Action

Background

The project’s vision is to create a multi-stakeholder alliance to increase momentum of near- and long-term net-zero targets that are credible, transparent and verifiable and see greater public-private collaboration to achieve the Paris Agreement.

UACA’s objectives are to:

1. Demonstrating a surge of ambition and action at the sub-national level to give national stakeholders the confidence to ratchet up ambition;
2. Address policy barriers which will further increase ambition and implementation and signal to stakeholders the need to ratchet up ambition;
3. Increase amount of Sub-national and non-state actors (SNSAs) setting credible, transparent and verifiable net-zero near and long terms targets and to drive implementation and action;
4. Build a whole of society approach to collaborate in activating policy and solutions to achieve net-zero for the UAE by 2050;
5. Produce value by delivering knowledge products, capacity building and collaboration.



The project will have two key pillars of work:

1. **Climate Action:** Increase SNSA readiness to set credible, transparent and verifiable near (2030) and long-term (2050) targets to achieve net zero by 2050 by providing tools, visibility & capacity building¹.
2. **Collaborative Action:** Activate the Marrakesh Partnership at the UAE level to bring together stakeholders to enhance the enabling policy environment for an economy-wide decarbonization.

As the strategic implementing partner for MOCCA’s Climate-Responsible pledge for the corporate sector, UACA is also aligning with the UAE Special Envoy for Climate Change and incoming High-Level Champion (HLC) for COP28. The HLC will be a key stakeholder for UACA given that the Marrakesh Partnership for Global Climate Action, the mandate of the champions, prominently features Alliances for Climate Action (ACAs), detailed below, as an important engagement tool for the champion’s agenda in order to broaden and deepen engagement.



¹ Targets must aim to achieve at least 50% decrease of emissions by 2030 and 90% by 2050.

Global Momentum: Alliances for Climate Action

Alliances for Climate Action (ACA) is a network of national alliances dedicated to driving ambitious climate action. These national alliances are unique because they include a diversity of voices representing over 6,000 climate leaders from nearly every sector of society—state, local, and regional governments; companies and investors; academic and cultural institutions; tribal organizations and faith communities; healthcare institutions, and civil society across key geographies including the Global South.

WWF International is the global coordination unit of the initiative which is shared and supported by several other institutes such as CDP, C40 cities, and more. There are currently 8 global alliances and growing with presence in: Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Japan, Mexico, South Africa, Vietnam, and the United States. **The UAE Alliance for Climate Action is confirmed to be the newest addition to the global network of ACAs.**



ACAs are a global accelerator of the Race to Zero campaign and are now a concrete example for SNSA action to activate the Marrakesh Partnership and Glasgow Pact. Strengthening ACAs is also firmly on the action agenda for the Marrakesh Partnership for Global Climate Action (MPGCA) as a way to broaden and deepen engagement globally and is anticipated to be on the agenda for successive COP High Level Champions (HLC), which is likely to also be part of the COP28 HLC's agenda.

Key Stakeholders

EN-WWF recognizes the importance of cooperation and collaboration to build a whole-of-society approach. To do this, UACA will work with stakeholders that are already operating in the space of net-zero so that collaboratively we achieve the ambition of the UAE Net Zero 2050 Strategic Initiative and the Paris Agreement. UACA will engage with four key groups of stakeholders to collaborate and increase momentum:

- **Partner Organizations:** Like-minded organizations join as partner organizations that can provide technical support and collaborate to drive mutual objectives of credible, transparent, and verifiable net-zero targets and implementation/action.
- **Leaders Advisory Committee:** Climate change and net-zero leaders in the UAE that can help by providing critical advice to UACA on its approach and activities in a way that is aligned to UAE ambition and provides relevant information to members.
- **Members:** Organizations joining the alliance and aligning to the UACA commitment which includes the alliance principles and committing to increase its ambition over time.
- **Donors:** organizations committed to seeing UACA succeed and in funding its activities to ensure members receive high value and the project is delivering on its climate ambition.

Alliance Joining Principles & Member Commitment

UACA members will need to pledge to align themselves to two key components of the alliance which are:

1. **The alliance principles:** guiding principles that each member will commit to in order to ensure the alliance remains credible, evidence-based, collaborative and more.
2. **The alliance member trajectory:** Whilst UACA wishes to include any actor wherever they may be in their decarbonization journey, members will also commit to working towards increasing their ambition over time to be more progressive and work towards net-zero commitments in the short and long term, in line as much as possible with the recommended time frames of advancement. In the case where stakeholders are finding it difficult to the next tier, they will be allowed to submit a request for an extension period, sufficing that they have demonstrated active participation in the alliance. Furthermore, for companies, UACA will be to join the Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi) where a sector guidance exists and where companies have the capacity to apply.

Project Activities

UACA's ambitions, are to deliver a multitude of activities under the project umbrella to build capacity, engage on policy recommendations and be a convenor for solutions. However, given that not all funding has been secured for the project, UACA will phase in activities when possible once funding is secured.

Objective 1: Climate Action					
Activity	Item	Eligibility			
1.1 Capacity Building: Provide local and technical support to SNSAs in their journey towards decarbonization to reduce the UAE's emissions and achieve net-zero.	i. Introductory Webinars	ALLIANCE MEMBER	ALLIANCE ACHIEVER	ALLIANCE LEADER	ALLIANCE LEADER+
	ii. EN-WWF Technical Support	ALLIANCE MEMBER	ALLIANCE ACHIEVER	ALLIANCE LEADER	ALLIANCE LEADER+
	iii. Technical Webinars or workshops		ALLIANCE ACHIEVER	ALLIANCE LEADER	ALLIANCE LEADER+
	iv. Expert consultant		ALLIANCE ACHIEVER	ALLIANCE LEADER	ALLIANCE LEADER+
1.2 Data & Information Generate new and informative local data and insights to galvanize momentum and support UAE companies set net-zero targets to rapidly decarbonize.	i. Local case studies	ALLIANCE MEMBER	ALLIANCE ACHIEVER	ALLIANCE LEADER	ALLIANCE LEADER+
	ii. Surveys	ALLIANCE MEMBER	ALLIANCE ACHIEVER	ALLIANCE LEADER	ALLIANCE LEADER+
	iii. Reports		ALLIANCE ACHIEVER	ALLIANCE LEADER	ALLIANCE LEADER+
	iv. Whitepapers	ALLIANCE MEMBER	ALLIANCE ACHIEVER	ALLIANCE LEADER	ALLIANCE LEADER+
1.3 Provide Visibility: offer reputational incentives for actors to advocate and engage on the topic of science-based targets.	i. COP27	ALLIANCE MEMBER	ALLIANCE ACHIEVER	ALLIANCE LEADER	ALLIANCE LEADER+
	ii. MENA CW	ALLIANCE MEMBER	ALLIANCE ACHIEVER	ALLIANCE LEADER	ALLIANCE LEADER+
	iii. COP28		ALLIANCE ACHIEVER	ALLIANCE LEADER	ALLIANCE LEADER+
	iv. Communications & Marketing	ALLIANCE MEMBER	ALLIANCE ACHIEVER	ALLIANCE LEADER	ALLIANCE LEADER+
	v. Publishing Knowledge Products	ALLIANCE MEMBER	ALLIANCE ACHIEVER	ALLIANCE LEADER	ALLIANCE LEADER+
2.1 Increase information exchange: Provide pathways for information sharing across all actors.	i. Information Sharing Platform	ALLIANCE MEMBER	ALLIANCE ACHIEVER	ALLIANCE LEADER	ALLIANCE LEADER+
	ii. Annual Conference (start Y2)	ALLIANCE MEMBER	ALLIANCE ACHIEVER	ALLIANCE LEADER	ALLIANCE LEADER+
	iii. Participant Matching	ALLIANCE MEMBER	ALLIANCE ACHIEVER	ALLIANCE LEADER	ALLIANCE LEADER+
2.2 Engage policy makers: Use knowledge products to produce key policy recommendations in sectoral or issue-based areas to enhance the enabling environment to decarbonize and set SBTs.	i. Roundtables		ALLIANCE ACHIEVER	ALLIANCE LEADER	ALLIANCE LEADER+
	ii. 1-1 Meetings with policy makers		ALLIANCE ACHIEVER	ALLIANCE LEADER	ALLIANCE LEADER+
2.3 CEO & High-level Dialogue: Learn from one another at the highest level to further embed science-based targets into organizations.	i. Champion Dialogues		ALLIANCE ACHIEVER	ALLIANCE LEADER	ALLIANCE LEADER+

UAE Alliance for Climate Action Joining Principles & Pledge

We, as sub-national and non-state actors pledge to stand at the forefront of global challenges in order to realize the decarbonized society envisioned by the Paris Agreement and by the UAE Net-Zero 2050 Strategic Initiative (NZSI). We acknowledge that the window to close the gap on global emissions and stay within a 1.5°C world is rapidly decreasing. This decade is critical to ensure that global emissions are cut in half to attain the target of net-zero emissions by 2050.

We recognise that we, the private sector, academia, financial institutions, emirate level entities and more, have and will play an immense role in achieving 2030 and 2050 emission reduction targets. Global momentum has already started, and we need to ensure that this momentum is maintained domestically and internationally and that a renewed focus on action is accelerated to not only address the Paris Agreement but generate new opportunities for growth, development, and innovation towards a truly low-carbon and climate resilient economy.

To achieve this domestic action, we commit to joining the UAE Alliance for Climate Action with the ambition to demonstrate a surge of ambition and action at the sub-national level. We commit to taking concrete climate action both individually and collaboratively to make the Paris Agreement's 1.5 °C temperature limit a reality. We will serve as a bridge between non-state actors and the UAE government to collaborate and synergize our efforts to increase domestic and global ambition and will work collaboratively with the other Alliances for Climate Action to overcome the crisis of climate change. As UAE Alliance for Climate Action members, we will work together in alignment with the UAE Alliance for Climate Change Principles, which are:

1. We will promote the need for *credible, transparent, verifiable* near and long term 2050 net-zero targets and action to align to the Paris Agreement.
2. We will be as *transparent* as possible when sharing our experiences, challenges, progress and more when it relates to industry interest².
3. We will enter the alliance with a truly *collaborative* spirit.
4. While members will be encouraged to join at any point in their journey, we will strive to be as *ambitious* as possible and increase *ambition* over time where possible for the collective group to push towards greater adoption of emission cuts to keep warming to 1.5°C.
5. We will *participate* in deciding what content, reports, surveys, webinars, whitepapers and more should be explored to truly achieve what is needed in the UAE to deliver on our decarbonization ambition and collaborate across members to synergize and broaden engagement where possible.

We will strive to working towards moving up in progressivity in UACA's member ambition criteria and we will aim to progress to a leadership position to the best of our capability and in line with the principles above.

UACA Commitment Signed by:

Signatory of Organization (Senior Leadership Position) & Name of Organization

² Information sharing shall be limited to sharing knowledge and information of general industry interest, while respecting the need to refrain from any discussions of commercially sensitive, or confidential information in relation to participants' business.

UAE Alliance for Climate Action – Membership Levels & Criteria

We, as UACA member joiners, pledge to join at one of the following stages and will aim, to the best of our capacity, to move up to the next member criteria within 24 months.

Member Category	Entry Criteria	To the best of our ability we will move to the next member stage within
Alliance Member	<p><u>We as Alliance Members</u> pledge to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Action: Participate in dialogue, information-sharing, learning and commit to raising the bar on our organization’s decarbonization journey. 	24 months
Alliance Achiever	<p><u>We as Alliance Achievers</u> have met the criteria of the Alliance Members and also commit, that we are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Action: Actively working towards setting a credible, verifiable and transparent net-zero target in greenhouse gases (GHGs) by mid-century at least and will set an interim target to achieve in the next decade a target that reflects our maximum effort towards halving <i>CO2</i> emissions by 2030. Where possible, we will attempt to align to the Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi) methodology. For us multinationals (MNCs), we will work domestically to advance our local ambition and where possible liaising with our global teams who are assessing global targets to feed our experiences into their target setting planning. Climate Advocacy: Pledge to externally advocate for and align policy engagement to the goal of halving emissions by 2030 and reaching net-zero by 2050. 	24 months
Alliance Leader	<p><u>We as Alliance Leaders</u> have met the criteria of Alliance Achievers and also commit that we will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Action: Announce to UACA a specific timeframe in which we will set a credible and <i>verifiable</i> net-zero target. Where possible, as corporates, we will to commit to SBTi indicating our intention to submit a target for validation within 24 months. For us MNCs with global net-zero targets, we will work domestically and regionally, where possible to ensure deeper integration of our targets to contribute to our global ambition and increase action and implementation. 	24 months
Alliance Leader+	<p><u>We as Alliance Leaders+</u> have met the criteria of Alliance Leader and also commit that we will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Action: have publicly released our <i>verifiable</i> and <i>credible</i> 2030 and 2050 net-zero target or target is verified by SBTi Climate Advocacy: Identify ways to embed nature in our net-zero plans and will propose new projects to protect biodiversity and halt deforestation. We also commit to finding ways to invest in finding ways to go beyond our value chain to achieve global net-zero. 	No time limit



Terms of Reference in Joining UAE Alliance for Climate Action

We recognize that in order for UACA as a group is maintain credibility and effectiveness that UACA reserves the right to remove organizations from membership if:

- Members have not participated in webinars, discussions, member votes, workshops, reports or policy papers in the last 12 months, and
- Who have not responded to the notice letter sent by UACA about its lack of participation. The organization will have a 6-month window in which it can demonstrate greater participation in the alliance or showcase the internal progress they have made towards setting credible 2030 and 2050 net-zero targets *and* if;
- If the organization's core business/businesses, subsidiaries, participation, recent activities, news, acquisitions or reports would be judged to undermine UACA's reputation as a network taking a leading role in addressing climate change or considered to be out of line with truly decarbonization by 50% by 2030 and credible net-zero by 2050.

UACA reserves the right to conduct due diligence for interested signatories to ensure that there is no risk that new members impact the credibility of the alliance or that their joining would be considered greenwashing.

We as members also recognize that UACA will strictly be a platform for sharing knowledge, experiences and tools and to enhance and encourage collaboration and **will not** be used as a platform for selling or promoting services or technologies.