



FOOD SYSTEMS  
**NDC** SCORECARD

# UAE Assessment

September 2025

# I. Introduction

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is a coastal country on the eastern part of the Arabian Peninsula overlooking the Persian Gulf. The UAE has a hyperarid desert climate, two seasons (summer and winter), and scarce fresh water ([The United Arab Emirates' Third Nationally Determined Contribution \(NDC 3.0\): Accelerating Action Towards Mission 1.5C](#) [NDC], p. 10). The UAE is a high-income country with a high-impact diet (see [Food Systems NDC Scorecard methodology](#), Appendices II, IV). The political system is a constitutional federation of seven emirates ([UAE fact sheet](#)). The UAE's economy has been based on energy exportation, and oil exportation still makes up about 25% of the GDP ([NDC](#), p. 12).

The UAE submitted its NDC on November 6, 2024 ([NDC Registry](#)). The NDC details the creation of the UAE Net Zero by 2050 strategic initiative led by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA) ([NDC](#), p. 17). The NDC describes the initiative as a comprehensive and society-wide endeavor that includes the 2035 targets ([NDC](#), p. 17). The NDC sets forth the UAE's goal for a 47% reduction in GHG emissions by 2035 from 2019 levels, reducing its anticipated emissions to 103.5 Mt (megatonnes) CO<sub>2</sub>-e ([NDC](#), p. 19). The NDC notes that the UAE intends to decrease its agricultural emissions by 38%, from 4.2 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e in 2019 to 2.6 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e in 2035 ([NDC](#), p. 20).

This NDC was evaluated according to the [Food Systems NDC Scorecard methodology](#), using the documents below. All scores are based on evaluations of the NDC and documents cited in each area of the assessment. Where not specified, in this assessment "NDC" may refer to content in an NDC submission document or other documents analyzed as part of the NDC (see Appendix).

For the UAE, we analyzed the [NDC](#) and the [Emirates Sustainable Agriculture Label system](#). We were unable to evaluate the National Food Security Strategy 2051 referenced in the NDC, as the document is not publicly available. This omission or unavailability of policies may affect the accuracy of scoring. For additional information on policies considered in this evaluation, please see the Appendix. Original documents not available in English were translated using DeepL.

## United Arab Emirates Overall Score: Strong

### Specific to Food System

Scope of food systems coverage



Context-specific action



Promoting synergies and avoiding maladaptation



### Broader Considerations

Equity and inclusiveness in NDC development



Total Score

8.5/12

## II. Scope of Food Systems Coverage (0–3 points)

### TOTAL AREA SCORE = 1 POINT (WEAK)

In this area, the scorecard framework evaluates whether the NDC or policies referenced within the NDC addresses each stage of the food system to assess the full extent of the country's climate mitigation and adaptation potential. The stages are as follows: (1) food production; (2) food loss; (3) food processing; (4) food distribution; (5) food consumption, including food access, diets, and nutrition; and (6) food waste. This area does not assess the policies' benefits or harms; these considerations are addressed in subsequent areas of this assessment. The NDC will receive a "strong" score of 3 points if it addresses all subareas; a "medium" score of 2 points if it addresses at least food production, food consumption, and either food loss or waste; a "weak" score of 1 point if it addresses at least one subarea; and an "absent" score of 0 points if no subarea is addressed.

Since the UAE's NDC demonstrates action at all stages of the food system except food consumption, it received **a weak score of 1 point** for the scope of food systems coverage area.

#### (1) Food production

The NDC demonstrates action at the food production stage through initiatives to increase local food production, among other policies ([NDC](#), p. 37). The NDC highlights that the National Food Security Strategy 2051 includes the aim of promoting local food production and mentions that, for example, in the Emirate of Sharjah, the government has implemented vertical-farming projects, invested in sustainable wheat cultivation, and established organic farms ([NDC](#), p. 37). Additionally, the NDC discusses the role of climate-controlled greenhouse projects ([NDC](#), p. 37).

#### (2) Food loss

The NDC demonstrates action at the food loss stage through Ne'ma, a national food loss and waste initiative ([NDC](#), p. 31). The program aims to address loss and waste "throughout the entire value chain" ([NDC](#), p. 31). Nothing in the NDC indicates other policies that address food loss.

#### (3) Food processing

The NDC demonstrates action at the food processing stage through Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology (MoIAT) food safety regulations ([NDC](#), p. 31). MoIAT reviews and permits the use of food contact materials according to safety and quality requirements ([NDC](#), p. 31). The Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority also plays a role in ensuring food safety ([NDC](#), p. 37). The NDC does not include other policies that address food processing.

#### (4) Food distribution

The NDC demonstrates action at the food distribution stage through the National Food Security Strategy 2051, which aims to reduce the carbon footprint associated with food transportation by growing food locally ([NDC](#), p. 36). The NDC does not include other policies that address food distribution.

#### (5) Food consumption

Nothing in the NDC suggests action in this subarea.

#### (6) Food waste

The NDC demonstrates action at the food waste stage through the Emirates Manjam initiative, which implements waste sorting at the source and establishes collection centers in residential neighborhoods ([NDC](#), p. 31). Additionally, the NDC aims to reduce waste emissions by diverting organic waste from landfills and sets diversion rate targets of 50% by 2025 and 80% by 2031 ([NDC](#), p. 30).

### III. Context-Specific Action (0–3 points)

#### TOTAL AREA SCORE = 2 POINTS (MEDIUM)

In this area, the scorecard framework evaluates the depth of food systems integration within the NDC through a framework of seven critical subareas for climate change mitigation and adaptation in the food system: (1) addressing food insecurity and malnutrition, (2) mitigating emissions in food production, (3) reducing fossil fuel use in the food system, (4) reducing agricultural deforestation, (5) shifting from high-impact dietary patterns, (6) reducing food loss and/or waste, and (7) enhancing climate-resilient food production. Subareas 6 and 7 are evaluated for all countries, and the other five are evaluated if applicable to a given country.

Subarea 1 is evaluated for all countries except high-income countries. Although food insecurity is present in high-income countries, this subarea is assessed only for low- and middle-income countries where the prevalence of food insecurity and malnutrition are associated with greater climate vulnerabilities. Subareas 2 and 3 are evaluated for high- and upper-middle-income countries only. Subarea 4 is scored for countries that are ranked among the 25 countries with the highest rates of agricultural deforestation according to Global Forest Watch data, and subarea 5 is evaluated for countries with a high-impact diet—countries whose consumption of animal-source foods (ASFs) exceeds EAT-Lancet recommendations by 25%.

The action in each applicable subarea is first assessed as strong, medium, weak, or absent:

- Actions are strong when a specific policy has been adopted or a plan to adopt a specific policy is in place.
- Actions are medium when an intent to take action is mentioned (i.e., no detailed implementation plan exists).
- Actions are weak if only a descriptive mention of it is included and absent when no action is mentioned.

On the basis of these assessments, the NDC will receive a strong, medium, weak, or absent rating for the area as a whole. (See more details in the [Food Systems NDC Scorecard methodology](#), p. 7.)

Subarea 1 was not evaluated because the UAE is a high-income country. Subarea 4 was evaluated but not scored because the UAE is not one of the countries with the highest rates of agricultural deforestation.

Since the UAE's NDC demonstrates strong action in all applicable subareas except subarea 5, the NDC received **a medium score of 2 points** for the context-specific action area.

#### (1) Addressing food insecurity and malnutrition

This subarea was not analyzed for the UAE.

#### (2) Mitigating emissions in food production

In its NDC, the UAE shows action toward mitigating emissions in food production. For example, the NDC discusses how incorporating the use of the moringa plant in agriculture can help with water scarcity issues and improve soil health (NDC, p. 59). This was counted as a measure toward mitigating emissions in food production, as healthier soil can improve biodiversity, crop productivity, nutrient density of edibles, and human health, as well as maintain or increase carbon storage and decrease topsoil erosion (FAO, [Healthy Soils Are the Basis for Healthy Food Production](#), pp. 1–2). Additionally, the NDC notes actions taken by the Sharjah government to increase local food production, including through organic farms and vertical-farming projects, and describes these as “aligning with ... reducing carbon emissions” (NDC, p. 37).

### **(3) Reducing fossil fuel use in the food system**

The NDC indicates a goal of reducing emissions from the grid-connected power sector by 50% from 2019 levels by 2035 ([NDC](#), p. 21). The NDC includes plans to transition from fossil fuels and expand solar capacity, along with other possible energy sources ([NDC](#), p. 21). While the NDC does not explicitly mention reducing fossil fuel use in the food system, a reduction from the power grid itself would ultimately impact food systems.

### **(4) Reducing agricultural deforestation**

Although we did not score the NDC on reducing agricultural deforestation, the NDC notes the UAE's leadership as COP28 president and in introducing, alongside CBD COP15 president China, the Joint Statement on Climate, Nature, and People at COP28. This joint statement was reflected in the UAE Consensus, and it calls for "halting and reversing deforestation by 2030" ([NDC](#), p. 7). The NDC also mentions the UAE's mangrove afforestation initiative, though without a specific food systems lens ([NDC](#), pp. 39–40).

### **(5) Shifting from high-impact dietary patterns**

Nothing in the NDC suggests action in this subarea.

### **(6) Reducing food loss and/or waste**

The NDC sets a target goal of reducing organic waste emissions through more recycling and waste-to-energy initiatives, including the implementation of national regulations that promote proper waste handling of plastic, used cooking oil, and other materials ([NDC](#), p. 30). The NDC also discusses the Ne'ma initiative, which addresses food loss and waste throughout the value chain ([NDC](#), p. 31).

### **(7) Enhancing climate-resilient food production**

The NDC mentions several efforts to enhance climate-resilient food production, including the National Food Security Strategy 2051, which "aims to enhance food security and resilience in the agricultural sector" ([NDC](#), p. 14). The NDC also mentions the development of a new wheat strain at the Mleiha Farm biotechnology laboratories, which the NDC states is nutritionally richer, more climate resilient, and more water efficient than other wheat strains ([NDC](#), p. 37).

## IV. Promoting Synergies and Avoiding Maladaptation (0–3 points)

### TOTAL AREA SCORE = 3 POINTS (STRONG)

Measures put forth in the NDC can promote synergies with other sustainability, social, and health objectives. These measures could also conflict with the same objectives. In this area, the scorecard framework evaluates the extent to which the NDC has sought to promote synergies and avoid maladaptation or make trade-offs with other sustainable development objectives. This is a two-step evaluation process. The first step is an assessment of whether the NDC considers seven topics in relation to the food system that support sustainable development synergies: (1) nutrition; (2) One Health, animal health, and/or animal welfare; (3) other health considerations; (4) human rights; (5) biodiversity, nature, and ecosystems; (6) gender; and (7) small-scale producers. For each synergistic subarea addressed 0.5 points are given, up to a maximum of 3 points.

The UAE's NDC **received 3 points in the synergies main subarea** because it addresses all of the seven synergistic topics.

The second step is an assessment of the NDC for risks of maladaptation related to the inclusion of five to eight high-risk activities: (1) expansion of agricultural frontier; (2) increasing production of crops such as soy, corn, rapeseed, wheat, and sugar cane for animal feed and energy; (3) increasing pesticide use; (4) intensification measures that threaten the livelihood of small-scale farmers, pastoralists, and fishers; and (5) increasing water consumption. The remaining high-risk activities are evaluated only for high- and upper-middle-income countries: (6) intensification of animal agriculture (and expansion of animal agriculture subsectors), (7) increasing consumption of particular animal products in a country that already exceeds by 25% or more EAT-Lancet levels for ASF consumption, and (8) increasing fertilizer usage.

The NDC **did not lose any points in the maladaptation main subarea** because nothing in the NDC suggests that the UAE engages in the high-risk activities considered.

For each synergistic subarea, the NDC receives 0.5 points up to a maximum of 3 points. For each maladaptive high-risk activity, the NDC loses 1 point. The number of points subtracted from high-risk activities or policies can equal but not exceed the number of points gained for the synergistic topics mentioned.

Since no high-risk activities were identified, the NDC's synergies score of 3 points remained the same, resulting in a **strong total score of 3 points** for the promoting synergies and avoiding maladaptation area.

# Synergies

## (1) Nutrition

The NDC considers nutrition through one of its food security projects. The project focuses on wheat production, and the NDC states that a highly productive strain of wheat was developed that is more climate resilient, more water efficient, and nutritionally richer than other strains ([NDC](#), p. 37). Regarding innovation in agriculture, the NDC also notes that new food products are being developed from the native Arabian moringa plant, which could create nutritional opportunities ([NDC](#), p. 59).

## (2) One Health, animal health, and/or animal welfare

The Emirates Sustainable Agriculture Label system addresses animal health in the list of requirements to obtain a label—mandatory medical care programs for livestock are included under sustainable livestock production ([Emirates Sustainable Agriculture Label system](#), p. 4).

## (3) Other health considerations

The NDC considers human health by addressing how higher temperatures can increase the occurrence of water- and foodborne diseases and how that creates food safety challenges ([NDC](#), p. 50). The NDC notes that climate change undermines food systems, among other social determinants of health, and that these effects are particularly severe for “vulnerable groups, including children, women, new-borns, the elderly, and individuals with pre-existing medical conditions,” and states that the UAE is strengthening its regulations and policies related to environmental health determinants, including food systems ([NDC](#), pp. 51–52).

## (4) Human rights

The NDC considers human rights in the context of the food system through the Emirates Sustainable Agriculture Label system. Obtaining this sustainability label requires compliance with labor rights, no forced labor or labor rationing, and protecting the health and safety of workers ([Emirates Sustainable Agriculture Label system](#), p. 3).

## (5) Biodiversity, nature, and ecosystems

The NDC discusses the importance of nature and ecosystems, particularly coral reefs, stating how increasing water temperatures negatively impact these fundamental ecosystems, which provide food sources and protection from storm surges ([NDC](#), p. 53).

## (6) Gender

The NDC considers gender in relation to food systems. For example, the NDC recognizes the effects of climate change on social determinants of health, including food systems, and emphasizes that these impacts are particularly severe for vulnerable groups, including women ([NDC](#), p. 51). The NDC also mentions the MOCCA program dedicated to empowering women in the fishing industry ([NDC](#), p. 56). While this focus on gender is positive, fishing is a high-risk industry, and we do not know whether this policy is advantageous for women or its impacts on the broader food system.

## (7) Small-scale producers

The NDC states that the UAE is focusing on enhancing small-scale farming through various measures, including better water management, circular farming practices, and agroecology ([NDC](#), p. 59).

## ***Maladaptations***

### **(1) Expansion of agricultural frontier**

Nothing in the NDC suggests that the UAE engages in this high-risk activity.

### **(2) Increasing production of crops primarily for nonfood uses (animal feed and energy)**

Nothing in the NDC suggests that the UAE engages in this high-risk activity.

### **(3) Increasing pesticide use**

Nothing in the NDC suggests that the UAE engages in this high-risk activity.

### **(4) Intensification measures that threaten the livelihood of small-scale farmers, pastoralists, and fishers**

Nothing in the NDC suggests that the UAE engages in this high-risk activity.

### **(5) Increasing water consumption**

Nothing in the NDC suggests that the UAE engages in this high-risk activity.

### **(6) Intensification of animal agriculture and expansion of animal agriculture subsectors**

Nothing in the NDC suggests that the UAE engages in this high-risk activity.

### **(7) Increasing consumption of particular animal products in a country that already exceeds by 25% or more EAT-Lancet levels for ASF consumption**

Nothing in the NDC suggests that the UAE engages in this high-risk activity.

### **(8) Increasing fertilizer usage**

Nothing in the NDC suggests that the UAE engages in this high-risk activity.

## V. Equity and Inclusiveness in NDC Development (0–3 points)

### TOTAL AREA SCORE = 2.5 POINTS (STRONG)

In this area, the scorecard framework evaluates the NDC on the main subareas of equity and inclusiveness throughout the NDC's development. The NDC as a whole was scored on this area, not just the NDC's content concerning food systems. Each main subarea was scored up to 3 points, and the total score is the average of the two main subarea scores.

The UAE's NDC received **a strong total score of 2.5 points** for the equity and inclusiveness area.

### Equity

The scorecard framework evaluates equity through (1) equitable 1.5°C alignment, (2) just transitions, (3) considering the needs of marginalized and/or vulnerable groups, and (4) equitable finance. Subarea 4 is only evaluated for high-income countries on whether they commit to financing for developing countries. The equity main subarea will receive a strong score of 3 points if all issues are addressed, a medium score of 2 points if two or three issues are addressed, a weak score of 1 point if one issue is addressed, or an absent score of 0 points if no issues are addressed.

The NDC received **a medium score of 2 points in the equity main subarea** because it addresses subareas 2–4, but for subarea 1 the NDC's mitigation ambition is not equitably aligned with the 1.5°C temperature limit.

#### (1) Equitable 1.5°C alignment

The NDC sets a target of reducing emissions by 47% by 2035 relative to a 2019 baseline ([NDC](#), p. 4), aiming for a total emissions target of 103.5 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e by 2035 ([NDC](#), p. 20).

Equitable 1.5°C alignment is assessed according to the fair shares assessment approach of the Civil Society Equity Review, using the [Climate Equity Reference Calculator](#). Under this analysis, a country's emissions reduction is determined to contribute its mitigation fair share if it meets either of two CSER benchmarks, each corresponding to different but reasonable visions of equity.

According to the 1850 High Progressivity benchmark, the UAE would need to reduce its 2019 emissions by 96% in order to equitably contribute to 1.5°C alignment. According to the 1950 Medium Progressivity benchmark, the UAE would need to reduce its 2019 emissions by 51% in order to equitably contribute to 1.5°C alignment. Since the UAE's 47% planned reduction does not meet either benchmark—although it is comparatively close to the 1950 Medium Progressivity benchmark—it falls short of its fair share and is therefore not considered equitably aligned with efforts toward 1.5°C.

Please note that this analysis is based on the NDC's percentage-reduction target rather than the fixed-level target also expressed. Please see the Climate Equity Reference Calculator's assessment of the UAE's NDC for more details. Please also see the [Food Systems NDC Scorecard methodology](#), p. 11, for details on how the Climate Equity Reference Framework considers emissions reduction from LULUCF and how this can affect a target's assessment.

## (2) Just transitions

Just transitions are addressed in the NDC. For example, the NDC discusses the UAE Net Zero by 2050 initiative and states: “Appropriate upskilling and capability building are needed to maximize local employment and the job creation opportunities that the climate transition presents. The implementation of the plan includes preparing the UAE’s workforce to leverage the opportunities arising from the new green economy, mobilizing relevant stakeholders in climate action, building their capacity, and raising awareness about climate change” (NDC, p. 66).

## (3) Specific consideration of the needs of marginalized and/or vulnerable groups

The NDC provides specific consideration of the needs of marginalized or vulnerable groups, including women (NDC, pp. 18, 56, 72, 96) and youth and children (NDC, pp. 18, 72, 96). For example, the NDC’s implementation section includes a chapter on women and youth, which notes the contributions from these groups during the development of the UAE’s climate goals and describes initiatives and collaborations focused on women and youth (NDC, pp. 72–81). The NDC states that “protecting and enabling vulnerable groups, such as women, youth, children, and people of determination, is a key priority” (NDC, p. 72). The NDC also considers the climate impacts on the elderly, pregnant women, newborns, and those with pre-existing conditions (NDC, pp. 51–52). While the UAE does not have Indigenous Peoples, understood in much of the world to be groups whose ancestors inhabited an area before colonizing settlers, the NDC contains a number of references to traditional knowledge, culture, and practices, including with respect to the food system (NDC, pp. 54, 59).

## (4) Equitable finance

The NDC states that the UAE, a high-income country, has provided “over USD 2 billion in grants and concessional loans for renewable energy projects in developing countries” (NDC, p. 13). The section on climate aid provides examples of such projects and partnerships, including a pledge of USD 100 million to the Loss and Damage Fund (NDC, p. 15).

The NDC also mentions that the UAE partners with the United States in the Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate, which focuses on investment and innovation, “promotes climate-smart agricultural practices to improve food security and resilience in vulnerable regions,” and supports “the sustainable transformation of agriculture to meet future food demands” (NDC, pp. 14, 83).

## *Inclusiveness in NDC Development*

Inclusiveness in NDC development was evaluated on whether the following groups were included in the NDC’s development: (1) multiple government ministries, (2) departments and agencies of government, (3) subnational bodies, (4) the private sector, (5) academia, (6) civil society organizations, (7) Indigenous Peoples, and (8) other vulnerable and/or marginalized groups, earning 0.5 points for each for a maximum of 3 points.

The NDC received **a strong score of 3 points in the inclusiveness main subarea.**

The NDC’s section on stakeholder engagement in NDC planning and preparation indicates that six of the eight groups listed above were included in the NDC development process (NDC, pp. 17–19). The two groups not explicitly mentioned as part of the NDC development consultations were academia and Indigenous Peoples.

The NDC also highlights plans for the National Adaptation Plan process: “Different social groups will be included in the UAE NAP development process, including women, men, children, youth, people of determination, elderly, migrant workers, indigenous communities, and low-income groups” (NDC, p. 76).

## VI. Analysis and Conclusions (Total score 0–12 points)

### THE UAE'S NDC TOTAL SCORE = 8.5 POINTS (STRONG)

The UAE's NDC received a **strong total score of 8.5 points out of 12**. This score is based on evaluations of both the [NDC](#) and the policy documents listed in the Appendix.

All evaluations and scores are dependent on the UAE's continuing its existing policies referenced in the NDC.

In the **scope of food systems coverage area**, the UAE's NDC received a **weak score** because although it demonstrates action in the food production, food loss, food processing, food distribution, and food waste stages, it lacks action in the food consumption stage. While some indications suggest that the National Food Security Strategy 2051 may include action in this area, this policy was not publicly available at the time of assessment and, therefore, could not be evaluated. More broadly, ensuring that policies referenced in the NDC submission are publicly available—or ensuring that the NDC submission itself incorporates the relevant provisions of these policies—can be valuable for transparency and enhancing international understanding of climate action.

In the **context-specific action area**, the UAE's NDC received a **medium score** because it demonstrates action in all but one subarea, with several policies on waste and resilience, including developing a climate-resistant wheat strain ([NDC](#), p. 37). The NDC did not receive a strong score because it did not show any action to shift from high-impact dietary patterns to lower-impact ones.

In the **promoting synergies and avoiding maladaptation area**, the UAE's NDC received a **strong score** because it considers all seven synergies and had no identified maladaptive policies. However, the NDC mentions that while the UAE's agricultural emissions “will decrease by 39% by 2035” to 2.6 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e, this is primarily due to a decrease in energy-related emissions in the sector, and “emissions from the rising numbers of livestock remains” ([NDC](#), p. 36). While any decrease in GHG emissions is beneficial, the UAE has a high-impact diet, and continuing animal agriculture at current levels will limit the emissions that can be reduced—but promoting a shift to lower-impact diets would help.

In the **equity and inclusiveness in NDC development area**, the NDC received a **strong score** but did not receive all possible points because the UAE's pledge, according to the Climate Equity Reference Calculator, falls short of its fair share (51% below its 2019 emissions). Consequently, the NDC is not found to be equitably aligned with 1.5°C. The NDC received full points for the inclusiveness main subarea but did not appear to include academia in its development.

While this assessment credits the UAE's NDC with considering human rights and with an inclusive process, this should be contextualized with the acknowledgement that concerns exist regarding human rights and civil liberties in the UAE—in [V-Dem's Human Rights Index](#), the UAE scores 0.35 on a scale of 0 (least rights) to 1 (most rights).

The following are some of the ways the UAE could improve its NDC score in accordance with this evaluation: (1) developing policies that detail how it will shift from high-impact animal-based diets to lower-impact diets, such as those focused on plant-based foods, which would improve scores in both the scope of food systems coverage and the context-specific action areas; and (2) increasing the UAE's emissions-reduction pledge to reduce its fair share of emissions in line with the 1.5°C temperature limit. The suggested decrease in animal agriculture could also help offset the UAE's emissions profile.

We note that, although the NDC received a strong score according to the Food Systems NDC Scorecard methodology, the UAE's food system action could be stronger and deeper. For example, policies addressing petrochemical use in the food system would significantly strengthen efforts to reduce fossil fuel use. Similarly, while the inclusion of labor rights in the Emirates Sustainable Agriculture Label system is important, action to enhance rights or promote them outside a voluntary scheme would be more important to reflect in the NDC. Further, while the NDC alludes to the COP28 UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems and Climate Action ([NDC](#), p. 84), it does not discuss action to implement the declaration. Such updates may be forthcoming elsewhere but would have been meaningful to include in the NDC.

# Appendix

## Documents Evaluated

- [The United Arab Emirates' Third Nationally Determined Contribution \(NDC 3.0\): Accelerating Action Towards Mission 1.5C](#)
- [Emirates Sustainable Agriculture Label system](#)

## Document Selection

An NDC submission typically references a number of policy documents. In some cases, these policy documents are referenced to provide context clarifying the content of the NDC. In other cases, these policy documents are referenced because they form part of a country's contribution to mitigating and adapting to climate change.

Where a country considers the documents integral to its climate change response, the Food Systems NDC Scorecard considers the content of these documents, if adequately referenced in an NDC submission, to be part of the NDC.

As a reference's intended function is not always clear, the Food Systems NDC Scorecard considers it holistically:

- How the NDC discusses the policy document.
- Location of the reference. For example, if the reference is within the planning processes section of an "information to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding" table, this is a strong indication that the policy was incorporated into the NDC.
- Content of the referenced policy document itself—namely, the extent to which it considers climate change and therefore constitutes part of the country's climate policy framework.
- The Party's overall policy framework—for example, whether a cited policy is active rather than obsolete or superseded by other policy documents and whether other policy documents should perform the same function.

The UAE's NDC submission and the Emirates Sustainable Agriculture Label system were included in this analysis. Notably, several policies referenced in the NDC were not publicly accessible, including the National Food Security Strategy 2051, the National Farms Sustainability Initiative, and the National Strategy for Coastal and Marine Environment.

## Scope of Assessment

This evaluation focuses on a food system perspective. While evaluating equity and inclusiveness more broadly, it does not specifically assess other sectors (such as energy) or indicate the quality of a country's climate policy overall. Additionally, the scoring reflects the presence or absence of particular types of action or consideration within the areas and subareas examined. This does not necessarily reflect ambition in the depth of action. For example, a policy to slightly mitigate food production emissions in a subsector will count equally in scoring to a policy to significantly mitigate emissions. The scores should be understood as indicators to consider alongside the fuller analyses. Finally, while NDCs are critical policy instruments, implementation is necessary to translate their ambition into action. Accordingly, an ambitious NDC alone does not guarantee effective action, just as the ambitiousness of action is not limited to the content of an NDC.



## Acknowledgments

This assessment was undertaken by April Foreman, Ally Grimaldi, Olivia Ruthven, and Walter Sánchez-Suárez using the Food Systems NDC Scorecard methodology. The core partners for the assessment phase of the Food Systems NDC Scorecard project are Mercy For Animals, Center for Biological Diversity, EAT, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, and Global Law Alliance for Animals and the Environment at Lewis & Clark Law School.

We would also like to thank Seed Global Development for their time spent reviewing and providing feedback.

We wish to acknowledge other initiatives and reports that have provided inspiration for this project, including the Healthy NDCs Scorecard, Initiative on Climate Action and Nutrition (I-CAN), Food Forward NDCs, Enhancing Food Systems for NDCs, Animals for Climate Action, and A Practical Guide to Assessing Food Systems in Nationally Determined Contributions.

Please contact the Food Systems NDC Scorecard project ([info@foodsystemsndcscorecard.org](mailto:info@foodsystemsndcscorecard.org)) with any feedback, comments, or questions.