

# United Arab Emirates: information on national emissions, population and GDP, and mitigation targets

September 23, 2020

## Authors:

Annika Guenther<sup>1</sup>

Johannes Guetschow<sup>1</sup>

## Affiliations:

1. Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, Germany

DOI: [to be added]

## TODO

- Table with info on target (main and reclass; emissions from NDC; target quantis + plot).
- GWP: NDC emissions converted from AR2 to AR4 by national conversion factor (2010–2017, PRIMAP-hist v2.1).
- References!

## 1 Non-LULUCF emissions and socio-economic data

With national emissions of 259.7 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq, United Arab Emirates contributed 0.5% to global emissions in 2017, while in 2030 its share is estimated to increase to 0.6% (Table 1). The estimates for 2030 are based on the downscaled SSP2<sup>1</sup> Middle of the Road marker scenario (dmSSP2), in which United Arab Emirates is estimated to emit 310.6 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq in 2030. That change in emissions would constitute a substantial increase of 19.6% compared to 2017. The pathways dmSSP1–5 show a range of 278.4–376.7 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq in 2030, and 255.8–593.6 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq in 2050. The country's global rank in terms of total emissions per unit of GDP<sup>2</sup> was 98 in 2017, and 6 regarding the per-capita emissions (96 and 8 in 2030). In terms of accumulated historical emissions, United Arab Emirates contributed to the global 1850–2017 emissions by 0.2%. When only accounting for the years 1990–2017, its contribution increases to 0.4%. All

---

<sup>1</sup>**SSPs:** Shared Socio-economic Pathways. Narratives and challenges to mitigation and adaptation: SSP1: Sustainability, Taking the Green Road (low / low); SSP2: Middle of the Road (medium / medium); SSP3: Regional Rivalry, A Rocky Road (high / high); SSP4: Inequality, A Road Divided (low / high); and SSP5: Fossil-fuelled Development, Taking the Highway (high / low).

<sup>2</sup>**GDP:** Gross Domestic Product. Throughout this document the GDP is given as GDP PPP, with PPP being the Purchasing Power Parity.

of the emissions are presented following GWP AR4<sup>3</sup>, and exclude emissions from LULUCF<sup>4</sup> (exclLU), and bunkers fuels<sup>5</sup> emissions (exclBunkers).

Table 1: National emissions (dmSSP2), GDP and population for United Arab Emirates, together with the emissions per unit of GDP and per capita emissions (all for 2017 and 2030). Additionally, the global share and its rank are displayed.

	Year	Total	Unit	Glob. share	Rank
<b>Emissions</b>	2017	259.7	Mt CO <sub>2</sub> eq	0.5%	33
	2030	310.6	Mt CO <sub>2</sub> eq	0.6%	32
<b>GDP</b>	2017	0.6	Trillion 2011 GK\$	0.5%	34
	2030	1.0	Trillion 2011 GK\$	0.5%	35
<b>Emissions per GDP</b>	2017	435.7	t CO <sub>2</sub> eq / Million 2011 GK\$	0.3%	98
	2030	319.9	t CO <sub>2</sub> eq / Million 2011 GK\$	0.4%	96
<b>Population</b>	2017	9.5	Million Pers	0.1%	94
	2030	12.9	Million Pers	0.1%	81
<b>Emissions per capita</b>	2017	27.4	t CO <sub>2</sub> eq / Pers	1.9%	6
	2030	24.0	t CO <sub>2</sub> eq / Pers	1.6%	8

For United Arab Emirates, in 2017 the main emissions share on sectoral level (Fig. 1) came from the Energy sector (83.5%), followed by IPPU (10.2%), and Waste (5.5%). The Kyoto GHG<sup>6</sup> with the highest emissions in 2017 was CO<sub>2</sub>, constituting as much as 80.3% of the national emissions. Second largest contributor was CH<sub>4</sub> (18.4%), followed by N<sub>2</sub>O (0.7%). The total of F-gases<sup>7</sup> only represented 0.7%. The total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are expected to be 84.3% of the national Kyoto GHG emissions in 2030 (dmSSP2).

The national GDP increased in recent years, and the emissions per unit of GDP had a similar trend (Fig. 2). The population increased, and the per capita emissions were on the rise. Following dmSSP2, the GDP is projected to increase towards 2050. The emissions per GDP are estimated to decrease towards 2050. United Arab Emirates’s population is assumed to grow towards 2050, and the per capita emissions are expected to decline towards 2050.

## 2 LULUCF emissions

LULUCF emissions data for United Arab Emirates are available from the following sources (Fig. 3): UNFCCC (2019), FAO (2019).

### High fluctuations? Data gaps? Difference between sources?

<sup>3</sup>**Global Warming Potential (GWP)**: we use GWP values from the IPCC 4<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report (AR4). They reflect the forcing potential of one kilogram of a gas’ emissions in comparison to one kilogram of CO<sub>2</sub> (GWP<sub>CO2</sub> = 1). The GWPs correspond to a 100-yr period and are for CH<sub>4</sub>: 25, for N<sub>2</sub>O: 298, for SF<sub>6</sub>: 22800, and for NF<sub>3</sub>: 17200. For the basket of HFC-gases the GWPs from AR4 are in the range 4–14800, and for PFCs 7190–12200. To assess emissions of several GHGs, their emissions are weighted by their respective GWPs and presented in CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents (CO<sub>2</sub>eq).

<sup>4</sup>**LULUCF**: Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry. Emissions from LULUCF are excluded throughout the document, unless stated otherwise.

<sup>5</sup>**Bunkers fuels**: emissions from international aviation and shipping.

<sup>6</sup>**Kyoto GHG** (Greenhouse Gas) basket: carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), sulfur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>), and nitrogen trifluoride (NF<sub>3</sub>).

<sup>7</sup>**F-gases** (fluorinated gases): basket of HFCs, PFCs, and the gases SF<sub>6</sub> and NF<sub>3</sub>. Some F-gases have very long atmospheric lifetimes and high Global Warming Potentials.

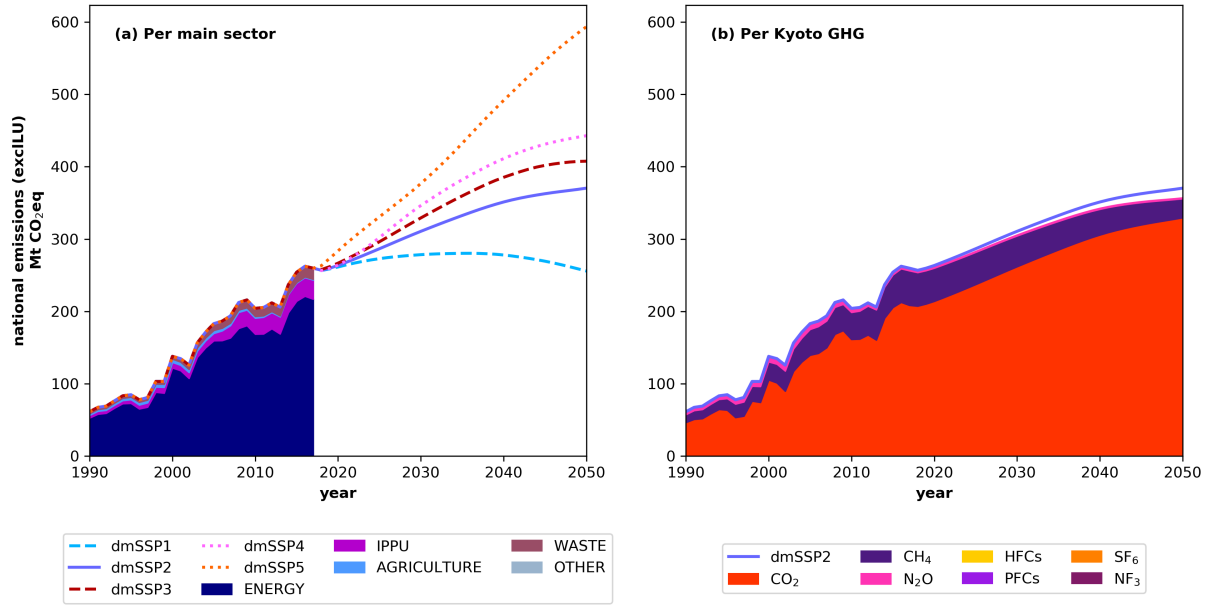


Figure 1: 'Stacked' timeseries of national emissions (exclLU) per main-sector (a) and Kyoto GHG (b). No information available on the sectoral contributions after 2017.

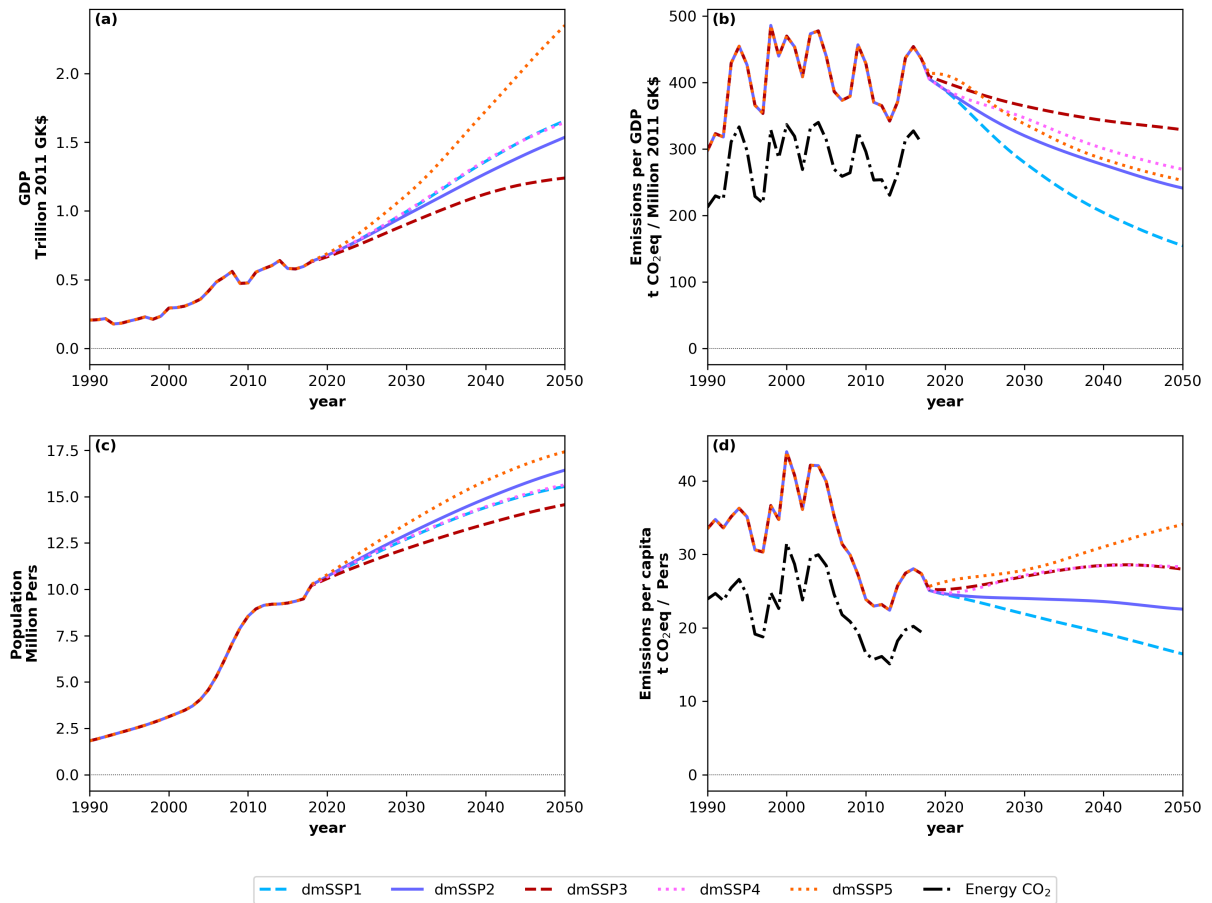


Figure 2: Timeseries of national GDP (a) and population (c), and Kyoto GHG emissions (exclLU, exclBunkers) per unit of GDP (b) or per capita (d).

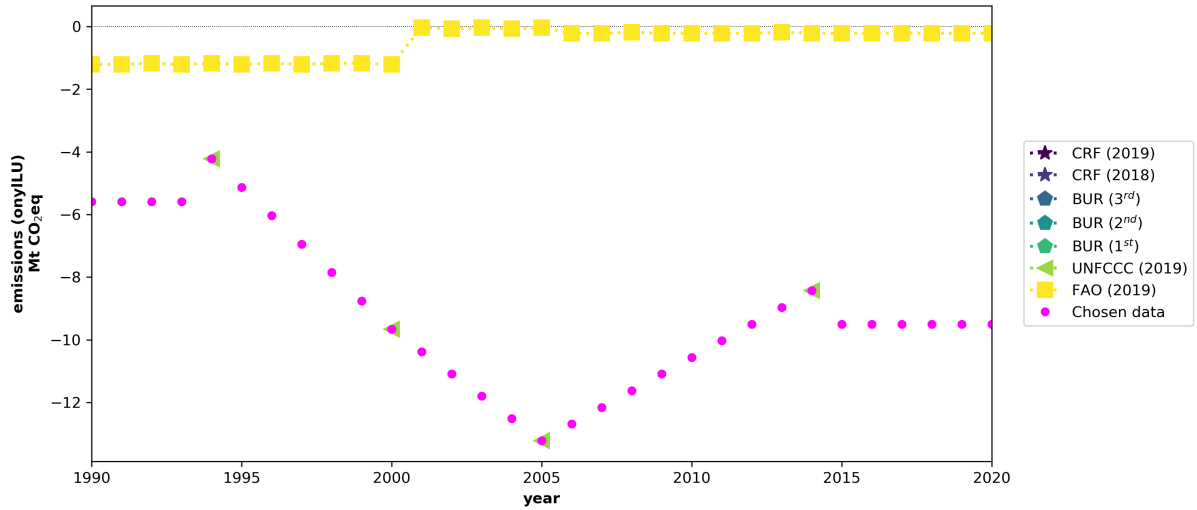


Figure 3: Timeseries of emissions from LULUCF ( $\text{CO}_2$  plus  $\text{CH}_4$  and  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$ ) as available from different data-sources. Indicated in pink are the 'chosen' data, as used in our assessment of United Arab Emirates's NDC (if needed). The pink timeseries was inter- and / or extrapolated (interpolation: linear, extrapolation: constant).

### 3 Mitigation targets (NDC)

Give the %cov for the base and target year (and 2017). Global share for 2030 for the mitigated pathways and % reduction relative to 1990 and 2017. Table with the 'input' data and the resulting targets (like `ndcs_targets.csv`). United Arab Emirates has an NDC, with a GHG mitigation target of the type NGT (non-GHG target; main target type). The reclassified<sup>8</sup> target type equals the main target type. As the target has been assessed to be NGT, the assumed 'mitigated' emissions pathways used for global aggregates equal the baseline emissions (dmSSP1–5).

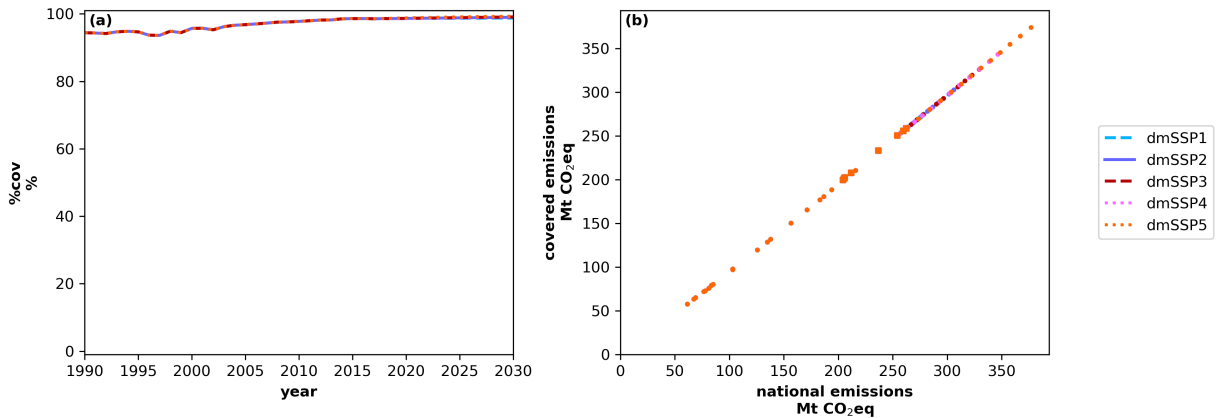


Figure 4: Timeseries of United Arab Emirates's national emissions (exclLU) and the share of emissions that is assumed to be covered by United Arab Emirates's mitigation target.

<sup>8</sup>**Reclassification:** when a country has, e.g., an RBU target (relative reduction compared to Business-As-Usual), and the BAU emissions are provided, it can be quantified based on the given emissions, and is reclassified from type\_main RBU to type\_reclass ABS (absolute emissions target). Additionally, 'NGT' targets can be reclassified as 'ABU' (absolute reduction compared to Business-As-Usual) if absolute mitigation effects due to planned policies and measures are provided.

Table 2: Information on covered sectors and gases as retrieved from NDC and adapted ('Adap.': used to calculate %cov), and their shares in United Arab Emirates's 2017 emissions (exclLU, exclBunkers; total 259.7 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq). If either the sector or gas is assessed as 'not-covered', the emissions from this sector-gas combination are counted as not-covered (-). Else the emissions are counted as covered (+; covered shares given in bold). (/) means that no information is available. LULUCF: NDC '/' and adapted '-' (estimated as a net sink of -9.5 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq in 2017; based on the 'chosen' LULUCF emissions).

	NDCs	Adap.	CO <sub>2</sub>	CH <sub>4</sub>	N <sub>2</sub> O	HFCs	PFCs	SF <sub>6</sub>	NF <sub>3</sub>	Total
NDCs			/	/	/	/	/	/	/	
Adap.			+	+	+	-	-	-	-	
Energy	+	+	<b>70.9%</b>	<b>12.6%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	/	/	/	/	83.5%
IPPU	+	+	<b>9.3%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.1%</b>	/	0.2%	0.4%	/	10.2%
Agri.	/	-	0.0%	0.4%	0.04%	/	/	/	/	0.4%
Waste	+	+	/	<b>5.4%</b>	<b>0.1%</b>	/	/	/	/	5.5%
Other	/	-	/	/	0.3%	/	/	/	/	0.3%
Total			80.3%	18.4%	0.7%	/	0.2%	0.4%	/	100.0%

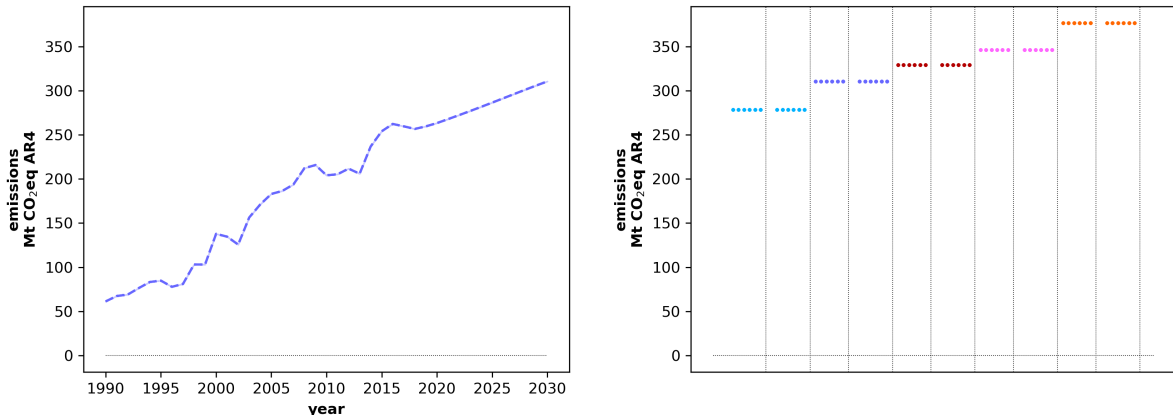


Figure 5: Quantified mitigation targets (based on different input data and calculation options). Vertical lines: conditionality / range; colour coded: dmSSP1-5; first / second set of six: prio NDCs / SSPs; set of six: coverage 100, lulucf unfccc, lulucf fao, bl uncondi, const emi, estimated coverage.

## 4 Data sources and references

PRIMAP-hist v2.1: emissions from PRIMAP-hist are data from the country reported data priority scenario (HISTCR).

### Links to additional information:

- [CLIMATEWATCH](#)
- [CarbonBrief: Clear on Climate](#)
- [Climate Action Tracker](#)
- [Country resolved combined emission and socio-economic pathways based on the RCP and SSP scenarios](#) (February 2020)
- [Guest post: Calculating the true climate impact of aviation emissions](#) (September 2020)
- [IGES NDC Database](#)
- [IPCC \(The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change\)](#)
- [IPCC Special Report: Global Warming of 1.5°](#) (2018)
- [ISIMIP / ISIpedia](#)
- [NDC Explorer](#)
- [NDC PARTNERSHIP](#)
- [PBL Climate Pledge NDC tool](#)
- [SSP Database \(Shared Socioeconomic Pathways\) - Version 2.0](#) (December 2018)
- [The PRIMAP-hist national historical emissions time series \(1850-2017\)](#) (2019)
- [UNFCCC \(United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change\)](#)
- [World's richest 1% cause double CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of poorest 50%, says Oxfam](#)
- [#showyourbudgets](#)