



NILU monitor and manage air quality in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi for ERWDA



Bjarne Sivertsen, The Nguyen Thanh and Trond Bøhler

Norwegian Institute for Air Research (NILU), P.O. Box 100, N-2007 Kjeller, Norway. (nilu@nilu.no)

www.nilu.no

NILU has signed a contract with The Environmental Research and Wildlife Development Agency (ERWDA) to conduct an air quality monitoring and management study for Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates.



The project is subdivided into four stages, the first of which constitutes baseline data collection and assessment in collaboration with multi-disciplinary, multi – sectorial technical team representing Abu Dhabi Municipality, Al-Ain Municipality, Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), Abu Dhabi Water and Electricity Agency (ADWEA) and Abu Dhabi Police Department.

The second stage includes mapping emissions from industries and traffic sources as well as the use of dispersion models. One result of these studies is to recommend sites for fixed and mobile air quality monitoring stations.

The emphasis of the project is on air pollution which affects human health and the surrounding environment and habitats as it has been proved it is directly linked to the spread of heart and respiratory problems, mainly asthma, asphyxia, chest infection and other maladies.



The outcome of the first two stages of the project will result in the purchasing, construction and operations of a central air quality monitoring and management system for Abu Dhabi

The end result will be the continuous operation of a state-of-the-art system, which can be used for air quality planning and predictions.

Environmental assessment studies will be undertaken based on the inventories of stationary point sources, area sources as



well as mobile line sources. These studies also require good quality meteorological data as input to different dispersion models. The results will be presented as concentration maps on a GIS system.

Mitigation measures will be proposed, where problem sources shall be identified and ranked according to severity. The impact of mitigation measures will represent the input for priority measures.

The programme also includes institutional building and training of ERWDA employees. Training will be given as on-the-job training as well as through seminars and work shops.



Fixed and mobile air quality monitoring stations will be used and designed for future measurements.



The Norwegian Institute for Air Research

NILU conducts environmental research with emphasis on the sources of airborne pollution, atmospheric transport, transformation and deposition and is also involved in the assessment of the effects of pollution on ecosystems, human health and materials. NILU is conducting projects worldwide for a number of clients such as international banks, WHO, WMO, UN ECE, UNEP and industries and authorities. NILU is working in several countries in the Middle East.