

Environmental Reform Initiatives in Morocco

For the last several decades, the Kingdom of Morocco has prioritized environmental reform and sustainable development. In 2016, the [Climate Change Performance Index](#) ranked Morocco alongside Denmark, Sweden, and Belgium in the top ten most climatically conscious countries and number one in the developing world based on criteria including CO2 emissions, renewable energy development, efficiency, and climate policy. Morocco has also made significant progress in the areas of conservation, recycling, and sustainable development education. In November 2016, Morocco hosted the [COP22](#) conference in Marrakesh to consult with international representatives on how to slow global warming and to exhibit its national sustainable development initiatives.

Government Initiatives on the Environment

- Morocco's hosting of COP22 demonstrated both its [global leadership](#) on the issue of climate change and its commitment to climate justice in Africa. The Conference brought together leaders from around the world to work toward the implementation of the Paris Climate Change Agreement. [Highlights](#) from COP22 included, among others:
 - The adoption of the [Marrakesh Action Proclamation for Climate and Sustainable Development](#), which “celebrates the unstoppable global momentum on climate change and sustainable development action by governments, businesses, investors, sub-regional government and cities” and “calls for the highest political commitment to build on that momentum so that climate action can fully support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals for the benefit of people and the planet.”
 - The announcement of the [Marrakesh Partnership for Climate Action](#) to provide a “road-map for how the UNFCCC process will catalyse and support climate action by Parties (government) and non-Party (non-government) stakeholders in the period from 2017-2020, giving effect to the existing arrangements as agreed by Parties at COP21 in Paris.
 - The [Africa Action Summit](#) to establish a common approach to the issue and actionable measures for sustainable development on the continent.
- Article 31 of the [Constitution](#), ratified in 2011, states that all citizens have the right “to the access of water and to a healthy environment” as well as “to lasting [durable] development.” Articles 71 and 152 address the extent to which the government is responsible for environmental protection and oversight.
- In 2010, Morocco ratified the [National Charter for the Environment and Sustainable Development](#) to “reaffirm that environment preservation should be a permanent concern for all Moroccans.”
- In 2001, King Mohammed VI founded the [Mohammed VI Foundation for the Protection of the Environment](#), which is currently directed by Princess Lalla Hasnaa and focuses on “environmental education, coastal protection, responsible tourism, the restoration of historic gardens, and the preservation and development of palm groves and oases.” This organization is also a member of the international [Foundation for Environmental Education](#).
- The Government of Morocco's [environmental programs](#) include the National Municipal Solid Waste Management, National Sanitation and Wastewater Treatment, Collection and Disposal of Plastic Bags, Environmental Upgrading of Rural Schools, and Prevention of and Fight against Industrial Pollution.

Renewable Energy Measures

- Morocco has [committed](#) to generating 42% of the country's energy needs from renewable sources by 2020 and 52% by 2030.
- The Moroccan Agency for Solar Energy (MASEN) is a public-private partnership that administers the [NOOR solar energy project](#). MASEN aims to develop 5 NOOR power complexes by 2020 capable of producing 2,000 megawatts of energy. NOOR I, [inaugurated in 2016](#), is already the biggest in the world and is visible from space.
- Morocco currently maintains [13 wind farms](#) and plans to build [at least six more farms](#) before 2020 capable of producing 2,000 megawatts of energy in total.
- In the near future, MASEN will merge with the National Office of Electricity and Potable Water (ONEE) to form the [Moroccan Agency for Sustainable Energy \(ADEM\)](#), which will be a centralized organization working to increase Morocco's renewable energy output in diverse ways.
- The [Moroccan Ministry of Energy, Water, and the Environment](#) works closely with MASEN, ONEE, and other domestic and international partners to manage and regulate renewable energy in the Kingdom and other natural resources.

Examples of Conservation and Recycling in Morocco

- [National parks](#) and biosphere reserves throughout Morocco are known for their diverse wildlife, vegetation, and terrain, as well as for hosting active conservation and public education programs.
- Situated in a region with limited water resources, Morocco has partnered with [USAID](#), the United States [Environmental Protection Agency](#), and the [International Bank for Reconstruction and Development](#) to increase the number of people with access to potable water, develop efficient technologies for the utilization of water in agriculture, and manage wastewater and sanitation.
- In an effort to limit artificial waste, the Moroccan Parliament signed a bill into law on July 1, 2016 that [bans the use, production, or import of plastic bags](#) throughout the country.
- Rabat, Morocco's political capital, hosts an active [recycling and waste management center](#), the Oum Azza, which employs disadvantaged Moroccans to sort through waste for material that can be reused, recycled, and sold to ensure that the facility is sustainable.
- Thanks to citizen engagement on environmental issues, on July 15, 2016, the Moroccan government [suspended the import of foreign waste](#) for disposal.

Educating the Public on Sustainable Development

- The Ministry of National Education, Higher Education, Executive Education, and Scientific Research in Morocco has founded a directorate called [Evaluation, Organization or School Life and Joint Formations among Academies](#). This program has introduced "modules related to [the] environment and sustainable development into the curricula, at all levels of school education."

- Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane inaugurated a [Master of Science in Sustainable Energy Management](#) program in 2011, designed to “provide students with a well-balanced education in the areas of renewable energy science, engineering and management.”
- The Association of Teachers of Life and Earth Sciences works with the Ministry of Education to [promote environmental awareness at centers](#) in 18 different towns and cities throughout Morocco.

For more information, visit <http://www.moroccoonthemove.com> - Follow on Twitter [@MorocOnTheMove](#)