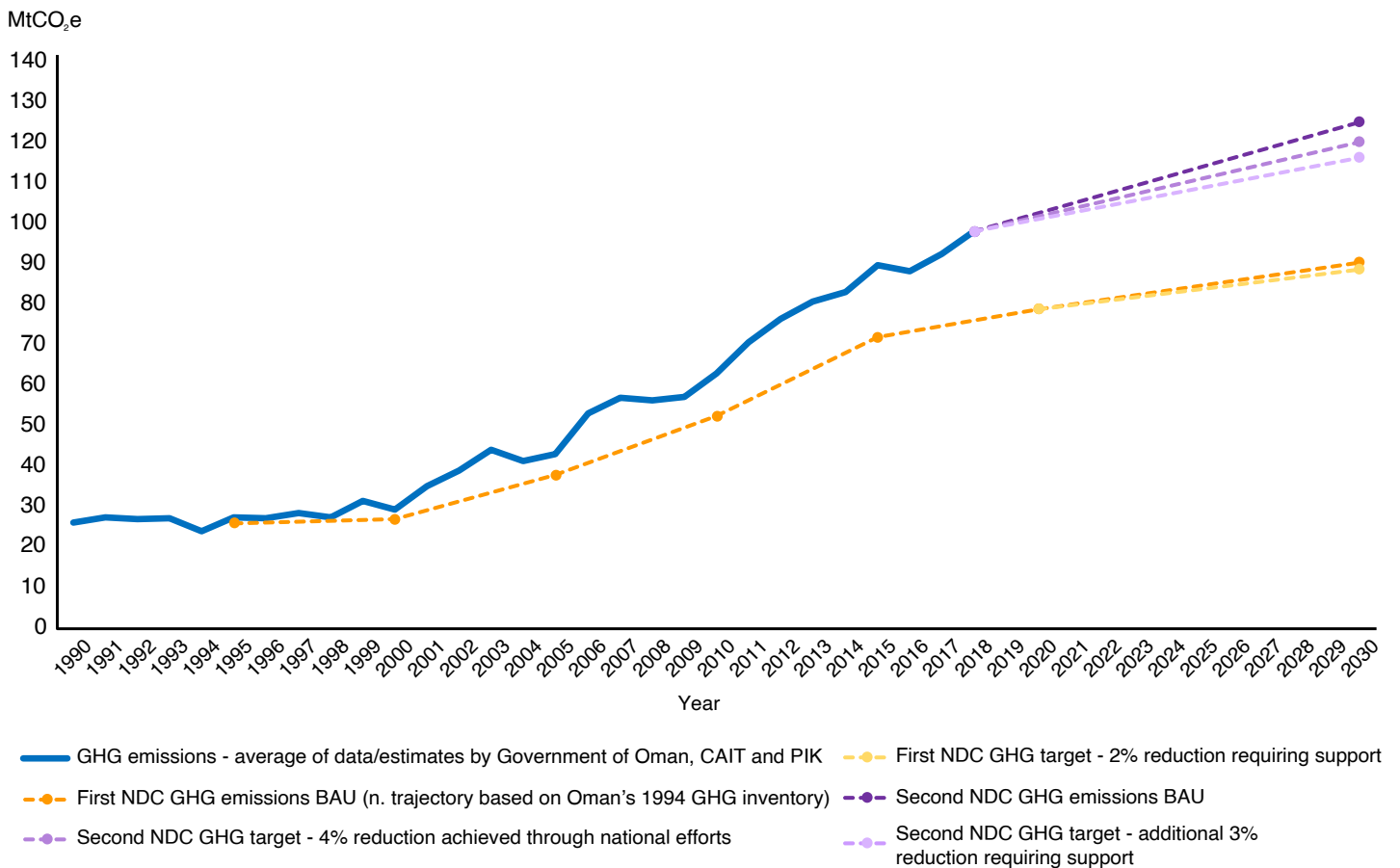


# Data Insight

04/10/2021

## Oman's Second Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)

**Figure 1.** Oman's GHG emissions 1990–2018, MtCO<sub>2</sub>e (average of main estimates), and NDC targets for 2030.



Sources: Sultanate of Oman, Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs (2015); Sultanate of Oman, Civil Aviation Authority (2021); UNFCCC (2021); CAIT and PIK PRIMAP-hist, via WRI et al. (2021c).

- In July 2021, Oman submitted its second nationally determined contribution to the Paris Agreement on climate change (NDC). In the NDC, Oman pledges to reduce its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 7% relative to a business-as-usual (BAU) scenario by 2030. Oman's first NDC, from 2015, had contained a 2% GHG emissions reduction target, based on a different BAU scenario (Figure 1).

- The Paris Agreement on climate change requires its parties to communicate successive national climate plans called NDCs every five years, each of which must represent a progression over the previous one.<sup>1</sup> The first round of NDCs was communicated in the lead-up to the 2015 UN Paris Climate Change Conference (COP 21). If implemented, the UN Environment Programme estimates that these NDCs would lead to a global average temperature rise of 3.2 degrees Celsius (°C) above pre-industrial levels by the end of the century. This is well beyond the limits enshrined in the Paris Agreement of well below 2°C or 1.5°C (UNEP 2019). The UNEP estimates that staying under the 1.5°C and 2°C limits would require annual global GHG emissions to fall by 7.6% and 2.7%, respectively, through 2030.
- NDCs include components related to climate change mitigation (i.e., GHG emissions reduction or limitation) and adaptation, as well as support-related elements, which are differentiated for developed and developing countries. Developed countries, for example, are expected to adopt economy-wide absolute mitigation targets, whereas developing countries – including all 22 Arab countries – are encouraged to move toward this type of target over time. A feature important for Gulf Arab countries is that mitigation co-benefits resulting from adaptation or economic diversification also count toward mitigation outcomes.
- Developed countries are required to support developing countries in mitigation and adaptation through climate finance, technology transfer and capacity building, and to regularly report on this support. Developing countries, in turn, are expected to regularly report on their support needs. Within this context, developing countries sometimes communicate their NDC mitigation targets in two parts: an unconditional part, which the country will implement without external support, and a conditional part, which will require international assistance.
- The year 2020 marked the first opportunity for countries to either enhance the ambition of their NDCs (those countries with an NDC timeframe of 2025–2030) or submit their second NDC (countries with a timeframe up to 2025). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many countries have postponed their submissions to 2021. By August 2021, 112 countries representing 49.8% of global GHG emissions have submitted a new or updated NDC (WRI et al. 2021b).
- Despite the new submissions, Climate Action Tracker (CAT) suggests that there is a substantial emissions gap (of 20–23 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent [GtCO<sub>2</sub>e]) between the projected emissions in 2030 based on the NDCs submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) by April 2021 (of 46–49 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e) and the benchmark emissions compatible with the 1.5°C temperature pathway of 21–28 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e by 2030 (CAT 2021a). The CAT Thermometer estimates that the emissions pledges and targets included in the NDCs submitted by April 2021 could lead to a 2.4°C temperature pathway by 2100 (CAT 2021b).

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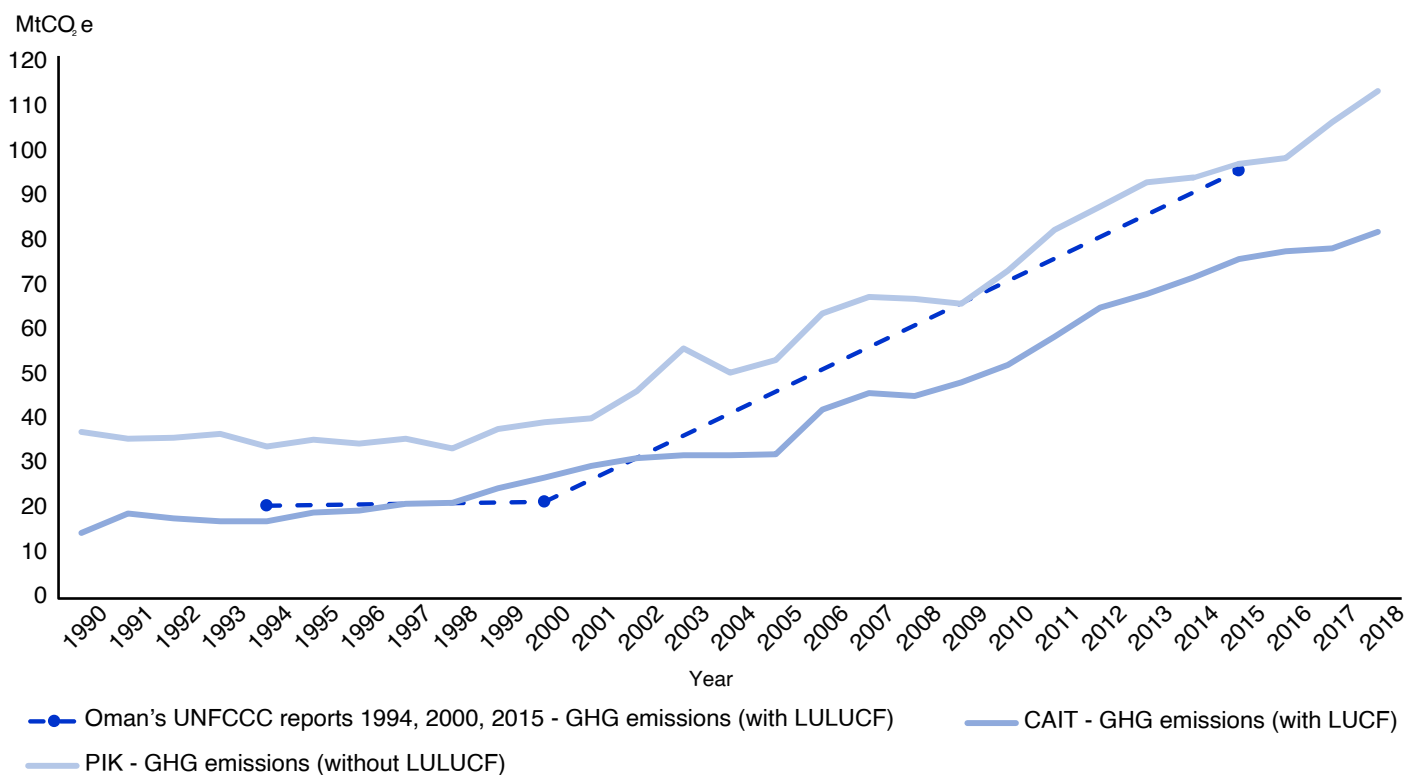
<sup>1</sup> As of August 2021, of the 197 parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), 191 have ratified the Paris Agreement, representing 93.2% of global GHG emissions (UNTC 2021; WRI et al 2021a).

- In the Arab region, 19 out of 22 countries have submitted a first NDC, and, as of August 2021, six countries have either updated their first NDC or submitted a second NDC. These are Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Somalia, Sudan, and the UAE. Oman submitted its second NDC on July 29, 2021.
- Oman's first NDC, from 2015,<sup>2</sup> contained a target to reduce its GHG emissions by 2% between 2020–2030 compared with a BAU scenario (namely, from 90.524 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2030 to 88.714 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2030). This target was conditional on climate finance, technology transfer and capacity-building support (see Figure 1).
- Oman's second NDC contains a target for reducing its national GHG emissions by 7% by 2030 compared with a BAU scenario (from 125.254 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e to 116.486 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e). The scenario assumes a sustained gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate of 3% per year and a total population of 6.3 million by 2030. A reduction of 4% from the BAU levels would be unconditional based on national efforts, and the remaining 3% would be conditional on support in the form of grants and concessional finance, capacity building, institutional strengthening, and access to appropriate technologies (see Figure 1).
- Oman's NDC makes an explicit link to its national economic vision, Vision 2040, and its National Energy Strategy. Both Vision 2040 and the National Energy Strategy include targets that align with Oman's second NDC's 7% emissions reduction target. Aiming to diversify the country's economy and shift to a low carbon economy, Oman Vision 2040 includes benchmarks and key performance indicators to reduce the oil share of its GDP to 16% in 2030 and 8.4% by 2040, and to increase the non-oil share of its GDP to 91.6% by 2040. Furthermore, Vision 2040 sets a target to raise energy productivity (GDP per unit of energy) from 6.92 in 2014 to 14.57 in 2030 and 17.3 in 2040. Vision 2040 has also set a target to raise the penetration of renewable energy in the country's energy mix to 20% in 2030 and up to 35%–39% in 2040.
- In 2018, Oman contributed an estimated 0.17% of total global GHG emissions (WRI 2021c, based on the World Resource Institute's Climate Analysis Indicators Tool [CAIT]). Oman has submitted three GHG emissions inventories to the UNFCCC for 1994, 2000 and 2015. Figure 2 shows these, along with estimates for its GHG emissions from 1990–2018 by major international data sources (the CAIT dataset and Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research's PIK PRIMAP-hist dataset). Based on the average of these estimates, Oman's GHG emissions increased by an average of 5.1% per year between 1990 and 2018, and 5.8% per year between 2010 and 2018. If Oman implements its second NDC, its average annual emissions growth will slow to 1.4% between 2018 and 2030. (These estimates do not take into account the impacts of COVID-19 on Oman's emissions).

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<sup>2</sup> Oman's first NDC was initially submitted as an 'intended NDC,' similar to all NDCs submitted prior to the entry into force of the Paris Agreement. A country's intended NDC automatically became its first NDC upon joining the agreement, unless it indicated otherwise. Oman ratified the Paris Agreement on May 22, 2019.

**Figure 2.** Oman’s GHG emissions 1990–2018, MtCO<sub>2</sub>e, data/estimates by various sources.



Sources: UNFCCC (2021); CAIT and PIK PRIMAP-hist, via WRI et al. (2021c).

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