

Arab Republic of Egypt

Arab Republic of Egypt Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency



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Egypt State of The Environment Report 2009



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Foreword

It gives me great pleasure to foreword this Egypt state of the Environment Report 2009, which has been issued successively for the sixth year. This report comes within the framework of Law No. 4/1994 on environment protection, as amended by Law No. 9 /2009 that stipulates developing an annual state of the environment report to be submitted to the President of the Republic and the cabinet of ministers with a copy forwarded to the People's Assembly.

within the framework of implementing the political environmental commitment demanding taking the necessary procedures to protect the environment, and to provide healthy and safe environment for the Egyptian people; the government has issued the document - Vision, Targets, Strategy and Policies of the government in December 2009. The government environmental policies have encompassed the development towards green economy, supporting the integrated environmental systems, enhancing sustainable development policy and preparing to meet climate change issues; it also included integrating the environmental work at the national level as well to increasing women's participation in environmental work.

Furthermore, this report evaluates the state of the air, aquatic (fresh – marine), as well as the urban and industrial environments; in addition to evaluating biological diversity and the changes that have been taking place in those fields, using a scientific approach and related environmental indicators to describe and analyze the status in Egypt Precisely.

The report is divided into five parts consisting of sixteen chapters; the first part addresses air quality, the second addresses water quality (fresh and marine), the third focuses on Earth, the fourth discusses the urban and industrial environment, and finally the report is concluded by discussing global environmental orientations in the fifth part.

The first chapter covers **air quality** and the major air pollutants namely particulate matters $(PM_{2.5}, PM_{10})$, Carbon Monoxide(CO), and Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2) , Sulfur Dioxide (SO_2) , Lead and Ozone (O_3) ; in addition to the national network for monitoring pollutants to define its sources and the adequate mitigating measures. Besides the efforts exerted to update and upscale the national network to cover all the governorates.

This chapter also includes indicators of air quality, data analysis and air concentrations monitored during the year compared to previous years.

The second chapter discusses **climate change**; green house gases and its expected threats and impacts on Egypt concerning the rise of sea level, shortage of water resources, lack of agriculture productivity, and the difficulty in cultivating some types of crops. This is in addition to possible adverse impacts on tourism, industry and health, as well as impacts on energy, industry, food safety and the national economy as a whole.

This chapter also describes the CO₂ equivalent indicators in 2009 compared to 2000 (baseline year), in addition to the significant efforts made to mitigate its adverse impacts and the clean development mechanism (CDM) projects, which include 55 projects that reduce greenhouse gases' emissions by up to 8 million equivalent tons of CO₂. Also, this chapter includes the pilot and executive projects in the field of mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

The third chapter overviews **Ozone layer protection** and the harmful impacts that may result from the erosion of this layer; this is in addition to the exerted efforts for gradual reduction of Ozone depleting substances (ODS) to achieve the final disposal according to the Montreal Protocol. Also, this chapter includes the indicators of the gradual reduction of imported Halon, Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and Methyl Bromide and Hydro-Chlorofluorocarbons (HCFC's) consumption reduction.

The fourth chapter focuses on **Noise**, its indicators include noise monitoring plan for the greater Cairo governorates in 2009 in comparison with 2008; also includes the different activities to define sources, and to develop programs to reduce noise in major squares, industrial, commercial, administrative and residential areas. This chapter also includes measured noise levels in the air traffic landing and taking - off and the residential areas around Cairo international airport. This is in addition to monitoring noise levels inside industrial, commercial, tourism work environments in all governorates as well as noise from ground vehicles.

The fifth chapter pointed out the participation of concerned ministries and authorities in the national plan for integrated **water** resources management to achieve sustainability and to develop these resources, in addition to developing unconventional and new water resources in the light of the current limited water resources and increasing population growth. This chapter also includes indicators of water quality and the status of industrial and sanitation drainage.

The sixth chapter describes the national program for **coastal water quality** and protecting it from pollution, in addition to monitoring the changes in coastal water quality and the corrective measures taken. This chapter describes water quality indicators for the Mediterranean Sea, Red Sea, Gulf of Suez and Gulf of Aqaba.

The seventh chapter overviews **biodiversity** conservation and the supportive measures used through institutional as well as capacities development, awareness, participation and projects sustainability. This chapter also discusses the issuance of the fourth national report on biodiversity convention in 2009, in addition to determining the indicators used for measuring progress achieved in the areas of biodiversity and nature conservation.

With reference to the importance of **afforestation and green landscapes** in maintaining the environmental balance and reducing the CO2 emissions, the eighth chapter discusses the Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs (MSEA) efforts to increase the green spaces by implementing the Greater Cairo green belt project, and planting of timber forests using treated waste water. This is in addition to the other activities such as afforestation of schools, governorates and gardens.

This report discusses the ministry's efforts in **urban and industrial environmental development** in the ninth chapter, in addition to exerted efforts to reduce the adverse environmental impacts resulting from industrial and construction development. These efforts include the measures & procedures that were taken to reduce environmental deterioration, and pollution level, and to increase economic and industrial development rates while protecting the environment.

In the **energy** field the tenth chapter points out the major and important role of energy rationalizing plans and improving its efficiency in the different fields to reduce the consumption rates, and to achieve economical balance between demands for oil products and to develop the revenue from exports. Also, it includes the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) reviews the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies for energy projects; and the issuance of environmental approvals.

The eleventh chapter includes the important initiatives for industrial pollution abatement projects, industrial modernization and **industry** new clean technologies integration to achieve the environmental balance without prejudice to the environmental status: Also, it points out the implementation of Environmental Pollution Abatement Project II (EPAP II), and environmental protection project for both the private and public industrial sectors, to support industrial companies to comply with environmental regulations.

The twelfth chapter represents the current levels of municipal **solid waste** in Egypt which is estimated at about 20 million tons annually; and the daily generation is estimated at 57,000 tons, that requires the application of integrated environmental management systems. This chapter also discusses the exerted efforts to reduce the negative impacts of waste that include control of public dumpsites, special programs for solid waste in the neediest villages, private sector participation in the collection, transportation and recycling processes and the final disposal of wastes.

The thirteenth chapter addresses the proper management of **hazardous waste and substances** to avoid the health and environmental problems that can result during the production, handling, storage, and disposal. The waste should be monitored during the different stages till the final disposal. MSEA has prepared a number of indicators relevant to inventory of the chemicals and pesticides imported and used by the industrial sector. The chapter includes also the projects implemented in cooperation with the concerned authorities.

In the fourteenth chapter the focus was on projects and activities implemented by the **Environment Protection Fund** (EPF) that is being designated as an independent public entity in the amended environment law no. 9 of 2009, to give it more authority to achieve its role in environment protection. The EPF is currently financing different projects such as the medical waste incinerators, waste recycling, and old taxies replacements, in addition to the projects implemented for the disposal of healthcare waste, recycling of agricultural waste and projects to achieve compliance by companies in cooperation with the office of environmental compliance in the Egyptian industrial federation.

In the framework of future environmental orientations, the fifteenth chapter discusses the **green economy**, which reflects the powerful and close relationship between the economy and the environment including the natural resources. The green economy depends on the green development through the optimal use of resources and energies without harmful impacts on the environment.

The sixteenth chapter addresses the topic of **applications and usage of radiation in protecting the environment** such as the sterilization of medical products, treatment of polymeric chemical compounds and food processing, in addition to treatment of liquid and gaseous waste that depends on using electronic accelerators without the need for the use of chemical polluting substances, and by using the radiation techniques as alternative for protecting the environment.

Finally, I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to all who have contributed to produce this report from the Ministry's Staff, other ministries, institutions, as well as agencies, NGOs and the private sector for their distinguished efforts to conserve sustainable natural resources and control pollution in order to maintain a clean environment for the current and upcoming generations .

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