



Arab Republic of Egypt

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Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs
Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency



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Egypt State of The Environment Report 2008

September 2009

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I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to all who contributed in producing this report whether from the Ministry's staff, other ministries, institutions or experts who contributed to the preparation of various parts of this report as well as their distinguished efforts to finalize it.

Particular thanks go to

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May God be our Guide,,,

Minister of State for Environmental Affairs

Eng. Maged George Elias

Foreword

It gives me great pleasure to foreword State of Environment Report -2008 of the Arab Republic of Egypt, which is issued for the fifth year successively as a significant step of the political environmental commitment of Government of Egypt “GoE”. This comes in the framework of law no.4 /1994 on Environment and its amendment law no.9/2009, which stipulates in its Chapter Two on **developing an annual State of Environment Report to be submitted to the president of the Republic and the Cabinet** with a copy lodged in the People’s Assembly ; as well as keenness of Egypt’s political leadership to integrate environmental dimension in all fields to achieve sustainable development , which springs from its belief that protecting the environment **has become a necessary requirement to protect People’s health** and increased production through the optimum utilization of resources



The president of the Republic has vested great interest in environmental preservation issue, starting with his Excellency’s words in his speech inaugurating People’s Assembly session that “ **preserving the environment has become a necessity not a luxury**”, **It has become an issue on which the ability of Egyptian citizens relies to lead safe life and enjoy good health enabling them to produce and innovate. The President has crowned his support to environmental issues by his request to the People’s Assembly to amend number of articles in the Egyptian Constitution so that the amended Constitution would incorporate an article stipulating environmental preservation.**

The amended constitution was issued in 2007 following People’s Assembly approval in a public poll, including article no. 59 stipulating that “**Environment preservation is a national duty and that the law shall regulate needed measures to maintain sound environment**”.

Stipulating in the **Egyptian Constitution** that environment preservation is a national duty would undoubtedly promote all of the state efforts represented in government agencies , NGO’s , civil society and private sector towards achieving a sound environment for decent life for Egyptian citizens .

This report comes as an outcome of the exerted efforts by many competent experts and those concerned with the environment in Egypt , whether in concerned ministries , official or non official institutions who collectively collaborated in developing this report with the Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs (MSEA) and its Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) .

The report addresses efforts exerted by all concerned ministries and institutions in the State during 2008 in the field of **Air Quality**, which led to significant improvement through the implementation of programs and projects adopted by Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs, including projects to reduce industrial pollution, use of natural gas in brick kiln industry, replace old taxis with new environmentally compatible, replace public transport buses with others operated with natural gas; in addition to the integrated management of agriculture residues especially rice straw.

In the field of **Protection from noise**, 2008 witnessed reallocated of the National Noise Monitoring Networks 30 terminals to cover all districts of Cairo governorate with the purpose of establishing a noise database and an environmental noise map for the different districts of the governorate, which considered to be the reference and base upon which technical solutions and appropriate scientific plans for environmental noise reduction in the governorate will be proposed, to be publicized to the rest governorates in the future.

Due to the increasing rates of greenhouse gas emissions and emergence of **Climate Changes'** negative effects, the report refers to challenges faced by Egypt which include sea-level rise, shortage of water resources, lack of agriculture production and difficulty of cultivating some types of crops; in addition to their adverse impacts on tourism industry, health and infrastructure, energy, industry, security as well as national economy as a whole.

The report pointed to the exerted efforts during 2008 to meet these challenges which include Clean Development Mechanism CDM aiming to implement projects to reduce greenhouse gases. They reach to about 52 projects achieving reduction in greenhouse gases of up to 0.9 million tons of CO₂ equivalent.

During 2008, 13 projects gained initial approval and in the international arena 4 projects had been registered so far, after CDM Executive Board approval.

In Keeping with provisions and decisions of Montreal Protocol on the progressive reduction of consuming Ozone Depleting Substances ODS, the report reflects Egypt's Commitment with its obligations in that respect by getting rid of ODS and their replacement with highly eco- friendly alternatives in different sectors: halon, medical aerosols, maintenance and repair of refrigeration equipments and methyl bromide sector.

The report addresses in details Freshwater and Coastal Zones being the main theme in 2008 report.

In Freshwater field, Egyptian government sets Water Resources National Plan which depends on water integrated management and achievement of sustainable development principles in

light of the increase in population growth rate to an average of 2.1% /year with water resources stability of 55.5 milliard m³/year ; accordingly reduce the current average per capita from water to 300 liter /day . The plan which involves all concerned ministries , bodies and institutions aims at developing water resources and improving efficiency of its use in addition to protect public health and environment through the protection of water resources from all forms of pollution .

In field of Coastal Zones:

Coastal Zones' part addresses Egypt's adoption of the integrated management principle for these zones since 1980s and ministry's efforts to prepare and coordinate national initiatives in that field because of coastal zones' containment of many natural resources with economic and environmental value which requires their perseverance and sustainability.

The report highlighted exerted efforts to reduce pressures against coastal zones which include beaches' erosions , degradation of water quality , irrational use of land , destruction of living organisms habitats , degradation of natural resources , climate changes and rise of sea level .

The report refers to works and activities supporting policies at local and regional levels. In addition to the integration of planning, sustainable development and environmental monitoring of coastal water quality in both Mediterranean and Red seas during 2008.

The report represents the most important changes that have occurred in the development of **Biological Diversity** during 2008 , extent of improvement compared to the previous year , taken actions and its affecting factors , exerted efforts to improve biological diversity conservation and achievement of global goal for 2010 to significantly reduce rate of biodiversity loss .

The report represents in details development and management activities of the established protected areas and declaration of new ones, finalizing estimation of biological diversity and supporting actions for its conservation which include institutional report, capacity building and sustainability of projects financed by development partners. .

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