



EEAA

EGYPTIAN ITALIAN ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION PROGRAM PHASE II (EIECP)

A Capacity Building Program in support of Egyptian Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs (MSEA)/Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) 2004-2008

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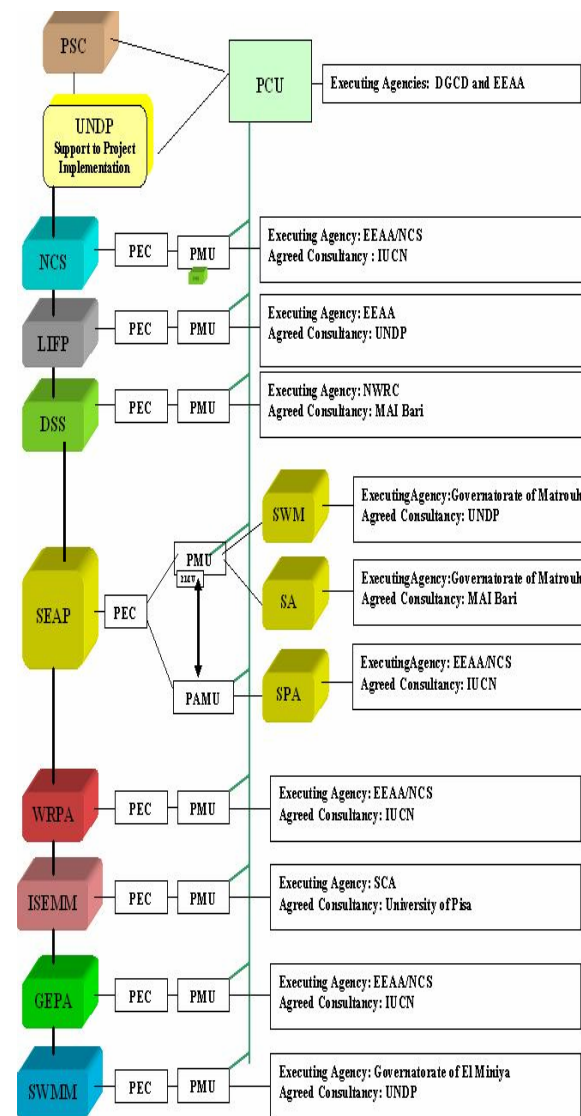
The main objective of the Egyptian-Italian Environmental Cooperation Program -II is to strengthen the EEAA capacities in the execution of the National Environmental Action Plan 2002-2017 through the execution of specific interventions in the sectors of water resources, nature conservation, solid waste management, legal and institutional support, sustainable agriculture and cultural heritage conservation.

Currently included in the Program are eight projects, in addition to a **Program Coordination Unit (PCU)**:

- *A systemic approach to Solid Waste Management in Rural Governorates of Egypt – Pilot development of a comprehensive management scheme for El Minia Governorate(SWMM)*
- *Capacity Building and Institutional Support to Nature Conservation Sector of EEAA(NCSCB)*
- *Decision support system for water resources planning based on environmental balance(DSS)*
- *EEAA Institutional and Legal Framework support(LIFP)*
- *Gabal Elba Protected Area(GEPA)*
- *Institutional Support to SCA for environmental monitoring and management of cultural heritage sites: application to Fayoum Oasis and to North Saqqara Necropolis (ISEMM)*
- *Siwa environmental amelioration(SEAP)*
- *Wadi El Rayan Protected Area(WRPA)*

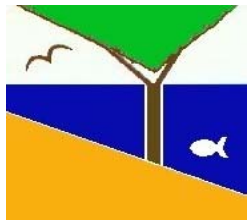
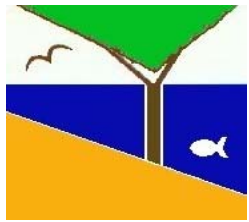

The Program is co-financed through both the Italian Cooperation Funds (EU 9.134.127) and the Egyptian-Italian Debt-for-Development Swap initiative (L.E. 19,900,060). The Executing /Implementing Agencies provide in-kind contribution. Each project is being implemented by the relevant Executing Agency, in close coordination with EEAA, through PMUs, the Project Management Units. The UNDP Cairo office supports the projects implementation. The Agreed Consultancies provides the international technical assistance and training services.

EIECP Flow Chart



Legenda:
PSC = Program Steering Committee PEC = Project Executive Committee

<p>Water Resources</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Decision Support System for Water Resources Planning Based on Environmental Balance</p>	 <p>National Water Research Center</p>	<p>Cultural Heritage Conservation</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Institutional Support to SCA For Environmental Monitoring and Management of Cultural Heritage Sites: Application to Fayoum Oasis and to North Saqqara Necropolis</p>	 <p>Supreme Council Of Antiquities</p>	<p>Sustainable Agriculture & Nature Conservation</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Siwa environmental amelioration</p>	 <p>Matrouh Governorate</p>  <p>Nature Conservation Sector- EEAA</p>
<p>As a continuation of Phase I endeavors, the project “Decision Support System for Water Resources Planning Based on Environmental Balance” is developing an interactive computer base system towards sustainable water resources planning and management; a tool for developing national policies for the sustainable use of Egypt’s water resources.</p> <p>The main elements of the project include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a methodology integrating environmental and socio-economic aspects in the analysis of water resources; • Establishment of efficient procedures to facilitate the exchange of information among all organizations concerned with water resources planning; • Collection and analysis of all influential information from all sources; • Design of an integrated, multi-variable Decision Support System (DSS) utilizing open source software libraries; • Application of the computerized model to representative case studies; • Building capacities of the technical staff of the National Water Research Center and EEAA. <p>The project is being implemented by NWRC / Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources and with technical support of Italian experts from MAI-Bari.</p>		<p>During Phase I, the project instituted the concept of risk assessment and initiated the establishment of Archeological site management office to support Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA) efficiently manage and mitigate the deterioration of the monuments because of environmental and anthropic factors; the Saqqara cultural site was the case dealt with in Phase I. In Phase II the concepts are further developed and spatially expanded. More staff from SCA will be trained, and the archaeological sites of Medinet Madi in Fayoum will be rehabilitated and opened for visitors. The strategic intervention of the project will enhance the role of the Technical Office for Environmental Management of Archaeological Sites (TOEMAS). The projects is investing in equipping the TOEMAS with the most up to date equipment and analysis tools, and in intensively train its core staff. Another important aspect of the project is the creation of a standard data base that can accommodate and link with GIS all archeological features in Saqqara and Fayoum. Moreover, Medinet Madi and Wadi El Rayan Protected Area will be attached, to constitute the core area of the Fayoum cultural and tourist district.</p> <p>The project is being implemented by SCA/Ministry of Culture and with technical support of Italian experts from the University of Pisa.</p>		<p>Siwa is a unique and pristine Oasis in the Western Desert of Egypt. In recent years it was under speculation for development. To attain sustainable development of the Siwa region, the project during Phase I introduced the environmental and social dimension into its development. Pursuing and consolidating activities of Phase I, which led to the establishment of the Siwa Protected Area, to the foundation of the Siwa association (SCDEC-NGO), to the introduction of the new agriculture schemes, and to an efficient soil and water management practices, Phase II is expanding its scope through a more integrated approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting the sustainable agriculture through adaptive research, monitoring natural resources, and application of micro credit schemes; • Supporting the development of Siwa Protected Area for monitoring, sustainable use, information, education and communication of biodiversity resources, and ecotourism base development; • Integrated Solid Waste Management; • Empowering local community; • Developing Agro-industry initiatives; • Supporting the EMU of Matrouh Governorate. <p>The project is being implemented by the Matrouh Governorate and EEAA/NCS, with technical support of international experts from IUCN, Mai-Bari and UNDP, and the contribution of specialized national institutions: Desert Research Centre and Agriculture Research Centre</p>	

<p>Nature Conservation</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Capacity Building and Institutional support to Nature Conservation Sector (NCS) - EEAA</p>	 <p>Nature Conservation Sector-EEAA</p>	<p>Nature Conservation</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Gebel Elba Protected Area</p>	 <p>Nature Conservation Sector-EEAA</p>	<p>Environmental Management</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Legal and Institutional Framework</p>	 <p>EEAA</p>
<p>The project is designed to support the core function of the NCS, which is “the establishment and proper management of the national network of protected areas” by providing human, financial and physical resources. It is principally targeted at policy development and strengthening the national capacity. The project is therefore providing institutional and technical capacity, and will create three NCS Technical Units for Planning, Environmental Impact Assessment and Licensing, Outreach and marketing. To this end, effective resource development, marketing and public relations activities are promoting NCS as the lead institution supporting biodiversity conservation in Egypt. Technical and planning support will be provided to the other Italian funded Protected Areas under EIECP, namely Gabal Elba, Siwa and Wadi El Rayan, which will serve as demonstration sites for testing measures designed to effectively devolve the management of some NCS functions. Pilot management plans will be developed and a standardized national system plan for protected areas will be formulated. The project will further contribute to the institutional reform process, specifically targeting the transformation of NCS into a properly resourced institution, formulating the appropriate organizational and administrative structure, undertaking a staff auditing and developing policies for staff structure and development.</p> <p>The project is being implemented by EEAA/NCS and with the technical support by international experts from International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).</p>		<p>Gebel Elba, on the coast of the Red Sea south Egypt, is the largest Protected Area in Egypt (35,600 square kilometers); it is rich in biodiversity and well known for its fascinating landscapes. It has good potential for ecotourism, and together with the close protected area of Wadi Allaqi will promote trans-boundary conservation issues with Sudan. The area is also rich in many historic and pre-historic sites. Three main tribal groups, which are African and Arabian in culture, inhabit the area and greatly add to the cultural diversity of Egypt. They form an integral part of the landscape and represent a living treasure of ethnic knowledge and cultural traditions. Pressures of unregulated hunting and fishing, habitat loss and degradation represent serious and long-term treats to the biodiversity and to the sustainable development of the area. The project, which supports the Protected Area in putting some basic infrastructure, providing basic equipment and facilitating the operations, will take care to protect the traditional rights of local people and encourage their participation in the adoption of conservation practices through an integrated community-based management approach. The project will develop and implement an efficient management plan that is promoting the participatory and collaborative management approach. In order to secure resources and to further develop the area to its high potential, a funding plan will also be prepared.</p> <p>The project is being implemented by EEAA/NCS and with the technical support of international experts from International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).</p>		<p>The general objective of the project is to address weaknesses and inconsistencies on the focus areas of Marine Environments, Protected Areas and Solid Waste Management of the environmental legislation and its implementation, and to strengthen the institutional role of MSEA/EEAA with respect to the other public institutions and its capability to cope with legal environment issues. The general objective is to be pursued mainly by assisting the EEAA, Legal Affairs Department, to update, harmonize and integrate legislation and regulatory framework with regard to the three focus areas. The project will also organize and implement relevant training workshops for legal and administrative staff of EEAA, judiciary departments, prosecutors and judges, to achieve capacity building. To facilitate the project implementation, several working teams have been established to deal with the specific focus areas. To ensure better integration between the project and EEAA, the teams are composed by project staff and officers nominated by the relevant departments of EEAA (as Legal Affairs, Marine Environment, Nature Conservation Sector and Solid Waste Management). In addition, officers from sister projects (as NCSCB, SWMM and WRPA) bring field experience and case studies. The link with NCSCB is also aimed to assist in transforming the Nature Conservation Sector into a properly resourced institution.</p> <p>The project is being implemented by EEAA, and with the technical support of international experts from UNDP, mainly recruited from the National Research Council of Italy.</p>	

Environmental Management

A systemic approach to Solid Waste Management in Rural Governorates: development of a comprehensive management scheme for El Minia Governorate



El-Minia Governorate

Nature Conservation

Wadi El-Rayan Protected Area



Nature Conservation Sector-EEAA

Wadi El-Hitan, World Heritage Site

Wadi El-Hitan was inscribed on the World Heritage List by the decision adopted at the 29th session of the World Heritage Committee (Durban, 2005) on following criterion : “Is the most important site in the world to demonstrate one of the iconic changes that make up the record of life on Earth: the evolution of the whales. It portrays vividly their form and mode of life during their transition from land animals to a marine existence. It exceeds the values of other comparable sites in terms of number, concentration and quality of its fossils, and their accessibility and setting in an attractive and protected landscape. It accords with key principles of the IUCN study on fossil World Heritage Sites, and represent significant values that are currently absent from the World Heritage List”.



Three species of Eocene whales have been identified with certainty at Wadi El-Hitan; all are Basilosauridids. The largest is *Basilosaurus isis*, which was up to 21 meters long with well developed five-fingered flippers on the forelimbs and with hind legs, feet, and toes, was not known previously in any archaeocoete. Their form was serpentine and they were carnivorous. Another species, *Dorundon atrox*, is also found with vestigial hind limb bones; it was a smaller whale, with a more compact dolphin-like body. A third species is the *Ancalocetus simonsi*. More than 400 whale and sea cow skeletons, and other bones and plant fossils have been identified, as the fossils are present in an exceptional concentration, and are of very high quality.

The SWMM project implemented in El Minia Governorate is aimed at strengthening the institutional capacity of the rural Egyptian Governorates for managing municipal and agricultural solid wastes, by developing management mechanisms for efficient and cost-effective handling of solid wastes in an environmental sound manner. The project will assess the data available for the Governorate and develop an objective-planning framework in a participatory manner. An institutional assessment and capacity building plan will be developed and implemented for the staff of the Governorate. To this end, the project will support the establishment of a Solid Waste Management Unit in Minia, and satellite offices in Marakez to follow up with the project interventions at the public level. The project will also introduce the information management technology in handling solid waste data and in supporting the decision making process. The whole project modules will be linked with GIS basic infrastructures, to assist decision makers as to the relevant best practices and interventions for waste control, management and waste reduction. Pilot actions will be designed for the validation of the methodologies and engineering standards formulated.

The project is being implemented by the Governorate of Minia and with technical support of international experts from UNDP.

Wadi El Rayan is a semi-desert Protected Area of 1759 Km² in the Fayoum Governorate, 140 kilometers from Cairo. It includes the first Egyptian Natural World - Heritage Site, the **Valley of Whales (Whadi el Hitan)** and it encompasses two, slightly brackish, man-made lakes. It supports a relatively rich desert fauna and flora. Found in the protected Area are the Fennec fox, the Rupelli’s sand fox, the Golden Jackal, and the African wild cat, and a small population of Dorcas gazelle, a rare species which is declining in number throughout Egypt. The project in its first phase supported the establishment of the basic infrastructures, recruited and trained the staff, provided vehicles and developed and maintained a management plan. The project in Phase II will continue upgrading the technical and human resources, will pursue environmental education, will update and implement the management plan, and will focus on the development of the Valley of Whales as scientific and eco-tourism destination. The project will also focus on the implementation of a business plan for revenue generation and sustained operation, and will develop within this context collaborative management mechanisms with stakeholders within the boundaries of the PA to promote sustainable conservation and development.

The project is being implemented by NCS/EEAA and with technical support of international experts from IUCN.