

During the study tour, the Study Team had an opportunity to attend a seminar called ‘Donor Assistance to Egypt in the Field of the Environment, The Lessons learned and the Way Forward’ organized by a local environmental consulting firm, EcoConServ. The seminar was held in Cairo and major donor countries for Egypt in the field of Environment were participated. A survey was conducted before the seminar, and the result was shown. One of the questions in the survey was about preference of the counterpart in environmental field in the future (See Table 7.4). It almost equally divided into four groups from the range of 20-30%, among government agencies, NGOs/CDAs, private sector, and governorates/decentralized institutions. The result shows diversifying counterparts from governmental agencies to direct counterpart in environmental assistance in the future.

Table 7.4: Preference for Future Counterparts in Environmental Field

Type of Counterpart	Rate of donor showing the preference (%)
Government agencies (such as EEAA, MoWRI)	29
NGOs/CDAs (Community Development Association)	29
Private sector	23
Governorates/ Decentralized Institutions	19

Source: EcoConServ, ‘Donor Assistance to Egypt in the Field of the Environment’, Dec. 2004

7.2 Policy for the Assistance

(1) Assistance Policy in Environmental Fields

According to World Bank, economic loss caused by environmental degradation in Egypt in 1999 reached US\$ 4.37 billion, which is approximately 4.9% of GDP. In addition, inefficient use of natural resources such as water and energy, as well as global environmental issues is causing US\$ 1 billion of economic loss. Combined them, the total loss for Egyptian economy reached US\$ 5.85 billion, or 6.6% of Gross Domestic Products.

Table 7.5: Cost of Environmental Degradation in Egypt

Fields		Loss	
		Million US\$/yr	Share in GDP (%)
Loss from environmental degradation	Water	1,751	1.97
	Air	953	1.07
	Soil	1,177	1.32
	Waste	465	0.52
	Costal region, cultural heritage	390	0.44
Loss from inefficient use of energy, raw material		581	0.65
Loss from global environmental problem		534	0.60
Total		5,852	6.58

Source: World Bank

Although high salinity in soil is responsible for large losses, it is difficult to prioritize this issue because it is difficult to take countermeasures. Therefore, it is appropriate to emphasize issues on water and air quality and waste management, which degradations are also causing large economic losses in Egypt.

The first phase and its follow-up of ‘the Environmental Monitoring Training Project’ with Japan’s technical assistance have ended, and the second phase of the project is under preparation with EEAA as a counterpart. Basic analytical skills and technical know-how have been transferred to Egyptian side during the first phase and its follow-up. In the second phase, emphasis will be placed on the environmental administration that reflects the result of monitoring. EEAA established the training centers (CCC and RBO) as a core of capacity building center on environmental management in Arab-Africa region, and plans to bring up the region’s environmental management capacity through South-South cooperation. Under those circumstances, it is important to continue to provide environmental assistance in water-, air-quality, and waste management fields in line with the Environmental Monitoring Training center. Some perspective projects developed from the result of this survey are proposed in the following section.

(2) Proposed Projects

1) Air Quality

A. Improvement of Air quality in the Greater Cairo

USAID has been working in improving the air quality in the Greater Cairo with EEAA as its counterparts under ‘Cairo Air Improvement Project (CAIP),’ which has been implementing the improvement of secondary lead smelting process, relocation of the smelters, establishment of automobile exhaust gas testing centers, and conversion of public buses to alternative fuel

(natural gas). Based upon the result of this CAIP project, component of the air quality improvement in the Greater Cairo should include the followings:

- Specify major source of air pollution in Greater Cairo (mobile source, factory, small and medium size factories, and incineration of agricultural waste in neighboring Governorates.
- Study on health damages caused by air pollution and compile a database
- Formulate action plan for major pollution source (including policy instruments)
- Implementation of the formulated action plan
- Add 'air quality in Greater Cairo' into data-book published by EEAA

B. Air Pollution Control in Rural Area (places other than Greater Cairo)

Similar to component in air pollution control in Greater Cairo, followings will be included:

- Specify major source of air pollution and examine health risks
- Formulate action plan for major pollution source (including policy instruments)
- Implement the formulated and agreed action plan as well as monitoring

C. Evaluation and Improvement of Indoor Air Quality

- Carry out study on indoor air quality in both residential and occupational environment.
- Based on the result of the above study, formulate improvement plan and action plan (including policy instruments) for indoor air quality in residential and occupational environment.

Relevant bodies include EEAA, MoHP, some Governorates, Egyptian Ministry of Petroleum, Ministry of Interior Central Traffic Bureau, Ministry of Public Enterprises, and Ministry of Agriculture.

2) Water Quality

A. Protecting Gulf Coast and Marine Water Resources

This is a project to protect gulf coast and marine environment, which are also important tourism resources for Egypt. Targeted areas include Red Sea, Gulf of Suez, Suez Cannel, Gulf of Aqaba, and Mediterranean.

Stimulate existing bodies, such as National Tourism Committee and National Gulf Coast Regional Management Committee, and promote protection of marine environment. For relevant governorates, the governors would play a vital role by decision making on implementation of activities and action plans. The following is a list of component in this project:

- Support formulations of development plan on infrastructures in gulf regions by Governorates

- Strengthen the monitoring in gulf regions carried out by EEAA
- Development/promotion of environmental facilities (such as waste oil and sewage treatment facilities and waste management facilities) that will leads tourism development
- Improvement of municipal solid waste management in resort area of gulf

Relevant bodies include EEAA, Ministry of Tourism, MoHUUC, and some Governorates.

3) Waste Management

A. 3Rs Plan for Solid Waste Management

EEAA developed the ‘National Strategy for Integrated Municipal Solid Waste Management’ in June 2000. For the implementation of the 3Rs component of this strategy, it is urgent to realize waste minimization effort, recycling formulation and action plans development.

Project components will include:

- Formulate master plan, action plans and guidelines (for central and local governments) to promote solid waste minimization effort in line with National Strategy for Integrated Municipal Solid Waste Management
- Capacity building of waste management unit in central and local governments
 - i) Central government: improve planning ability
 - ii) Governorates: improve management (or monitoring) ability on waste treatment businesses

(For the governorates, improve capacity for those engaging cleansing services, data acquisition and management capacity, and planning on waste management.)

Relevant bodies include Ministry of Rural Development (MORD), EEAA, and some Governorates.

B. Hazardous Waste Management Master Plan

It is estimated that approximately 400,000 tons of hazardous / infectious wastes are generated annually in Egypt. Although guidelines have been developed with support from a donor, there is no master plan for hazardous waste management. Furthermore, there is only one landfill site for hazardous waste in Alexisandria and no such landfill in another industrial area – i.e. near the Greater Cairo area. For hazardous wastes that need thermal treatment, small-scale incinerators are in operation in hospitals and clinics for infectious wastes. However, there is no thermal treatment facility for industrial hazardous wastes. Therefore, there is a need to formulate the master plan for hazardous waste management including development of necessary infrastructures for proper hazardous waste management.