



13-C Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Challenges facing the State such as the implementation of unplanned development projects, disregarding environmental impact when planning for these projects, absence of an environmental management for such projects during establishment and operation stages, in addition to the continuous increase in population resulting in unplanned status of buildings, basic utilities and outputs of human activities (i.e. solid and liquid wastes), as well as lack of adequate experience of administrative authorities to handle all such challenges in a way that curbs their negative impacts – all these have led to the appearance of pollution problems, apparently in the increased rates of harmful gaseous emissions such as sulfur, lead and nitrogen oxides, and carbon mono-/dioxide, which have placed increasing pressures on the atmosphere. The leakage of untreated industrial and sanitary drainage in watercourses has led to water resource pollution (fresh water, ground wa-

ter and marine environment). Similarly, the accumulation of solid wastes has also had negative impacts on hygiene and tourism.

In order to confront these challenges, Law 4/1994 on the Environment Protection and its Executive Regulation has stipulated on the necessity of environmental assessment of developmental activities before their implementation, which would minimize adverse impacts, while maximizing the positive impacts of such activities on the environment. EIA is a strategic tool essential for ensuring environment protection, as it is applied to assess the impacts of developmental projects or activities. The Environment Law has mandated EEAA with the responsibility of setting up an integrated institutional system comprising principles and criteria to conduct, review and decide upon EIA studies, ensuring the observance of work environment health and the maximum limits of gaseous emissions and

drainage output levels as stipulated in Law 4/1994 Executive Regulation.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is defined as a technical study undertaken by the investor or his representative where information and data on the project, its location and potential environmental impacts resulting from the project establishing on the ambient environment are collected. Through the study, different impacts of the project are analyzed and measures and alternatives for the different elements of the project are proposed, leading eventually to the elimination or mitigation of these impacts to the lowest extent possible. This study is taken into consideration by relevant administrative authorities when deciding whether to grant or reject a license to a project. EIA process comprises a number of procedures determined by Law 4/1994 on Environment Protection and its Executive Regulation, as well as EIA Principles and Procedures Guideline issued by MSEA EEAA, ensuring environmentally sound and sustainable development choices, besides the ability to identify any environmental consequences in the first stages of the planning process.

Furthermore, EEAA has issued detailed guideline manuals on some important activities such as land reclamation projects, port and marinas development projects, industrial zones development, urban development projects, wastewater treatment, cement production plants and gas and petroleum sector. Such manuals have been distributed on EEAA RBOs, EMUs and all stakeholders so as to allow them for investors and consultancies. Moreover, guideline manuals on new and renewable energy projects are currently being developed for release and distribution.

EIA Objectives:

- Providing sound basis for the decision-making process of project component design.
- Ensuring project implementation with full awareness of environmental factors;
- Increasing public awareness of the timing and forms of any potential environmental impacts.
- Facilitating public participation in the decision-making process.

Facilities subject to EIA conditions are identified according to 4 criteria:

1. Type of activity.
2. Natural resources used.
3. Facility location.
4. Type of energy used.

Projects have been classified into 3 categories according to their environmental impact as follows:

1. List (A) projects with low environmental impacts;
2. List (B) projects with significant environmental impacts; and
3. List (C) projects with hazardous environmental impacts

Additionally, environmental classification forms of (A) and (B) lists projects have been developed in a printed form in order to facilitate investors' filling in of basic and technical information, potential environmental impacts of such projects, and measures to mitigate such impacts, to enable EEAA to review these forms and give its opinion. Most of the studies submitted are reviewed by a qualified team of researchers. Also, the assistance of a number of EEAA accredited consultants is sought in projects with special nature that might

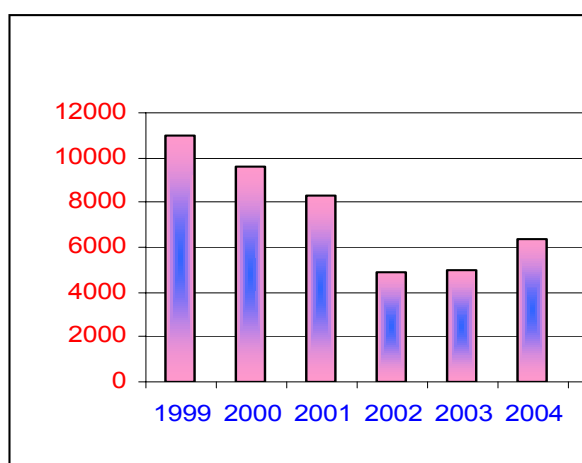
have potentially significant impacts on the ambient environment. After reviewing and assessing such studies, Reply is forwarded to competent licensing authorities as follows:

- Giving approval to the relevant competent administrative authorities to issue permanent licenses to projects established in industrial zones while adhering to the requirements of Law 4/1994 on environmental protection and its Executive Regulation.
- Giving approval to relevant competent administrative authorities to issue temporary licenses to projects established in industrial zones while adhering to Environment Law requirements pending the establishment of industrial zones.
- Rejecting the establishment of projects that do not fulfill Environment Law criteria and requirements.

In 2004, the number of EIA forms and studies submitted to EEAA was 15,529 of which 6,979 forms and studies have been received by the Central Department for Environmental Impact Assessment (CDEIA) distributed according to the following table:

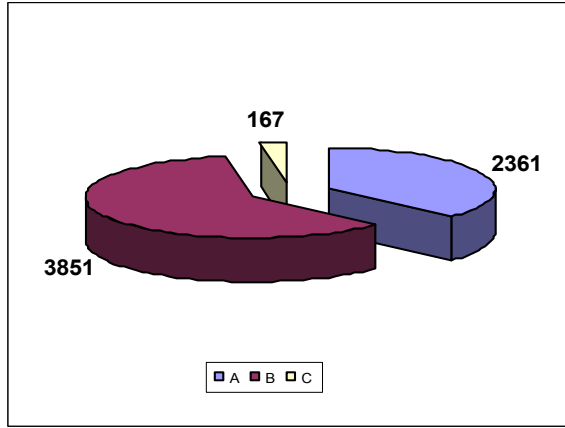
For implementing Decentralized Environmental Management, EEAA RBOs Ls have been mandated to review Screening forms of (A) List projects located in their geographical jurisdiction. The number of (A) forms received and reviewed by the officially established 5 RBOs 8550 forms. The following figure represents the total projects reviewed at the Central Department for Environmental Impact Assessment during the period from 1999 till 2004.

Classifying projects according to different sectors, which were received by CDEIA in 2004		
Projects	Number	(%)
Agricultural Projects	200	3.1%
Industrial Projects	3993	62.6%
Tourism Projects	107	1.7%
Electric Energy Projects	5	0.1%
Oil Projects	145	2.3%
Service Projects	1718	26.9%
Health Projects	28	0.4%
Infrastructure Projects – Roads	43	0.7%
Infrastructure Projects – Water	98	1.5%
Housing Projects	9	0.14%
Ports	1	0.02%
Airports	1	0.0%
Telecommunications	31	0.5%
Total	6979	100%



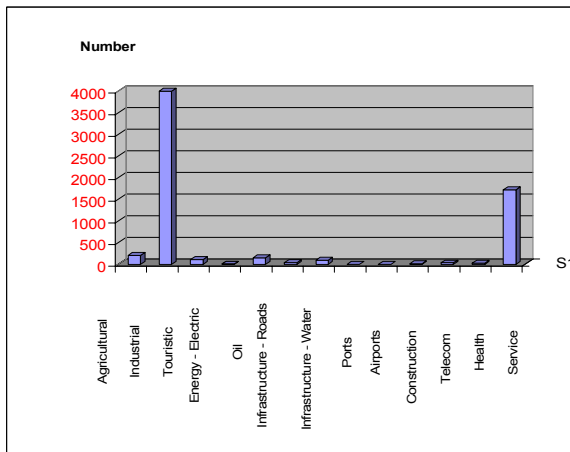
Total Number of EIA forms and studies received by the EIA Central Department during 1999 - 2004

The following figure represents the number of EIA forms and studies received by the EIA Central Department in 2004 according to their classification.



Number of EIA studies according to their classification received during 2004

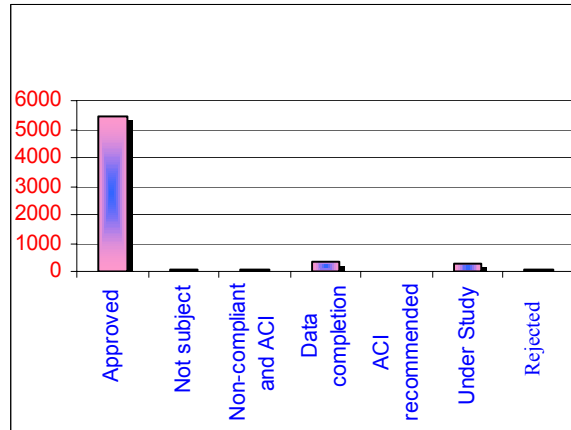
The following figure shows the distribution of projects received by the EIA Central Department during 2004 according to Sectors (type of activity)



During 2004

The following figure shows the status of projects received by the Central Department during 2004, which demonstrates a low number of projects (1.6%) were rejected due to their negative impact on the

ambient environment and their unsuitability for their selected sites.



Number of studies from 1/1/2004 till 31/12/2004 according to their status

The following table shows the total number of environmental Screening (A) Forms reviewed by RBOs during 2004.

Total Number of List (A) Project Environmental Screening Forms		
Sr.	RBO	Number of (A) List Projects
1	Greater Cairo and Fayoum	1738
2	West Delta	999
3	Middle Delta	2713
4	East Delta	2918
5	Suez Canal and Sinai	182
Total		8550

Future Vision

1. Activation the monitoring system for projects compliance with environmental requirements during construction and operation stages through EEAA RBOs and the General Department for Inspection.
2. Reviewing environmental screening lists and environmental requirements and removing some of the activities that do not require environmental assessment so as to be approved by EMUs based on requirements determined by EEAA.
3. Incorporating necessary amendments to the executive regulation to oblige owners of significant environmental impact projects to hold hearing sessions for projects to be attended by governmental public authorities and relevant organizations.
Taking necessary measures to collect service charges for reviewing EIA studies and forms in order to cover consultancy firms expenses.

