

Appendix 16: The homepage for the Clearing House Mechanism

BioMAP
Biodiversity Monitoring & Assessment Project

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About the Convention

Biological diversity is the term given to the variety of life on Earth and the natural patterns it forms. Biodiversity clearly includes the wide variety of plants, animals and microorganisms, but it also includes genetic differences within each species - for example, between varieties of crops and breeds of livestock. Chromosomes, genes, and DNA - the building blocks of life - determine the uniqueness of each individual and each species.

It is the combination of life forms and their interactions with each other and with the rest of the environment that has made the Earth a uniquely habitable place for humans. Biodiversity provides a large number of goods and services that sustain our lives.

Protecting biodiversity is in our self-interest. Biological resources are the pillars upon which we build civilizations. Nature's products support such diverse industries as agriculture, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, pulp and paper, horticulture, construction and waste treatment. The loss of biodiversity threatens our food supplies, opportunities for recreation and tourism, and sources of wood, medicines and energy. It also interferes with essential ecological functions of the Earth.

The loss of biodiversity often reduces the productivity of ecosystems, thereby shrinking nature's basket of goods and services, from which we constantly draw. It destabilizes ecosystems, and weakens their ability to deal with natural disasters such as floods, droughts, and hurricanes, and with human-caused stresses, such as pollution and climate change.

At the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, world leaders agreed on a comprehensive strategy for *sustainable development* - meeting our needs while ensuring that we leave a healthy and viable world for future generations. One of the key agreements adopted at Rio was the *Convention on Biological Diversity*. This pact among the vast majority of the world's governments sets out commitments for maintaining the world's ecological processes as we go about the business of economic development. The Convention establishes three main goals:

- The conservation of biological diversity
- The sustainable use of its components
- The fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources

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RESEARCH PROGRAMS

Chapter 4. The Research Environment in Egypt — Karima Korayem

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Introduction

The research environment is a function of four factors:

- the research institutes (the availability and scientific standard);
- the funding (how generous or tight the research budget is);
- the research personnel (the capabilities and potentials of researchers); and
- the research product (its quality and relevance to the country's priorities and challenges).

The first three factors represent the inputs to the research environment, while the fourth is the output. Thus, the quality and relevance of the research produced in Egypt is determined by the quantity and standard of the research institutes available, by the amount of funding allocated to research activity, and by the capabilities and potentials of the researchers.

This report consists of four parts, in addition to an Introduction, Appendix and Bibliography. The second part discusses the institutional setup in Egypt; the third outlines the research funding; the fourth outlines the research personnel; and the fifth and last discusses the research product.

The institutional setup in Egypt

The majority of Egypt's research institutes and centers are government-owned, while some are privately owned by both domestic and foreign outfits.[1] The governmental research outfits (universities, institutions, centers) are located in the production, higher-education, and services sectors. The research outfits in the production sector are affiliated to the Ministry of Petroleum, Ministry of Agriculture, and Ministry of Industry; in the higher education sector, they belong to the Ministry of Scientific Research, and the Ministry of Education;[2] and the research activity in the services sector are distributed among the Ministries of Electricity, Housing, Transportation, Health, Social Affairs, Irrigation, Planning, Labour and Emigration, and the Cabinet (Academy of Scientific Research and

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