

BioMAP

Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt

Government of Italy

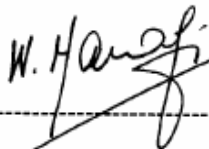
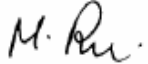
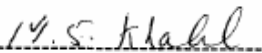

United Nations Development Programme

Institutional Strengthening of the
Nature Conservation Sector and National Biodiversity Department for Monitoring and
Assessing of Biodiversity and Natural Heritage (BioMAP)

This project will provide assistance for three years to the Nature Conservation Sector and the Biodiversity Department of the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA), Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs (MSEA) for planning and implementing nature conservation activities on a sustainable basis. The primary strategy is to focus on the expanding the monitoring and assessment capabilities of the Biodiversity Department and on strengthening MSEA/EEAA's capacity for analyzing and developing biodiversity policy within the Nature Conservation Sector. These actions will ultimately contribute to the preservation and protection of wild life resources in protected areas, as well as other natural resources all over Egypt constituting Egypt's biodiversity assets. The project will facilitate EEAA staff efforts to assess and monitor biodiversity through capacity building in the key areas of planning, environmental impact assessment, licensing of economic activities and monitoring and evaluating their impacts within the National Protected Areas and other natural biodiversity significant areas in Egypt.

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Project: Institutional Strengthening of the Nature Conservation Sector and National Biodiversity Department for Monitoring and Assessing of Biodiversity and Natural Heritage (BioMAP)

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Part I. Situational Analysis

Introduction

The Earth's biological resources constitute its most valuable capital asset and are essential for maintaining the life sustaining systems of the biosphere. These resources include the genetic resources, organisms or any other biotic component of ecosystems with actual or potential use or value for humanity. Their continued existence is vital for the survival of mankind in Egypt and the rest of the Earth.

Vast numbers of unknown plants, animals, and other organisms are currently being lost before they have even been recognized. Species loss is likely occurring at a rate faster than the discovery of new species. Much of this loss is attributed to human activities.

Globally, only about 1.6 million organisms out of a conservative estimate of between seven and 10 million have been recognized scientifically. A great majority of these are poorly known, often from a single specimen, a brief description, a locality, and nothing more. Some 250,000 of an estimated 300,000 species of flowering plants have been identified, leaving some 50,000 completely unknown.

A. The Convention on Biodiversity

Recognizing the significance of sustainable development and conservation of biological resources and concerned that human activities are significantly reducing biological diversity, the Convention on Biological Diversity was opened for signature at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992. It entered into force in 29 December 1993 and as of mid 2001 has 181 parties. Egypt was a signatory in 1992 and ratified the CBD in 1994.

The principal objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) are the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from its utilization. The Convention recognizes that the key to maintaining biological diversity depends upon using this diversity in a sustainable manner. To do this, one must know what species are present, the strength of the populations and the rate of change. Another key concept that is implicit to the basic philosophy of the CBD is that the ecosystem should be the unit of management rather than focusing just on the organism. Activities to preserve biodiversity must look at preserving habitats and ecosystems rather than singling out individual species.

B. The Egyptian Context

Egypt has a rich natural heritage. It possesses many rare species, such as the Dugong, and such unique habitats as the Red Sea coral reefs and mangrove systems and the sand dune/oasis systems of its deserts. The 1995 Country Study of Biological Diversity estimated that there are approximately 18,000 species in Egypt, including 44 species of viruses, 238 bacteria, 1,260 fungi, 1,148 algae, 369 non-flowering vascular plants and 2,072 species of flowering plants. The fauna includes an estimated 10,000 species of insects, 1,422 other invertebrates, 755 fish, 105 reptiles and amphibians, 470 birds and 126 mammals.

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Some of Egypt's species represent organisms that exist on the very edge of their geographical or ecological range of distribution. Under these types of condition, the species have limited tolerance for ecological pressure. The corals in the Red Sea, Gulf of Suez and Gulf of Aqaba represent the northernmost limit of their distributions in the world. The coastal mangroves are the same. Other species represent the last remaining populations of flourishing growth from ancient periods when climatic conditions were quite different. As the habitat became more arid, the species have retreated to a few isolated refuge locations, such as the hilly sites in North Sinai or the mountains of Gabel Elba.

Despite mounting conservation efforts over the past 20 years, the loss of the Egypt's biological diversity has persisted. This is largely due to habitat destruction, over-harvesting of wild living resources, inappropriate introduction of exotic and invasive plant and animal species, and pollution of soil, water and atmosphere. Unfortunately, there are no clear statistics that quantify the rate of habitat and biodiversity loss in Egypt.

In the sixties, Egypt adopted major industrialization programs in many regions of the country. Demand for raw materials and sites for industry, housing and waste disposal has adversely impacted Egypt's environment. With the start of the green revolution, policies for intensive agriculture were enacted in order to meet the needs of a rapidly growing population. These policies promoted the extensive use of fertilizers and other agrochemicals in order to increase the crop yield per unit of cultivated land. Undeveloped lands were converted to new agriculture areas with many sites adjacent to wetlands, lakes and the river Nile. All these practices have been implemented with little regard for their impact on the environment. This has led to detrimental impacts for multiple habitats and major changes in terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity.

Fortunately, the environmental problems and their economical impacts are beginning to gain attention from the media, authorities and from the general population. Various development programs such as the USAID funded RSSTI, Italian funded EIECP, DIFAD funded SEAM and projects funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) have helped to raise awareness within government about the importance of biodiversity and sustainable environmental management. The Government of Egypt hosted the First International Conference on Protected Areas and Sustainable Development, which was held in October 23-26, 2002. The conference addressed issues of global concern that are related to conservation of Biodiversity and protected areas from an Egyptian perspective. MSEA/EEAA presented its programs for protected areas as a sustainable development tool and the role of international development agencies, donors and conventions. Representatives from numerous Egyptian and international organizations were present in the well-organized conference.

Egypt's growing emphasis on ecological tourism as a basis for long-term development has also helped to focus attention on biodiversity conservation. As tourist travel increases in popular coastal and desert destinations, it is becoming more apparent that there is a pressing need to maintain the environmental integrity of popular destinations so as to retain their attraction for tourists. The end result is that some of the nation's leaders are beginning to recognize that urgent and decisive actions need to be implemented in order to conserve and maintain species and their ecosystems with a view to the sustainable management and use of biological resources.

C. Egyptian Environmental Legislation and Institutions

Historically, Egypt's laws concerning the conservation of plant and animal life were lodged with the Ministry of Agriculture. The Ministry of Agriculture was empowered to put these laws into effect and to follow up their implementation. The Egyptian Wildlife Service was established in the Ministry of Agriculture as the authority for the protection of nature in 1979. In 1983, Egypt enacted Law 102, which regulates the conservation of natural resources and includes the legal framework for the declaration and management of protected areas. To secure a suitable source of funding for the protected areas, Law 101 of 1985 authorized the levy of a tax on airplane tickets issued locally so as to finance programs for developing tourism and environmental protection.

The National Environmental Law (Law 4 for 1994) established the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) and Article (28) provided it with the authority to regulate the possession of and hunting of wild birds and animals. It also prohibited the destruction of their nests and habitat. Article 14 of the same law established the Environment Protection Fund (EPF), the successor to the fund established under Law 101 of 1985. It identified additional sources of funding for the EPF and designated the uses of the EPF, including establishing and operating Environmental Monitoring Networks and Nature Reserves.

In keeping with the Convention on Biological Diversity, the EEAA has established a National Biodiversity Department. The Biodiversity Department mandate includes actions to develop: (1) a national study (inventory) of the Egyptian biodiversity (2) a national biodiversity data bank (to be linked with a national biodiversity data network), and (3) a national strategy for biodiversity conservation and a national plan of action. As mentioned earlier, the Country Study of Biological Diversity was completed in 1995. The output of this exercise was documented in sixty-four volumes that are currently organized and arranged in groups to be used as reference data. The Biodiversity Data Management study in 1997 helped transform this data from the country study into useable information. The resulting data collections of flora, fauna and microorganisms are housed within the National Biodiversity Department.

The present Nature Conservation Sector emerged as part of an EEAA reorganization in 1997. The Biodiversity Department was included as a department in the NCS. A Protected Areas Management Department also was established for managing activities related to the various national protected areas.

Following on these activities, an Egyptian National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) for Biodiversity Conservation were formulated in 1998. More than 1,500 experts and decision-makers participated in preparing the strategy that was later endorsed by ministries, Governorates and the People's Assembly and forwarded to the Ministry of Planning for funding. An important facet of the Strategic Action Plan is an ambitious programme of enabling activities, applied projects and projects for research, monitoring and assessment.

In international forums, Egypt has shown active interest in conservation of biodiversity and preservation of the natural resources and heritage. It is a signatory to and has ratified multiple treaties and conventions pertaining to biodiversity, including the African Convention on Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (1969), International Convention on the Protection of Cultural and Natural Heritage (Paris, 1972), Convention on Trading in

Endangered Species of Wild Animals (CITES 1975), Convention on Conservation of Migratory Animals (1979), and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar, 1986). The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was signed in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and ratified by Egypt in 1994 along with the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (Barcelona, 1995). Many of these agreements have specific requirements for countries to know the status of different priority species and their habitats.

D. The Problem

Biodiversity Strategy and Policy

Conservation of the environment and biodiversity is a crosscutting issue that is directly affected by activities occurring in government, the public and the private sector. To effectively reduce the rate of biodiversity loss, it is not sufficient to tackle just the immediate causes due to habitat loss, pollution, over-harvesting of wild species and invasion of exotic species. One must also begin looking at the root causes for biodiversity loss (i.e. failure of institutions, markets and policies, lack of information, rising populations and unsustainable cultural and consumption patterns). Addressing such issues demands collaboration with various sectors as the root cause issues generally lay outside the scope of the NCS and even the MSEA/EEAA. Steps must be taken to ensure that environment and biodiversity are well considered during the policy formulation processes that occur as other ministries deliberate their own agendas.

Egypt needs to increase its capacity for germinating the environmental policy work to support its strategy for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. The present NCS organization is divided into two departments: Protected Areas Management and Biodiversity. The PA Department is fairly robust and includes all the staff responsible for managing the national network of 23 protected areas. The Biodiversity Department, on the other hand, is quite under-developed despite a broad mandate to manage all biodiversity resources outside of the PA's and to assist on biodiversity management within the PA's. The only entity present in the Biodiversity side of the NCS is the National Biodiversity Department, whose recent mission is to coordinate and facilitate biodiversity research and monitoring.

Although the Biodiversity Department collects data on biodiversity and the Protected Areas Department manages the nation's protectorates, there is no department level group tasked with the responsibility to assess the multiple social, economic and legal policies that often drive unsustainable activities throughout the country and thus result in loss of biodiversity. Nor is there a group that is developing uniform policies and strategies to ensure that protected area management activities complement biodiversity conservation strategies envisioned for areas lying outside the protectorate boundaries. The NCS needs to increase its capacity to distinguish biodiversity policy issues yet to be addressed and then to frame the questions to be answered by information resources, such as the Biodiversity Department's taxonomic system or a monitoring and assessment program.

Biodiversity Monitoring and Assessment

Information is essential to make informed decisions about natural resources management and, in particular, for setting priorities and developing sound nature conservation management policies and actions. While there exists a great deal of information about Egypt's natural resources, it is scattered between institutions, lacking in some fields and outmoded in others. Where there are available referral collections (of plants, insects and other groups), these are seldom coordinated or linked. The result is that although there may be a wealth of information, it is generally not easily accessible or current. This makes it less useful for taxonomic purposes and unusable for taking management decisions about natural resources and biodiversity conservation.

But accumulating data alone is not sufficient in the modern biodiversity context. It should be collected with a specific intent and purpose of use, analyzed and then brought into the policy forum for management consideration. The data should be used to address biodiversity related issues occurring inside and outside the perimeters of the protected areas. For example, Egypt is party and signatory to multiple international and regional conventions and treaties that relate to biodiversity. It needs to take the systematic steps that will enable it to track and report on its efforts to fulfill the commitments flowing from these agreements. This requires a unit whose task would be to build the required collections, to bridge the gaps in others and to facilitate coordination between the scientific documentation of biodiversity in Egypt and current environmental policy.

The present Biodiversity Department includes a full-time Head, two database programmers and one data entry clerk but there is very little funding for facility operations, equipment procurement and maintenance or specific project activities. Although the Biodiversity Department has created a database of information for the protectorates, there are no uniform methods and protocols adopted for the routine collection of time-series data about biodiversity either within the Protected Areas or in areas outside the boundaries.

To be more than just a repository for taxonomic information, the Biodiversity Department needs to formulate a strategy and system for routine collection and monitoring of information about biodiversity that can be replicated throughout the national network of protected areas. Such a system would require a data management system with GIS. It also requires a team of trained staff who can conduct biodiversity assessments and train the rangers to continue this monitoring work on a regular basis. The system also needs to be complemented with monitoring activities occurring outside the protectorates as well.

A monitoring and assessment program would track progress in attaining biodiversity conservation by following different indicators. Such indicators could, in some cases, be applied in a national or global context while others would be more site-specific at the level of an individual protected area or habitat type. Such a system would make it easier to fulfill the substantial reporting requirements that are included as part of these international agreements.

Within this context, the following project is proposed for enhancing the conservation of natural heritage and environmental biodiversity in Egypt through a number of actions in light of the Egyptian National Strategy and Action Plan for Biodiversity Conservation and the Convention for Biodiversity Conservation.

II Description of BioMAP Strategy

The Biodiversity Monitoring and Assessment Project will provide assistance for three years to the Nature Conservation Sector and the National Biodiversity Department of the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency, Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs. The primary strategy is to focus on expanding the monitoring and assessment capabilities of the Biodiversity Department and on strengthening the capacity for analyzing and developing biodiversity policy within the Nature Conservation Sector.

Specific Objectives

(1) Strengthen the capacity of the Biodiversity Department to better serve as a focal point for coordinating and facilitating biodiversity research and monitoring. The project will help to establish the necessary staffing, systems and facilities to inventory, evaluate and monitor Egypt's natural heritage and biodiversity. The present taxonomic database will be upgraded and a Monitoring and Assessment model will be created based upon the existing Egyptian Environmental Information System. Biodiversity surveys will occur in several national protectorates and the resulting information used to field test the monitoring and assessment system. Rangers and naturalists in the Protected Area's Department of NCS will be trained in the monitoring and assessment protocols. A Small Grants program will be used to fund targeted research on biodiversity in specific locales. The research would follow the methods prepared for the new monitoring and assessment protocols and include the provision that data must be turned over to the Biodiversity Department for inclusion in the national database.

(2) The second project objective will be to strengthen the Biodiversity Department management structure within the Nature Conservation Sector by creating a Biodiversity Strategy Working Group. The working group will provide NCS with some of the institutional capacity required to identify, consolidate and promote legal, economic and social instruments that can support biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. It will enable the NCS to better respond to requests for input with regards to biodiversity during the process of developing government policy in other ministries.

An internet-based Clearing House Mechanism will be established to assist other organizations, including the private sector to obtain and exchange information about biodiversity in Egypt. The project also will restart a planning process aimed at constructing a Natural History Museum. The activity would examine issues of funding, collection content, intended use, and display modalities. The goal would be to identify a site and create a preliminary facility design for the museum. In doing so, the project will help to fulfill the development objective of the EEAA Nature Conservation Sector which is to "protect, manage and develop Egypt's wild resources on behalf of its people, by conserving the nation's biological diversity, preserving representative samples of the country's natural landscape and ensuring that the management and use of all wild resources are sustainable and economically productive."

Main Outputs/ Results

The main outputs of the project are presented below and also are listed in the Logical Framework attachment. Details about the activities associated with the outputs follow and also are elaborated in the Logical Framework.

Output 1.1 The initial project activities will be to build the capacity of the National Biodiversity Department within Nature Conservation Sector, EEAA so that it can be the focal point to coordinate and facilitate biodiversity research and monitoring. Equipment and vehicles will be purchased and office space obtained. Key staff also will be recruited. They will focus initially on determining the gaps and areas of weakness within the existing biodiversity monitoring and assessment system and identifying the overlaps with the other related departments. An early activity will be to conduct an inception workshop with major stakeholders to develop a more specific project work plan. A staffing plan will be developed along with a training strategy for the Biodiversity Department. A key activity will be a needs assessment to determine who are the end users of Biodiversity Department products and what information do they need. What are the particular requirements of these primary users? Can the system provide this information in its present configuration? How can the information be gathered and disseminated more easily? Is it current and accurate? How is it referenced? How can the system be used to fulfill the reporting requirements imposed by various international treaties and conventions? These types of questions will aid in making the Biodiversity Department data products more useful and accessible.

Output 1.2 A monitoring and assessment program for biodiversity will be developed. It will include a biodiversity database and national natural heritage sensitivity map that allows for the integration of land use and development/ conservation of biodiversity and natural resources on the national and regional level. The focus will be on key habitats and priority indicator species. The monitoring program will also include indicators that will enable the GOE to track its progress in conforming with the various international conventions and treaties applicable to biodiversity conservation.

Such work will build upon an existing database developed with support from the Global Environment Facility in the mid 1990's as part of the process for ratifying the Convention on Biological Diversity and for developing the National Strategy and Action Plan for Biodiversity Conservation. It will also link to the current CIDA-funded Egyptian Environmental Information System (EEIS), which presently is developing a GIS-based system that serves as a data warehouse to store, retrieve, manage, analyze and display geo-referenced environmental data. Its focus is on planning for environmental disaster contingency, industrial pollution prevention and development in new industrial zones. The proposed Biodiversity Department Monitoring and Assessment Project (BioMAP) will complement this work by organizing the voluminous material available on biodiversity and linking its analysis to the EEIS. Some of the BioMAP activities will include the following:

- Establishing indicators, methods and models for monitoring and assessing biodiversity occurring both inside and outside of protected areas.
- Protocol for data transfer formats and methods for proper references
- A biodiversity database for scientific use, including a list of priority species and habitats.

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- National natural heritage sensitivity maps delineating critical habitats, migratory corridors and biodiversity hot spots.
- A sensitivity list for the Egyptian fauna and flora.
- A GIS based biodiversity and natural resources database for scientific use and land use planning.
- A library for reports, images and video clips
- Building on the Multilateral Environmental Agreement Database being developed by the EEIS Project.
- Publications.

An important part of these activities is to develop the capacity of the NCS Protectorate staff for monitoring and assessing biodiversity within their protected areas. Indicators, survey methods and protocols will be developed and implemented on a pilot basis in several protectorates. Possible locations include St. Catherine's, Siwa, Wadi Rayan, Wadi Gimal-Hamata and Gabel Elba. St. Catherine's Protectorate in the South Sinai is considered as a data-rich site owing to earlier and ongoing biodiversity conservation efforts. Staff could try to draw on the wealth of information and the data system already available for St. Catherine's. Wadi Gimal-Hamata, south of Marsa Alam on the Red Sea Coast and Gabel Elba Protectorate (in the SE corner of Egypt on the Sudanese border) are much less well researched and project funds will be available for more extensive on-the-ground assessment and inventory activities. The BioMAP activity will also benefit from work in the Gabel Elba Protected Area Project funded through the Egyptian-Italian Environmental Cooperation Program (EIECP) Phase II and the Debt for Development Swap Fund. Similar benefits could arise from both the Siwa Environmental Action Project and the Wadi Rayan Protected Area Project. Similar to Gabel Elba, both are funded through the EIECP-Debt Swap program.

The Biodiversity Department realizes that the EEAA and the NCS cannot complete the full work of identifying, assessing and monitoring biodiversity on its own throughout Egypt and the region. It must rely on the work of others outside the agency and hope that information will flow to the BioMAP system. One way to encourage this will be by providing a Small Grants Program funded within the project at the level of approximately 500 hundred thousand pounds (LE). The small grants (less than 50,000 LE per grant) will be given after a Request for Proposal Process (RFP) has been conducted. The proposals will be targeted at those specific areas of research and assessment identified during a national workshop held in the first year to determine the M&E needs for Egyptian biodiversity. It is anticipated that a pre-proposal workshop will be conducted to ensure that proposals are properly prepared for suitable topics and with substantive designs.

The project also will link with the on-going efforts of BioNET-International, a donor-funded initiative, which creates sub-regional inter-governmental organizations serving as technical cooperation networks. These networks, known as LOOPS (Locally Owned and Operated Partnerships) are supporting efforts to implement the Global Taxonomy Initiative. The GTI is assisting developing countries to overcome the Taxonomic Impediment identified by the Parties to the CBD by developing the skills, infrastructure and technologies needed to discover, identify, name, classify and understand the organisms on our planet. The BioMAP project will help to support Egypt's work on the Global Taxonomy Initiative as partner in the northern Africa LOOP.

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Output 2.1 A Biodiversity Strategy Working Group, reporting to the Director of the Nature Conservation Sector, will be created as a means for strengthening department level activities that will consolidate and promote legal, economic and social instruments to support conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources. Presently there are no individuals with specific responsibility for these tasks, except when gathered on a crisis basis.

The group will perform functions appropriate for the level of a Biodiversity Department, such as providing technical and educational support for the NCS (including the Protected Areas). It would also carry out policy activities including identifying gaps and weaknesses with regards to biodiversity in the present environmental administration and legislative structure of the NCS and the government at large. In particular it will seek out and suggest economic, legal and social activities or policies as alternatives that encourage sustainable use of biodiversity and other natural resource assets. It will also provide technical “field level” expertise during preparation of environmental management training curriculum and collaborate with the Biodiversity Department during preparation of biodiversity monitoring methodologies. The Working Group will also be responsible for reporting on progress to fulfill the requirements imposed by various international treaties and conventions pertaining to Biodiversity.

The Biodiversity Strategy Working Group will collaborate with Protected Area staff, universities and colleges to develop applied biodiversity conservation management curriculum and to link research with NCS objectives for its site studies. The Working Group also will also seek to develop and promote opportunities for economic measures that enhance biodiversity conservation and provide sustainable financial resources to support biodiversity assessment. Issues such as regulating hunting and public access to biodiversity information will be considered.

Output 2.2 BioMAP will develop an Information, Education and Coordination program to raise awareness about the BioMAP system and biodiversity conservation. The emphasis would be on increasing the ability of stakeholders to support activities to update the databases and to better utilize the information produced through the national programme. BioMAP will develop a training and capacity building program for key personnel involved in biodiversity conservation in different Egyptian authorities and organizations, including the governorates, NGOs, universities, research institutes and the other stakeholders involved in biodiversity conservation. The purpose is to disseminate its monitoring methodologies, encourage the sharing of biodiversity data, and to improve the networking mechanisms between these organizations.

BioMAP will also try to build awareness with a campaign targeted at the public and private sector. A key element of the IEC strategy will be to develop a Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) to increase opportunities for cooperation, coordination and information exchange between the Biodiversity Department, other EEAA departments and among other national or international bodies involved in biodiversity conservation. The Clearing House Mechanism will have a strong Internet component.

Output 2.3 To aid in efforts for producing a national taxonomic system, the Nature Conservation Sector envisions the creation of a Natural History Museum. The intent is to promote public awareness and research on biodiversity in Egypt and the region. The project proposes to assist with the strategic planning for such a Natural History Museum. BioMAP

will help to prepare the terms of reference for and convene a committee to prepare a strategic development plan in preparation for building the museum. The committee will be responsible for examining and seeking input on multiple issues, such as funding, collection content, the intended use of the facility, display modalities and how to collaborate with other national and international entities. The committee also will identify a proposed museum site, and prepare a strategic development plan and a preliminary plan of the site concept.

Beneficiaries

Egypt's natural resources and biodiversity should be considered as valuable capital assets that have great potential for yielding future benefits. Such assets, many of which have still undiscovered benefits, will have a beneficial impact on the entire population. Identifying and monitoring the occurrence of species is an important step in the process of discerning their various future benefits. Creating a systematic repository for such information will help to link the work of numerous individuals and institutions and add tremendous value to their work by making the information available to the public in a usable format.

The project will enhance the role played by various organizations and institutions regarding environmental issues, particularly NGOs, research institutions and universities. The proposed Clearing House Mechanism will promote co-operation and coordination between the different authorities, ministries, learning and research institutions involved in biodiversity conservation. It will benefit the private sector, which needs current biodiversity information for proper planning of projects and for proper preparation of Environmental Impact Assessments. Ministries also need this type of information when planning government projects or when reviewing applications for activities within their purview, such as tourism, industry, housing or infrastructure development. Likely participating agencies and stakeholders include:

- MSEA/EEAA
- National Biodiversity Department
- Nature Conservation Sector, Protectorate Division
- Ministries of Agriculture, Water Resources and Irrigation, Housing, and Public Works
- Academy of Science and Scientific Research
- Universities
- Field Research Stations
- Zoological and Botanical Gardens
- NGOs

Individuals, too, will benefit from this project. Identifying the presence and distribution of species is critical for taking the steps necessary to sustain a viable habitat that produces products for human use. A diverse and rich environment helps to sustain livelihoods such as fishing or harvesting of herbal ingredients for medicines or serving as a birding guide. In other instances, people may benefit where biodiversity conservation is used as the impetus for creating protected areas that later serve as destinations for conservation or eco-tourism. Such ecological tourism and the foreign currency income that it generates can help improve the socio-economic status of the area's citizens, particularly those involved in the tourism sector. A strong monitoring and assessment program both within and outside the protectorates also helps to ensure that the core biodiversity of an area stays viable and intact since a loss or

degradation of that core will detract from the attraction of the area and tourism interest will decline.

Lastly, a Biodiversity Working Group and a stronger National Biodiversity Department will help the Nature Conservation Sector to sustain the diversity and viability of species in Egypt. In keeping with the main tenets of conservation, one must be concerned with not only the organism itself but rather with the species web of the ecosystem supporting it. All species are valuable for maintaining the integrity of the ecosystem and habitats- not just those that have a known economic value. Monitoring and assessing the status of known priority species can indicate whether the progress is being made when it comes to conserving habitat and species. A strong monitoring and assessment program can be linked to the Policy and Strategy Working Group to be better prepared for policy formulation discussions with entities inside and outside the EEAA and Ministry of Environment.

Part III. Results Framework

The principal Objectives and outputs are summarized in the following section. They are also presented in the Logical Framework. Annex _1.

Development Outcome: Protect, manage and develop Egypt's wild resources.

Specific Objective 1: The Biodiversity Department will have the technical capacity and the manpower to function as the focal point to coordinate and facilitate biodiversity monitoring and evaluation.

Specific Objective 2: The Nature Conservation Sector (NCS) will have the institutional capacity to consolidate and promote legal, economic and social instruments that support biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

Outputs:

1.1 Strategic plan and training programs for the key personnel are implemented to upgrade and strengthen the capability of the Biodiversity Department.

1.2 A monitoring and assessment program for biodiversity is developed and implemented for evaluating the status of natural heritage and biodiversity in Egypt and to facilitate integration of environmental health, land use and development activities.

1.3 The strategic development plan and a preliminary design are prepared for a Natural History Museum that will be established in order to promote public awareness and research on the taxonomy of biodiversity in Egypt and the region.

2.1 The National Biodiversity Strategy Working Group is created and reports directly to the Director of the Nature Conservation Sector, EEAA

2.2 An Information, Education, and Communication strategy and a Clearinghouse Mechanism are established for building capacity of the governorates, NGOs and other stakeholders involved in biodiversity conservation assessment, including the private sector.

IV. Management Arrangements

The project will be implemented in a participatory manner, giving priority to team work and ensuring full participation from the partner government and non-governmental entities. The project will be guided in its work by the Annual Work Plans (AWPs) that provide the basis for quarterly reporting, and the Project Operation Plan (POP) to be updated on an annual basis that provide the basis for yearly progress reports. Monitoring and evaluation will play a key role in the project to ensure efficient progress and impact. External mid-term and final evaluations will be conducted.

The Biodiversity Monitoring and Assessment Project (BioMAP) will use the national execution modality of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to effectively address environmental issues. As such, the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) will be the central coordinating and competent body for implementing the project. It will be responsible for coordinating the activities performed by any other concerned institutions and will participate in assessing and evaluating the impact of the project. The project will be implemented by the Nature Conservation Sector of the EEAA, Ministry of State Environmental Affairs.

To facilitate management of BioMAP, a project organizational and management structure will be used to integrate the many activities that have diverse tasks but ultimately a common goal. The BioMAP organizational structure is composed of the Project Steering Committee (PSC), the Project Management Unit (PMU), a Project Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC), and UNDP Project Support Team (PST).

The Project Management Unit will be headed by the International Senior Technical Advisor (STA) supported by the National Project Coordinator (NPC), who will ensure the timely and efficient implementation of project activities, as well as overall reporting on project implementation and use of funds. The PMU (STC and NPC) will be guided by the Project Steering Committee and assisted by a Technical Advisory Committee. The STA and NPC will work in close coordination with the UNDP Project Support Team, who will provide project management services as well as operational support for the procurement and recruitment of project inputs. A description of each entity follows later in the proposal.

As the Implementing Agency, the EEAA will ensure the execution of the project and contribute financially to the investment as well as to the operational maintenance and other relevant project in-kind costs, including provision of staff, suitable office space and sufficient physical infrastructure, including phone, fax and modem lines. The EEAA also will:

- Ensure that the correct communication path and technical communication mechanism is adopted and sustained between concerned line ministries, institutions, and NGOs whose information, inputs and support is considered essential or beneficial to the Project implementation.
- Ensure that the Project Management Unit (PMU) within their mandate would receive the support of line ministries and relevant institutions in the implementation of the project.
- Facilitate access to all statistics, maps, aerial photographs, remote sensing imagery and other relevant data, essential to appraise, study and analyze sector activities;
- Facilitate the access to all areas to be visited for the implementation of the project;

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- Ensure that the appointment of national experts and staff will last for the duration of the Project or as defined in other specific terms of reference including project documents or minutes of project steering committee in order to ensure sustainability;
- Ensure that the appropriate measures are taken to retain trained personnel upon the completion of the project;
- Ensure exemption from custom duties and taxation for all imported equipment, contract services, supplies to be imported in connection with the project implementation including expert's personal belongings.
- Ensure access by Debt for Development Swap Counterpart Fund representatives and UNDP to technical and financial information pertaining to the project, provided two weeks advance notice. GOE will maintain project records for a time span of 7 years after completion of the project.

A. Project Steering Committee (PSC)

The PSC will operate under the chairmanship of the EEAA. The PSC will provide the Project with guidance and overview, general policy and follow-up on strategic issues. The PSC will facilitate sharing of experiences, creation and maintenance of linkages and networking, and integration with other environmental activities. The Project Steering Committee is composed of representatives of EEAA, the Italian Cooperation, UNDP, and the Project Management Unit (STA and NPC). The PMU will also act as Secretariat for the PSC. The Steering Committee will meet at least twice a year or as needed and has the following main responsibilities:

- Approval and possible modification of the Project Operational Plan (POP), Annual Work Plan (AWP), and project budgets
- Approval of annual progress reports and statement of accounts
- Approval of Final Progress and Financial Reports submitted by the Project Management Unit at project completion
- Approval of the appointment or substitution of the project executives
- Assessment and evaluation of the performance of the project and its implementing agencies
- Review substantive policy issues as related to the project

The suggested composition of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) is presented in Annex II.

B. The Project Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC)

The Project Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC) brings together the technical/substantive representatives of the implementing and cooperating agencies, technical authorities and other key stakeholders. It also provides an opportunity for other interested ministries, including Agriculture, Public Works, and Water Resources, to participate and contribute to the project. The Technical Advisory Committee discusses and reviews project implementation issues related to the technical criteria of the project. The PMU acts as the Secretariat. The committee meets on a quarterly basis and has the following main responsibilities:

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- Review progress in project implementation through quarterly work plan reports submitted by PMU.
- Ensure proper synergies across ministries, agencies and other institutional partners
- Identify obstacles and recommend solutions
- Make recommendations to the Steering Committee

The suggested composition of the Project Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC) is presented in Annex III.

C. United Nations Development Programme - Project Support Team (PST)

The PST will facilitate the implementation of the project and ensure the timely and responsive provision of support from the Donor within the framework of UNDP National Execution arrangements. The PST will assist the EEAA, the PSC and the PMU by providing managerial and operational support to the project to ensure proper use of funds to assigned activities, timely reports of project implementation progress, monitoring the implementation of the project, as well as ensuring that mandatory and non-mandatory evaluations are performed. PST will review Project Progress Reports to be prepared by the PMUs on a half-yearly basis to be submitted to the Project Steering Committee. The focus of PST will be on support functions, such as capacity building and professional development, monitoring and evaluations, performing secretariat functions and facilitating the preparation of work plans, budgets and progress reports by the projects. It will coordinate manage the procurement of subcontracts, supplies and services, recruitment of personnel and handle the finance activities, where requested. The Terms of Reference for the UNDP-PST are attached as Annex IV.

Such a role is fully in keeping with UNDP's mission statement to "support Egypt in its goal to protect and regenerate the environment as an important means to achieving sustainable human development". The UNDP overhead rate for the 'Institutional Strengthening of the Nature Conservation Sector and National Biodiversity Department for Monitoring and Assessing of Biodiversity and Natural Heritage Project' (BioMAP) will be at 6.38%.

D. The Project Management Unit (PMU)

The PMU will be designated by the EEAA to execute the project on a daily basis with a full range of autonomy and responsibility in all matters concerning day-to-day operations. The PMU will also prepare all reports and documents related to the project. Moreover, PMU will implement the approved work plans, being fully responsible technically, financially and operationally to the Project Steering Committee and will be fully accountable to UNDP and the Executing Agency (EEAA). The Terms of Reference for the PMU are attached as Annex V.

The work plans for each year will be prepared by the PMU on a yearly basis and updated on a six-month basis, to be submitted for review and approval to the Project Steering Committee. The required technical, administrative and support staff for the PMU will be provided as per the approved budget of the project.

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The PMU is headed by an International Senior Technical Advisor, supported by a National Project Coordinator. The International Senior Technical Advisor and the National Project Coordinator will be appointed on a full-time basis by UNDP, after close consultation with EEAA. The National Project Coordinator (NPC) will be responsible for the management of the GOE inputs in-kind and their integration with the project and for management of project activities and funds. The National Project Coordinator will report directly to the International Senior Technical Advisor. The International Senior Technical Advisor will have the duty to provide the required technical advice in addition to overall management and supervision of project activities and funds. The Senior Technical Advisor (STA) will report directly to the Director of the Biodiversity Department of the Nature Conservation Sector (NCS). The STA and NPC will also report directly to the Project Steering Committee on project implementation. The Terms of Reference of the STA and NPC are attached as Annex VI. The Project Organigram is also shown as Annex VII.

E. Monitoring, Measurement and Evaluation

Based on the UNDP format, progress reports will be prepared every six months by the PMU and presented for approval to the Project Steering Committee. Early in the BioMAP project cycle, an Inception Workshop will be convened to prioritize project activities and prepare the project work plan. In addition, key indicators for participatory monitoring and evaluation will be developed in line with UNDP's Results-based Management procedures.

The Debt for Development Swap Counterpart Fund, EEAA and UNDP will organize participatory tri-partite mid-term and final external evaluations based upon the project indicators and means of verification. The results are submitted to the PSC. An independent financial audit will also be conducted mid-way through the project and at the conclusion of the project. The PMU with the assistance of the UNDP Project Support Team (PST) will coordinate and facilitate development of M&E capacity within the project.

F. Main Assumptions and Prerequisites

- Commitment and active participation of the involved counterpart bodies (the Biodiversity Department, EEAA, other ministries, universities and National Research Centers) will be imperative
- Availability of sufficient human resources and the need to more efficiently use trained personnel to carry out the different project activities.
- Availability of efficient methodologies for baseline surveys, inventories, as well as for systematic sampling and evaluations of biological resources.
- Implementing and participating agencies and stakeholders are interested in establishing and maintaining programs for scientific and practical technical education with regards to identification, monitoring and assessment, conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of natural resources.
- Political and economic support can provide continuous capacity building for integrating biodiversity concerns into all stages of project cycle within the government, different organizations and business enterprises.

V. Legal Context

This Project Document shall be the instrument referred to as such in Article 1 of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), signed by the parties on 19 January 1987. The host country-implementing agency shall, for the purpose of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement, refer to the Government Cooperating Agency described in that agreement.

The following types of revisions may be made to the Project Document with the signature of the UNDP Resident Representative only, provided he or she is assured that the other signatories of the Project Document have no objections to the proposed changes:

- a) Revision in, or addition of, any of the annexes of the Project Document;
- b) Revisions that do not involve significant changes in the immediate objectives, outputs, or activities of a project, but are caused by the rearrangements of inputs agreed to or by cost increases due to inflation;
- c) Mandatory annual revisions, which re-phase the delivery of agreed, project inputs or increased expert or other costs due to inflation or take into account agency expenditure flexibility.

The office of the Resident Representative of UNDP Egypt will provide the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) with all the necessary logistical and administrative support for the implementation of the Project. The EEAA delegates to the UNDP Country Office the administration of all budget lines of the project budget, including:

<u>Budget Line 10</u>	<u>“Project Personnel”</u>
Including:	
<u>Budget Line 11</u>	<u>“International Personnel”</u>
<u>Budget Line 13</u>	<u>“Administrative Support”</u>
<u>Budget Line 15</u>	<u>“Monitoring & Evaluation”</u>
<u>Budget Line 16</u>	<u>“Mission Costs”</u>
<u>Budget Line 17</u>	<u>“National Personnel”</u>
<u>Budget Line 20</u>	<u>“Contracts”</u>
<u>Budget Line 30</u>	<u>“Training”</u>
<u>Budget Line 40</u>	<u>“Equipment”</u>
<u>Budget Line 50</u>	<u>“Miscellaneous”</u>
<u>Budget Line 70</u>	<u>“Micro Grants”</u>

The UNDP Country Office will provide the EEAA with regular information on the status of activities and disbursements under the Project.

Part VI. Budget

Funding for the BioMAP is provided through contributions from the Egyptian- Italian Debt for Development Swap Counterpart Fund.

The total duration of the project will be 3 years.

The total cost of the Project is estimated at **LE 6,841,277**. These funds allocated by the Italian Foreign Ministry through the Debt-for-Development Swap Counterpart Fund include LE 410,477 as overhead costs ascribed to UNDP.

A detailed budget is shown in Annex VIII reflecting March 2004 Exchange rates.

Whilst the original budget was made on the basis of an exchange rate of Euro/LE at 4.5, the revised budget was calculated at the March 2004 exchange, which resulted in a discrepancy in the LE conversions.

The local components will be adjusted and a budget revision will be done at the start of implementation to adjust budget lines in accordance with actual exchange rates, and hence to adjust gains/losses on exchange rate per budget line.

When preparing the budget revision, budget will be disaggregated per year within the framework of approved allocation for Italian DGCD funds and Italian Debt-for-Development Swap funds.

VI. Project feasibility and Conclusion

The feasibility of this project is high because the impetus for conducting work is strong and there is already an existing facility with which to work. The Government of Egypt presently is signatory to multiple international conventions and treaties that deal with protection of habitat and biodiversity. The agreements all include tasks for identifying species, assessing the status of priority species and their habitats and also monitoring for changes. Strengthening the monitoring and assessment capacity of the Biodiversity Department and NCS is absolutely necessary if Egypt hopes to also abide by its commitments as signatory to the multiple international conventions and agreements and to meet the goals set in its own National Strategy and Action Plan for Biodiversity Conservation. Without the proper data management system and the capacity to ask the proper policy questions, then Egypt faces the possibility of being in violation of its various agreements. Developing a system for monitoring data on a regular time series basis also will offer a means for assessing change in biodiversity and habitats thus providing a gauge for success of the NCS activities.

There exists already a core National Biodiversity Department and database. The Biodiversity Monitoring and Assessment Project (BioMAP) will review the existing Biodiversity Department data base for appropriateness, revise and refine protocols, increase staff resources and develop training programs to enable people to undertake applied projects, research and assessment. It's work to identify priority data needs and to build-up priority data and information bases will ensure that the available information is useful for formulating and planning programs, policies and processes. The current collaboration between the present the Biodiversity Department staff and the CIDA funded Egyptian Environmental Information

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System Project also ensures that the biodiversity outputs of an improved Biodiversity Department will be compatible with the more general EEIS system.

The proposed Strategic Policy Working Group will strengthen the Biodiversity Department and help the NCS/EEAA to better frame the biodiversity issues, questions and solutions in terms of Egypt's legal, economic and social framework. It is in this context that will make biodiversity issues more relevant to people working outside the EEAA. The Clearing House Mechanism and small grants components in BioMAP will promote information exchange and coordination among non-governmental organizations, line ministries and the EEAA. Thus information to augment and update the database can be gained without having the Biodiversity Department do all the work.

Although BioMAP will not cover the entire process of creating a museum, it will cover the important inception and planning phase of the project. This will provide Egypt with the foundation for then seeking the additional funds to cover capital construction costs and operations. BioMAP's public awareness programs and work on developing the national museum will encourage the general public to participate and support policies and programs for conservation of biodiversity.

As the EIA requirements for identifying priority habitats and species on proposed sites become more rigorous for project development, the private and public sector will come to rely on the Biodiversity Department as an important information source. The demand for quality information is likely to increase over time as a consequence. Overall, a stronger and more vibrant Biodiversity Department will support and enhance the effectiveness of the NCS and EEAA, other government agencies, the private sector and the general public on issues that far exceed just the pure taxonomic challenges of biodiversity conservation.

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Annex I. Project Results and Resources Framework

<p>Intended Outcome as stated in the Country Results Framework:</p> <p>Improved capacity of national/sectoral authorities to plan and implement integrated approaches to environmental management and energy conservation, <i>i.e. the ability of the Nature Conservation Sector to protect, manage and develop Egypt's wild resources will be enhanced.</i></p>
<p>Outcome Indicator as stated in the Country Programme Results and Resources Framework, including baseline and target:</p> <p>Integration of environmental policies and plans into national development plans Baseline: Revision of NEAP completed. Target: Environmental policies strategies integrated within national development planning.</p> <p><i>1. The National Biodiversity Department will function as the focal point to coordinate and facilitate biodiversity research and monitoring.</i> <i>2. The Nature Conservation Sector will have the institutional capacity to consolidate and promote legal, economic and social instruments that support biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.</i></p>
<p>Applicable Strategic Area of Support:</p> <p>Goal 3: Environment Sub goal 1: Sustainable environmental management and energy development to improve the livelihoods and security of the poor.</p>
<p>Partnership Strategy:</p> <p>UNDP will work closely with the EEAA, Nature Conservation Sector and the National Biodiversity Department to manage the implementation of the BioMAP activities and to ensure delivery of project outputs. The project also will link with key activities in the Egyptian Italian Environmental Cooperation Program including the Legal and Institutional Framework Project, Nature Conservation Sector Capacity Building Project, Gabel Elba Protected Area Project and Wadi el Rayan Protected Area Project. The project will use the existing Egyptian Environmental Information System as the starting point for its data management implementation.</p>
<p>Project title and number:</p> <p>Institutional Strengthening of the Nature Conservation Sector and National Biodiversity Department for Monitoring, Assessment and Policy of Biodiversity and Natural Heritage (BioMAP)</p> <p>EGY/03/019</p>

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Outputs	Indicators	Indicator Targets	Activities	Inputs
<p>1.1 Strategic plan and training programs for the key personnel are implemented to upgrade and strengthen the capability of the Biodiversity Department</p>	<p>ECAA and Biodiversity Department staff have unified vision of the Biodiversity Department strategy and mission</p> <p>Biodiversity Department outputs are meeting the needs of their intended users.</p>	<p>Project work plan is formulated and accepted by stakeholders</p> <p>Project Monitoring and Evaluation mechanism is implemented</p> <p>End users of the Biodiversity Department products are identified and current products are evaluated as to their needs.</p> <p>Mission Statement, Strategic Management Plan and M&E strategy is accepted</p> <p>Training programs consistent with project objectives</p> <p>Number of staff hired and trained</p>	<p>1.1.1 Mobilize staff, setup office and purchase equipment</p> <p>1.1.2 Conduct Inception Workshop with major stakeholders to develop a project work plan</p> <p>1.1.3 Develop M&E component to support project and NCS/Biodiversity Department planning and to evaluate project effectiveness.</p> <p>1.1.4 Conduct needs assessment to determine who are the end users of Biodiversity Department products and requirements of these primary user's.</p> <p>1.1.5 Develop a Mission Statement and strategic management plan for the Biodiversity Department</p> <p>1.1.6 Develop a Biodiversity Department training and staffing plan based on the needs of the department.</p> <p>1.1.7 Develop the TORs of staff and hire staff</p> <p>1.1.8 Develop and implement training curriculum</p>	<p>International Personnel</p> <p>Administrative Support Staff</p> <p>Monitoring and Evaluation</p> <p>Mission Costs</p> <p>National Personnel</p> <p>Contracts</p> <p>Equipment</p> <p>Training</p> <p>Micro capital grants</p> <p>Miscellaneous</p> <p>Reporting</p> <p>Communications</p> <p>Output subtotal: LE 2,125,244</p>

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Outputs	Indicators	Indicator Targets	Activities	Inputs
1.2 A monitoring and assessment program for biodiversity is developed and implemented for evaluating the status of natural heritage and biodiversity in Egypt and to facilitate integration of environmental health, land use and development activities.	<p>Monitoring and assessment program is operational</p> <p>Information on biodiversity is used outside the Ministry of Environmental Affairs/ Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency</p>	<p>Workshop to be held and needs assessment and to be completed</p> <p>Review of project reports and protocols is completed</p> <p>Inter-ministerial and inter-agency protocols established for data transfer and reference of sources.</p> <p>The Biodiversity Department and Protectorates develop protocol for sharing information and data</p> <p>Manual is prepared that describes protocols for monitoring biodiversity and for using the biodiversity assessment program.</p> <p>Database and analytical tools are available and used</p>	<p>1.2.1 Conduct a National Workshop for determining future needs for biodiversity assessment and monitoring</p> <p>1.2.2 Develop a systematic program for assessing biodiversity and natural heritage.</p> <p>1.2.3 Develop or adapt the existing Biodiversity Department and EEIS databases and analytical tools including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Protocols for data transfer formats and methods for proper references * Field checks of existing literature and resources; * Sensitivity list for Egyptian flora and fauna * Preparation of natural heritage sensitivity maps encompassing critical habitats, migratory corridors and biodiversity hot spots; and * A GIS-based biodiversity and natural resources database for scientific use and land use planning. * Multilateral Environmental Agreements Database being developed by the EEIS Project 	<p>International Personnel</p> <p>Administrative Support Staff</p> <p>Monitoring and Evaluation</p> <p>Mission Costs</p> <p>National Personnel</p> <p>Contracts</p> <p>Equipment</p> <p>Training</p> <p>Micro capital grants</p> <p>Miscellaneous</p> <p>Reporting</p> <p>Communications</p> <p>Output subtotal: LE 2,244,132</p>

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Outputs	Indicators	Indicator Targets	Activities	Inputs
		<p>Training programs and curriculum implemented</p> <p>M&E Plan is developed for two protectorates</p> <p>Assessment activities implemented in Gabel Elba Protectorate and one other site</p> <p>Small Grants' Programme protocols are completed</p> <p>Pre-proposal workshop conducted</p> <p>Small grants are disbursed and resulting information is used for building database</p> <p>Egypt is an active partner in the BioNET project and is linked to Global Taxonomy Network.</p>	<p>1.2.4 Develop curriculum and train Protectorate staff about biodiversity monitoring and assessment process.</p> <p>1.2.5 Test the biodiversity database using information from two Protectorates, Gabel Elba and one other site.</p> <p>1.2.6 Establish the protocols for administering the Biodiversity Department Small Grants Program and conduct pre-proposal workshop to ensure preparation of relevant and well- conceived proposals.</p> <p>1.2.7 Collaborate with BioNET- International to develop the Global Network for Taxonomy.</p>	

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Outputs	Indicators	Indicator Targets	Activities	Inputs
<p>2.1 The National Biodiversity Strategy Working Group is created and reports directly to the Director of the Nature Conservation Sector</p>	<p>External organizations, EEAA and Biodiversity Department staff have unified vision of NCS and the Biodiversity Department regulations and policies</p> <p>Proposed legislation and policies are reviewed for biodiversity implications.</p> <p>A sustainable funding program is created and financed</p>	<p>Mission Statement and Strategic Management Plan for Biodiversity Working Subgroup is approved</p> <p>Protocols for reviewing pending legislation and policies are approved between MSEA/EEAA and other ministries</p> <p>Policy reports from three critical topics are generated</p> <p>Legislation adopted and inter-ministerial agreements signed.</p> <p>Biodiversity conservation fund is established and protocol for dispersing funds is adopted.</p>	<p>2.1.1 Conduct institutional analysis to identify gaps and weaknesses in the present administrative and legislative structure of the NCS and prepare Mission Statement and Strategic Management Plan for Biodiversity Working Subgroup</p> <p>2.1.2 Identify economic or social policies that discourage sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resource assets.</p> <p>2.1.3 Identify and implement economic or other measures that promote biodiversity conservation</p> <p>2.1.4 Propose legislation to fill gaps or remove overlaps with other sections of the NCS, EEAA and other ministries or government authorities with regards to regulatory jurisdiction and mandates for biodiversity conservation</p> <p>2.1.5 Develop a sustainable financial resource for supporting biodiversity conservation and research</p>	<p>International Personnel</p> <p>Administrative Support Staff</p> <p>Monitoring and Evaluation Mission Costs</p> <p>National Personnel</p> <p>Contracts</p> <p>Equipment</p> <p>Training</p> <p>Miscellaneous</p> <p>Reporting</p> <p>Communications</p> <p>Output subtotal: LE 941,216</p>

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Outputs	Indicators	Indicator Targets	Activities	Inputs
<p>2.2 An IEC strategy and a Clearing House Mechanism are established for building capacity of the different governorates, NGOs and other organizations involved in biodiversity conservation assessment, including the private sector and general public.</p>	<p>External organizations, EEAA, NCS and Biodiversity Department staff have unified vision of the Biodiversity Department and NCS strategy</p> <p>Data flows from stakeholder institutions to the Biodiversity Department for inclusion in biodiversity database</p> <p>Biodiversity information from EEAA is requested for use outside the agency</p>	<p>IEC strategy is adopted</p> <p>CHM goes online</p> <p>Extension Education Program curriculum consistent with project objectives are implemented</p> <p>Number of staff trained</p> <p>Public survey for awareness about biodiversity issues increases by 20% over baseline</p> <p>Requests for biodiversity information from outside EEAA increases by 20% over baseline</p> <p>Discussion with stakeholders</p>	<p>2.2.1 Develop an Information, Education and Communication strategy as per NCS/Biodiversity Depart. Strategic Management Plan in collaboration with NCD IEC unit.</p> <p>2.2.2 Based on needs assessment, establish a Clearing House Mechanism to enhance cooperation, coordination and information exchange between the Biodiversity Department, other EEAA departments and national and international bodies concerned with biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>2.2.3 Following a participatory needs assessment, develop an extension education program targeting other agencies and organizations to encourage biodiversity awareness, increase use of biodiversity data and introduce CHM.</p> <p>2.2.4 Build national awareness through campaigns targeted at the public and specific sectors, such as agriculture and industry.</p> <p>2.2.5 Collaborate with universities & colleges to develop applied BD conservation curriculum & link research with NCS study objectives</p>	<p>International Personnel</p> <p>Administrative Support Staff</p> <p>Monitoring and Evaluation</p> <p>Mission Costs</p> <p>National Personnel</p> <p>Contracts</p> <p>Equipment</p> <p>Training</p> <p>Miscellaneous</p> <p>Reporting</p> <p>Communications</p> <p>Output subtotal: LE 918,565</p>

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Outputs	Indicators	Indicator Targets	Activities	Inputs
<p>2.3 The strategic development plan and a preliminary design are prepared for a Natural History Museum that will be established in order to promote public awareness and research on biodiversity in Egypt and the region.</p>	<p>Committee convened and meets regularly</p> <p>Development plan is prepared for establishing the museum</p>	<p>Review of meeting minutes</p> <p>Memorandums of agreement are signed</p> <p>Museum site is identified and steps taken to acquire it</p> <p>Initial architect concept drawings are prepared</p> <p>Funding sources are identified and proposals submitted for design and capital construction.</p>	<p>2.3.1 Prepare the Terms of Reference for and convene a committee to prepare a strategic development plan for a Natural History Museum.</p> <p>2.3.2 Examine issues of funding sources, collection content, intended use, display modalities, and collaboration with other national and international entities.</p> <p>2.3.3 Museum site is identified and preliminary design is prepared.</p>	<p>International Personnel</p> <p>Administrative Support staff</p> <p>Monitoring and Evaluation</p> <p>Mission Costs</p> <p>National Personnel</p> <p>Contracts</p> <p>Equipment</p> <p>Training</p> <p>Miscellaneous</p> <p>Reporting</p> <p>Communications</p> <p>Output subtotal: LE 612,119</p>

Annex II

Composition of Project Steering Committee

Chairman: Director of the Nature Conservation Sector, EEAA

Members:

- Representative of the General Department of International Affairs and Technical Cooperation, EEAA
- Representative of Directorate General of Cooperation for Development, Italian Foreign Ministry (DGCD/MAE)
- Project Management Unit (PMU)
- Representative of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Representative of UNDP Project Support Team (PST)

Observers:

- Debt/Swap Technical Support Unit (TSU) Financial and Technical Managers.
- Representatives of other relevant projects or activities.

Secretariat:

- Project Management Unit (STA and NPC)

Annex III

Composition of Project Technical Advisory Committee

Chairman: EEAA representative- Director of the Nature Conservation Sector, EEAA.

Members:

- Director of the Biodiversity Department, Nature conservation Sector, EEAA
- Head of Protectorates Department, Nature Conservation Sector, EEAA.
- Representative, Egyptian Environmental Information System Project
- Ministries of Agriculture, Water Resources and Irrigation, Housing, and Public Works
- Academy of Scientific Research and Technology
- Universities
- Field Research Stations
- Zoological and Botanical Gardens
- NGOs.
- Representative of the General Department for International Affairs and Technical Cooperation, EEAA.
- Project Management Unit (Senior International Technical Advisor and National Project Coordinator)
- Representative of UNDP Project Support Team (PST)

Secretariat:

- Project Management Unit (STA and NPC)

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Annex IV

Terms of Reference for United Nations Development Programme Project Support Team (PST)

The purpose of the agreement with UNDP country office of Egypt is to provide an efficient and sustainable mechanism for the implementation of the activities of BioMAP in an integrated manner as foreseen by the relevant Project Document.

The BioMAP will be implemented through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the GOE and GOI and the UNDP Project Document signed by all parties concerned. Accordingly, UNDP will support EEAA in the execution and implementation of the Project within the framework of UNDP National Execution arrangements, in compliance with the Project Document (which are an integral part of the Terms of Reference).

UNDP will work in close association with the Project Steering Committee, the PMU, EEAA and the Italian Cooperation on the coordination, guidance and control of the project.

UNDP will be responsible, in accordance with UNDP guidelines and procedures, for ensuring proper use of funds to assigned activities, timely reporting of implementation progress, monitoring the project as well as ensuring undertaking of mandatory and non-mandatory evaluations. In this context, UNDP will provide support and backstopping to the project to ensure proper implementation progress, convene periodical meetings with project management, provide needed flexibility for feedback and revision to products and documents, and review project results to ensure they are achieved in line with set objectives and work plans. UNDP will also provide operational support related to recruitment, procurement, administration, and finance as requested.

More specifically, UNDP will provide the following services based on National Execution (NEX) procedures:

- The implementation arrangements, which will allow for: (i) Centralizing purchase of equipment and supplies; (ii) Standardizing sub-contracts of all institutions involved in the project; (iii) Standardizing project staff fees and other administrative procedures; (iv) Assuring central accounting and auditing as well as control and monitoring; (v) Centralizing technical and financial reports; and (vi) Standardizing monitoring, review and evaluation procedures.
- The operational services, related to recruitment, finance, procurement, etc., on the basis of the Implementation Protocols (IPs) – namely (i) the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Italy and the Government of Egypt (ii) the UNDP Project Document and annexes, (iii) the Project Implementing Agreement (PIA) for Debt Swap management funds between Ministry of State for Foreign Affairs, Italian Embassy, EEAA and UNDP - signed between the relevant partners that will direct and regulate the implementation of the project.

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- The proper administration of project funds and their timely disbursement to the Project Management Unit (PMU) for project operational expenses in accordance with the approved work plans and budgets.
- Procurement of equipment and material upon request from the PMU, in accordance with the approved work plans and budgets.
- Sub-contracting International and Local Consultants on the basis of the TORs that will be included in the work plans approved by the Project Steering Committee.
- Review Progress Reports prepared by PMU in UNDP format (AWP) prepared and updated on a quarterly basis to be submitted to the Project Steering Committee.
- Review project financial statements prepared by the PMU on a quarterly basis to be submitted to the Project Steering Committee (PSC).
- Review the project logical framework matrix (logframe) prepared by PMU, defining key indicators and means of verification. Review updated logframe prepared by PMU to be presented to the PSC along with the Progress Reports.
- Conduct Annual Project Reviews to ensure project implementation in accordance with work plans (POP and AWP).
- Prepare the TORs for the mid-term and final evaluations, which are to be organized in close coordination with the Italian Cooperation and EEAA. Ensure that the findings of the review missions are submitted to the Project Steering Committee and the Project Technical Advisory Committee and that the project receives and adopts the findings of the evaluations.
- Ensure the following general administrative and reporting features:
 - (i) The regulations, rules and directives of UNDP shall govern the Project management and expenditures. Where applicable, regulations, rules and directives of the Executing Agency will be followed according to project document and the debt swap procedures.
 - (ii) UNDP shall provide the Italian Cooperation, the Project Steering Committee and the Executing Agencies with all or parts of the following reports, prepared in accordance with UNDP accounting and reporting procedures:
 - The annual status of project progress and the latest available approved budget.
 - An annual certified financial statement as of 31 December every year, to be submitted no later than 30 June of the following year.
 - Within six months after the date of completion of the project, a final report summarizing project activities and its impact as well as financial data.
 - On completion of the project, a certified financial statement to be submitted no later than 30 June of the year following the financial closing of the project.

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Annex V

Terms of Reference of the Project Management Unit (PMU)

- Provide the day-to-day management directing all implementation activities
- Manage the allocated financial resources in accordance with the regulations, rules and directives of the UNDP and the Executing Agency
- Manage and supervise the staff and their performance
- Manage and coordinate all technical and scientific resources
- Prepare the necessary reports required under the UNDP Project Cycle, including Project Operation Plans (POP) for the project cycle (Overall Work Plan) to be updated on an annual basis, Project Annual Work Plan (AWP) and reporting on implementation on quarterly basis, Annual Project Reports, financial reports, and other reports as needed. The work plans will include at minimum the following items:
 1. The defined outputs to be achieved,
 1. Activities planned to achieve the project outputs,
 2. The identification of milestones (indicators) for the planned activities
 3. Progress towards achieving all the above
- Submit the annual and semi-annual technical and financial progress reports for approval to the Project Steering Committee
- Prepare an overall project budget to be submitted bi-annually to UNDP and the Project Steering Committee, the project mandatory budget revisions in May to reflect actual expenditures of the previous year and in October to reflect more realistic expenditure of the current year. All budgets will be entered into the UNDP financial system and presented to the Project Steering Committee
- Prepare the technical documents related to procurement for services and supplies
- Develop, in collaboration with the relevant departments, the training need assessment of the staff in order to upgrade their level through selected courses
- Prepare the project logical framework matrix, defining the key indicators and means of verification to be submitted to UNDP
- Liaise with the Executing Agency, UNDP, and the relevant local institutions to ensure inter-departmental cooperation for optimum implementation of the project

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- Ensure synergies, exchange of experience and cooperation between the BioMap project and the different projects implemented under the EIECP Phase II and other relevant projects.
- Participate in the Project Steering Committee meetings and Project Technical Advisory Committee meetings.
- Act as Technical Secretariat for the Project Steering Committee and Project Technical Advisory Committee meetings.

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Annex VI

Terms of Reference

International Senior Technical Advisor and National Project Coordinator

International Senior Technical Adviser

The International Senior Technical Adviser is selected and hired by UNDP, after close consultation with EEAA. The STA reports directly to the Project Steering Committee and the Biodiversity Department of the Nature Conservation Sector of EEAA.

The International Senior Technical Adviser (STA) is the senior-most manager and technical person of the project. The STA will provide overall supervision and management of the project. The STA will ensure that the required technical expertise is provided and will be responsible for training and transferring technology to the Egyptian staff. The STA also will serve as adviser to the Biodiversity Policy Working Group and serve as the principal key contact for the technical assistance contractors and project stakeholders.

Acting as the overall project manager, the STA is assisted by the National Project Coordinator who is the most senior national person on the project. The NPC will serve as the second in command. They will both have signature authority for activities and for the expenditure of project funds. However, activities whose expenditures are above a certain pre-determined amount will require the signature of both STA and the NPC. Although hired on a full-time basis, the expectation is that the STA will turn over the role of senior manager to the National Project Coordinator at the beginning of year 3 in the project.

Qualifications:

Post graduate degree in natural resources management, environmental economics, environmental policy or related field providing suitable expertise. A minimum of seven years prior experience in overseas work in developing countries is expected. Broad knowledge of biodiversity conservation issues and management strategies is required as a basis for providing technical advice and assistance to national, regional and local personnel in defining issues, conducting analyses of biodiversity and natural resources management programs and to assist with the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of biodiversity conservation projects and activities. Expertise in international conventions relating to biodiversity conservation and developing programs for monitoring and evaluation of biodiversity conservation is highly desirable.

Fluency in English language is required. Arabic language skills are highly desired. The STA also will have excellent skills for verbal and written communication as well as team building. Knowledge of electronic databases and information systems is desirable.

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Duties:

Establish and manage the primary project office at the EEAA premises.

Develop and propose the work plan in accordance with UNDP format setting clear activities, targets, and indicators.

Ensure timely and cost effective implementation of project activities and work plans, and monitor project results against set targets.

Monitor use of project resources, request UNDP for purchase of equipment, office supplies, site materials and other necessities, and arrange for their distribution.

Brief EEAA on a regular basis of routine activities and problems; and submit periodic financial and technical reports as requested in accordance with UNDP procedures.

Convene Project Steering Committee (PSC) and Project Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC) meetings at regular intervals or as needed.

Prepare reports to the PSC and PTAC on project performance and follow up on implementation of committee recommendations.

Prepare job descriptions for project staff and TORs for international, national and local consultants and subcontracts.

Supervise staff activities, evaluate their performance and conduct staff performance appraisals on a regular basis. Coordinate the hiring and firing of staff.

Supervise and follow up on contracts for all project activities to ensure that inputs of consultants are coordinated and to ensure the high quality of their deliverables.

Circulate information concerning the project, its activities and the wider activities of other institutions specifically concerning BioMAP.

Assist and advise local stakeholder agencies in the implementation of their activities under the project.

Prepare the necessary reports required under the UNDP Project cycle, including Project Operation Plan (POP) for the project cycle to be updated on an annual basis, Project Annual work Plans (AWP) which report on implementation on a quarterly basis, Annual Project Reports, financial reports and others as needed.

Provide necessary information and needed assistance to the evaluation missions to be conducted

Represent the project in relevant seminars and meetings and disseminate project information.

Ensure that local experience, success stories, lessons learned and other useful information are collected systematically and distributed.

Mobilize additional resources for the project and develop linkages with similar initiatives and concerned parties.

Ensure that all facilities and equipment are maintained in good serviceable condition.

National Project Coordinator

The NPC is selected and hired on a full time basis by UNDP, after close consultation with EEAA. The NPC reports to the STA and the PSC.

The National Project Coordinator (NPC) is the most senior national person on the project and will serve as the second in command, reporting to the International Senior Technical Adviser (STA). The expectation is that the Senior Technical Adviser will turn over the role of senior manager to the National Project Coordinator at the beginning of year 3 in the project.

Qualifications:

The NPC will have an advanced degree in ecology, biology, natural resources management, law or economics. Specific experience in development of indicators, databases and mechanisms for the purposes of monitoring and evaluation of biodiversity is highly desirable. Prior project level management of staff and contracts for development programs is required.

Duties:

The NPC will assist the STA to provide the management and technical assistance required to develop, monitor and evaluate a portfolio of strategic activities that support government, civil society and private sector objectives in the conservation of biodiversity and management of natural resources.

The NPC will assist the STA to manage the project activities and funds. They will both have signature authority for activities and for expenditure of project funds. Activities whose expenditures are above a certain pre-determined amount will require the signature of both STA and the NPC.

The NPC will be responsible for the management of the GOE inputs in-kind and their integration with the project with particular attention paid to the national staffing, facilities, equipment and local consultants. The NPC will take the lead for oversight of human resources management and on project administrative support roles.

In addition to those responsibilities related to facilitating the duties of the STA, listed in the STA job description above, the NPC will serve as adviser to the Museum Study and Design Committee. The NPC also will function as the key contact for

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Biodiversity assessment activities for the Gebel Elba and St. Catherine Protected Areas.

The NPC will facilitate the project's efforts to establish and maintain contacts with government organizations, both within and outside of EEAA and other stakeholders, including other projects, research institutions, local communities, NGOs and the private sector. The NPC also will be responsible for establishing and sustaining the Clearing House Mechanism for biodiversity conservation.

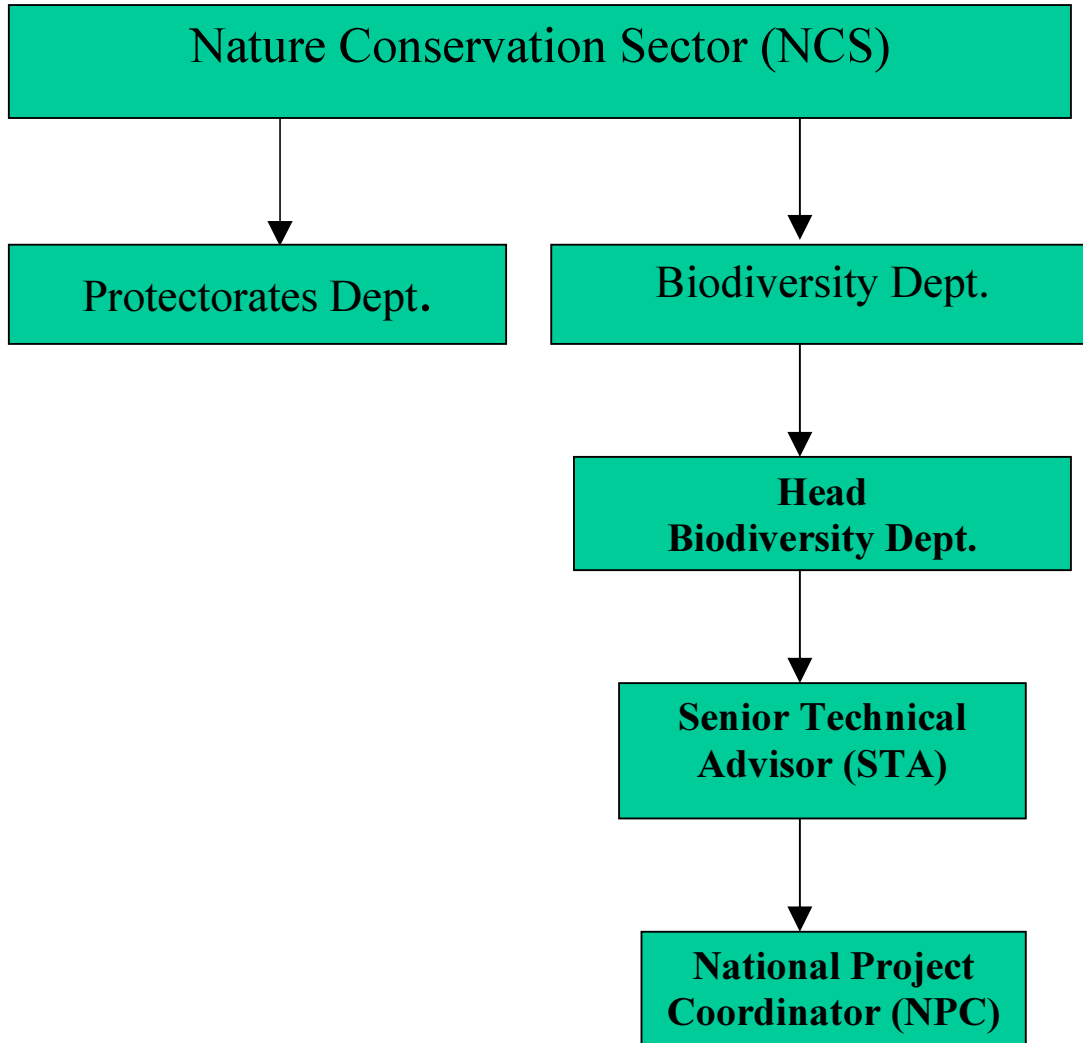
The Senior Technical Adviser and the National Project Coordinator supervise:

- International and National Technical Experts and consultants
- Scientific, advisory or technical committees
- Drivers, Secretary, accountant and office support staff

The STA and NPC liaise with:

- UNDP-Project Support Team (PST)
- Executing Agency (EEAA)
- Italian Cooperation
- Local project stakeholders
- Project Beneficiaries
- EIECP II Projects and other relevant projects
- Financial and Technical Managers of the Technical support Unit (TSU) of the Debt-for-Swap Management Committee.

Project Organigram



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