

# ESP-Decentralized Environmental Management at RBOs Level

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## ABSTRACT

The overall objective of the DEM component at the RBOs level is to strengthen participating RBOs, namely Greater Cairo & Fayoum, Suez and Assuit to be better able to fulfill their mandate according to Law 4/94.

The planned outputs of DEM support to the selected RBOs are a) capacity building plan developed and approved b) RBO environmental information center established c) RBO capacitated to undertake its mandatory functions within identified technical areas of priority d) coherent cooperation mechanism between RBO and affiliated EMUs and line departments of the concerned governorates strengthened and e) mechanism to ensure financial sustainability of the RBOs activities identified, developed and endorsed

This paper presents participatory planning approach exploit by the RBOs in implementing decentralized environmental management activities. Where in the recent years the RBOs management has acknowledged the need for more popular participation in the process of sustainable development. It became evident that participation should include more form of empowerment of the population especially in decision-making. The concept of participatory planning was developed into a common belief among decision makers that participation approaches and partnerships in development are the basis for improving and upgrading the environmental status and living conditions of the vast numbers of the poor.

To be able to present this concept clearly, the overall objectives, planned outputs and expected results of DEM Sub-component 3: support to Greater Cairo & Fayoum Regional Branch Office have been highlighted. In addition, the participatory planning module for the preparation of Helwan environmental action plan, which is part of the sub-component plan, has been presented.

## INTRODUCTION

### **GREATER CAIRO AND FAYOUM REGIONAL BRANCH OFFICE (RBO)**

#### **Main Objective**

Greater Cairo & Fayoum RBO strengthened to be better able to fulfill its mandate according to Law 4/94

### **Output 1: Capacity Building plan developed and approved**

- Capacity building objectives and priorities for the RBO were developed. The identified priority area was set to develop an environmental action plan for Helwan and Shoubra El Khima
- A taskforce from the RBO and EMUs was formed to assist implementation of component activities.
- The RBO and Taskforce capacity building needs were identified. A training plan was developed based on a thorough assessment and approved by RBO manager and steering committee. Selection of training providers is in process. Implementation of the plan started.

### **Output 2: RBO environmental information center established**

The Approval of the Governor of Cairo for establishing an information center was obtained. Arrangements for developing the environmental information center and two satellites are in process.

### **Output 3: RBO capacitated to undertake its mandatory functions within identified technical area of priority**

- A taskforce has been formed to develop an Environmental Action Plan for Helwan Area. The taskforce consists of:
  - ✓ 10 employees from RBO
  - ✓ 2 employees from Helwan district
  - ✓ Head of environmental management unit-Cairo governorate
  - ✓ 6 employees from Shoubra El Khima city
  - ✓ Head of environmental management unit-Kalyubia governorate
- A furnished working space for taskforce at the RBO premises is located on a temporary basis, until the RBO moves to Tamooh.
- Four workshops were planned to introduce the project and to form four different working groups of stakeholders in Helwan. These are:
  - ✓ NGOs
  - ✓ Local government
  - ✓ Helwan University
  - ✓ Private Sector
- Two workshops have been held, the first for NGOs in Helwan on 8<sup>th</sup> of July, 2003 and the second for Local government in Helwan on 13<sup>th</sup> of August, 2003.
- The first training for the taskforce and RBO top management “Local Environmental Agency Plan” was implemented in the period from 25/8 to 27/8.
- The taskforce has been equipped with required computers and printers.

### **Output 4: Coherent cooperation mechanism between RBO and affiliated EMUs and line departments of the concerned governorates strengthened**

The cooperation has been strengthened through participation of EMUs in the TF, participation in training, and the Environmental Information Center.

## **Output 5: Mechanism to ensure financial sustainability of the RBO activities identified, developed and endorsed**

Planned to start in the beginning of year 2006.

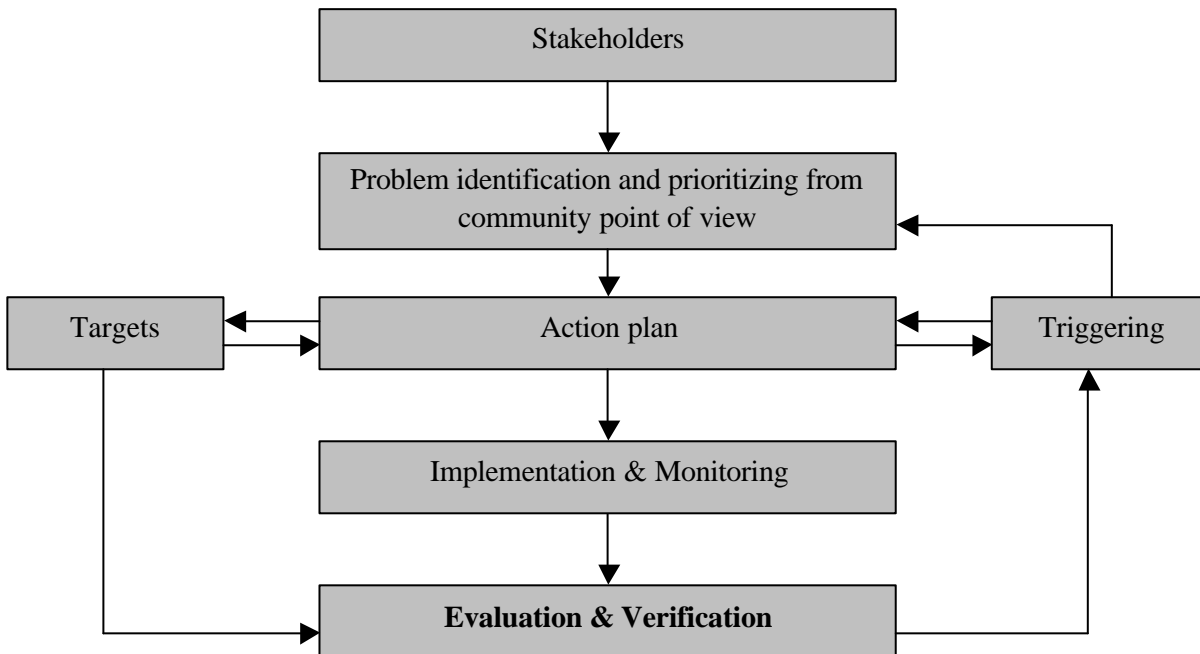
### **EXPECTED RESULTS OF DEM SUPPORT TO GC&F RBO**

- 500 persons trained per year
- Establishment of 5 environmental information centers
  - Regional center at GC&F RBO
  - Environmental information center at Cairo governorate
  - Environmental information center at Qalubiah governorate
  - Environmental information center at Helwan district
  - Environmental information center at Shoubra El Khima district
- Preparation of environmental profile for Helwan and Shoubra El Khima
- Institutional support to the RBO
  - 2 cars
  - 12 computers and 3 printers
  - Photocopying machines
  - Lab equipment
  - Operational costs
- Technical Support
  - Action plan for Qaroun Lake
  - Action plan for Oases
  - Plan for plastic alternatives
  - Applying participatory approach with community stakeholders
    - a) Government entities (Ministries and governorates)
    - b) Civil society (NGOs)
    - c) Scientific research centers (Universities)
    - d) Private Sector (Companies and factories)

## **PARTICIPATORY PLANNING MODULE FOR THE PREPARATION OF HELWAN ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN**

### **Elements of Participatory Planning for Sustainable Development**

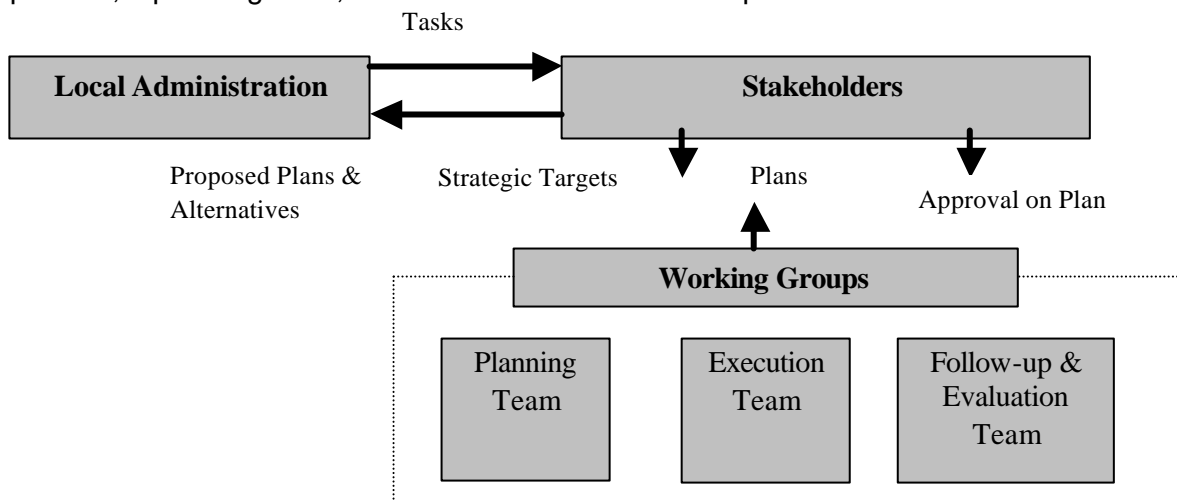
The figure below (Figure 1) illustrates the elements and steps of the participatory planning process. As a start, the planning borders, targets and stakeholders should be identified. The working groups should be then formed and terms of references should be developed for each group. Through the participatory planning process, the problems and priorities should be identified from the community point of view.



**Figure 1**  
**Elements of Participatory Planning for Sustainable Development**

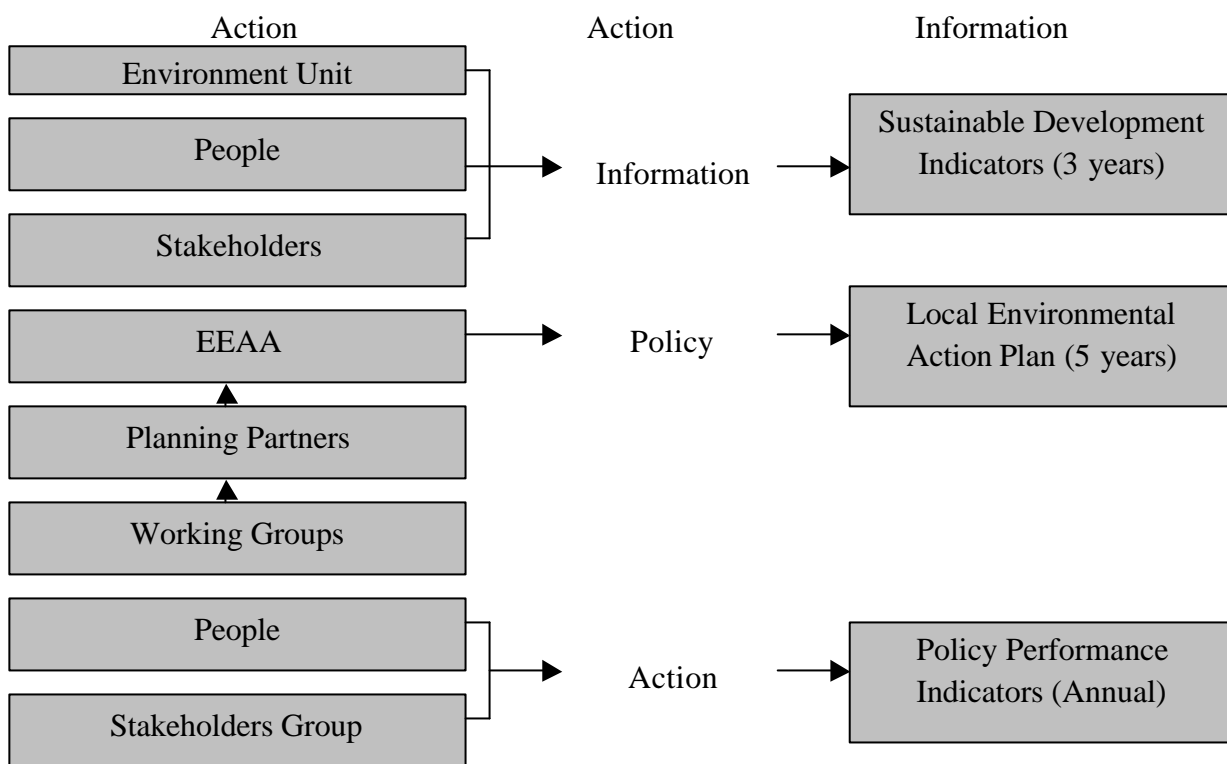
**Module of Participatory Planning**

Figure 2 below illustrates the relationship between the stakeholders and local government in the planning process. Three working groups should be formed for any problem or planning process, a planning team, execution team and a follow-up and evaluation team.



**Figure 2**  
**Module of Participatory Planning**

**Action Plan Module for Helwan**



**Figure 3**  
**Action plan module for Helwan**

The figure above (Figure 3) demonstrates the proposed Action plan module for Helwan.

**STAGES OF ACTION PLAN PREPARATION**

**1<sup>st</sup> Stage: Start-up**

General Consensus  $\Rightarrow$  Conference for start-up  $\Rightarrow$  Forming project committee

**2<sup>nd</sup> Stage: Prioritize**

Environmental Problems  $\Rightarrow$  Data gathering  $\Rightarrow$  Data Analysis  $\Rightarrow$  Problem ranking  
Priority List  $\Rightarrow$

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Stage: Preparation of Community Environmental Action Plan**

Target Setting ⇒ Strategies Identification ⇒ Identification of needs ⇒ Economic and other analysis ⇒ Sustainability analysis ⇒ Preparation of Action plan

### **4<sup>th</sup> Stage: Implementation Strategy**

Implementation plan ⇒ Financing plan ⇒ Environmental resource mobilization ⇒ Projects Implementation

### **5<sup>th</sup> Stage: Monitoring and Evaluation**

Data collection of implementation ⇒ Results Analysis ⇒ Review and Update the plan

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## **DISCLAIMER**

The opinions and conclusions stated in this paper are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of DANIDA, EEAA, or any of the consulting organizations associated with the implementation of ESP.

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- 1- Sector Programme Support, Danish Support to Environmental Sector (Egypt) documents, Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DANIDA), March 2000.
- 2- Joint Annual Sector Review (JASR) report, April 2003.