

Matrouh Governorate

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SCDEC

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**Founded in 2001**

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## TOWARDS ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SIWA THROUGH NGO- GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

**By Said Osman Ibrahim**

Chairman, Siwa Community Development and Environmental Conservation Assoc.

### Background

In 1988 the Egyptian and Italian governments launched the *Siwa Environmental Amelioration Project (SEAP)*, aimed to contribute to the sustainable development of the oasis through initiatives based on participatory approach, including income-generating activities implemented by women. In consideration of the very delicate ecosystem and economic situation of the oasis the project introduced new agricultural practices, improved soil and water conservation techniques. Moreover, by working closely with the local communities and its traditional leaders, the project has contributed to strengthening local forms of governance, to promote the conservation of natural resources and to enhance the social development.

As formal representative of Siwa community, the *Siwa Community Development and Environmental Conservation Association/SCDEC/Siwan Association* was constituted in October 2001 under SEAP umbrella and recognized as NGO under the Ministry of Insurance and Social Affairs, registration no.176/2001. The Association comprises 200 members in the General Assembly and 13 members in the Board of Directors, representing all the 11 tribal groups (ten from Siwa and the eleventh from El Gara).

The foundations have thus been laid for a wider initiative on the protection of natural and cultural heritage, while ensuring the sustainable and equitable use of its resources: the establishment of a *Protected Area*, declared in July 2002 by Prime Minister.

The project, implemented by the Matrouh Governorate, is part of the Egyptian-Italian Environmental Cooperation Program, a wider portfolio of interventions promoted by the Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs-EEAA and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The current Program is ending on October 2003. A second Phase has already been approved and financed, in order to consolidate and expand the results.

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Matrouh Governorate

محافظة مطروح

MOSA

مركز تنمية الموارد البشرية

SCDEC

مركز تنمية الموارد البشرية

**Founded in 2001**

تأسس في 2001

**SCEDC aims at:**

1. Enhancing the farmer's Socio-Economic status through agricultural development in the oasis by conducting essential projects in agriculture, agro- industry and environmental fields.
2. Supporting farmers in the marketing and exporting of their agricultural products.
3. Motivating farmers to adopt organic cropping techniques and facilitating the certification of their production in compliance to international specifications.
4. Providing and managing micro-credit funds for the Siwan community, in agriculture as well as in diversified environmental friendly income generating activities, like handicraft and ecotourism.
5. Cooperating with local and international authorities & bodies in the environmental field.
6. Raising awareness of the Siwan community regarding education, health and culture by holding seminar, workshop, and discussion groups.
7. Empowering and supporting the Siwan women in undertaking income-generating activities in the field of livestock raising, handicraft and ecotourism.
8. Providing Technical Support for trainees in environmental conservation and education.

**SCEDC main accomplishments from December 2001 to August 2003:**

**1. Small Credits**

SCDEC provided micro-credits in **Animal Production**, divided into two main projects:

**1. Sheep Small Credit (5 sheep for each beneficiary)**

Starting date : Dec. 2001

Closing date: Jan. 2004

**Beneficiaries:** 39

**2. Cows Small Credit (1 Cow for each beneficiary)**

Starting date : Apr. 2003

Closing date: Oct. 2004

**Beneficiaries:** 25. Veterinary follow-up is being provided.

**2. Women support**

مركز تنمية الموارد البشرية - مطروح





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The Association believes that can consistently contribute to the implementation of viable policies, in order to simultaneously attain environmental conservation and equitable sustainable development of the community and of the area.

**Acknowledgments:**

The Egyptian and Italian Governments have supported the establishment of the Association throughout. New additional endeavors will provide opportunities for expanding and consolidate the NGO-public partnership. The Siwan community will have the chance to be the main actor of its own development, while safeguarding the environment, its rights and its unique identity.

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