



**Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs**

**Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency**

# **Africa Environmental Information Network AEIN**

## **Egyptian Environmental Information Systems (EEIS)**

### **Lessons Learned**

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# **Africa Environmental Information Network AEIN Egyptian Environmental Information Systems (EEIS)**

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## **Effectiveness and Efficiency of Current Information Systems (Strengths and Weaknesses)**

### **■ Strengths:**

1. Users need assessments was done to meet EEAA requirements.
2. Team work consisted of international and national consultants working together with information and computer center staff to build and increase their capabilities to be able to run and maintain the EEIS &AEIN in the future.
3. EEIS was built according to the international standards using the up-to date technology with completely standards documentation.



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**Cont.**

## **Effectiveness and Efficiency**

- **Weaknesses:**

Lack of continues flow of environmental data between all the Governmental agencies in Egypt.



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**Constrains and barriers to manage and improve availability and accessibility of environmental data and information.**

**The most significant constraint to establish integrated environmental information systems in Egypt :**

1. The lack of reliable and timely information indicating how the various sectors of society impact on the environment and whether development is becoming more sustainable or not.
2. The existing data and information is not sufficient managed.

## **Constrains and barriers**

3. The lack of financial resources (EEAA,AEIN), trained workforce, awareness and availability of information and/or institutional setup.
4. The processes of environmental information collection, production and dissemination are not clear in Egypt.
5. The monitoring organizations do not feed their results into a common information system.
6. Absence of a comprehensive methodological.



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### **■ Implementation Challenges :**

1. Management of expectations.
2. Knowledge and assimilative capacity of Governmental agencies initially low making it difficult for them to express their needs.
3. Lack of realistic performance measures.
4. Rapid changes in technology.
5. Lack of understanding of cultural norms and how work is undertaken and completed differently in each culture.
6. Reluctance to provide or share data due to concerns about implications for data owners.



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### **▪ Lessons learned**

1. The AEIN started small rather than big by building capacity and slowly increasing the scope of work.
2. Develop an Environmental Information Strategic Plan at the beginning of the project.
3. Use the RBM to create realistic work plans and to manage expectations.
4. Reporting is most effective when done on an outcome and output basis with accurate reporting of results and scheduling.



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**Cont.**

### ▪ **Lessons learned**

5. Accepted and worked in consideration of the assimilative capacity of EEAA which has substantial grown.
6. Make provisions for rapid changes in technology by creating flexibility in work plans (i.e, short duration activities).
7. Ensure counterpart staff are available at a management level ,also useful at a technical level.



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**Cont.**

### ▪ **Lessons learned**

8. Build and maintain trust relationships in consideration of cultural norms (small things touch Egyptians and how things are done).
9. Use of a participatory approach at all levels in EEAA requiring daily interaction with EEAA clients.
10. Need for continuous communication with AEIN/UNEP



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**Cont.**

### **▪ Lessons learned**

11. Need to arrange a quarterly meeting to follow up all AEIN implementation activities.
12. It is very important for all the National focal points of AEIN to attend all AEO & GEO meetings.
13. Need to assign incentives for the National focal points.
14. Issuing the first Egypt State of Environment Report 2004