

Chapter 14: Environmental Development of Urban Communities

Introduction

MSEA is working within a clear, integrated framework of main tasks and development activities which apply the state general policy concerning sustainable development.

In implementing main assigned tasks and activities, MSEA has achieved the following development objectives.

- Ensuring the establishment of new urban and industrial communities of positive impact on the environment.
- Developing standards and codes for all industrial sectors in order to plan new industrial zones with an environmental, scientific method that takes environmental standards and requirements into consideration.
- Incorporating environmental dimension in developing strategic plans for industrial development in the Arab Republic of Egypt (A.R.E.).
- Decreasing pressures imposed on natural resources through environmental development of existing communities (industrial, residential).
- Achieving sustainability of industrial, residential, and tourist activities through providing environmental specifications along with its legal and legislative atmosphere.
- Providing the environmental profile for urban and rural areas as a tool for decision makers of environmental management and development.

MSEA Achievements

First: In the field of technical environmental studies

1. Sites proposed for transferring noisy and polluting workshops outside residential areas in Sohag, Beheira (in Kafr El Dawar), Qena and Alexandria governorates have been studied.
2. A report has been issued on environmental status study and development requirements in Beni Suef and Menoufia governorates.
3. The pilot project for developing molasses factories has been implemented in Menya governorate, where gas oil is used instead of fuel oil resulting in the change of inflammation devices, thus, decreasing emission loads generated from the manufacturing process.
4. A project has been implemented for treating liquid effluent resulting from tourist ships in Luxor using Phyto-Remediation technology as this German technology proved efficiency in treating discharge generated from cruisers. The experiment has been applied to river cruisers in Aswan.
5. A guiding model for environmental village requirements has been developed.

6. The environmental state of the industrial discharge treatment plant in the tanneries area at el-Robeiki has been studied.
7. Environmental study has been prepared on planning the establishment of popular urban communities at the surroundings of Sharm El-Sheikh.
8. A technical environmental study has been developed on urban environmental development of Imbaba airport land in Giza governorate in the light of environmental enforced specifications and requirements.
9. Environmental requirements have been issued for and support is provided to recycling slaughterhouse wastes and establishing automated slaughterhouse projects.
10. Environmental planning for developing urban and industrial areas in the Old Valley and the desert hinterland has been studied.
11. Identification of pollution sources in governorates and its impact on residential areas have been studied using geographical information systems (GIS).
12. Integration of environmental dimensions in the different stages of developing squatter areas has been addressed.
13. The upgrade of environmental specifications and controls of industrial, residential, and tourist activities is studied along with providing legislative and legal support for such specifications.

Second: Development of Environmental Requirements

1. Issuing environmental standards and specifications for Nile tourist cruisers and hotels.
2. Issuing environmental standards and specifications for berths receiving ship and floating hotel wastes.
3. Issuing environmental standards and specifications relevant to fish feed factory activities.
4. Developing final draft for animal wealth requirements (cows, buffalos, poultry, sheep, and goats).
5. Developing environmental requirements for metal foundries in new cities and industrial zones.
6. Issuing environmental requirements of handling, loading, and storing clinker as well as applying cleaner technologies in loading and unloading operations through using covered mechanical belts.
7. Issuing environmental recommendations of the storage and handling of coke in Egyptian ports.

Third: In The Field of Field Inspections

1. Inspecting (10th of Ramadan, Al Salehiya Al Gadida, Al Obour) cities in light of qualifying industrial cities to become environment-friendly.

2. Inspecting proposed sites to select those appropriate for the establishment of sanitary drainage stations in:
 - a. El-Amaar Al Kobra village in Tokh Markaz
 - b. Al Wehda Al Mahalia villages in Tanan, Qaliub Markaz and Demlo village in Banha Markaz in Qaliub governorate.
3. Inspecting workshop area south of the third industrial zone in new Borg Al Arab city to study the environmental status of Block (6) special division allocated for the establishment of a small workshop.
4. Inspecting the proposed site in Shatta village out of Damietta city to transfer environment-polluting workshops situated inside Damietta city.
5. Developing a study on the efficiency of olive wringers industrial discharge treatment in Areesh city, where 15 olive wringers established by the Canadian Fund, CIDA, have been inspected.

Studying sites proposed for establishing automated, half-automated, and manual slaughterhouses:

- The automated slaughterhouse in Fayoum City, Fayoum Governorate.
- The automated slaughterhouse in 15 May City.
- Slaughterhouses of MHUUC in 10th of Ramadan City.
- A manual poultry slaughterhouse in Arab Abu Saed, el-Saf, el-Giza.
- The automated poultry slaughterhouse in el-Saedeyeen area, Menya Al Qamh, el-Sharkiya

Fourth: Participation in Competent Ministerial Committees

1. MSEA participates in city cordon committee meetings to review the cordon and urban area of Giza, Qalioubiya, Dakahliya, Assiut, Sohag, Ismailiya, Damietta, Sharkiya, and Beheira governorates, in addition to the desert hinterland villages according to the Presidential platform.

2. Technical Committee of Specialized Ports:

The committee has been formed for periodical follow-up of specialized port circumstances regarding environmental licenses and requirements, maritime safety, and port security, and follow-up the compliance of such ports through reviewing achievements accomplished towards this end.

- a. Inspecting petroleum ports (Ras Sedr, Abu Redis, Wadi Feran, Ras Badran, Gabal Al Zeit, Shark Al Zeit “Zetco”, Ras Shokeir, Ras Ghareb, Edco for liquified gas).
- b. Inspecting mining ports (Al Qoseir, Abu Al Ghosoon, el-Hamrawen).
- c. Inspecting tourist ports (Marsa Alam, Port Ghaleb, Marina Hurghada, Abu Tig “Al Gouna”, Marina Wadi Al Dom, Tourism Porto Marina, Taba Hights).
- d. Inspecting fishing ports (el Maadia, el Atka, el Borollos).

3. Technical Committee for Developing Environmental Requirements of Animal Wealth Projects:

Environmental requirements for goat, cattle, poultry, cow, and buffalo farms have been developed and approved.

4. Technical Committee for Rehabilitating Industrial Zones in A.R.E.:

A technical committee has been formed to discuss methods of rehabilitating industrial zones concerning the following main dimensions:

- a. Development of technical standards and specifications (industrial code) necessary for re-planning industrial zones.
- b. Formulation of industrial urban plans to increase efficiency of industrial zones in governorates and new cities.
- c. Preparation of plans required for achieving the State industrial development strategy.

Squatter Areas in Egypt

Egypt squatter areas current situation is characterized by the following:

- They represent 30% of residential areas in Egypt.
- They are inhabited by 16 million citizens in more than 1100 squatter areas.
- No plans have been developed for land uses prior to use.
- It suffers from the deficiency of services and utilities.
- Environment and natural wealth deteriorate in many regions.
- Informal activities are concentrated in these areas.
- Activities of mixed nature (industrial, commercial, agricultural, residential) exist there.
- Public awareness is absent.

Table (14-1) Squatter areas in Egypt					
Governorate	No. of squatter areas	Total population in squatter areas	Governorate	No. of squatter areas	Total population in squatter areas
Cairo	68	2302099	Behira	81	874278
Alexandria	54	1363882	Ismailiya	12	359645
Port Said	7	67092	Giza	36	1360719
Suez	3	168412	Beni Suef	52	437463
Damietta	78	224767	Fayoum	28	446773
Dakahliya	125	11162052	Menya	29	558673
Sharkiya	81	832042	Assiut	84	753834
Qalioubiya	48	1291446	Sohag	65	684346
Kafr Al Sheikh	51	509790	Qena	57	493616
Gharbiya	47	868317	Aswan	40	412162
Menoufia	56	529394	Luxor	3	12550
Total	Total no. of squatter areas		Total population in squatter areas		
	1105		15,713,352		

Advancement of Squatter Areas

Squatter areas advancement projects under the auspices of Egypt's First Lady Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak

Within the interest and care offered by Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak, head of the Integrated Care Society (ICS) for improving living standards in squatter areas under the motto "Towards a Secure Society", six community local development projects have been implemented with the aim of establishing society security concept that comprises social, cultural, educational, health, environmental, and economic security and ultimately achieving human security in the community where he lives. These projects are:

- Ezbet Arab el-Walda development project,
- Al Maa'sara development project,
- Monshaet Nasser development project,
- Sport Cultural Club in Ain Shams,
- Al Gabarti Center, and
- Ain Helwan development project

MSEA role in environmental upgrade project in Ezbet Arab el-Waleda and Maa'sara in Helwan District, Cairo:

1. Environmental upgrade project in Ezbet Arab el-Walda:

Within the framework of ICS support to development projects, Egypt's first lady Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak, the BOD Chair, announced that ICS will sponsor a new project for improving living conditions through partnership in Ezbet Arab el-Walda. This project is the first of its kind adopted by an NGO to improve living conditions of a squatter area in cooperation with ministries, NGOs, and residents who have set their priorities of developing the region by themselves and are cooperating to achieve this. Ezbet Arab el-Walda is situated in Helwan and suffers from various environmental, security, health, social, and other problems. In 9 August 2004, Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak laid the foundation stone of the project.

MSEA roles and activities in the project:

- **Establishing parks:** A park has been established in Ezbet el-Walda on an area of 7 feddans provided with various activities for serving citizens such as green areas, playgrounds, theatre, and cafeteria.
- **Tree-planting:** About 760 trees have been planted in Ezbet el-Walda in the first stage in addition to about 500 trees and more than 1000 square meters of green spaces in the second stage.
- **Paving roads:** Roads have been paved using cement. 2000 square meters are also paved in Ezbet el-Walda. Residents have participated in this after being trained and qualified to work in the project.
- **Establishing and operating the Environmental Awareness Center:** The Environment Awareness Center has been established and is operating at Ezbet el-Walda area as per the protocol signed between MSEA and ICS to carry out various activities such as woman environmental awareness, capacity building, and elimination of illiteracy. The center is operated by a supervision committee comprising Helwan district, ICS, MSEA representatives, and representatives of some NGOs and local leaders in the region. Total number of beneficiaries from the center is approx. 2300 persons. 14 symposiums, 9 workshops, and 10 training courses on different fields have been held.
- **Lifting solid wastes:** About 200,000 cubic meters of solid wastes have been lifted from Ezbet el-Walda area.



Picture (14-1) Park in Ezbet el-Walda over 7 feddans



Picture (14-2) Tree-planting activities in Ezbet el-Walda



Picture (14-3) Environmental Awareness Center in Ezbet el-Walda



Picture (14-4) Lifting solid wastes and tree-planting in Ezbet el-Walda



Picture (14-5) Beautifying house facades in Ezbet el-Walda



Picture (14-6) Paving roads with cement in Ezbet el-Walda

2. Environmental upgrade project in Maa'sara area:

Continuing ICS efforts towards improving living standards in squatter areas, which yielded many successes in various regions such as: Ezbet el-Walda, Monshaet Nasser, and others, a new journey of continuous giving has started. Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak; ICS BoD Chair, laid in 2005 the foundation stone of living standard improvement project in Al Maa'sara, Helwan, which the residents met with overwhelming happiness. This projects is an extension to squatter area development project in Helwan.

MSEA role and activities in the project

- **Establishing parks:** A park has been established over four feddans in Maa'sara area by the Autostrad road. It comprises theatre, child club, and center for environmental awareness and women activity development over about 300 square meters equipped with furniture, devices, and tools required for achieving targets of the center.
- **Tree-planting:** 600 trees have been planted in Al Rashah and Tereat Al Khashab St.
- **Beautifying house facades (paintings):** Painting works have been completed for 948 houses with total surfaces of 91,000 square meters in 4217 residential units occupied by more than 30,000 citizens.
- **Lifting solid wastes:** About million cubic meters of solid wastes have been lifted from Al Maa'sara area.
- **Paving roads:** Roads have been paved using cement with a total of 16,500 square meters in Maa'sara. Residents have participated in this after being trained and qualified to work in the project.

MSEA Future Approaches to Developing Squatter Areas

MSEA looks forward to implement more activities in other squatter areas within the light of lessons learnt and successes achieved in Maa'sara and Ezbet el-Walda. In line with this issue significance, being within the Presidential platform and sponsored by Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak through ICS activities, **a unit has been established in MSEA for squatter areas environmental development.** The main objective of this unit is repeating the activities of Maa'sara and Ezbet el-Walda in all other squatter areas. To achieve this, specific tasks have been set as a framework for the unit including:

- Organizing environmental development programs and projects in squatter areas along with identifying time plans and priorities of implementation.
- Including the development of squatter areas in MSEA policies, programs and plans according to available fund and availability of technical human expertise in the field of squatter areas development.
- Forming environmental committees in developed areas in coordination with RBOs and EMUs, including representatives from all sectors, to be responsible for the sustainability of implemented procedures as well as implementing agreed plans.
- Disseminating environmental work ideology and methodologies through participation of all sectors of civil society, businessmen, private enterprises interested in the social dimension and public work, NGOs, and the governmental sector as well as contributions of international entities and donors.
- Implementing environmental projects in squatter areas through full participation with all ministries, agencies, civil society organizations, private sector, international entities and donors.
- Disseminating experiences and success stories in the field of environmental development of squatter areas at the national level.