



**Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs
Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency**

AFRICA ENVIRONMENT INFORMATION NETWORK

Report on Sustainable Development Indicators Workshop

Held at Cairo House, 16 May 2005

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June 2005

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1- Introduction

Policy makers need environmental information to prioritize problems and take necessary actions. Most environmental problems are complex and decisions are often made with great uncertainty. No effective planning and decision-making can be achieved and implemented without a solid and dynamic information base that is based on monitoring.

Accordingly establishing effective monitoring systems is a major condition for environmental quality assessment and pollution control. The design of environmental monitoring systems should be systematic and compatible with the planning and decision making process. It should be based on a unified methodological framework that facilitates the development of environmental quality objectives and targets for the various media and sectors of the economy, and the development of both regulatory and non-regulatory policy instruments.

There are substantial inventories of statistics in Egypt but they are not shared and they are not comparable. However, it is also the case that additional data of different types is required for collection at the local, regional, national, and international level to elucidate a more detailed, accurate story of Egypt's environment and development issues. Furthermore, there is a need for standardizing data collection and storage, and making it accessible to technical and managerial levels. Reports and related information tend to be located in different bodies between which there is little or no coordination, cooperation or exchange, resulting in gaps, duplication, incompatibility, and limited utilization of data. This hinders policy development, planning, implementation and follow-up. It is imperative for improved decision-making that enhancements are made in data collection and analysis. The Ministries of Finance, Planning, Scientific Research, Environment, and Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), information and Decision Support Center (IDSC), academia and the private sector are responsible for promoting environmental statistics and information.

2- BACKGROUND

One of EEAA's mandates is to collect, process, produce, and distribute environmental information. In this regard, its potential suppliers and clients are many, diversified, and geographically distributed. Externally they may include international organizations, other Egyptian Ministries and Agencies, national institutes, and governorates. Internally they may include EEAA sectors, departments, units, Regional Branch Offices, Donor Funded Projects, plus private and public partners.

In order to effectively meet its mandate, EEAA could benefit from an Environmental Information Strategic Plan (EISP), developed in a broad-based, participatory way, while maintaining a perspective of the Agency and its working environment.

The region branch offices have the following jurisdictions:

- Follow up on the implementation of the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) in the governorates.
- Supervise the environmental monitoring networks to get needed information and report to EEAA.
- Follow up on the implementation of the Environmental Law No. 4 from 1994 and its executive regulations in the governorates. This includes follow up in the field to ensure the implementation of standards and measures as stated in the Environmental Law No. 4 and its executive regulations. Furthermore it involves taking necessary actions against violators of these standards and measures.
- Raise environmental awareness and coordinate between public efforts and environmental offices in governorates based upon EEAA plans and guidelines.
- Implement EEAA CEO instructions in protecting the environment and ensure achieving EEAA aims in governorates.
- Prepare annual report of the environment status based on main indicators in governorates to be presented for the EEAA board of directors.
- Enforce the coordination and cooperation bonds between EEAA and governorates to achieve EEAA aims and goals in protecting the environment.

The preparation of a first version environmental EEISP aims at providing EEAA with a plan focused on the production and management of environmental information. It is by no means a plan for the entire Agency. Rather, it is directed at meeting that aspect of Law 4 of 1994 related to EEAA's mandate to collect, process, and disseminate environmental information for its use and use by its clients.

The production and management of environmental information influences a significant proportion of EEAA’s activities and it is the main focus of the EEISP. The EEISP does not; however, address those activities that rely on the use of environmental information.

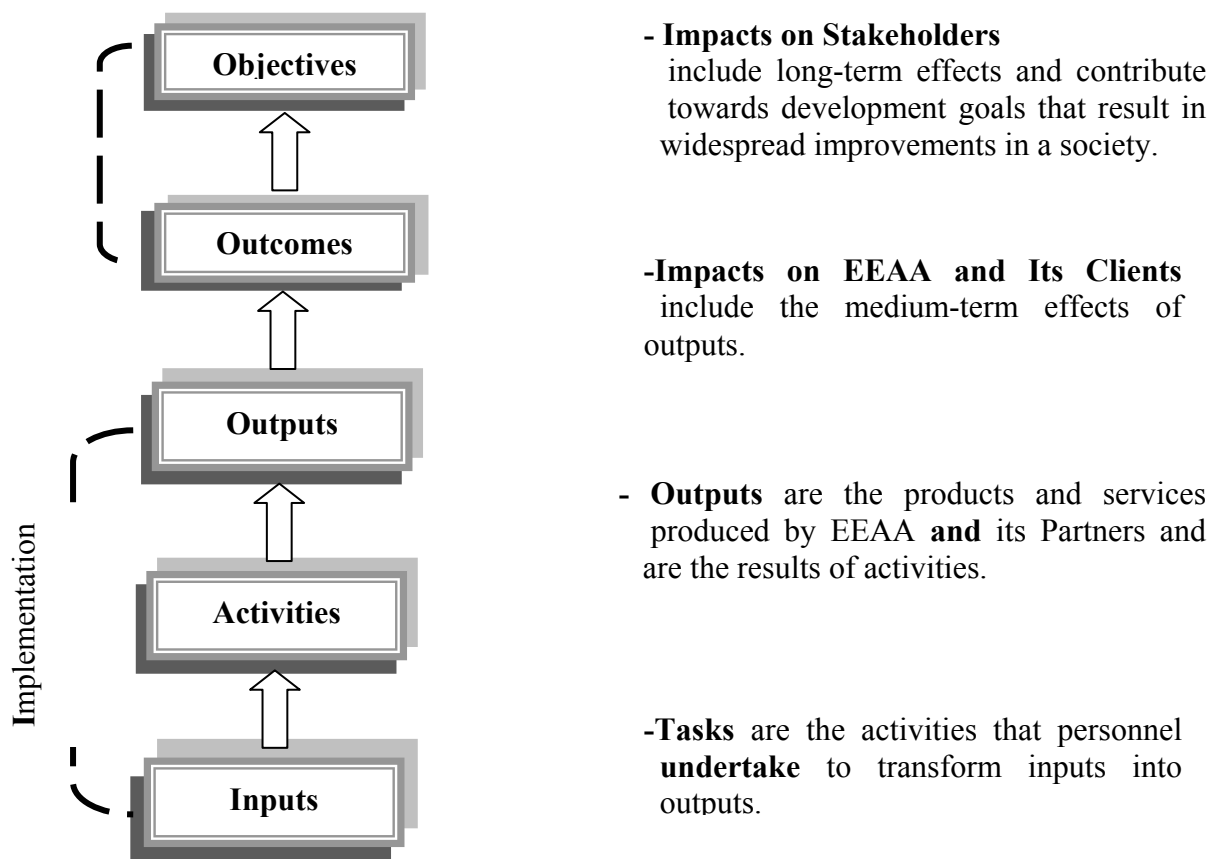
The EEIS Project has contributed to the first two phases through an information survey and a series of iterative, inter-departmental workshops. During the Problem Definition Phase a survey of environmental information needs was undertaken, and existing and needed environmental information identified. Following the survey, the first participatory workshop was held to identify feasible options and to prioritize the most feasible. Two other workshops were held to complete the Direction Setting Phase.

The results of the first workshop were organized into an institutional framework suitable for development of a first version EEISP. This was accomplished using an objective, oriented planning system (Figure 1), which has been accepted by EEAA. This system sets out a cause and effect chain. The chain outlines a series of activities and expected outputs (products and services) that are needed to produce outcomes or changes that in turn will result in the achievement of strategic goals or objectives.

The strategic objective or goal of the EISP was identified as:

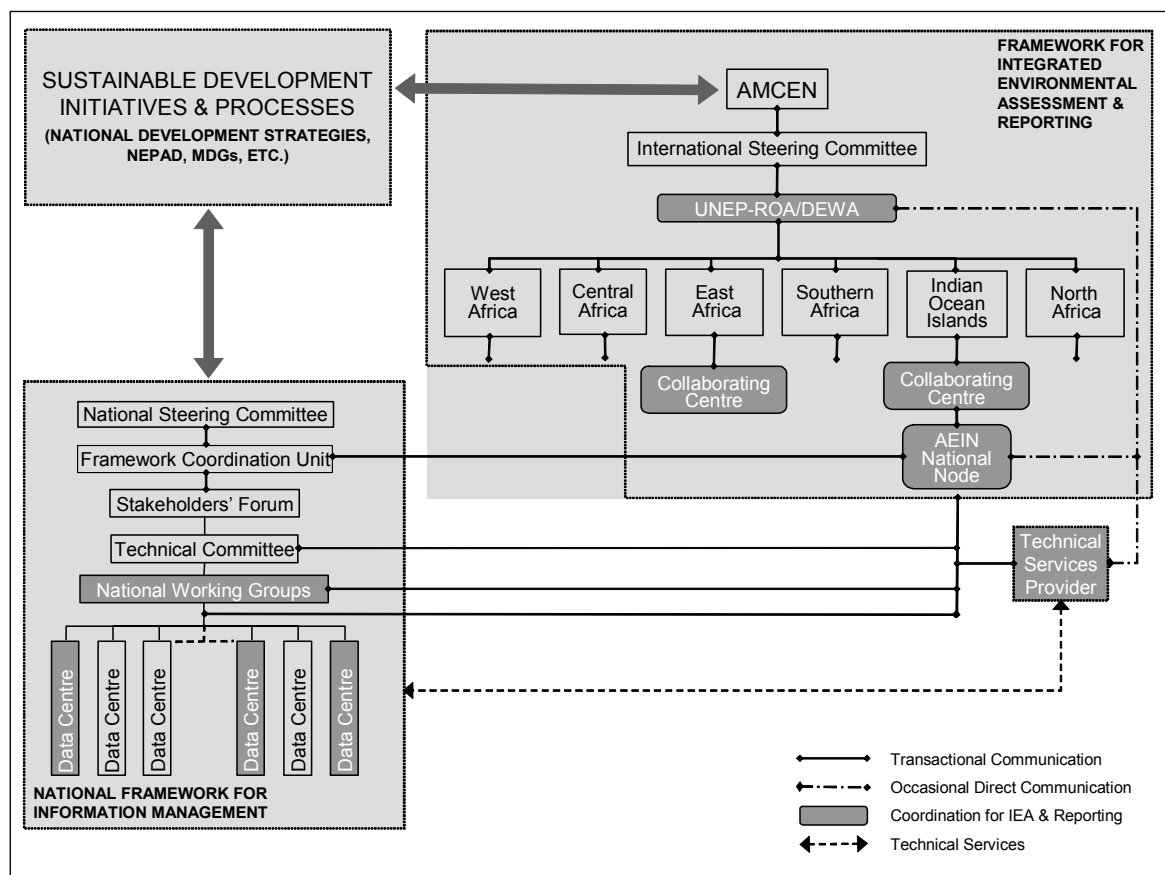
“Efficient, collection, processing and dissemination of reliable environmental information.”

Figure1
Objective, Oriented Planning System



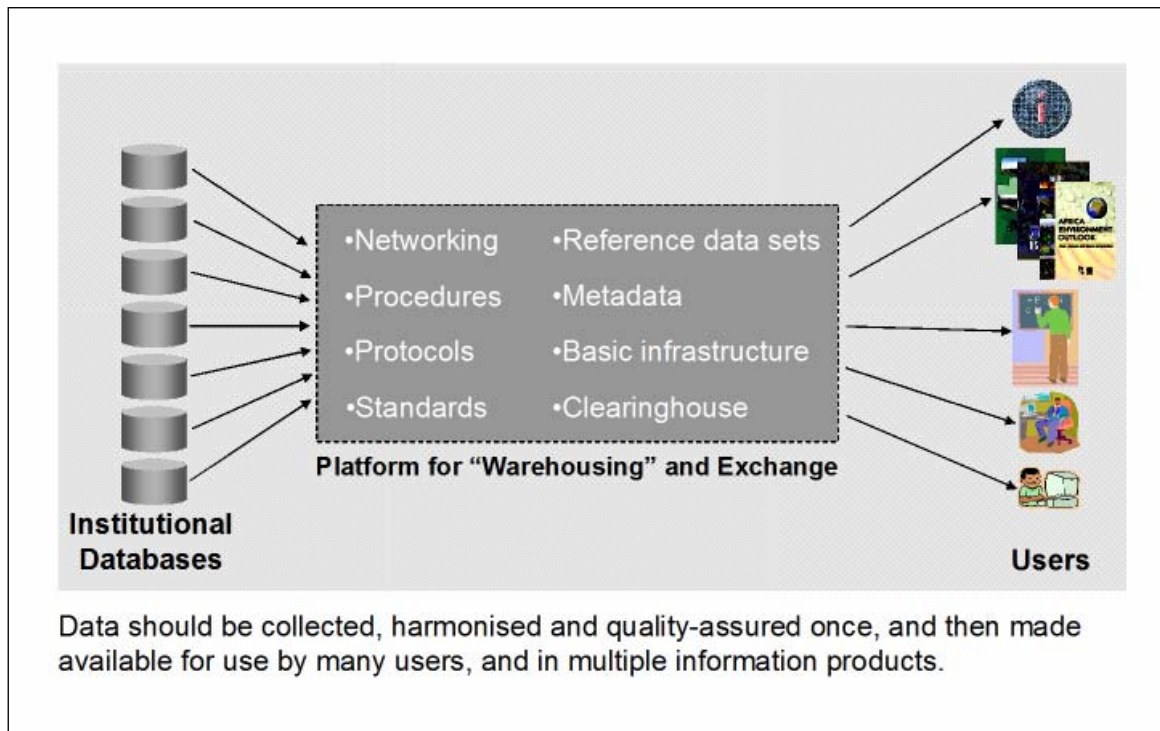
Project organization during the project life cycle

AEIN has been conceived as an integrated framework programme that will contribute to strengthening institutional capacities in managing and using *information related to sustainable development*. In this respect two aspects of the AEIN framework are recognised. the Figure illustrates the broad two sets of objectives of AEIN, and the linkages therein. The first set of objectives addresses *specific capacity building needs for the effective implementation of national, sub-regional, and regional assessment and reporting processes*. This refers explicitly to the AMCEN request and the AEO process for which AEIN has a specific “mandate”. This is represented by the “*framework for integrated assessment and reporting*” block, with AMCEN as the apex organ of the network. Clustered together in that block are the institutions directly involved in these processes, with an indication of the relationships among them. This is essentially the existing AEO/GEO structure, with the addition of a national AEIN node.



AEIN network structure and linkages to on-going initiatives

Future scope for implementation of Information Centers

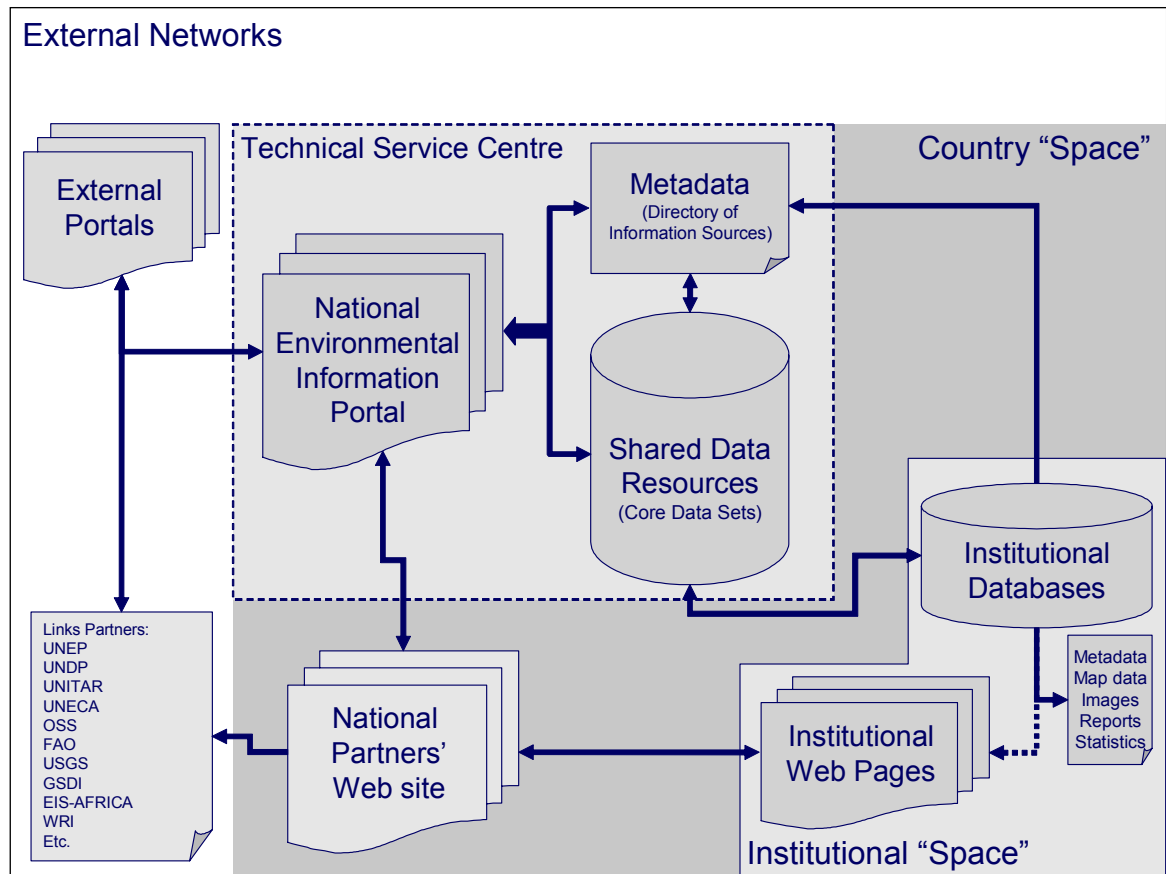


Data Exchange Platform — Vision

The first level of activity will be within the institutional “space” where the *capacity of partner institutions* that are identified as contributing directly to the integrated assessment and reporting process will be enhanced for the development and maintenance of operational databases that meet their own functional needs, as well as contributing to the *core data sets*. The second level of activities will support the development of a framework, or “*country space*”, within which institutional “spaces” will be linked, with underlying structures for harmonisation, to create a *common information portal*. Each collaborating partner institution will have its own dedicated “space” where they will post their information, either for restricted use, or for open public access. Institutions will have equal visibility, and establish an Internet presence with their own identity through the portal. The public “spaces” would contain institutional information, data resources, information products, services, and technical resources such as available expertise.

Metadata on all available data resources will be captured, stored and maintained by the respective data custodian. A *clearing house mechanism* will be implemented to facilitate easy access to metadata that may be held at different locations. Where it is operationally impossible or ineffective to have a distributed metadatabase, the metadata will be stored within one central database and managed by a Technical Service Centre.

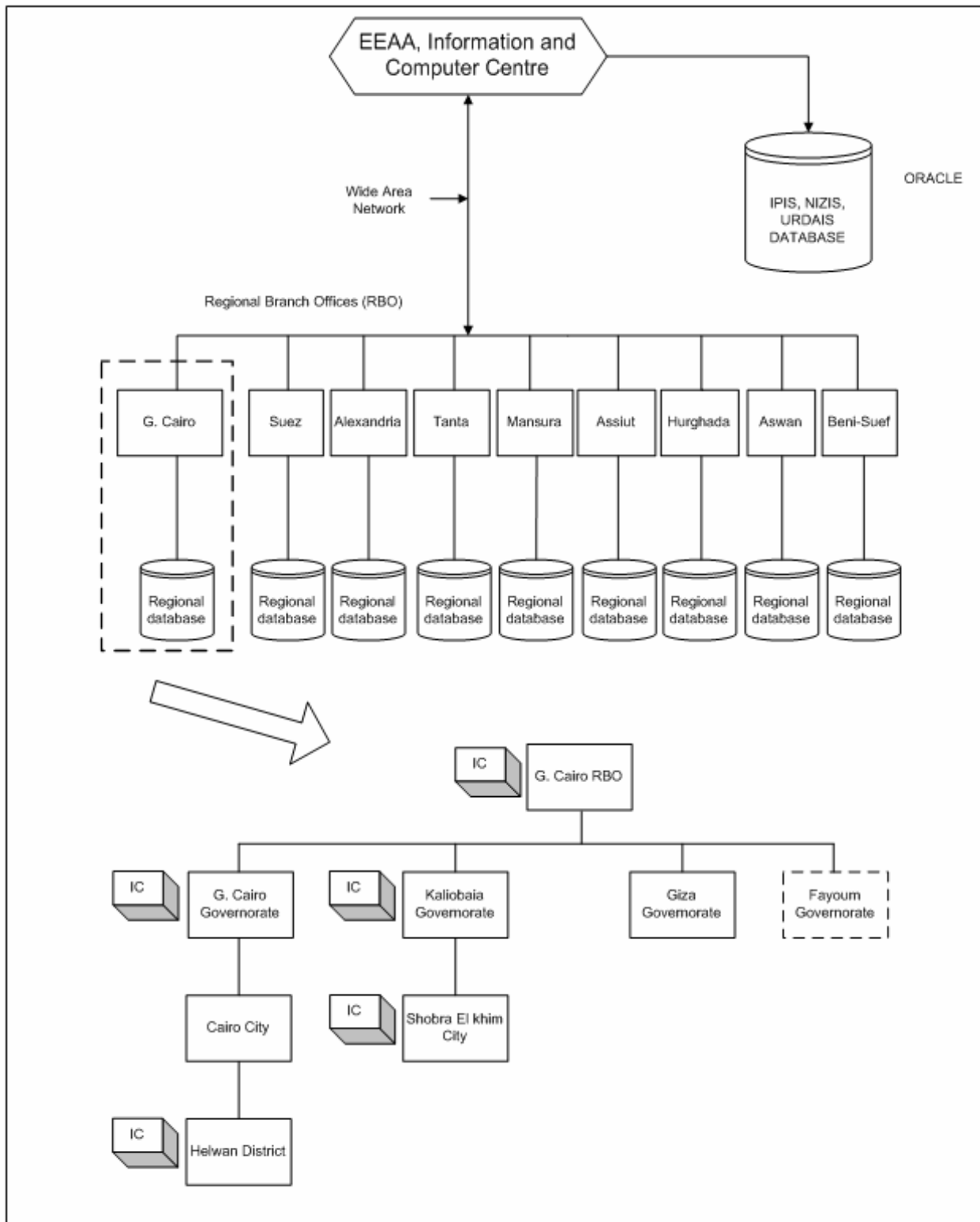
Links will be established with external information networks, including web sites and/or portals.



Shared "spaces" and information repositories

It is anticipated that the current development of Information Centers for communication between EEAA and the two RBOs in Greater Cairo and Suez and between the two RBOs and the EMUs will be implemented in the remaining 7 RBOs in Egypt in the future.

The concept is illustrated below, also indicating the EMUs involved in the pilot project in Greater Cairo. Fayoum governorate is in the process of being transferred to a new RBO for North of Upper Egypt located in Beni-Suef. However Greater Cairo RBO will be responsible with the temporary supervision of Fayoum governorate until the establishment of Beni-Suef RBO.



Conceptuel illustration of the organisational structure for establishment of data communication between EEAA, the regional branch offices and the local EMUs.

The two districts in Shobra El Khima City (West and East Districts) are both important stakeholders in relation to data capture and data management as they are the data providers in the City.

It is therefore recommended and expected that investments are made in these districts in the near future in order to fully develop the data exchange and dissemination strategy for Shobra El Khima City.

3- Provisional Agenda (attachment 1)

4- List of participants (attachment 2)

5- Recommendations

The workshop has two main objectives:

(i) strengthening local, regional, and national capacity to collect, analyze, and use multi-sect oral information for decision making by better identification of users, both public and private, and of their information needs at the local, regional, and national levels; and

(ii) Improving overall quality (i.e., validity and reliability), coverage, and timeliness of and access to environmental information. The required activities include:

- Carry out inventories of environmental, resource and development data for determining gaps and organizing activities to fill those gaps.
- Develop a coordinated, standardized data collection and assessment framework.
- Establish systems to verify quality of data gathered (i.e. a source check).
- Establish procedures for measurement and evaluation.
- Organize continuous and accurate data-collection systems, making use of Geographic Information System (GIS), databases, expert systems, models, and the like.
- Cooperate with the private sector and international bodies to facilitate transfer of technology and technical know-how.
- Improving the quality of environmental data and statistics requires strengthening institutional capacity, promoting ongoing education, awareness, and training and ensuring financial commitment as well. There are many sources for statistical information, including Government archives, academic institutions, UN documents, and the World Bank as well as other international bodies.

Efforts should be made to gather together information from various sources to form a more complete profile of Egypt and be the base for better decision-making process.

Attachments

Provisional Agenda
(Attachment 1)

Sustainable Development Indicators Workshop Program

Monday 16/5/2005

Cairo House

9:00 – 10:00	Registration	
10:00 – 10:10	Opening of the Workshop	Dr. Mohamed Khalil (CEO EEAA)
10:10 – 10:15	Workshop Target	Dr. Moussa Ibrahim Moussa
1st Session : Egypt's Efforts in the Sustainable Development Field		
10:15 – 10:35	African Environmental Information Net AEIN	Eng. Ahmed Abd- Elrehim (CEDARE)
10:35 – 11:00	Egypt's State of Environmental Report	Eng. Moheeb Abd- Elsattar
11:00 – 11:30	Sustainable Development	Dr. Mohamed Borhan
11:30 – 12:00	Egypt's Efforts in the Sustainable Development	Dr. Attwa Hussein
12:00 – 12:30	Break	
2nd Session : Sustainable Development Indicators		
12:30 – 13:00	Sustainable Development Indicators in Egypt	Dr. Moussa Ibrahim Moussa
13:00 – 13:20	Millennium Development Goal Report MDG	Dr. Mahmoud El-Howeehy
13:20 – 13:50	Sustainable Development Indicators system	Eng. Ahmed Abd- Elrehim (CEDARE)
13:50 – 15:00	Future Work plan	Eng. Moheeb Abd- Elsattar
15:00 – 15:30	Recommendations	Participants
15:30 – 16:30	Lunch	

List of participants

(Attachment 2)

Lists of Participants In the Workshop
of Sustainable Development Indicators
held on Monday 16/5/2005 at the Cairo House

MINISTRY / ORGANIZATION	NAME	POSITION
CEDARE	Mr. Ahmed Abd El-Rehim	Senior Programme Specialist Environmental Information Unit
CEDARE	Eng. Hossam Allam	Senior Programme Specialist Environmental Information Unit
Cairo University	Dr. Mohamed Abd El-Moneim El-Kassass	Environment Expert
Ministry of Communication &Information Technology	Eng. Taha Shendy	Director of the Information Center
Ministry of Media	Mr. Mohamed Khalaf-Allah	Head of the Central Department for Information and Computer
Ministry of Housing& Construction and Urban Societies	Eng. Hanaa Morsy	General Director of the Information Center
Ministry of Education	Mr. Mohamed Abd El-Fattah	General Director of the Information Center
Ministry of Foreign Trade & Industry	Mr. Atef Abd El-Hafez	General Director of the Information Center
Ministry of Agriculture & Land Reclamation	Dr. Mohamed Ramy	Supervisor of the Information Center Sector
Ministry of Tourism	Eng. Saad El-Sayed Ali Salem	Head of the Central Department for Information and Decision Making support

Ministry of Manpower & Immigration	Mr. El-Sayed El-Badawy Ahmed Abou-Elfadl	Head of the Central Department for Information and Decision Making support
Ministry of Electricity	Eng. Osama Ez-Eldin	General Director of the Information Center
Ministry of Finance	Mr. Effat Ali Mohamed Zohni	Head of the Central Department for Information and Documentation
Ministry of Culture	Mr. Farouk Abd EL-Salam	Head of the Minister Office Sector
Ministry of Agriculture	Eng. Elhamy Mohamed Abd El-Moneim	Head of Economic Affairs Sector
Ministry of Agriculture	Mr. Mohamed Anwar	Minister Office
Ministry of Transportations	Eng. Hassan Ahmed Mohamed Selim	Head of transportation project Authority
Ministry of Transportations	Mr. Mohamed Abd El-Sabour	Office of the Director of Transportation Projects Planning
Ministry of Health and Population	Dr. Thanaa Ibrahim Ali Saleh	Director of the National Center of the Health and Population Information
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Embassador/ Motaz Ahmadeen¹	Manager of Environmental Affairs and Sustainable Development
Ministry of Administrative Development	Eng. Sameh Bedeer	Director of the Electronic Government program
Ministry of Administrative Development	Dr. Ashraf Abd El-Wahhab	Consultant of the Minister of Administrative Development
Information Center of Ministers Council	General/ Ahmed El-Tawanssy	Consultant
CAPMAS	Mrs. Asparanss Keriakos	General Manager of the General Department of Environmental Statistics
CAPMAS	Mrs. Nadia Edriss	Manager of the General Department of Environmental Statistics

Ministry of Planning	Dr. Nayerra Darweesh	Head of the Central Department for Information and Decision Making support
Ministry of local development	Mr. Samir Ghareeb	Supervisor of the ministry office
Ministry of local development	Mr. Sherif Ahmed Zahran	Minister Office
Ministry of Investment	Eng. Alaa Sweif	Supervisor of the Information System Sector
Arab Countries Union	Dr. Fatma El-Mallah	Manager of the Environment and Sustainable Development Department
Sadat Academy	Dr. Mohammed Omran	Head of the Statistic Department
Egyptian House for Books and Documents	Mrs. Baheya Fathi	Manager of the Information Department