



CLIMATE CHANGE RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME IN EGYPT

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Naturally occurring greenhouse gases (GHGs) such as carbon dioxide are responsible for trapping heat reflected from the Earth's surface raising the Earth's temperature, which is known as the greenhouse effect. Current studies indicate that human activities such as fossil fuel burning and deforestation have increased the atmospheric concentrations of GHGs causing more heat to be trapped and the Earth to be warmer. This additional greenhouse effect is usually referred to as global warming which could lead to climate change. Climate change is a challenge to the whole world as its potential impacts include worsening droughts, floods, crop failures, and rising sea levels.

There are two responses to confront climate change: mitigation and adaptation. While mitigation refers to intervention or policies to reduce the emissions or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases, adaptation refers to policies and actions to minimize the predicted impacts of climate change, besides natural responses such as acclimatization to the change by the living beings.

Although Egypt's contribution to the GHG emissions is currently far below the world's average, the country is moving towards a less GHG intensive path mainly by becoming a more energy efficient economy, and by increasing the utilization of its large renewable energy potential.

While mitigation is necessary to prevent or at least slow down the climate change, adaptation is needed to alleviate the potential impacts of climate change. Current and future changes in climatic conditions constitute a major environmental and economic risk. Indeed, Egypt is predicted to be highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, according to various studies. Egypt's most vulnerable sectors are: **1) coastal zones 2) water resources, and 3) agriculture.** Climate change risks may jeopardize Egypt's efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The Programme Objectives:

The Climate Change Risk Management Programme (CCRMP) is a national cross-cutting programme implemented across multiple ministries and sectors, targeting both adaptation and mitigation.

For adaptation, the programme will assist in providing tools to make strategic decisions to strengthen the institutional capacity to develop and to implement national strategies in the water resources, agricultural, and other sectors. For mitigation, it will assist in policies to help mitigate Egypt's contribution to emissions by providing an enabling environment and incentive schemes to promote financing of renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives as well as taking advantage of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).

Program Components

The programme consists of four components, each of which with an outcome that responds to either mitigation or adaptation. In each component, one or more UN organization coordinates its cooperation with one of the national partners towards the achievement of specific goals. The four components are:

A. Supreme Energy Council (SEC) Component:

The Cabinet of Ministers collaborates with the UNDP and UNEP to allocate consulting expertise to support the SEC's energy policy objectives in the renewable energy and energy efficiency areas.

B. Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Component:

The Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) in the Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs liaises with UNEP, UNDP, and UNIDO to promote the utilization of the Clean Development Mechanism as a tool to make environmental projects financially feasible.

C. Forecasting & Integrated Water Resources Management Component:

The Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (MWRI) collaborates with UNESCO on implementing of Integrated Water Resources Management plans at the local level under different climate change scenarios and create a Regional Circulation Model, to be developed in cooperation with UNEP and UNDP.

D. Vulnerability and Adaptation of the Agricultural Sector Component:

The Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation (MALR) collaborates with IFAD and FAO to develop stress tolerant crops, to identify optional cropping patterns, to optimize the use of potentially less water resources and increased temperature, and to disseminate information in response to the climate change risks.

Programme Partnership

This CCRMP is a national initiative stemming out of the "Paris Declaration" which aims to align donor activities with national priorities. This programme has received the support of the UNDP-Spain MDG Achievement Fund and will assist Egypt in raising the profile of climate change in the national agenda.

The programme will link four government bodies to work together to strengthen the institutional system to cope with climate change.

The programme's National Partners include the: Cabinet of Ministers, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs, Ministry of International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The UN Partners include: UNDP, UNESCO, UNEP, UNIDO, FAO, and IFAD.

Duration

The program duration is 36 months, starting from October 2008



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