

National Strategy & Decentralization Environmental Management Work plan

The work paper aims at supporting the ministry's and EEAA's policy to implement the decentralization of environmental management in Egypt and puts a general frame throughout the national plan for environmental protection and through the cooperation protocol with the Ministry of Local Administration signed in June 2003 regarding putting the Environmental Management Units (EMUs) into action and coordinate their work with the Regional Branch Offices of EEAA (RBOs).

Building up a DEM Task Force to prepare the strategy in its early stage. The Task Force will include members from the Ministry, EEAA and representatives from the Ministry of local Administration in addition to other members who might join from other ministries concerned with the environment such as Ministry of Health – Agriculture – Education....etc, for the purpose of putting the executive plan to implement the strategy.

This is done with the technical and financial support of the Environmental Sector Program (ESP) and in coordination with DEM components and other expertise to develop and implement the strategy as SEAM project and EPAP project.

Introduction

General:

One of the main strategic goals of the Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs is to put a fully integrated system for environment in Egypt. This aims at protecting the environment, developing the economical policies and improving sustainable development; in addition it helps in implementing law no.4 for the year 1994 and develops and coordinates the role of other concerned authorities in protecting the environment.

Implementing the strategy of decentralized environmental management is considered one of the main tools to reach EEAA and the ministry's goals.

Throughout the past years, EEAA made several initiations to develop its capacity and enforce the cooperation with the governorates through establishing Regional Branch Offices (RBOs) and developing Environmental Management Units (EMUs) in governorates. In addition, EEAA coordinated the work of donor countries aiming at increasing local authority capacities in sound environmental management.

Many donor countries participate in supporting local & regional environmental management which in turn needs efficient coordination for the activities so that maximum benefit can be obtained from this program. Furthermore, there is a strong urge to improve the planning and implementation of these programs in the coming period to support decentralization of environmental management.

From the previous, the need for a strategy for the ministry and for EEAA is clear to coordinate the work of previous initiations, implement the ministry's policy, steer the donor countries effort from funds and technical assistance and avoid contradictions between programs with the aim of building the governorates capacities to implement the decentralization of environmental management policy. This can be achieved by establishing a DEM Task Force to prepare and follow the implementation of the strategy.

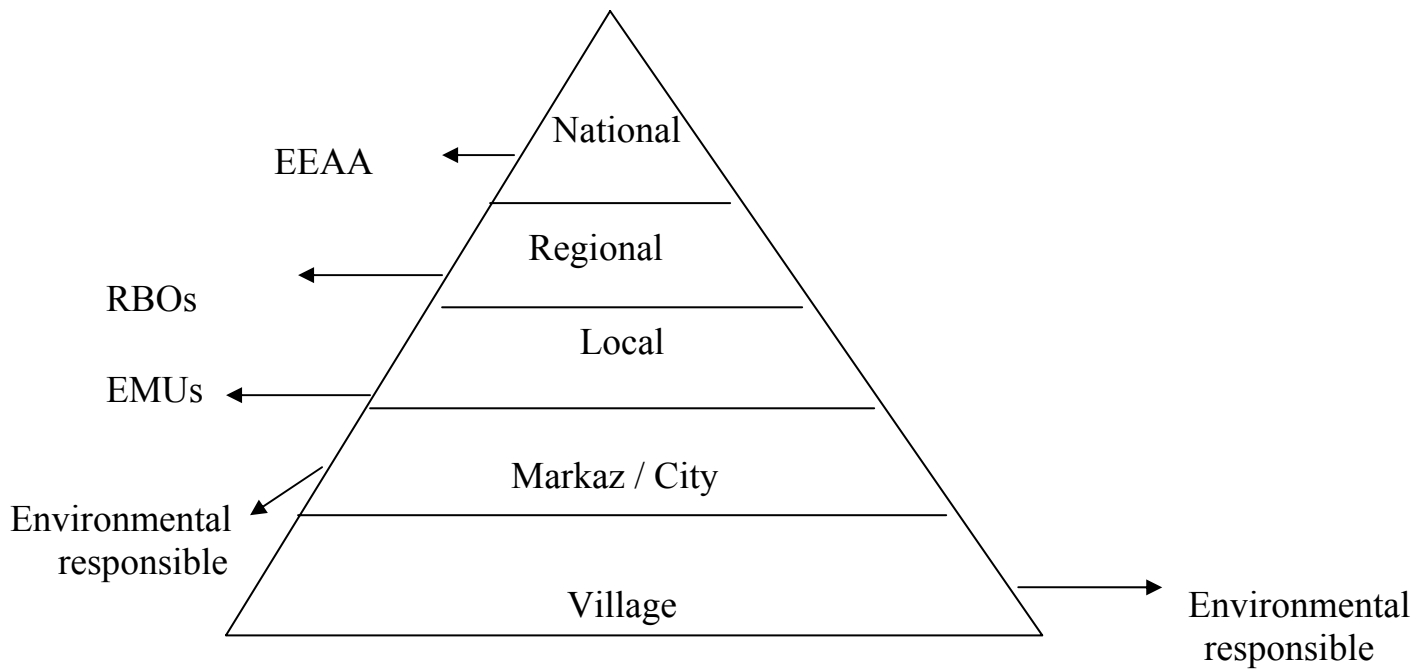
Decentralization of Environmental Management in Egypt:

Developing the legal frame of environmental management system in Egypt is now being carried on. Law no.4 for the year 1994 and its executive regulations refers to supporting the decentralization in environmental management through transferring all remaining activities of sound environmental management from the central level to the regional and local level.

Authority level	Regional level (Regional branch)	Local level (EEAA Office)
Ministerial decrees	* Ministerial decree no. 187 year 1995 * Ministerial decree no. 56 year 2000	* Preparing a ministerial decree in cooperation with the Ministry of Local Administration
Administrative and executive decrees	* Administrative decree no. 17 year 2001	* Preparing an administrative and executive decree after finalizing the ministerial decree
Technical & Administrative working guide	* In preparation phase	* In preparation phase

“Legal Frame”

In accordance with the environmental legislations and ministerial decrees issued and the ones still in preparation , the environmental management system general frame in Egypt can be called “ Egyptian Environmental Management Pyramid “ with the Ministry of state for Environmental Affairs on its top



“Egyptian Environmental Management Pyramid”

In order to implement the strategy of decentralization in environmental management and put the governorates in action for monitoring and managing the activities relating to improving the environment on local levels as well as to preserve natural resources, the Egyptian Environmental Affair Agency (EEAA) prepared a complete plan to establish a network between the Regional Branch Offices (RBOs) supported by a network from the environmental measurement labs. Furthermore, EEAA worked on supporting and developing the Environmental Management Units (EMUs) as well as establishing the Governorate Environmental Action Plan Unit (GEAP) to assist governorates in planning for sound environmental management.

Geographical range and jurisdiction of the Regional Branch Offices (RBOs)

In order to implement the second article from law no.4 for the year 1994, the ministerial decree no. 187 for the year 1995 was issued to establish 8 RBOs as follows:

- Greater Cairo RBO: located in Cairo city and includes Cairo, Giza, Kalyoubeya and Fayoum governorates.
- Alexandria RBO: located in Alexandria city and includes Alexandria, El Behera and Marsa Matrouh governorates.
- Middle of Delta RBO: located in Tanta city and includes El Garbeya, Mounefia and Kafr El Sheik governorates.
- East of Delta RBO: located in Mansoura city and includes El Dakahleya, El Shakia, Demitta and Port Said governorates.
- Canal area RBO: located in Suez city and includes Suez, Ismaelia, South of Sinai and North of Sinai governorates.
- Red Sea RBO: located in Hurgada city and includes Red Sea governorate.
- North of Upper Egypt RBO: located in Assiut city and includes Beni-Suef, El-Menia, Assiut and El Wadi El Gedid governorates.
- South of Upper Egypt RBO: located in Aswan city and includes Kena, Aswan, Sohag and Luxor governorates.

Regional Branch Offices (RBOs) jurisdiction:

- Monitor the governorates in implementing the national plan for protecting the environment.
- Supervise the environmental monitor network in governorates to obtain information and pass it to EEAA.
- Monitor the implementation of law no. 4 for the year 1994 and its executive regulations in governorates, field follow up to assure the implementation of standards and measurements by which authorities and establishments have to work on according to the environmental law as well as taking action against violating such standards.
- Spread environmental awareness and coordinate between public efforts and EMUs in governorates according to EEAA's plan.

- Implement EEAA CEO decisions regarding protecting the environment and assure the achievement of EEAA's role in governorates.
- Preparation of an annual report on the main indicators for the environmental situation in governorates to be presented on EEAA board members.
- Enforce the coordination and cooperation between EEAA and governorates in order to achieve EEAA's goals in protecting the environment

Attached here a copy from the ministerial decree no. 187 for the year 1995 concerning establishing the RBOS; a study is now being prepared on the geographical range of the RBOs work with the possibility of establishing new RBOs.

Regional Branch Offices (RBOs) Organizational Structure:

The RBO organizational structure includes four branches of departments as follows:

Environmental Developing Department: It includes the environmental inspection activities, legal pursuit of violations, environmental effect evaluation and following up public complains.

Environmental Quality Department: This department includes monitoring air quality, water, soil and it is equipped with an environmental measurement lab.

Information, Media and Environmental Awareness Department: It includes administrative and financial affairs for the RBOs.

Administrative decree no. 17 concerning RBOs work guide and policies.

The administrative decree no. 17 for the year 2001 was issued on the 14th March 2001 regarding the policies and RBOs work guide. It includes the following activities:

- Environmental monitoring and measuring.
- Environmental inspection and actions against violations of law no.4 and its executive regulations.
- Environmental training
- Information, media and environmental awareness.
- Public complains.
- Periodic reports and memos.

- Internal evaluation of performance and work management.
- Cooperation with EMUs and concerned departments in governorates to implement law no.4 for the year 1994 and its executive regulations.
- Preparation of the RBOs annual work plan.
- Management and implementation of pilot projects.
- Environmental effect evaluation activities for projects.
- Preparation of studies and reports on the regional environmental situation.
- Technical assistance to EMUs in governorates.
- Preparation of the environmental emergency plan for the regional areas.
- Hazardous wastes and substances management.
- Cooperation and coordination with the natural protectorates in regional areas.
- Cooperating with the National Environmental Monitoring Network.
- Integrated coast management in coordination with marine environmental protection concerned authorities.

EMUs Jurisdiction:

According to the ministerial decree which was prepared by EEPP project, the EMUs specializes in doing the following:

1. Participate in the preparation of the National Plan for Environmental Protection in governorates, participating in the preparation and updating of the environmental status report in governorates, gathering of environmental information, monitoring pollution sources and preparing environmental maps.
2. Work on implementing law no.4 for the year 1994 as well as other legislations for protecting the environment in cooperation with the concerned authorities and assisting RBOs in the environmental inspection and legal pursuit of violations.
3. Participate along with the concerned authorities in governorates in receiving studies of environmental effect evaluation to be reviewed by EEAA.
4. Assist in the preparation of emergency plan to overcome environmental disasters on the governmental level; study the plan training needs and coordinate with the concerned authorities.
5. Monitor the implementation of precautions taken for hazardous wastes and substances handling in governorates and coordinate with the concerned executive authorities.

6. Participate in the preparation of developing plans for investment in governorates taking into account the environmental scope.
7. Participate in the preparation, planning and implementation of environmental projects according to the governorates needs.
8. Cooperate with the natural protectorates department and coordinate with the concerned RBOs regarding the responsibility of these protectorates in preserving natural heritage in the surrounded area. In addition to implementing environmental laws related to this issue.
9. Receive environmental public complains, inspect them and take necessary action in coordination with the concerned authorities within the governorates.
10. Prepare and implement environmental training programs and environmental education programs in cooperation with the RBOs.
11. Supervise environmental activities in villages, marakez, districts and cities.
12. Enforce private sector, NGOs and public roles as well as supporting their efforts in protecting the environment.

Governorate Environmental Action Plan (GEAP) Jurisdiction :

According to the ministerial decree no. 141 for the year 2003 issued in August, the GEAP specializes in doing the following:

1. Support governorates in the preparation and implementation of their own Environmental Action Plan.
2. Develop and support the preparation of GEAP and the strategy used in its implementation.
3. Enforce the action plans in governorates on a wide range.
4. Ensure the contribution of GEAP in implementing the NEAP and national related policies.
5. Assist each governorate in preparing and updating their own environmental action plan.

Recommendations

1. Issuing a decree from H.E the Minister of State for Environmental Affairs to form the DEM Task Force under the authority of EEAA CEO to prepare a strategy as well as an executive plan for the decentralization of environmental management in Egypt. It is proposed that the DEM Task Force members in the first phase be the heads of sectors and concerned central departments in EEAA (Environmental Management Sector, Central Department of RBOs, General Department of Planning and Follow up) in addition to a member from the Ministry of Local Administration. Members from other concerned authorities and ministries can participate in the next phase.
2. The main mission for the Task Force is proposed to be the preparation of the strategy and the executive plan as well as their implementation.
3. Benefit from available resources from donor counties, Environmental Sector Program (ESP) and SEAM project to support and finance the preparation and implementation of the plan as well as to technically support the Task Force.

Logical Frame Work

First axis:

Capacity building to continue the support of decentralization in environmental management of the concerned bodies on regional level (RBOs, EMUs, environmental responsables in concerned governorates and ministries). This includes providing of staff and their training as well as providing needed equipments to implement the mission.

Second axis:

Establish and develop the environmental communication network between authorities responsible for implementing the strategy and their responsibilities, functions, environmental relations and placing regulations in cooperation and coordination with the concerned authorities.

Third axis:

Develop the concerned authorities legal framework by continuing ministerial decrees and legislations.

Fourth axis:

Coordinate Task Force, meetings, workshops and pilot activities with the governorates and local authorities to test Task Force strategy.

The plan's timeframe is 2 years from 2004 – 2006 to finalize the preparation of the strategy and to be approved from EEAA board members with H.E the Minister of State for Environmental Affairs as the president as well as with the concerned ministers (Minister of Local Administration and the Governors).