

Chapter 6: Coastal water

Introduction

Egyptian coasts are some 3000 km, of which some 1150 km are on Mediterranean Sea extending from Salloum in the west to Rafah in the east, and some 1850 km cover the Egyptian Red Sea coasts at the main Red Sea basin (almost 1200 km), and Suez and Aqaba Gulfs (almost 650 km).

Egyptian marine environment and coastal areas, as the case is with all coastal states, is a permanent source of living and non-living wealth, and a foundation for civilizational and economic development. A coastal area is also a pivotal point of attraction for several projects in different economic and social fields such as entertainment and tourist projects, fish wealth projects, manufacturing and international trade. However, such areas are usually exposed to discrepant pollution rates from land and marine environments.

MSEA ICZM Achievements

First: Achievements

- 1. Development of the National Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) Strategy Draft for:**
 - a. Spreading integrated coastal resource management (ICRM) principles at governorate level.
 - b. Importance of applying ICRM on coastal resources.
 - c. In-depth dialogue among ICRM officials.
 - d. Setting the most appropriate ICRM methods.
 - e. Spreading ICRM methods and providing information necessary for their application;
 - f. Spreading information and raising public awareness on ICRM.
 - g. Strategy implementation mechanism at state level.
2. Reviewing ICM Protocol prepared by the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) and United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). MSEA has contributed to the preparatory meetings and Protocol redrafting meetings, and necessary procedures have been taken for Egypt's signing of the Protocol.
3. Finalizing the first phase of the ICM plan for the zone between Marsa Matrouh and Salloum in cooperation with Canabria University of Spain and Matrouh Governorate. The plan aims at realizing coastal area characteristics and proposing coordination mechanism among stakeholders to develop the area ICM method, in order to achieve optimum natural resource usage, avoid negative impacts and achieve integration among various activities. During the first phase, studying zone (physical, social, economic and environmental) characteristics was finalized, while in the second phase, land use plan will be proposed and the zone EIA studied.

4. Monitoring Coastal Water Pollutants:

- a. 15 field visits (5 annually) have been conducted for sampling and analyzing coastal water in the Mediterranean, Red Sea, Suez and Aqaba Gulfs throughout 2004 until May 2007 (41 Mediterranean sites and 40 Red Sea and Suez and Aqaba Gulf sites).
- b. Under the development processes for coastal water pollutant monitoring network, the National Monitoring Program has been modified, so that Mediterranean monitoring sites were reduced from 41 to 31 sites and 4 field visits were to be conducted annually instead of 5 in March, May, July and September 2005 till 2007. Red sea monitoring sites were also reduced from 40 to 24, and only 4 field visits were to be conducted annually instead of 5 in March, May, July and September 2005 till 2007.
- c. Issuing 15 semi-quarterly reports on coastal water quality in the Red Sea and the Mediterranean from 2004 till 2007.
- d. Developing annual reports on Mediterranean and Red Sea and Suez and Aqaba Gulf Coastal Water Monitoring during 2004 – 2006.
- e. Signing a Cooperation Protocol with the Mediterranean Pollution Program (MEDPOL) to monitor organic and non-organic pollutants in sediments and seabed organisms in some highly polluted areas. The protocol was implemented in September 2006.
- f. Cooperation with the Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Red Sea and Gulf Of Aden Environment (PERSEGA) in the form of data and information exchange in order to follow-up environmental quality of the region regularly.