

Chapter 9: Environmental Impact Assessment

Introduction

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), a strategic tool on which EEAA is based, depends on as one of the main preventive activities conducted by EEAA to assess the impacts of initiatives, projects, or developmental activities, with a view of identifying necessary actions to minimize negative impacts and maximize positive ones. EEAA responsibility is as follows:

1. Developing principles and standards for conducting, reviewing, and expressing opinions on EIA studies according to the bases and requirements stipulated in Environment Protection Law 4/1994 and its Executive Regulations.
2. Issuing necessary EIA guidelines and identifying necessary procedures in coordination with competent administrative bodies.

Studies submitted are reviewed by a qualified expert team. In some special-nature projects, in the event of high potentials of significantly impacting the surrounding environment, EEAA-registered consultants' expertise is sought.

MSEA Achievements

First: EIA Reviews

1. EIA Tables:

Table (9-1) Forms (B & C) EIA study statistics 2004-2007 Studied at EEAA/CDEIA				
Status	2004	2005	2006	2007
Approval	5716	4883	3256	2801
Irrelevant	78	72	28	19
Violation, Environmental Compliance Alert	95	141	56	109
Other (pending study, temporary)				436
Data Completion	233	258	301	504
Rejection	108	165	515	617
Total	6220	5519	4156	4486

Table (9-2) Form (A) EIA study statistics 2004-2007 Studied at EEAA RBOs

Year	Cairo	Alexandria	Tanta	Mansora	Suez	Assiut	Aswan	Red Sea	Total
2004	781	585	1063	744	305	--	--	--	3478
2005	1522	1046	2525	1735	211	1158	111	--	8308
2006	2789	1098	2760	1979	152	436	120	--	9334
2007	1783	1471	3356	3809	231	795	259	61	11765
Total Forms (A)	6875	4200	9704	8267	899	2389	490	61	32885

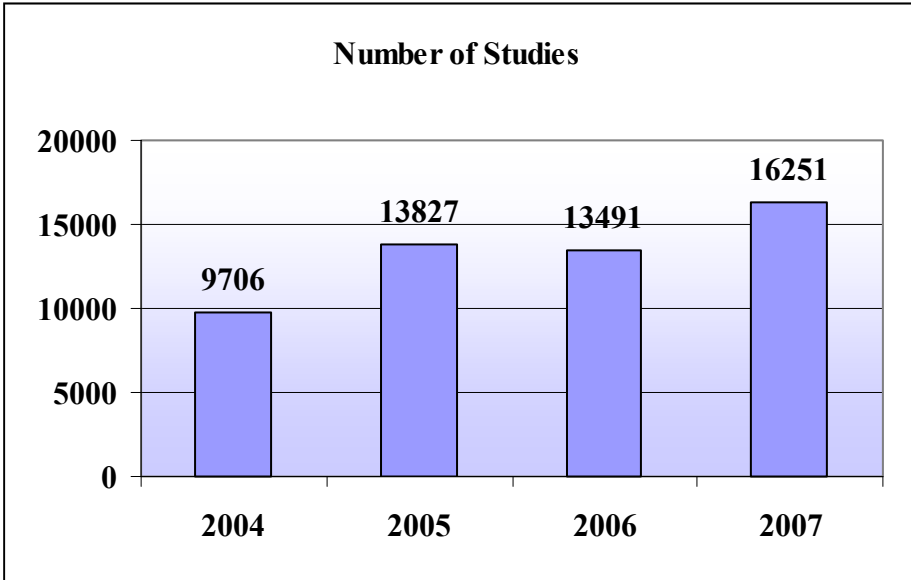


Figure (9-1) Total projects submitted to EIA CD and RBOs during 2004-2007

2. Hearing Sessions held during 2004-2007:

- Tebbin, Koraymat, and North Cairo new power stations.
- Edfu Fertilizer Plant.
- Sokhna Port Magnesium Alloys Plant.
- Aswan Phosphatic Fertilizer Plant Project.
- Damietta Liquefied Ammonia and Methanol Plants Project.
- Port Said Polypropylene Plant Project.
- West Cairo and Behaira Atf Power Station Expantions.
- Port Fouad Gas Pipelines Project.

- Two Gold Mines in Red Sea governorate.
- Sharqeya Nouran Sugar Plant Project.
- Sokhna Copper Plant Project.

3. Examples of Giant projects approved during 2004-2007:

- Tebbin Power Station, 650 Megawatts
- Mobco Nitrogenous Fertilizer Plant, Damietta Port Free Zone
- Phosphatic Fertilizer Plant, Edfu Aswan Indo-Egyptian Company
- 2 Cement Plants, Zone 3/31 for pollutant industries, Beni Soueif.
- Integrated Water Resource Management Project (digging a new canal to water re-claimed desert lands on Cairo-Alexandria Desert Road).
- Project for Moving Foundries from Alexandria Residential Areas.
- Kingdom Agricultural Development Company (Kadco) Project for Reclaiming 100,000 feddans in Toushki.
- Project for Landfilling Gharbeya Solid Wastes in Sadat City Desert.
- Gupco Crude Oil and Natural Gas Extraction from Suez Gulf Basin Project.
- Nubareya and Talkha Power Station Expansions.
- Gold Mine and Extraction for Hemesh Company.
- Project for Establishing Craftsman Zone in Giza.
- Greater Egyptian Museum Project.
- Nitrogenous Fertilizer Plant- Damietta Agrium .
- Methanol Plant -Damietta Port .
- Koraymat Power Station Expansion Project.
- EMAK Salts and Minerals Company Project for Salt Extraction.— Fayoum.
- Sadat City (Beshay) Sponge Iron Plant.
- Project for Moving Pollutant Activities and Pig Pens in Cairo from Residential Areas.

4. Examples of Projects rejected during 2004-2007:

- Nitrogenous Fertilizer Plant proposed in Zayteya, Suez.;
- Nitrogenous Fertilizer Plant proposed beside 2 existing plants in Talkha, Daqahleya.
- Metals Powder Plant existing in the Central Services Zone, 15th May City.
- Solid Waste Landfill for Misr Aluminium Company for breaching distance requirements stipulated by the Law.
- Damietta Liquefied Ammonia Plant, for popular and executive bodies' rejection due old equipment usage.

- Tourist hotel in Hurghada for breaching requirements by Egypt Shore Protection Agency (SPA).
- Tourist resort on Lake Qarun for filling-up works and constructing wave barriers in the lake.

Second: EIA CD Operation System Improvement

1. ISO 9001/2000 certification on 30/6/2006 from BVQI. This improvement targets speedy and accurate achievement and eliminating any obstruction before management. The certificate was successfully renewed for a second year.

2. Egyptian EIA system compliance with World Bank system:

In order to cope with global changes in EIA systems, MSEA, in collaboration with the World Bank (WB), reviewed Egyptian EIA system and received WB approval on the application of Egyptian EIA system to WB-funded projects that will be implemented in Egypt. Thus, Egypt would be a pioneer Middle East country WB approves its EIA system.

3. Support to Decentralized Environmental Management:

Under MSEA policy of maintaining the environment, driving development, and facilitating procedures to investors, a thorough review and development of environmental screening lists and forms (A, B, and C) was conducted. EMUs were granted the authority of environmentally approving some projects of limited environmental impact, in accordance with EEAA requirements, as would maintain the environment and facilitate procedures in coordination with line ministries and agencies. The improvements was presented to EEAA BOD and approved.