



Report on the Egyptian Efforts to Enhance the Right to a Healthy Environment on the Occasion of Celebrating World Environment Day June 5, 2021

On the occasion of celebrating World Environment Day on June 5 of each year, the Technical Secretariat of the Supreme Standing Committee for Human Rights issues, for the second time, a report reviewing the most prominent national efforts to enhance the right to a healthy environment.

Article 46 of the Constitution stipulates that *“Every individual has the right to live in a healthy and balanced environment. Its protection is a national duty. The state is committed to taking the necessary measures to preserve it, avoid harming it, rationally use its natural resources to ensure that sustainable development is achieved, and guarantee the rights of future generations thereto”*. A number of rights are closely related to the environment and are particularly affected by environmental degradation, most notably the right to life and the right to health. This report addresses the most prominent initiatives and projects related to the right to a healthy environment, relevant national indicators during the year 2020, the most prominent legislative developments, and Egypt’s efforts at the multilateral level in the field of environmental protection.



The issuance of the Ministry of Finance, in partnership with the Ministries of Environment and Planning, the first offering of green bonds as a new tool to raise funds for climate and environmental projects.



First: The Most Prominent Initiatives and Projects Related to the Right to a Healthy Environment:

- Within the framework of the Presidential directives for the advancement of Egyptian villages, the Ministry of Environment launched the “Saft torab... the beginning ” campaign. It aims to serve as the beginning of the environmentally compatible villages. A plan was implemented to improve the environmental conditions in the village, with the participation of the village youth in the areas of: solid waste management and the reduction of pollutants; cooperation with the authorities concerned with developing the infrastructure; landscaping, afforestation and capacity building in all areas related to the protection of natural resources and agricultural investment; and implementing environmental sustainability applications such as bio-gas and solar energy.
- The issuance in October 2020 of environmental sustainability standards that contribute to spreading the culture of “sustainability”, and working to expand the integration of environmental dimensions into planning. This aims at reaching an integrated planning system that serves the transformation of the Egyptian economy to a green economy, which is the basis for achieving sustainable development within the framework of Egypt Vision 2030.

- The Launch in February 2021 of the First Phase of the Initiative “Supporting Egypt’s Path in Energy Waste Diversion”.
- The issuance of the Ministry of Finance, in partnership with the Ministries of Environment and Planning, the first offering of green bonds as a new tool to raise funds for climate and environmental projects. The bonds shall be the first green sovereign bonds in the Middle East and North Africa region, to address the challenges related to water sewage and transportation throughout the country.
- The preparation of the first Egyptian code for the management and use of treated wastewater from the sewage plants through a committee with the membership of relevant ministries. The preparation of a guide on unifying the efforts made in the field of early warning to monitor and control the quality of water for the management of crises and emergencies of the Nile River and watercourses.
- The launch in January 2021 of a campaign to develop Egyptian villages and spreading the concept of environmental sustainability. This is in line with the Presidential Initiative “Go Green”, as well as the “Decent Life” and “Lifeboats” initiatives, which aim at developing Egyptian villages. The Campaign aims to encourage the youth and volunteers to develop their villages with their own efforts, with the participation of the Ministry of Environment. The Campaign also aims to spread the idea of environmental sustainability on the ground in a practical way and to open up space for corporate social participation in the field of sustainable development.
- In June 2020, the Supreme Council of Universities issued a decision to include the subject of sustainable management of natural resources among the subjects for obtaining a Master’s degree.
- The Ministry of Environment collaborated with the Ministry of Education, in June 2020, to integrate the first part of the concepts of the global environment in the topics of climate change, biological diversity and desertification into the educational curricula for students from primary to secondary school. That is in addition to integrating environmental activities within students’ activities, which will be interactive under the digital transformation of education in Egypt.
- The issuance in July 2020 of the first guideline for the safe disposal of personal biomedical (for protection from Coronavirus) waste, in the various sectors. The guideline aims to raise awareness of those in charge of waste management, and individuals who produce this waste, on how to properly dispose of in order to preserve health and the environment.
- The development in April 2021 of the electronic application E Tadweer in order to recycle electronic waste. The application introduces citizens to how to dispose their electronic waste in a safe manner. The application also aims at providing the appropriate means of



motivation for citizens in exchange for incentive points or purchase vouchers for some products; as well as publishing on social media short environmental videos about the safe disposal of medical waste at home. In addition, the application aims at spreading awareness messages to raise the citizen's awareness of how to safely dispose of medical waste at home, in light of the Coronavirus.

“The launch in July 2020 of an expanded underwater cleaning campaign for the Red Sea floor. This campaign is considered the first activity of the Urban Green Initiative in the field of protecting biological diversity and preserving natural reserves”

- The launch in September 2020 of the Eco Egypt Campaign, as the first campaign to promote ecotourism in Egypt. It aims to support unique ecotourism in Egypt and encourage visiting natural protectorates. This is achieved through the implementation of an integrated plan that includes all means of communication and awareness to support responsible and sustainable ecotourism; as well as attracting new investments in this promising sector in a way that supports the sustainability of natural resources.
- The launch in October 2020 of the first initiative in the Middle East to recover and recycle plastic packaging materials. This initiative comes within the framework of efforts to develop waste collection systems in Egypt, implement the green recovery process, integrate environmental sustainability into the country's investment plan, and implement projects with low energy or water consumption.
- The National Committee to limit the use of single-use plastic bags was formed in October 2020; many initiatives have been implemented in this regard.
- The launch in February 2021 of the “Your Culture from Your Environment” Initiative, in cooperation between the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Culture. The Initiative's aim is to serve environmental issues, according to a specific time plan; each month a specific environmental issue is addressed. It was also agreed to accelerate the preparation of an action plan in which a number of environmental issues will be addressed, including the new waste system, electronic waste, natural reserves, and plastic; in addition to making proposals on how to raise awareness of these issues in a simplified manner.
- The launch in July 2020 of an expanded underwater cleaning campaign for the Red Sea floor. This campaign is considered the first activity of the Urban Green Initiative in the field of protecting biological diversity and preserving natural reserves. It resulted in the removal of nearly 40 tons of waste from the sea floor.
- **Second: National Indicators Related to the Realization of the Right to a Healthy Environment During the Year 2020:**
 - The reduction of pollution loads of lung-harming dust in air with a diameter of less than 10 micrometers by 25%.

- The number of monitoring stations associated with the National Network for Ambient Air Pollution Monitoring, which monitors air quality, has reached (108) monitoring stations, distributed over all the governorates. The aim of these stations is to contribute to improving air quality and the environmental and health conditions by providing accurate monitoring data for decision-makers to take the necessary measures that contribute to improving the economy.
- The number of industrial establishments associated with the National Network for Industrial Emission Monitoring reached (76) establishments with (352) monitoring points, which include many industrial sectors such as the cement industry, fertilizer manufacturing, electric power generation, iron and steel.
- The development of an early warning system for air pollutants, which deals with the impact of weather factors on air quality, for a period of 3 days, by increasing the geographic sectors that are being studied to include all the country's inhabited areas; increasing them from (6) sectors to (8) sectors. Study points have been increased within the previous and new sectors to enhance the results of air quality prediction by increasing the number of study points from (34) study points to (58) and are updated daily through the Ministry's early warning page on its website.
- The completion of the environmental noise level monitoring program through (35) stations distributed over Greater Cairo governorates and capitals of some governorates, with the aim of preparing a database for populated and tourist areas upon which noise control plan and urban planning for the new infrastructure and the reform of the existing situation depend.
- A number of (4353) solar and petrol vehicles were examined throughout the country, of which a number of (3173) vehicles passed while the number of (1180) vehicles did not pass the examination. In addition, the Public Transport Authority's fleet of buses was examined in a (22) garages.
- The Ministry of Environment conducts periodic field inspections and follow-ups on establishments of their various sectors (industrial - craftsmen - service - medical - tourism) for a total number of (11,061) establishments of different activities or fields of work, throughout the governorates.
- The review of the environmental impact assessment study for (12,038) different projects.
- Within the framework of supporting the infrastructure of the waste management system in the governorates, 2 fixed intermediate stations were established in the Sharkia and Qalyubia governorates, and 7 mobile intermediate stations were also supplied in a number of governorates.



The review of the environmental impact assessment study for **12,038** different projects



A number of **4353** solar and petrol vehicles were examined throughout the country

- Within the framework of the Ministry of Environment's efforts to address the issue of severe air pollution episodes known as the black cloud, the total straw collection rate increased to 99%, of which the population's collections represented 73%; and the number of police records of rice straw burning decreased to 540.
- The Ministry of Environment implemented more than 1300 household bio-gas units with capacities ranging from 2-6 m³ of daily gas in 18 governorates within the framework of the President's Initiative "Decent Life". In addition, 20 companies of young entrepreneurs were established to provide bio-gas services through the Bioenergy Institute of the Ministry of Environment.
- The adjustment of the status of (79) developed models of charcoal production units, bringing the total number of developed models to (215), in addition to (11) factories that produce compressed charcoal.
- The implementation of the role assigned to the Ministry of Environment in the first phase of the Arab Health and Environment Strategy (2017 - 2030), issued by the Council of Arab Health Ministers, in cooperation with the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean and the United Nations Environment Program Regional Office for Western Asia.
- The improvement of infrastructure and services provided to visitors of (13) natural reserves throughout the governorates. In addition, the integration of the local community of reserves in the activities that distinguish them. The local communities of these reserves are one of the important elements for preserving the environmental and cultural richness of the reserves. All of this promotes a unique product for environmental tourism in Egypt, which contributes to the communities' economic and social development as well as the provision of sustainable job opportunities.
- During the year 2020, the Ministry of Environment held (30) seminars, (4) meetings and (18) environmental awareness campaigns in the governorates of Sharkia, Dakahlia, Aswan, Assiut and Minya. The seminars, meetings and campaigns dealt with various environmental issues such as the dangers of burning agricultural waste to the environment and the dangers of using plastic and the available alternatives, in addition to the importance of rationalizing consumption, whether of water, food or energy; and its role in preserving the environment. (195) environmental activities were held in schools and universities, which varied between awareness seminars and technical workshops on how to reuse school and household waste, in addition to holding environmental celebrations, competitions, and exhibitions, and distributing awareness publications to students. The regional offices of the Ministry of Environment also carried out more than (13,000) awareness activities in the various governorates.

Third: The Most Prominent Legislative Developments:

- Law No. 202 of 2020 was issued regarding the organization of waste management. It is the first law regulating the process of managing waste, of all kinds, in Egypt.

Fourth: Egypt's Multilateral Efforts in the Field of Environmental Protection

- Egypt chaired the Fourteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 14) in the most important period of the Convention throughout its history; and in the exceptional circumstances the world suffers due to the crisis of the spread of the Covid 19. Egypt led the world's efforts in the following:
- The evaluation of the progress made in the global goals for biodiversity 2020 and preparing the post-2020 framework regarding the implementation of the conference's decisions, including those concerned with the sustainable use of wildlife. The completion of the first draft of a global roadmap, in light of the exceptional circumstances the world suffers during the crisis of Coronavirus, that guarantees the preservation of the world's natural resources, especially Africa's.
- The approval of the budget of the Convention Secretariat, for post 2020, for a period of one year to ensure that the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice continues to carry out its work in discussing the draft global strategy for biological diversity post 2020; and approve it for delivery to the fifteenth conference of the parties to be held in China. The approval of the budget was praised by the Convention Secretariat and all its members.