

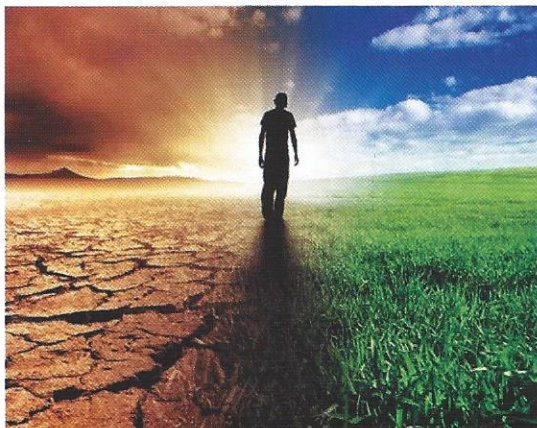
Background and Purpose

Climate change is a phenomenon that was significantly accelerated as a result of the vast industrial developments of the major industrial countries. However, climate change is affecting the whole globe and accordingly it is affecting Egypt. While Egypt is not among major contributor to the world's Green House Gas emissions, yet it recognizes its own weakness to deal with anticipated impact of climate change in vital areas threatening the sustainability of its natural and socio-economic system. The rise in sea level threatens Egypt's long costal stretch on the Mediterranean and Red Sea with potential damage to not only the tourism industry as major contributor to the Gross Domestic Product, but also to the entire ecosystem. Predicted socio-economic implications due to human migration, land loss, and soil salinity cause significant concern. With 95% of Egypt's fresh water supplied from the Nile River, the country's concern increases with the change in rainfall patterns through the Nile basin. Climate change will subsequently impact agricultural productivity and fisheries, hence, influencing the country's food supply, and last but not least the increase of temperature causing desertification of large agricultural areas which is already extremely limited.

Just like many other topics, climate change can't be addressed only through the government. It is also the responsibility of the different civil society actors to work on grassroots level, which can't be reached effectively by the governmental bodies.

Accordingly, in 2013, FES started an ambitious project aiming to support key actors in addressing climate change and in raising the societal awareness regarding its negative impacts on the socio-economic sphere. The project is divided into two main blocs:

- Supporting the Ministry of Environment and its technical apparatuses to integrate climate change aspects into their policies.
- Empowering civil society organizations to assume a bigger role in facing the impact of climate change, through raising societal awareness and promoting mitigation or adaptation to the impact of climate change on different levels. A "Citizens Guide", published in 2014 and vulgarizing scientific information and findings on the impacts of climate change, is used to this end.



Duration and Phases

This five-year project started in 2013 and includes three phases.

In 2013 and 2014, the staff of different departments of the Egyptian Environment Affairs Agency (EEAA), the technical arm of the Ministry of Environment, had been trained on how to integrate climate change aspects into their policies at different levels. This was done in the form of a training program that tackled strategic planning as phase one during 2013, while 2014 was focusing on practical integration of climate change aspects into the strategies of most of the relevant departments within EEAA.

Parallel to this, a study was conducted in eight selected governorates, outlining the characteristics of the governorate, manifestations of climate change within the governorate, as well as the impact of climate change on the governorate. It also addresses the role of the government, the business sector and the civil society in coping with the phenomenon.

Based on the study, a consultation process has been started in 2014 during which the summary, results and recommendations of the study are presented and distributed to the public. Two public events have been held in each governorate, involving all stakeholders.

Moreover, the third phase was launched in 2015, supporting the local NGOs in the field of environment to involve in awareness programs. These programs target different segments of the society which will be affected the most by climate change within the respective governorate.

This process will continue through 2017 with awareness programs being held in each of the selected governorates. The programs will cover areas including health care, agricultural waste, domestic waste, fisheries, cultivation and awareness for school pupils.

Target groups

- The Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA), and subsequently the Ministry of Environment.
- NGOs working in the field of environment and climate change, mainly members of the Federation of Environmental Associations in the governorates under review.

Partners

- Egyptian Environment Affairs Agency EEAA and Ministry of Environment
- Federation of Environmental Associations

Phase	Time / Period	Step / Activity	Result and Use
Studies	Mar 2013 and Feb 2014	Selection of governorates in cooperation with EEAA	Alexandria, Menia, Red Sea and Dakhaliya for 2013; Marsa Matrouh, Port Said, Kafr El Sheikh and Sohag for 2014
	April -2013 Mar- 2014	Introduction of the project to government and NGOs	
	May-Sept. 2013 April-July 2014	Conducting the Studies	Studies and simplified recommendations, to be distributed to ordinary citizens through local NGO's as Citizens Guides
Consultation	Aug.-Oct 2013 Aug. 2014	Presenting the studies and	2 public event per governorate; local NGOs assigned to distribute Citizens Guides to different segments of society
NGO program	Since Sep 2014	Awareness programs	25 awareness programs convened by 5 selected NGOs in 2014, covering different aspects, with a total of 2220 participants; 45 additional programs are planned until the end of the project