

EIA IN THE TOURISM SECTOR IN EGYPT

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Objective

This paper presents a brief description of the EIA system in Egypt

It also presents the history and development EIA in the Tourism Sector

INTRODUCTION

- Law 4/94, increase in awareness for EIA and requirements for capacity building on the Central Government level.
- The proponent is responsible for the preparation of the EIA according to the conditions and guidelines set by the regulator.
- The regulator reviews the EIA and conduct post project monitoring to ensure the incorporation of approved mitigation measures
- Increased and random tourist development along the Red Sea and many examples for the irreversible damage on the coral reef in the areas of Hurghada and Safaga
- This irreversible damage had been realized by the Egyptian Government. The Tourist Development Authority had been established in the early 90s as the Competent Administrative Authority to encourage development with environmental issues as first priority.

EIA SYSTEM IN EGYPT

- Objectives of law 4/94 were not only addressing pollution measures and control, but also involved new developments and projects including expansions of the existing ones.
- EEAA is the responsible authority for implementing the law.
- New establishments are required to carry out an EIA before construction.

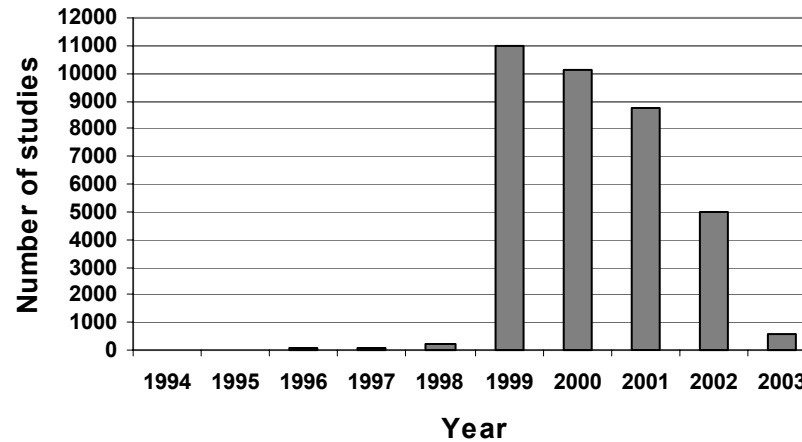
EIA CATEGORIES

The list approach stated in the Egyptian guidelines depends on screening projects into three categories.

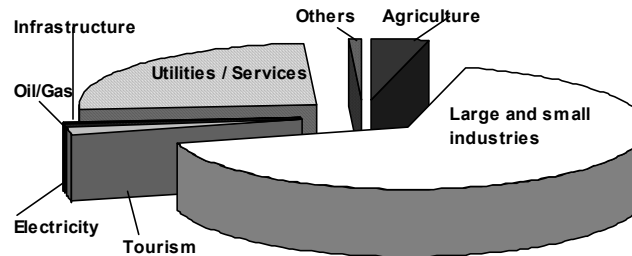
- A white list (A), A grey list (B), and A black list project (C).
- The guidelines (EEAA, 1996) guidelines had included a screening form A for the white list projects, a screening form B for the gray list projects and a brief outline for the full-fledged EIA.
- The law had specified that the proponent should submit the EIA form or study to the EEAA through the Competent Administrative Authority (CAA). The EIA must then be reviewed by the EEAA.
- A maximum of 60 days for review
- Appealing committee
- The reviews of the (white) list projects were delegated by the agency to the CAA.

REVIEW OF EIA

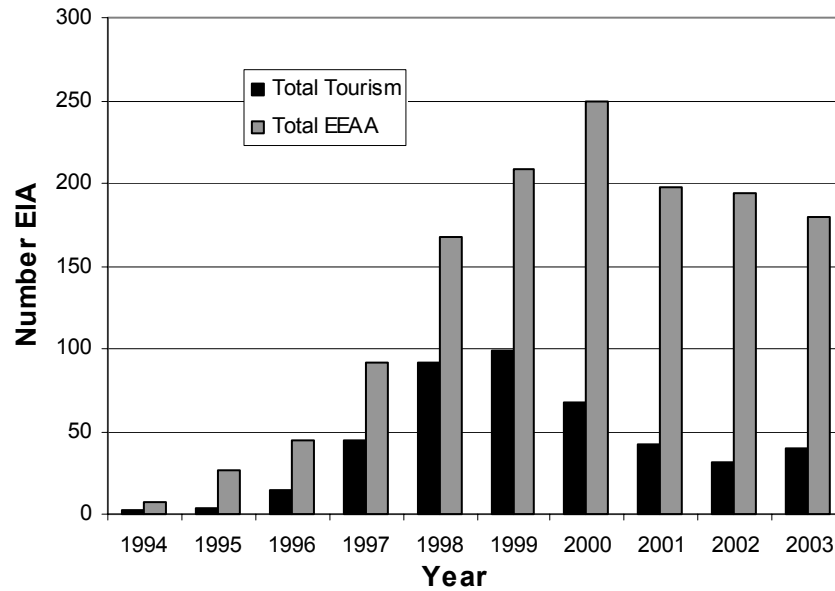
- EEAA relied on international experience as well as national consultants.
- Upon the start of the law 4 in 1994, the EEAA was faced with lack of trained staff for review
- Increase of the number of EIA and EIA submitted to EEAA.
- For capacity building: training courses financed by DANIDA and Dfid.
- With the increase of the number of studies and the limited duration allowed for review, building the capacity of internal employees were found to be essential for building up a sustainable and trusted system within the agency.



Number of EIA studies received at EEAA annually (only first quarter of 2003) – Abul-Azm, 2001



Categories of EIA Studies by Sector in year 2000



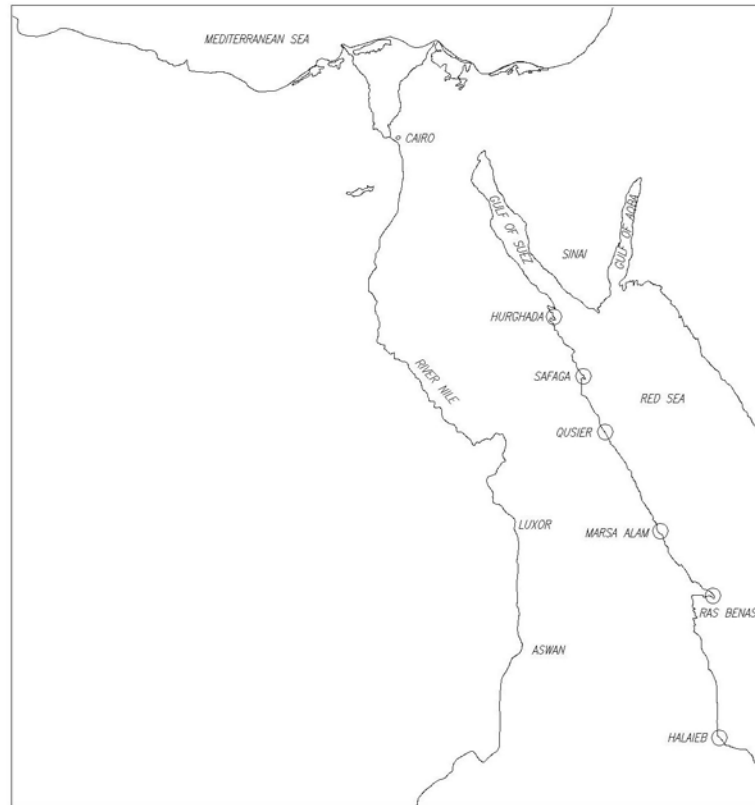
**EIA's submitted by TDA compared to the
Total Studies of Category C**

TOURISM SECTOR IN EGYPT

- The establishment of the TDU by fund from the World Bank.
 - In 1993, a presidential decree to establish a TDA to facilitate, promote and control the tourism development outside the municipalities with new approach of development combine both the development and environment in the tourism development process
 - Establishment of the TDA were timed with the adoption of law 4/94.
 - All tourist developments had been categorized as "Black."

RED SEA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

- Red Sea regional borders for a length of 700 Km.
- Six Sectors are defined in this region. The sector is defined as an area with homogenous characteristics of about 30 to 70 Km in length encompassing usually an established community and more than one smaller area suitable for development as a center.
- “The Tourist Center” is defined as a specific tract of land encompassing several sites for hotels, villages, recreational facilities and a central commercial core forming an integrated social services and infrastructure support for tourism activities.



**Map of Egypt showing borders of development
along the Red Sea**

RED SEA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

(Continue)

- It is also defined as a modular planning unit that falls in the middle of the hierarchy above the tourist project and below the sector
- The idea of tourism centers has widely appealed to the investors. The tourist center is then managed by a company. This ensures that that management is done centrally and in an integrated fashion particularly for the infrastructure and the protection of the environment.
- The number of tourism centers had reached 52 centers in Egypt. The Red Sea region alone includes 24 centers. For half of them, the Integrated Development Company has been already formed.

EIA IN THE TDA

- Upon its establishment the TDA did not have a separate department for EIA. It was relied on local consultants to review the EIA's.
- In 1997, SEAM EIA Pilot project in Hurghada
- T of T workshop in 1997.
- GEF Guidelines and check list in 1998.
- Other guidelines such as Environmental Management and Best Practice for Coastal Hotels and Resorts, and EIA guidelines for Golf courses on the Red Sea Coast.
- Integrated committee to determine the set-back line between EEAA, TDA and RSG.

EIA IN THE TDA (Continue)

- In 2003, Establishment of new Environmental Management Department at TDA
- Re-categorizing tourist establishment after the adoption of IDC, with new modified screening form B for hotels and resorts within approved IDC.
- An approved monitoring and documentation system for the TDA which include structuring of an Environmental Monitoring Unit (EMU) that performs the TDA monitoring responsibilities and reports on the level of compliance
- Monitoring guidelines and checklists for field work formats are issued as well as manuals for laboratory operational guidelines.

EIA IN THE TDA (Continue)

- Guidelines for marinas, artificial lagoons and other future developments of interest.
- Collection of baseline data and existing information on facilities
- Establishment of four laboratories.
- Training that include attendance of workshops world wide

FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

Long term plans include

- Establishing tourist zones and overseeing the implementation of development plans for them.
- Identifying five development Regions. Each has been analyzed and divided into a number of sectors. Each sector was evaluated against chosen criteria including accessibility, quality of resources, and existing infrastructure.
- Drawing a set of targets to be achieved within the above development regions. These targets are summarized as follows
 - Improving infrastructure
 - Linking tourism sites into an integrated framework.
 - Monitoring the application of environmental regulations.
- Consider Ecotourism as an alternative

STRATEGY OF THE TDA

The strategy requires carrying out the following tasks and scopes:

- Surveying of priority coastal zones to collect baseline data and environmental sensitivity mapping for the development area.
- Identifying the critical marine and terrestrial habitats and the preparing of environmental guideline and criteria for development.
- Preparing land use maps for priority areas, including identification of suitability for various types of development.
- Preparing the principles and guidelines for EIA for the different tourist activities and projects.
- Building the capacity for (EIA) and (EMS) of the projects.
- Preparing a program for environmental monitoring.
- Establishing the environmental Geographic Information System (GIS).

CONCLUSION

This paper presented a brief description of the EIA system in Egypt -defined within the context of law 4/94- and describes the steps taken by the Egyptian Government to build the capacity of the Tourist Development Authority to handle review and monitoring of EIA. Future vision in the Tourism sector is also presented to show that sustainability is a vital objective to achieve in Egypt.