

Title: **Cairo, Egypt: District Mohandeseen Freshwater Outlook**

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Synopsis: This report is a background study of the Nile River and the environmental effects on freshwater profile of Cairo, Egypt, District Mohandeseen, is discussed in three parts: 1) The laws of the Nile River. 2) The strategies and plans for the Nile River. 3) Current challenges on the Nile River. These three topics will help to understand the importance of the need of freshwater in Mohandeseen. Also included is a map of the Nile River and the major pollution contributors and the environmental agencies contacts.



Overview and Objectives:

The general purpose of this project is to help me gain an understanding how the people in the District Mohandeseen get their freshwater for daily usage from. The learning objectives for me are to find out who provides the water, where the water comes from, and how is the water distributed. The context of the project will focus on three major areas. 1) The laws of the Nile River. 2) The strategies and plans for the Nile River. 3) Current challenges on the Nile River. My staying in Mohandesen will be significant due to the experience that I will get by living there. Drinking the water and finding out where it comes from is as good as it gets!

Everyone needs water to survive, so just because we have the reliable sources to get our daily water from, does not mean that everyone in the world gets the same benefit. I care for a life of a human being deeply, as everybody should. By this project, I hope that everyone will open their heart to feel and their eyes to see how hard and valuable water in Egypt is, and not take it for granted of what we have here in the United States.

Background and Foundation:

The 1st Principle of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development stated that “Human beings are the centre of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature” (General). As human beings, we are all qualified to this principle, not just in developed countries, but also in developing countries around the world.

Egypt is a developing country with many environmental issues such as: oil pollution, air pollution, water pollution from industrial effluent and agricultural pesticides; with very limited freshwater resources away from the Nile River.

The Laws of the Nile River:

“Over 2,000 years ago, the Greek historian Herodotus called Egypt ‘ the gift of the Nile’ The life-giving water and rich silt that the river carries from equatorial Africa to the Desert of Egypt” (World 7). Even though people know that the Nile is the main source of freshwater, the abuse of the Nile continued to grow until 1994. In 1994, Egypt passed Law 4 for the protection of the environment. Law 4 created the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) “ create and enforce regulatory standards, establish near-and-long-term plans for environmental management, coordinate local, regional and national environmental protection efforts, and regularly report on the state of Egypt’s environment” (Egypt).

In complementary to Law 4, Law 48/1982 is specifically passed for the protecting of the Nile River. In 200/2001, the Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs (MSEA) announced that there must be a stop to industrial pollution in the Nile River from the 34 large industries in compliance with environment laws and regulations. The attachment shows the 34 industries responsible for the dumping of 100 millions of untreated waste to the river, which cost about 360 million Egyptian pounds (US\$) for cleanups, and more to come.

Strategies and Plans for the Nile:

Plans and strategies must be taken on the Nile River for the people of Egypt to have freshwater usage. These plans and strategies are carried out by the people of Egypt, and to include many important players in both political and economical areas.

Pollution of freshwater resources is understandable through the enforcement of indicated laws and issues above. These national policies are reviewed with participants

of the peoples, including women, stockholders and industries are taken into account before taking action. “In addition, the responsible Government bodies cooperate with a number of major groups” (Freshwater), are also taken into account. Some of these groups includes: National Organization for Portable Water and Sewage Drainage (NOPWASD), Environmental Monitoring Center, Water Research Center, Ministry of Public Works and Water Resources, MSEA and the EEAA.

The plans of actions for efficiency of water taking into account on industry pollution are reported and delivered by the Ministry of Public Work and Water Resources. Some of these plans include:

Saving irrigation water to keep the aquatic balance and to reuse wastewater on a large scale through, for example, the inclusion of industrial waste treatment in all factories (especially facing the river Nile). This target could be obtained by reducing the customs duty on imported equipment, decreasing the taxes requested from the companies that follow environmental protection rules, and providing loans to them. Planning is underway now for locating all new factories in desert areas, far away from the river Nile (Freshwater).

Current Challenges:

Though there are laws and regulations to help keep the Nile River clean, the clean-up from the past will be the most challenging issue to work on. There are many threats faced by the Government and the NGOs in reaching the subject, but the key issue is insufficient funds. As of today, the Cabinet of Ministries, the Ministry of Finance and international donors are the major financial supporters for Freshwater Programs.

Trouble Shooting:

Some of my research methods will include attending community meetings, visiting two public agencies, and my hope is to have a tour and interview a focus

company. Some problems and challenges that I have to face will be the transportation and the lack of Arabic.

Connections/Collaborations:

My host family will be my community connections and in helping me with my translation. The two agencies that I will be visiting are EEAA (Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency), and APE (Association for the Protection of the Environment). The focus company that I would like to get information from is Komex. Komex is one of the major water distributors of the Mohandeseen District. With Komex, my plan is to send out an email asking for a tour of the company and hopefully, an interview with one of the representatives.

Resources:

I have been seeking for books on Egypt and the environment, but have no luck. Any help would be great!

Appendixes:

Freshwater. Apr. 1997. Egypt's submission: United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development <www.un.org/esa/agenda21/natlinfo/country/egypt/natur.htm#freshw> 12 Feb. 2004.

Egypt: Environmental Issues. 10 Nov. 2003. Energy Information Administration. <www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/egypenv.html> 28 Jan. 2004.

General Assembly. 12 Aug. 1992. United Nations. <www.un.org/documents/ga/Conf15/aconf15126-lannex1.htm> 12 Feb. 2004.

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