

# Egypt



**GDP real growth rate:** 7% (2008)  
**GDP per capita:** 5,500 \$ (2008)  
**GDP per sector:** Agriculture 13.4%,  
Industry 37.6%, Services 48.9%  
**Human Development Index:** 0.703 (rank 123)  
**Number of inhabitants ( in 000's ) :** 81,527  
**Major industries:** Textiles, food, tourism,  
chemical products and pharmaceuticals,  
hydrocarbons, construction, cement, metals,  
lighting.

## Main Issues related to SCP

Industrial development has played a key role in the development of Egypt in the last 50 years. The resolution to increase the competitiveness of Egyptian industry, without any prior environmental planning has led to the deterioration of its natural resources and pollution. However more recently the quantity of industrial atmospheric emissions has reached a certain balance and specific projects have been approved on the Alexandria coast and in Greater Cairo to reduce pollution by the development of cleaner technologies, in particular for SMEs.

### Atmospheric Pollution:

Major sources of air pollution are industry, transport and the uncontrolled burning of waste. A meteorological phenomenon known as autumnal thermal inversion combined with the severe degree of pollution in greater Cairo is a huge risk both for the health and the environment. To counteract the problem, a number of programmes have been established to change the fuel type for public transport and to control emission.

### Waste Management:

It is one of the principle problems. The lack of appropriate infrastructure, uncontrolled burning of waste and lack of separation are common. Industries dispose of waste in rivers and other water sources, which in their majority flow into the River Nile. The government has blocked a number of drainage systems and strictly applied environmental legislation in an attempt to bring the problem under control.

### Energy Efficiency & Renewable energy:

Improving energy efficiency is still a challenge at a local level. The establishment and modernisation of a number of energy distribution centres is being planned as well as the promotion of cogeneration systems. There is great potential for implementing renewable energies. Major investment is being made in wind energy and combined cycle solar energy plants.

### Natural Resources:

The Nile is the main artery of Egypt and public authorities have concentrated efforts to protect it. Untreated waste water is a major threat to the ecosystem and to agriculture, which also suffers from the contamination of the water that is necessary for irrigation. Several projects have been undertaken to decrease the problems of water scarcity and desertification.

## Policies and Strategic Framework

Egypt approved its National Strategy for Sustainable Development in 2008. SCP is included as one of 11 priority areas and has a special focus on industrial development, solid waste management, urban development, transport and energy efficiency.

Other important strategies related to SCP include the National Action Plan for the Environment, approved in 2002, and the National Plan for Cleaner Production, approved in 2004.

To combat atmospheric pollution, a short-term emergency plan has been adopted to reduce emissions from the most severely polluting sectors and to relocate certain industries in the long-term.

A supreme court for Energy has been established at the end of 2006. Together with the National Strategy for Sustainable Development this gives an important impulse for both energy efficiency and renewable energy development.

## Legal and Regulatory Framework

A major change to the regulatory framework is the updated 1994 Law No. 4, incorporating the changes necessary to obtain the corresponding environmental licences for waste and emissions.

The permits, which for new installations require an evaluation of the environmental impact, may include certain prerequisites such as the adoption of measures relative to cleaner production or energy efficiency, particularly in the area of cleaner technologies.

One of the main challenges within the legal framework is the rigorous enforcement of environmental legislation.

A number of incentives are available particularly in the area of waste management to finance waste management infrastructure and to provide technical support. Moreover the Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs (MSEA) has instigated a system of fines and other sanctions for companies contaminating the Nile.

In general the government effectuates a combination of reward and sanctioning instruments, such as the provision of soft loans, environmental funds and subsidies, fines, sanctions or the revoking of permits.

The existing procurement law does not include environmental and social criteria.

## Greening Industry and Society

The concept of CSR is still considered as external philanthropy for a company. Its presence in Egyptian society is still relatively minor, and in most cases is based on the personal implication of certain entrepreneurs.

A significant number of companies have adopted eco labelling criteria. The Oeko Tex 100% label for example, is becoming popular in the textile industry. The number of companies implementing ISO 14001 or OAS 8000 is progressively increasing.

Another success story is the development of energy efficiency labelling for domestic electrical appliances in a number of products.

## Main Actors and Projects

Important actors related to SCP include the **Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA)**, the **Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs (MSEA)**, the **Environmental Conformity Office for Sustainable Development ECO-SD**, from the **Federation of Egyptian Industries (FEI)**, the **Egyptian National Centre for Cleaner Production (ENPCP)**, the **CEDARE** and the **Environmental Office for Arab Youth (AOYE)**.

The Egyptian Pollution Abatement Project (EPAP I & EPAP II) and the Private Public Sector Industry Project (PPSI) are important pollution prevention projects in large, small and medium industries. Both programmes are supported by different donor organisations.

Within the framework of the African 10 Year-Programme for Sustainable Consumption and Production, Cairo has been selected as an example of an African mega city for the promotion of SCP.

