I. EGYPT

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This country report provides a comprehensive overview and assessment of the current state-of-play with regard to Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) in Egypt\(^1\). After detailing the country’s characteristics, its most important maritime activities are presented. Next, the country report discusses the legal aspects, key players, plans and projects related to Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and MSP as well as the cross-border initiatives and existing platforms for cooperation. To conclude, the main findings related to Maritime Spatial Planning are summed up. The sources of information used and persons contacted are listed at the end.

I.1. COUNTRY CHARACTERISTICS

Egypt is an African country having a coastline on both the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea. Egypt has established an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in the Mediterranean which borders the (potential) EEZs of Libya, Greece, Cyprus\(^2\) and Israel. A summary of the most important country characteristics is presented in Table 1.

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\(^1\) For the purpose of this study 20 country reports have been drawn up in total. Relevant available information on Monaco is included in the case study of the Western Mediterranean and information on the United Kingdom (Gibraltar) is included in the case study of the Alboran Sea.

\(^2\) Cyprus has established an Exclusive Economic Zone; its maritime boundaries however are disputed by Turkey.
I.2. MARITIME ACTIVITIES AND THE PROTECTION OF MARINE AREAS

Maritime traffic and offshore hydrocarbon activities are the main activities in the Egyptian part of the Mediterranean basin.

Due to the presence of the Suez Canal, which connects the Mediterranean Sea with the Red Sea, maritime traffic in Egyptian waters is very intense. Figure 1 illustrates the intensity of maritime traffic near Egypt.

Figure 1: Maritime traffic near Egypt


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Table 1: Country characteristics – Egypt

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mediterranean coastal regions</th>
<th>Egypt</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lower Egypt (containing the northern Nile delta, and the Mediterranean coast)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sinai</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mediterranean coastline length*</td>
<td>955 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water depth</td>
<td>Data not available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maritime zones**</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Territorial sea</td>
<td>12 nm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contiguous zone***</td>
<td>24 nm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exclusive Economic Zone</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area (km²)</td>
<td>56 981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>263 451</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** Based on the national acts or decrees of the maritime zones; EarthTrends, Coastal and Marine Ecosystems – searchable database
*** Source: CIA, The World Factbook

Source: Policy Research Corporation
With regard to offshore hydrocarbon activities in Egypt, international agreements with Cyprus have been established:
- 2003: delimitation of the Exclusive Economic Zone;
- 2006: framework agreement concerning the development of cross-median line hydrocarbon resources.

Moreover, Egypt has indicated to be willing to help Cyprus in achieving its future oil and gas plans.

Fishing catches in 2008 amounted to 374 000 tonnes, while aquaculture production was 694 000 tonnes. Aquaculture is predominantly carried out in the Nile-Delta.

According to the Network of Managers of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean (MedPAN), Egypt has not established any Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the Mediterranean Sea basin yet. However, two MPAs are planned to be installed in the Egyptian territorial sea in the future.

I.3. LEGAL ASPECTS AND KEY PLAYERS

To date, no concrete information on the legal aspects and key players with regard to spatial planning and marine policy could be identified. Policy Research however presumes that the following ministries are involved:
- Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Development;
- Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) within the Ministry of Environment.

I.4. NATIONAL AND SUB-NATIONAL PLANS, PROJECTS AND STUDIES RELATED TO ICZM AND MSP

A Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP) was implemented in Fuka-Matrouh in the mid-1990s. As recommended by the Egyptian Coastal Area Management Programme, a National Committee for Integrated Coastal Zone Management was established in 1994. Nevertheless, the committee does not have a clear mandate or real authority over the coastal zone. Table 2 provides more detailed information on the programme’s objectives and results.

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3 Economically important energy resources since they are predominantly used as a combustible fuel source (coal, petroleum and natural gas) and its derivatives (plastics, solvents).
4 Kassinis, S., 2009, Offshore hydrocarbon activities in the Republic of Cyprus.
5 FAO, Yearbook of fishery statistics.
8 METAP, Integrated Coastal Zone Management: lessons learned.
In 1990, the Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Programme (METAP) was founded as an innovative partnership between countries of the Mediterranean region and multilateral donors. METAP’s objectives are to strengthen the institutional and legal structure of environmental management and to formulate environmental policies and projects. Aligned with the Horizon 2020 initiative⁹, the Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Program has decided to work with the Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Development of Egypt and two water utilities CAPWO and NOPWSD to help optimise network and wastewater investments along the Mediterranean coast.

Moreover, the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) requested the Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC) to provide assistance in the preparation of a National Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy for Egypt. The initiative falls within the objectives of the SMAP III project ‘Promoting awareness and enabling a policy framework for environment and development integration in the Mediterranean with focus on Integrated Coastal Zone Management’ and is a step forward in the implementation of the ICZM Protocol for the Mediterranean. Three workshops involving relevant stakeholders have been organised since the beginning of 2009.


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⁹ The Horizon 2020 initiative aims at de-polluting the Mediterranean Sea by 2020, while providing appropriate financial resources and technical support to implement it.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 2: Coastal Area Management Programme – Egypt</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Area covered:</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Major problems and issues:** | • Uncontrolled development of tourism  
• Unsustainable use of coastal resources  
• Complex natural conditions  
• Absence of land-use planning and development control system |
| **Results:** | • Better understanding of ICZM  
• Planning study for the project area  
• Comprehensive development of the wider project area  
• Introducing measures for the development of land suitable for agriculture, revitalisation of rural communities, diversification of tourism activities and protection of natural and cultural heritage  
• Recommendation to the national government to ensure a wider use of the project results and methodologies applied and to provide an improved coordination and integration of the decision-making process  
• The integration of the project results into the national coastal management process  
• A number of proposals and measures for the follow-up of the project  
• The establishment of a National Committee for Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM) |
| **Timeframe:** | • Coastal Area Management Program (CAMP) was implemented in Fuka-Matrouh in the mid-1990s |

I.5. INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES RELATED TO ICZM AND MSP

International initiatives (including EU-funded projects) related to ICZM and MSP in the Mediterranean Sea basin are presented in Annex II of the final report.

Egypt is / was involved in:

- The following EU-funded projects:
  - The MedWetCoast project (Albania, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority and Tunisia);
  - The PEGASO project (Algeria, Belgium, Egypt, France, Greece, Croatia, Italy, Lebanon, Morocco, Romania, Spain, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Kingdom and Ukraine);
  - The SAFEMED project (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey).

I.6. MAIN FINDINGS RELEVANT FOR MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING

The main findings with respect to the potential for the application of Maritime Spatial Planning in Egypt are:

Country characteristics and maritime activities:

- Due to the presence of the Suez Canal – connecting the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea – maritime traffic in Egyptian waters is very intense;
- Egypt has established an EEZ in the Mediterranean Sea;
- In 2003, Egypt signed an agreement with Cyprus with regard to hydrocarbon exploitation; moreover, a framework agreement with Cyprus has been set up concerning the development of cross-median line hydrocarbon resources.

Current practice of Integrated Coastal Zone Management:

- In 1994, a National Committee for Integrated Coastal Zone Management has been established; however, it does not have a clear mandate and real authority over the coastal zone;
- Integrated Coastal Zone Management is recently being promoted; three workshops involving relevant stakeholders have been organised since the beginning of 2009 with the aim to develop an ICZM strategy in compliance with the ICZM protocol.

International cooperation:

- The political disputes between Cyprus and Turkey might impact the potential for a cross-border Maritime Spatial Planning initiative between Egypt and Cyprus.
I.7. **OVERVIEW OF SOURCES OF INFORMATION USED AND PERSONS CONTACTED**

*Sources of information used:*

- Byrnes, R., *Egyptian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)*, EEZ International;
- EarthTrends, Coastal and Marine Ecosystems – searchable database;
- FAO, *Yearbook of fishery statistics*;
- METAP, *Integrated Coastal Zone Management – Egypt*;
- METAP, *Integrated Coastal Zone Management: lessons learned*;
- The Safemed Project – Maritime traffic flows and risks analysis in the Mediterranean Sea, www.safemedgis.org;
- The Network of Managers of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean, www.medpan.org;

*Persons contacted:*

- Mr Mohamed Farouk, Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA);
- Mr Mootaz Ahmadein Khali, Deputy assistant Foreign Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development.