

Monitoring, Verification and Evaluation (MVE) Unit Egyptian Environmental Policy Program Annual Report for 2003 (January – December 2003)

The Monitoring, Verification, and Evaluation (MVE) Unit, Task Order No. 811 under Contract No. LAG-I-00-99-00014-00, was signed 10 August 2001 by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Egypt Mission. The current contract completion date is 30 May 2004, as a result of a modification/extension signed 20 August 2003 following a series of no-cost extensions to the original task order that ended 31 March 2003.

As required in Section 3.7 of Task Order 811, this report is a summary and assessment of the MVE Unit activities and accomplishments during 2003. It is arranged in the following format:

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I. Narrative Section

I.A. Project Activities and Tasks

I.A.1 Verification

First Quarter

- MVE continued finalizing the **Tranche 2 Verification Plan** with the GOE and USAID. Another copy of the Plan was distributed at the March Executive Committee meeting. The Tranche 2 Verification Plan was developed based upon reviews of workplans, Policy Measures and Means of Verification, Annex B, other materials, and the effective participation of all parties. Some of the GOE Participating Agencies have already agreed, in writing, to the Plan. In this quarter, MVE and the TA contractor, Abt Assoc., met again with the Governor of Qalyubia to discuss solid waste policy reforms.
- MVE worked with the GOE, USAID, and TA contractors to finalize the **Tranche 2 Supplementary Verification Plan**. The full Verification Plan for each of the supplemental Means of Verification was updated to reflect the version distributed at the March Executive Committee meeting.
- The **Policy Reform Implementation Progress Report as of 30 June 2002** was finalized and distributed.

- The **Policy Reform Implementation Progress Report as of 31 December 2002** was submitted to the USAID, GOE, and TA contractors for review. It was prepared through meeting with TA contractors and GOE staff and participating in Working Group meetings in EEAA and TDA.
- MVE went to Hurgada to meet with the EEAA and PSU regarding their work over the coming quarter and how it fits with the EEAA policy reform documentation. MVE also met with other EEAA staff and with TDA and RSSTI staff for the same purposes.
- MVE is already beginning to receive draft version of documentation related to verification of the policy reforms. As draft documentation is received, it is analyzed and comments are sent to the submitting party so that the final version can match verification plan requirements.

Second Quarter

- MVE began preparation of the **Tranche 2 Interim Verification for Disbursement** by analyzing the documents received from participating agencies either in draft form or in final form officially submitted. The official end date for most of the original Means of Verification for Policy Measures (MVs) is 30 June though some will continue to the end of the project. Also, while most of the Supplemental MVs will officially end in the spring of 2004 some may be verified now. Comments on the documents and whether they match verification plan requirements are sent to the submitting parties so that further clarifications can be made leading to a final assessment.
- MVE continued finalizing the **Tranche 2 Verification Plan** for both original and Supplemental MVs with the GOE and USAID. The Tranche 2 Verification Plan was developed based upon reviews of workplans, Policy Measures and Means of Verification, Annex B, other materials, and the effective participation of all parties. As of 30 June not all of the GOE Participating Agencies have agreed, in writing, to the Plan. MVE continued to meet with GOE entities including EGAS, and the Governorates of Cairo, Qalyubia, Alexandria, and the Red Sea as needed to explain the Plan and what it entailed.
- The **Policy Reform Implementation Progress Report as of 31 December 2002** was finalized and distributed. It was prepared through meeting with TA contractors and GOE staff and participating in Working Group meetings and was reviewed by all participants.

Third Quarter

- MVE prepared and distributed a draft version of the **Tranche 2 Interim Verification for Disbursement** to all parties, including GOE, USAID, and TA Contractors. Comments received from these parties were incorporated and, in some cases, further information was provided. The expected completion date for most of the original Means of Verification (MVs) for Policy Measures was 30 June though some will continue to the end of the project. Also, while most of the Supplemental MVs will officially end in the spring of 2004 documentation for some was submitted and verified for this report. The final version of the report is under discussion.
- Related to verification, MVE undertook an extensive and intensive review of the work carried out in the Red Sea by both EEAA and TDA. To assist in this, MVE arranged for the services of Dr. Mohamed El Gindi, the former Attorney General of Egypt. He was able to support the preliminary MVE analysis regarding the hierarchy of decision-making within the GOE and of the precedence of various laws, decrees, and other arrangements.

With this, MVE was able to verify, fully or partially, a number of the Means of Verification.

- MVE finalized the **Tranche 2 Verification Plan** for both original and Supplemental MVs with the endorsement of the GOE and USAID. It was developed based upon reviews of workplans, Policy Measures and Means of Verification, Annex B, other materials, and the effective participation of all parties.

Fourth Quarter

- MVE finalized and distributed the **Tranche 2 Interim Verification for Disbursement** to all parties, including GOE, USAID, and TA Contractors. About 2/3 of all of the Policy Measure Means of Verification (MVs), most “original” and some “supplemental”, were verified as either fully or partially achieved as of 30 June 2003. Finalization of the report was only achieved following a lengthy process of discussion and documentation with participation by all parties.
- MVE met with the extended USAID EEPP review team to present these findings. Previous to this MVE supplied USAID copies of all of the relevant submitted documentation.
- MVE finalized and distributed the **Tranche 2 Verification Plan** for both original and supplemental MVs with the endorsement of the GOE and USAID. It was developed based upon reviews of workplans, Policy Measures and Means of Verification, Annex B, other materials, and the effective participation of all parties.

I.A.2 Monitoring

First Quarter

- MVE continued revising the **EEPP Monitoring System (MS) report**. Draft versions of the various sections of the report were shared with the relevant collaborators. In particular, Tony Rouphael of the PSU Hurghada office provided valuable comments. Lack of data in many areas remains a significant obstacle. The MS includes indicators covering Air, Solid and Hazardous Waste, Energy, Water, Coastal Zone Management, and General Environmental Management.

Second Quarter

- MVE continued revising the **EEPP Monitoring System (MS)**. The MS includes indicators covering Air, Solid and Hazardous Waste, Energy, Water, Coastal Zone Management, and General Environmental Management.

Third Quarter

- MVE continued revising the **EEPP Monitoring System (MS)**. The work now is to update the data with the most recent figures and to pare down the number of indicators to those most relevant to future programs.

Fourth Quarter

- MVE helped USAID complete information for the Performance Monitoring Plan by conducting a survey of all Egyptian governorates and their solid waste management privatization situations. MVE cooperated with Abt Assoc., the TA contractor, in this.

- MVE continued revising the **EEPP Monitoring System (MS)** so as to make it contribute to the upcoming evaluation.

I.A.3 Evaluation

First Quarter

- Dr. Herman Cesar, economist and coral reef valuation expert, and MVE continued to conduct the study of the **Economic Valuation of the Red Sea Coral Reef**. It examines and compares the value of three areas in detail (Sharm El Sheikh, Hurghada, and Marsa Alam) and extrapolates from these for the entire Red Sea area. The study also develops cost/benefit information for management. Dr. Cesar provided a partial draft of the work in January 2003. Additional data for the final analysis was produced early this quarter, and a complete draft version was distributed to all interested parties by the end of March. Once comments are received, a final version is expected in April. Results from the Cesar study will be presented at the upcoming Sustainable Tourism Conference.
- MVE distributed the **Tranche 1 Summary Assessment**.
- MVE and EnviroNics, a subcontractor, continued work on an analysis of **Decentralization of Environmental Management in Egypt**. Initial drafts of the work, while insightful and informative, have required some redirection and refocusing.

Second Quarter

- Dr. Herman Cesar and MVE made final versions of the study of the **Economic Valuation of the Egyptian Red Sea Coral Reef**. Dr. Cesar provided a new version of the work with additional information in March. Comments from previous versions were received and incorporated in April. A meeting was held at MVE so that EEAA/NCS, USAID, and others could discuss the final results. Cesar then presented a version of the study at the Sustainable Tourism Conference in May. Conference organizers asked him to submit a paper-length version of the study for publication and he and MVE worked on this as well.
- MVE and EnviroNics, a subcontractor, continued to further refine an analysis of **Decentralization of Environmental Management in Egypt**.

Third Quarter

- A final version of the study of the **Economic Valuation of the Egyptian Red Sea Coral Reef** and MVE was prepared and illustrated with relevant pictures of the Red Sea area. A “policy brief” excerpt is being prepared.
- MVE began preparing for a final Evaluation of the program by researching and formulating questions.
- MVE and EnviroNics, a subcontractor, continued to further refine an analysis of **Decentralization of Environmental Management in Egypt**.

Fourth Quarter

- The final illustrated version of the study of the **Economic Valuation of the Egyptian Red Sea Coral Reef**, by Dr. Herman Cesar and MVE was printed and distributed to all parties. A “policy brief” excerpt is being prepared in English and Arabic.

- MVE submitted to USAID a draft set of questions to explore the scope of the upcoming final evaluation of EEPP. USAID responded with some specific questions on specific topics. Reconciliation of needs with time and resources is ongoing.

I.A.4 Management Systems and Reporting

First Quarter

- MVE submitted the Management Report for the Fourth Quarter of 2002.

Second Quarter

- MVE submitted the Management Report for the First Quarter of 2003.

Third Quarter

- MVE submitted the Management Report for the Second Quarter of 2003.
- On 20 August 2003 USAID signed a modification/extension of the Chemonics International contract to operate the MVE unit. There had been a number of no-cost extensions from the original 31 March expiration date until then. The contract will end 31 May 2004. Chemonics International then began to negotiate subcontracts with Chemonics Egypt and Environics, to continue to provide local personnel for the project. The MVE office now hosts Dr Khaled Abdel Aziz, the EEPP National Coordinator; see below.
- Doug Baker, the MVE COP, took Home Leave after 3½ years in Cairo. He left in June and returned in July so as to be able to work on the Verification Report.

Fourth Quarter

- MVE submitted the Management Report for the Third Quarter of 2003.
- MVE negotiated and signed extensions to subcontracts through the end of the EEPP program after obtaining a waiver from USAID on the contract ceiling. The present MVE contract, signed on 20 August 2003, will end 31 May 2004.
- Yasmine Khattab joined MVE to replace Mary Victor Maurice who married and left the project. Ms. Khattab is a recent graduate of the American University of Cairo.

I.A.5 Cross-Cutting Issues, including Coordination

First Quarter

- MVE attended the March EEPP Executive Committee meeting at which it again distributed the Tranche 2 Verification Plan, and spoke about the latest progress report, which was later distributed.
- MVE met with EEAA, PSU, Nexant, Abt, TDA, RSSTI, and USAID on workplan and monitoring issues and participated in various working groups in TDA/RSSTI and EEAA such as Ecozoning, Economic Instruments, EPF, Inspections, Strategic Planning, EIA, and others.
- MVE continued to communicate with EEPP participating agencies and contractors regarding the adjustment of the workplans and implications for means of verification schedule. Many measures and means will be completed by 30 June 2003.

- MVE began a review and assessment of progress resulting from the Gender Assessment carried out by the PSU in 2002. The assessment will evaluate what actions have been taken and what is still possible to initiate in the program.
- MVE also participated in a briefing for the Minister of Environment.
- At the request of USAID, Doug Baker of MVE attended meetings to prepare for the American Chamber of Commerce Environment Day. He was to speak about the US donor program and about its relationships and benefits for the private sector. The event was ultimately postponed.

Second Quarter

- MVE prepared a story on its Red Sea coral reef valuation work, including pictures, for **Eye on Environment** for distribution at the STE Conference.
- MVE submitted to USAID a draft of a review and assessment of progress resulting from the **Gender Assessment** carried out by the PSU in 2002. The assessment examined what actions had been taken and what would still be possible to initiate in the program.
- MVE met with the **PEP (now LIFE) project design team** both in Cairo and in Hurghada.
- MVE met with EEAA, PSU, Nexant, Abt, TDA, RSSTI, and USAID on workplan and monitoring issues and participated in various working groups in TDA/RSSTI and EEAA such as Ecozoning, Economic Instruments, EPF, Inspections, Strategic Planning, EIA, and others. MVE continued to communicate with EEPP participating agencies and contractors regarding the adjustment of the workplans and implications for means of verification schedule. Many measures and means will be completed by 30 June 2003.
- Doug Baker, COP, attended the **Chemonics International Senior Management Conference** in Washington, DC in May. While there he met with staff from the offices of Sen. Joseph Lieberman, Sen. Chris Dodd, and Rep. Rob Simmons, all of Connecticut. With them he spoke of the value of the foreign assistance work and about the successes of the EEPP.

Third Quarter

- Dr Khaled Abdel Aziz, the EEPP National Coordinator, is now working from the MVE office. He had originally been hosted by the PSU but with the new contract in which this office gave up its coordinating functions to concentrate on technical assistance he moved to MVE. It is hoped that the cross-cutting nature of MVE and the increased information on all aspects of the EEPP Program, will help him in his work.
- MVE met with the **PEP (now LIFE) project design team** both in Cairo and in Hurghada on Lead remediation and on Red Sea issues
- MVE met with EEAA, PSU, Nexant, Abt, TDA, RSSTI, and USAID on workplan and monitoring issues and participated in various working groups in TDA/RSSTI and EEAA such as Ecozoning, Economic Instruments, EPF, Inspections, Strategic Planning, EIA, and others. MVE continued to communicate with EEPP participating agencies and contractors regarding the adjustment of the workplans and implications for means of verification schedule.

Fourth Quarter

- Dr Khaled Abdel Aziz, the EEPP National Coordinator, continues to be hosted by MVE. The synergy of the two cross-cutting functions continues to be positive.
- MVE met with the USAID DATA project carried out with CAPMAS to discuss possible cooperation on environmental information. More meetings are planned.
- MVE hosted a meeting of RSSD (combining the ex-PSU and RSSTI projects) and USAID to discuss workplans, means of verification, coordination, and other issues.
- MVE attended the Environment 2003 Conference, and the Solid Waste Management workshop, and participated in meetings with the Governor of Qalyubia, Cairo, and the Red Sea. MVE met with EEAA, RSSD, TDA, EEPP/CAIP, and USAID on workplan and monitoring issues and participated in various working groups in TDA/RSSTI and EEAA such as Air Quality Strategy, Ecozoning, Economic Instruments, EPF, Inspections, Strategic Planning, EIA, and others. MVE continued to work with EEPP participating agencies and contractors on completion and documentation of means of verification scheduled to be completed by 30 March 2004.

I.B. Short-term Technical Assistance in the Field

First Quarter

- Mr. Chris Perine provided technical assistance to the project in Cairo from 17 March to 2 April 2003 on the DEM study, the Monitoring System Report, the Red Sea Coral Reef Evaluation, the contract extension, and other work.

First through Fourth Quarters

- Local LOE was also provided by Dr. Ali Nasser, Dr. Ali El Sawi, Ms. Heba Gaber, and Mr. Yasser Sherif.

Fourth Quarter

- Casey Troy, Assistant Project Administrator for MVE in the Chemonics International Home Office, came to Cairo to do a comprehensive review of the project's technical reports and production of final copies of documents and deliverable abstracts for distribution to USAID, GOE, and other relevant parties as well as with file conversion to PDF format for submission to USAID CDIE. She also worked on creating brief version of documents including coral reef valuation, solid waste management, environmental indicators development, verification and evaluation reports, and others. Ms. Troy worked in the MVE Field Office at the expense of Chemonics International and did not charge the MVE project for her time.