



**EGYPTIAN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION & OUTREACH PROGRAM  
(E<sup>3</sup>OP)**

**Task Order No. 263-00-P-016  
ABE/BE Contract No. EDH-100-05-00031**

**Quarterly Report  
(October - December 2006)  
Report No. 2**

**December 2006**

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS  
Education Development Center, Inc (EDC)  
Academy for Educational Development (AED)  
Research Triangle Institute (RTI)  
Wadi Environmental Science Center (WESC)**

**QUARTERLY REPORT  
(OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2006)**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- I. INTRODUCTION
- II. SUMMARY
- III. ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD
- IV. ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR NEXT QUARTER
- V. CHALLENGES AND ISSUES
- VI. LIST OF REPORTS

## I. INTRODUCTION

The Education Development Center Inc. (EDC), the Academy for Educational Development (AED), Research Triangle Institute (RTI) and the Wadi Environmental Science Center (WESC) are the implementing partners for the Egyptian Environmental Education and Outreach Program (E<sup>3</sup>OP). This USAID-funded pilot initiative under the Assistance to Basic Education Partnership (ABE/BE Contract No. EDH-I-00-05-00031; Task Order No. 1) is assisting the Ministry of Education (MOE) to strengthen environmental education in 105 selected schools and communities. The period of performance is August 1, 2006 - July 31, 2008.

The primary counterpart for the E<sup>3</sup>OP is the Ministry of Education, although the Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs is also providing support and input as appropriate. Based upon the request of the Undersecretaries of the MOE in the governorates, the program has been expanded from five to eleven *Idaras* or districts in four governorates -- Alexandria, Cairo, Beni Suef, and Fayoum. Together they represent a good urban and rural mix, as well as environmental diversity appropriate for this pilot initiative.

The E<sup>3</sup>OP aims to demonstrate the potential of environmental education (EE) in influencing attitudes and behaviors of teachers and students in select schools and their neighboring communities towards the environment. The goal is to (1) foster environmental education in schools and community organizations in ways that actively engage students in their neighborhoods and local environments; and (2) increase community participation by building awareness of the relevance and value of environmental education.

The E<sup>3</sup>OP consists of four integrated areas of activity to foster EE: teacher training to ensure a learner-centered, hands-on approach to environmental education -- inside and outside the classroom, community participation in school-community level assessment and action planning around environmental issues and activities, EE materials development and dissemination, and promotion of EE as part of the national education reform agenda through networking and the media.

Through these activities E<sup>3</sup>OP will increase community participation by building: understanding of EE as a vitally significant cross-cutting theme in education, recognition of the opportunities EE provides for active, experiential and cooperative learning, in and out of the classroom, appreciation for the practical benefits to communities and the civic pride generated on the part of students, parents and other adults as a result of service learning activities, and skills that empower schools and communities to jointly assess and plan around environmental issues.

E<sup>3</sup>OP is working to produce and disseminate more widely quality EE materials to supplement those currently available in Egyptian schools. Teachers will be trained in how to effectively select and use this and other available supplementary material, as well as how to integrate environmental education across subject areas, such as science, social studies, Arabic, so that many more teachers are capable of using the environment as a vehicle to teach their subjects, and in doing so, teach about the environment. The training will also emphasize a hands-on approach to environmental education through field trips, service learning projects, and other outdoor activities.

The E<sup>3</sup>OP is committed to an integrated planning and mobilization approach called SCALE –System-wide Collaborative Action for Livelihoods and the Environment. The idea is to create a critical mass of people—individuals, families, groups, communities and institutions who recognize the value of EE and the far-reaching, enduring transformation it can make in their own communities and the environment. E<sup>3</sup>OP will serve as a catalyst, encouraging individuals and energizing existing institutions to work together to bring about changes in attitude and behavior that benefit all.

Through a series of national and local SCALE events and an Environmental Awards Program, the project will engage communities in supporting EE in schools. By bringing together interested parents, NGOs, private sector and Government of Egypt (GOE) representatives on the local and central levels as partners, the project plans to help build a common vision for good environmental education and effective stewardship, as well as to forge commitments to action.

It is believed that a good deal of the sustainability and institutionalization of EE in Egypt rests on the project's potential to influence public opinion on the importance and relevance of sound environmental education and stewardship. In addition to working with selected schools and communities, E<sup>3</sup>OP will work to engage the media to mobilize public interest and support for environmental education at the nation level. The program will work with existing media, both national and regional, to raise awareness about EE, to educate the public about environmental issues and to cover environmental education initiatives and events. Hence the media participation component is central to creating a propitious climate for many of the basic community and school-level mobilization activities.

## **II. SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to present the status and performance of the E<sup>3</sup>OP for Year 1 (2006/2007), 1st Quarter covering the period from October 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup> 2006. This quarterly report contains the following: a summary of project activities and accomplishments for this quarter, planned activities for the following quarter, challenges and issues, and [a list of reports produced during the period](#).

A summary of the key activities for the quarter follows:

### **Key Meetings**

- In Fayoum governorate met with Mr. Samir Ibrahim, the MOE Undersecretary and Dr. Atta Taha Zidan, Project Manager for ERP on Wednesday, October 11, 2006. The aim was to introduce E<sup>3</sup>OP and initiate support for the project in the governorate.
- Met with Dr. Reda Abou Serie, First Undersecretary for General Education, MOE on Sunday, October 15, 2006 to introduce E<sup>3</sup>OP, brief him about progress to date, and to seek his support in working with the General Directorate of Environment and Population Education (GDEPE). He invited Mr. Samir Abdel Moty, Director of the GDEPE to the meeting and supports our cooperation with this department.
- In Beni Suef governorate met with Mr. Samir Mostafa, the MOE Undersecretary in Beni Suef and Dr. Osama Naguib, Project Manager for ERP on Thursday, October 19, 2006. The aim was to introduce E<sup>3</sup>OP and initiate support for the project in Beni Suef. Mr. Samir Mostafa is proactive and on his own initiative gathered others involved in environmental concerns in the governorate.
- The team met with Ms. Marriam Sayed Ahmed, Communications and Outreach Officer for the World Bank on November 20, 2006 to discuss the possibility of collaboration in their 2006/2007 small grants program aimed at raising environmental awareness in schools in disadvantaged communities in Egypt. The possibility of focusing the Small Grants program to support NGOs in the four governorates where the E<sup>3</sup>OP is working was proposed.
- A comprehensive meeting focusing on how best to introduce, implement, and monitor E<sup>3</sup>OP activities was held on November 29, 2006 in the office of Mr. Samir Abdel Moty, Director, General Department of Environment and Population Education, Ministry of Education. The meeting was attended by five members of his staff as well as a representative of the National Center for Educational Research and Development and the core E<sup>3</sup>OP team.
- An orientation workshop took place at the E<sup>3</sup>OP office in Cairo on December 27, 2006 for the EE Coordinators and their counterparts from the GDEPE. The purpose of the workshop was to reach a common understanding about environmental education, its tools and approaches, as well as to provide a forum for discussing the structure and mandate of the Technical Support Teams.

### **Technical Program Activities**

- On November 19, 2006, Dr. Hassan Abou-Bakr served as guest facilitator to inaugurate an environmental education training workshop organized by the Agha Khan Foundation. Thirty-five school teachers and community leaders from Al Darb Al Ahmar, the disadvantaged neighborhood surrounding El Azhar Park, attended the workshop.
- Collected and revised mapping of environmental education topics across most Ministry of Education subject text books for primary and preparatory school text books available for Term 1 of the 2006/2007 school year.
- The final draft of the Environmental Education Materials Assessment Report was compiled and submitted to USAID. The field survey guidelines and instruments were prepared and submitted as part of the document, but the field survey itself will be conducted in 2007.
- Worked with the General Department of Environment and Population Education of the MOE to plan for Introductory SCALE workshops in each governorate and outline the organizational structure and roles and responsibilities of the Technical support Teams as well as a strategy for implementing the training and follow-up in schools.
- Developed a draft Training Strategy and Plan.
- Collected information about active NGOs working either in the environment or education fields, as well as names of community leaders, private sector representatives, media representatives and members of parliament in the four governorates where the project is working.

### **Administrative**

- Program Director, Michael Cacich was reassigned to a Deputy Chief of Party position in Uganda and replaced as E3OP Program Director by Dr. Rachel Christina on November 7, 2006.
- E<sup>3</sup>OP moved on December 3, 2006 to the new office as soon as the space was ready and the phone, internet and LAN system were operational.

### **Deliverables Submitted**

- The Fourth Quarter Report covering the period from project start-up, August 1, 2006 through September 30, 2006, was submitted to USAID on October 31, 2006.

- The final Environmental Education Materials & Activities Assessment Report was completed and submitted to USAID on November 6, 2006.
- The final Annual Work Plan was prepared and submitted to USAID on November 16, 2006.

### **III. KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD**

#### **Program Management**

Until early November Ms. Cheryl Groff, COP, Dr. Hassan Abou Bakr, DCOP, and Mr. Michael Cacich, EDC Home Office Program Director shared start-up and management responsibilities. As the prime, EDC's Program Director assisted by Ms. Nahed Youssef, Office Manager for the EDC/Egypt were primarily responsible for office set-up and procurement until November 10<sup>th</sup> when Mr. Cacich was transferred to a project in Uganda. Dr. Rachel Christina, was officially named Program Director for EDC on November 7, 2006. As she was in Cairo working with the Education Reform Program soon after, it was possible for the staff to get acquainted and to brief her on project start-up issues.

**Activities carried out during this reporting period by the E<sup>3</sup>OP team included:**

#### **Key Meetings**

- Met with Dr. Atta Taha Zidan, Project Manager for ERP in Fayoum on Wednesday, October 11, 2006. The aim was to introduce E<sup>3</sup>OP and initiate cooperation between the two projects in the governorate. Dr. Atta Zidan is very interested in supporting environmental education as he previously served as a Dean in the University of Beni Suef and played a role in encouraging environmental studies.
- On the same day we met with Mr. Samir Ibrahim, the MOE Undersecretary in Fayoum. The aim was to introduce E<sup>3</sup>OP, to seek his support for E<sup>3</sup>OP work in the Fayoum schools and to get his input on the project's proposed workplan. He was supportive and expressed interest in environmental education, but asked that the project work in schools other than the Education Reform Program schools. The team also briefly visited Abou Bakr Seddik a large, active NGO in Fayoum.
- Met with Dr. Reda Abou Serie, First Undersecretary for General Education, MOE on Sunday, October 15, 2006 to introduce E<sup>3</sup>OP, brief him about progress to date, present him with environmental education materials produced under GreenCOM in collaboration with the MOE, and to seek his support in working with the General Directorate of Environment and Population Education. He requested a copy of the official USAID letter to the MOE. Sylvia Atalla subsequently made

- sure that he received a personal letter from USAID. Dr. Serie is interested in environmental education particularly if it is practical and results in positive behavior change. He mentioned the work of Dr. Mohamed Saber Salam, a pioneer in EE in Egypt, but he is keen that this project should move environmental education in Egypt beyond academia and to implementation in classrooms. He invited Mr. Samir Abdel Moty to the meeting and supports our cooperation with this department.
- Met with General Osama Nagar, Donor Project Liaison Officer with the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA), on Tuesday October 17, 2006. He is supportive of environmental awareness and the aims of this project.
  - Met with Dr. Osama Naguib, Project Manager for ERP in Beni Suef on Thursday, October 19, 2006. The aim was to introduce E<sup>3</sup>OP and initiate cooperation between the two projects in the governorate. Dr. Naguib briefed us on the ERP schools, the strengths of the various NGOs active in the governorate, and said that he is impressed with the newly formed BOTs.
  - Following our meeting with the ERP Program Manager we met with Mr. Samir Mostafa, the MOE Undersecretary in Beni Suef. The aim was to introduce E<sup>3</sup>OP, to seek his support for E<sup>3</sup>OP work in Beni Suef schools and to get his input on the project's proposed workplan. Mr. Samir Mostafa is proactive and on his own initiative gathered others involved in environmental concerns in the governorate namely; Mr. Abdel Al Mishraf, Chairperson for the Special Federation of Environment, Engineer Medhat, of the Beni Suef Environmental Management Unit of the EEAA, and two persons working with CARE on the ALIVE project which has environmental awareness components-- Ms. Nancy El Fadk, and Mr. Osama Youssef. Mr. Samir Mostafa is interested and supportive, but is adamant that E<sup>3</sup>OP work in schools other than those in which ERP is working. He is also encouraging the project to work with a greater number of schools if at all possible. He promised to support the project with MOE staff as needed to achieve this aim.
  - Met with Dr. Adli Hussennine, CEO of the Mediterranean Center on Tuesday, November 7, 2006 to learn about the environmental program and facility he has created in Beni Suef and to explore areas for potential cooperation.
  - Cheryl Groff and Dr. Medhat El Nemr met with Sylvia Atalla to discuss adjustments to the final work plan submission on November 16, 2006.
  - Met with Dalia Khalil of IEarn Project, and Sylvia Atalla, E<sup>3</sup>OP CTO on December 19, 2006 to learn about each other's project and to discuss opportunities to collaborate. The IEarn project is supported by the USA Embassy and is focusing their work with young people and teachers this year on energy efficiency. IEarn is now a registered NGO in Egypt.

- Participated in USAID's COP Meeting for all projects in the education sector on December 20, 2006.

### **Administrative**

- Acquired the necessary documentation outlining understandings and agreements between USAID and the MOE regarding the E<sup>3</sup>OP, enabling Mr. Samir Abdel Moty, Director of the General Directory of Environment and Population Education to work with the project in full cooperation.
- A plan was developed and a contractor hired to prepare the office space for occupancy. This included painting, floor finishing, building and installation of storage units, and other minor repairs.
- The bidding process was completed and office furniture and equipment were purchased locally up to the limits set by regulation. A waiver for additional office furniture was submitted and approved by USAID. A waiver for the purchase of additional office equipment locally is in development. Communication systems were purchased, installed and fully operational the last week of November.
- On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, E<sup>3</sup>OP moved from the temporary office at the EDC/Egypt Cairo office to the new office: Suite #3, As-Salam Tower, Maadi Corniche as soon as the space was ready and the phone, internet and LAN system were operational.
- It was determined to purchase one vehicle instead of two for use by the project in Cairo thereby increasing funds available for transportation by the EE coordinators in the governorates. Procurement and shipment of a Dodge Caravan were completed. The vehicle is scheduled to arrive in Alexandria in late January 2007.
- Requests for secondment from their respective universities were granted for both Dr. Hassan Abou Bakr, DCOP, and Dr. Medhat El Nimre, Training & Pedagogy Specialist in November 2006.
- Completed the interview process for all staff and informed the home offices of the selected candidates for all positions, including an office assistant and a secretary/receptionist, two positions that were clearly needed but not budgeted. EDC and AED also came to agreement regarding the shared hiring of a Finance & Operations Manager. Employment terms were determined and offers made to all selected candidates. As terms of employment were agreed to and candidates became available letters of agreement were processed and candidates began work. Unfortunately, not all candidates accepted the salary offers. As a result the project

is still seeking a Secretary/Receptionist, and Materials & Development Specialist, and will need to begin a search for a Training & Pedagogy Specialist to replace Dr. Medhat El Nemr.

- The documentation to register the COP with USAID was completed and the process to secure a work permit for this project through the MOE has been initiated. The tax exemption documents are also in process.
- The subcontract with the Wadi Environmental Science Center was finalized and signed in December 2006.

### **Deliverables Submitted**

- Completed and submitted the first Quarterly Report for the period from project start-up August 1, 2006 through September 30, 2006.
- Revised and submitted the final Annual Work Plan for 2006-07 to USAID.
- Completed and submitted the Assessment of Environmental Education and Outreach Materials Report.

### **Component #1: EE Materials Analysis, Development & Dissemination**

During this quarter the EE Materials Assessment was completed and submitted. This activity was led by Dr. Hassan Abou Bakr, DCOP. Dr. Reine Youssef, a STTA to the project, in collaboration with Ms. Heba El Meligy, Dr. Medhat El Nemr, and Mr. Aly Samir developed the assessment methodology and framework, conducted the assessment, developed the field survey including the instruments and contributed to the report. In addition, both Mr. Michael Cacich and Ms. Cheryl Groff contributed, particularly to the drafting of the final report.

Key activities undertaken during this reporting period to support the materials assessment included:

### **Key Meetings**

- Briefing meetings were held on September 28 and Oct. 1 to bring Dr. Reine Youssef up to date on the environmental education assessment process prior to her arrival and to acquaint her with the draft document and materials.
- Numerous meetings were held with the core team to discuss the assessment framework and the methodology to be used.
- Dr. Reine Youssef and Dr. Medhat El Nemr visited schools in El Marg on

October 2, 2006 to gather information and observe the use of environmental education materials in classrooms and to administer and test the in-depth interview guide prepared for the field survey.

- Met with Mr. Ramzy Gomaa , a web designer on Monday, November 6, 2006 to discuss options for preparing environmental education materials for the virtual resource center.

### **Technical Program Activities**

- Assessed all the *National Book Program* book collection.
- To collect information from teachers and pupils, the SCOPE Observation instrument developed by the Education Reform Program (ERP) was selected for use. Additional questions have been added to SCOPE, focusing on the physical environment of the school and classrooms to meet specific E<sup>3</sup>OP data needs.
- A simple questionnaire and guidelines for conducting structured interviews to collect information regarding the availability and use of EE materials from teachers, school managers, students and parents was developed.
- The final draft of the Environmental Education Materials Assessment Report was compiled and submitted to USAID. The field survey guidelines and instruments were prepared and submitted as part of the document, but the field survey itself will be conducted in 2007 once the EE Coordinators are on board, the MOE has approved the school based instruments and their use by the Technical Support Teams in each governorate.

### **Administrative**

- A SOW and Letter of Agreement were prepared and approved for Dr. Reine Youssef, a short-term international consultant to assist with the EE Materials Assessment task. Dr. Youssef was in-country from September 28- October 10, 2006.

### **Component #2: Environmental Education in Selected Schools**

Dr. Medhat El Nemr, Senior Training and Pedagogy Advisor was coordinating this component until December 21, 2006. Dr. Medhat El Nemr decided not to accept the E<sup>3</sup>OP offer for long-term employment, and instead accepted an offer with a UN project that would enable him to return to his home in Alexandria. EDC is actively seeking and interviewing candidates to propose to USAID for approval as this is a key position.

Activities carried out during the report period by the E<sup>3</sup>OP team included:

## Key Meetings

- Met with David Osgood, COP of the WWSPR Project and two members of his communication staff to discuss areas of cooperation on November 6, 2006. and potential cooperation in a forth coming workshop of WWSPR
- Project Core Team met with M. Samir Abdel Moty, Director of the General Department of Environment and Population Education (GDEPE) and members of his staff on November 13, 2006 to share with him the E<sup>3</sup>OP work plan, and to discuss how to cooperate in the scheduling and implementation of the EE teachers training. The need for introductory workshops for school principals, other MOE leadership and community stakeholders was also raised. Mr. Moty requested a letter describing what is needed from the GDEPE in the course of training arrangements so he can initiate connections with the school headmasters. Roles and responsibilities were discussed and arrangements for inviting school principles, GDEPE supervisors, directors of *Idaras*, and MOE Undersecretaries, as well as active community members in the 4 governorates were agreed upon. On November 16, 2006 a letter was sent to Dr. Samir Abdel Moty with a proposed list of E<sup>3</sup>OP schools in each *Idara* to initiate GDEPE preparations for the introductory governorate workshops.
- A comprehensive planning meeting was held on November 29, 2006 in the office of Mr. Samir Abdel Moty, Director, General Department of Environment and Population Education, Ministry of Education. The following persons attended; Ms. Elham Abou-El Kheir, Manager, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit; Ms. Gihan Mahmoud, Expert; Mr. Samir Abdel Kader, Expert of the GDEPE staff and Dr. Hany Abdel Meguid El Sheikh of the National Center for Educational Research and Development. Ms. Cheryl Groff, Dr. Hassan Abou Bakr, Dr. Medhat El Nemr, and Ms. Heba El Meligy participated from E<sup>3</sup>OP. The outline, dates and agenda of the introductory SCALE workshops on the governorate level were presented in the meeting. It was agreed that the objectives of these workshops are to reach a common understanding about the concept of environmental education, its tools and approaches as well as introducing the E<sup>3</sup>OP Program, and to provide a forum for networking with other donors/local initiatives. The workshop will be designed to culminate with the agreement and commitment of the participants to enhance environmental education efforts in their schools and organizations.

The demand-driven nature of the project was emphasized and it was agreed upon that an application form would be given to the headmasters of schools in the workshop, to give to interested teachers expressing their interest to join the training. It was also agreed that the invitation of the first Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education to the workshop be extended by both Mr. Samir Abdel Moeti and the E<sup>3</sup>OP. In respect to the invitation of the Governor to inaugurate the workshops in Beni-Suef and Fayoum, it was agreed that this would be extended by the E<sup>3</sup>OP, as well as by the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education in the

governorate,

Mr. Samir Abdel Moty designated himself and Mr. Hamdy Mahmoud to be the Co-General Coordinators of the project in the GDEPE. He also designated Ms. Nadia Bahig as the coordinator for El Marg, Ms. Nahed Mohamed Badr El Din for Alexandria, Ms. Elham Abou El Kheir for Fayoum, and Ms. Gihan Mahmoud, for Beni-Suef. He also indicated that five employees from the GDEPD will assist in follow-up and evaluation of the project's activities at schools in each governorate during the lifetime of the project. This will be the core of the Technical Support Teams in each governorate.

The potential role that the National Center for Education Research and Development in conducting a pre and post impact assessment of the project was discussed, as well as the role that can be played by Ms. Elham Abou El-Kheir in monitoring and evaluating the activities and results of this intervention. Dr. Hassan Abou Bakr suggested that the NCERD can encourage young researchers who pursue their Masters and Ph.D. thesis to address impact assessment of environmental education activities.

Mr. Samir Abdel Moty advised that there is a class period in all schools designated for environmental education each week, which means that there are 17 periods per semester devoted to environmental education. The E<sup>3</sup>OP can assist with preparation of lesson plans for these periods that could be used by teachers. Teachers who are interested in participating in the training will be encouraged to teach EE during these activity classes.

Mrs. Elham advised that the GDEPE has established an email network for environmental, health and population awareness in ten selected schools in each governorate and that there is an email account in the GDEPE that can be accessed by students who would like to inquire about related issues.

- A planning meeting was held to discuss Draft # 4 of the Training Strategy, on December 6, 2006. Dr. Medhat, Lynn Freiji, and Cheryl Groff participated. Dr. Medhat revised the strategy and circulated to the teacher training team.
- A planning meeting was held to discuss Draft # 5 of the Training Strategy, on December 11, 2006. Dr. Medhat, Lynn Freiji, Sara El Sayed, Dr. Hassan Abo Bakr, Heba El Meligy and Cheryl Groff participated. Lynn Freiji shared some background articles on environmental education that she found particularly useful. There was significant debate about the objectives of environmental education in this program and debate regarding the difference between teaching and learning environmental science and environmental education. Finding the appropriate balance is and will be an on-going challenge as environmental education is not only about teaching and learning the scientific approach, inquiry based strategies and hands-on exploration of science, but environmental education also requires a

solid grounding in the complexity of environmental problems, a focus on developing stewardship and needs to provide opportunities to build school and community linkages. It was agreed that in this context a rigorous training in environmental science is not the mandate of the project, but that given the timing and the big picture objectives, the training needs a more general, holistic approach. The training and the program activities need to empower students, teachers and communities. The training needs to inspire interest, appreciation and action. It should trigger the desire of the school and community to work together and by so doing instill confidence that improvements in their school, home and community environments is indeed possible.

- Dr. Medhat, Lynn Freiji, Dr. Hassan Abubakr, Sara El Said and Sara Youssef, Heba El Meligy, Mr. Mohamed Kamal, Senior EE Coordinator for El Marg met for a brain-storming session on the training activities on December 17, 2006. Dr. Hassan briefed the group on meetings with the GDEPE and discussions on the need to organize additional meetings with each of the MOE Undersecretaries of the three governorates to finalize the school selection given that the plan to focus on ERP family of schools had been rejected. Dr. Medhat reviewed the status of the training plan and explained that the micro-teaching component had been shifted to the third day of training. Discussion again focused on how best to achieve a balance between environmental science and a more holistic approach. Dr. Hassan called for the team to recognize that the three days of teacher training was not a stand-alone intervention in the program, but part of a whole battery of interventions including support for teachers, community participation in the school, the EE resource centers.
- Dr. Medhat, Lynn Freiji, Cheryl Groff, Dr. Hassan Abubakr, and Heba El Melegy for a detailed discussion of Draft # 6 of the Training Strategy and Training Plan on December 19, 2006. the next step is to provide additional descriptive text to the document to better enable a full understanding of the training plan to other partners and ultimately to the team of trainer/facilitators.
- Senior project team met with Mr. Samir Mostafa, First Undersecretary, Ministry of Education in Beni Suef Governorate on December 20, 2006. The meeting was attended by Mr. Hamdy Abdel Azeem Abdel Gawad, Director of Environmental and Population Education Dept., Beni Suef, Dr. Hassan Abou-Bakr, Ms. Heba El Meligy, and Ms. Mona Khalifa, the newly recruited E<sup>3</sup>OP EE Coordinator for Beni Suef.

Mr. Mostafa expressed his concerns of the E<sup>3</sup>OP working in the ERP family of schools in Ahnassia District. His point was that the teachers are saturated with training, and that there is a need to extend donors' coverage to other deprived schools in the governorates. Mr. Mostafa was aware that ERP is going through restructuring and that ERP training activities are going to stop in Ahnassia schools

in February, and that ERP will shift its attention to training staff from the different Idaras. He was also aware that ERP may be expanded to cover all schools in their new plan.

The E<sup>3</sup>OP team explained that the rationale for selecting ERP schools was that their boards of trustees (BOTs) were provided with training on a variety of topics such as resource mobilization and strategic planning, and that their teachers were trained on active learning, critical thinking, etc. Thus the E<sup>3</sup>OP given its short duration can capitalize on the work already done by ERP and build on it instead of starting from scratch. Also, the training load for teachers in the ERP schools will be drastically lightened since ERP will end all training activities by Feb. 2007. Moreover, the E<sup>3</sup>OP team argued that ERP will move to other schools in the area.

Mr. Mostafa emphasized that he would like to spread the donors' coverage to other schools in the governorate and not to concentrate in ERP schools, so that other schools would have equal opportunity to benefit from the training and other benefits of the program. In addition, he offered to help in forming and providing training to BOT members in the alternative schools to be selected. Dr. Hassan Abou Bakr informed the Undersecretary that he had received a telephone call from the Head of the City Council of Beba District in Beni Suf governorate expressing interest to work with E<sup>3</sup>OP in schools in Beba and his willingness to provide all the necessary support for the success of the program. This initiative on the part of the Head of the City Council matches the demand driven approach that the project hopes to promote throughout the different activities. The Undersecretary endorsed the request to work in Beba schools. It was thus agreed that the E<sup>3</sup>OP will work in 10 primary and preparatory schools in Beba District and 15 primary and preparatory schools in Ahnassia that are non-ERP schools. The Undersecretary advised the E<sup>3</sup>OP team that he would personally conduct field visits to Beba and Ahnassia districts to select schools. Ms. Mona Khalifa of the E<sup>3</sup>OP accompanied him on these visits. The E<sup>3</sup>OP team suggested that ideally the participating schools could be selected on the basis of geographic proximity to in order to facilitate the follow-up process, and to enable networking and cooperation between schools.

The Undersecretary suggested that Dr. Hassan Abou Bakr pay a courtesy visit to the Governor of Beni Suf to brief him about the project and to invite him to inaugurate the introductory workshop. He also mentioned that the Governor has special interest in environmental education.

The Undersecretary expressed his interest that the E<sup>3</sup>OP work in the area of environment related health issues, given its importance.

The Director of Environmental and Population Education Department informed the E<sup>3</sup>OP team that DANIDA provided a grant of L.E.96,000 to the department to organize competitions around environmental themes in schools in Beni Suf

governorate.

### **Technical Program Activities**

- The meetings, school visits and workshop observation activities noted above and discussions with MOE, WESC, ERP, etc. constituted an important part of the effort to develop the **Training Strategy and Training Plan** document which was submitted by Dr. Medhat to the project on December 21, 2006.
- Collected and revised mapping of environmental education topics across all Ministry of Education subject text books for primary (4-6) and preparatory (1 and 2) available for Term 1 of the 2006/2007 school year.
- A full database of ERP family of schools was requested and received. The ERP schools database was used to generate a comprehensive, E<sup>3</sup>OP specific school data base which will help to inform the forthcoming school and teacher selection for training.

### **Component #3: Community Participation in Environmental Education & Outreach**

During this quarter Dr. Hassan Abou Bakr, DCOP and Ms. Heba El Meligy, a consultant, have been sharing responsibility for this component. Mrs. El Meligy was hired as the Senior Environmental Communications and Participation Specialist as of December 1, 2006.

Activities carried out during this reporting period by the E<sup>3</sup>OP team included:

#### **Key meetings:**

- Established contacts with MEDASSETTS and explored possibility of promoting and disseminating their EE kit about Mediterranean turtles free of charge to schools in the coastal governorates in Egypt. The kit is in Arabic language. It was assessed by the project team and was found to be of good quality. The team also met with Mr. Vassillis Kouroutos, Executive Director, Medassetts on November 20, 2006 during his trip to Egypt to discuss further possible collaboration. We were informed that there are two other kits in Arabic, one on water and the other on solid waste produced by other organizations that are looking for an organization/NGO to help them with the promotion and dissemination of these materials to schools in Egypt. Mr. Kouroutos will assist the project to establish contacts with these organizations.
- The team met with Ms. Marriam Sayed Ahmed, Communications and Outreach Officer for the World Bank (WB) on November 20, 2006 to discuss the possibility

of collaboration in their 2006/2007 small grants program aimed at raising environmental awareness in schools in disadvantaged communities in Egypt. The possibility of focusing the WB small grants program to support NGOs in the four governorates where the E<sup>3</sup>OP is working was proposed. E<sup>3</sup>OP could assist the WB by identifying and contacting active environmental NGOs in these governorates, and by inviting WB representatives to participate in the SCALE workshops to be held in each of the four governorates in January/February to introduce the E<sup>3</sup>OP and enlist support and commitment for environmental education among school and community leadership and other stakeholders. Other points of discussion included the E<sup>3</sup>OP training for teachers and NGO leaders, the need for financial support to an Alexandria based NGO to undertake the dissemination of the MEDASSET turtle kit, and E<sup>3</sup>OP's concern and interest to find additional funding to enable communities to undertake EE activities that the project plans to encourage i.e. service learning, field trips, public hearings etc. The WB small grants program has similar goals and is interested to receive proposals that include training for teachers, summer programs and other environmental education activities, public hearings, environmental audits in schools, community activities and providing for improved maintenance in schools. The WB small grants program has \$35,000 for support of environmental education activities.

- The team met with Mr. Samir Abdel Moty, Director, General Department of Environment and Population Education of the MOE to discuss the workplan for the community participation component including the Environmental Awards Program. During this meeting the schedule, agenda and the appropriate stakeholders to be invited to the introductory SCALE workshops in each governorate were discussed.
- The team attended a field trip organized by WESC for first grade students of an international school on Wednesday November 15, 2006. The purpose was to familiarize ourselves with WESC's approach to environmental education and to observe the various hands-on experiences conducted with students. The desert was the theme of this field trip. The team was impressed by the interaction between the students and the team leaders of WESC as well as the variety of the hands-on experiences through which students learned about the desert environment.
- The team also attended a field trip organized by WESC for upper elementary school and preparatory students of a governmental school in El Nomros on Sunday, December 3, 2006 for observation purposes. The state of matter was the theme of the field trip.
- On Sunday, November 19, 2006, Dr. Hassan Abou-Bakr provided technical assistance and served as guest speaker to inaugurate an environmental education training workshop organized by the Agha Khan Foundation. Thirty-five school teachers and community leaders from Al Darb Al Ahmar, the disadvantaged

neighborhood surrounding El Azhar Park, attended the workshop. Dr. Hassan spoke about the concepts, tools and approaches of environmental education. Then participants were divided into working groups to conduct hands-on activities about water and its qualities. Participants were given copies of the teacher's guides prepared under the GreenCOM project.

- A meeting was held with the CIDA-funded project entitled "Community Environment Action Project (CENACT)" to explore possible collaboration. CENACT provides grants to NGOs in Minya and Ismalia to encourage them to undertake environmental initiatives, focusing mainly on solid waste management. CENACT had produced a number of booklets on resource mobilization, proposal writing, facilitation skills, results-based management and sustainability. These booklets were of high quality and deemed by the team as appropriate for E<sup>3</sup>OP stakeholders. Therefore, we requested twenty copies of the books for the resource centers and the books were provided by CENACT.
- Met with Dr. Irma Allen on Wednesday, December 3, 2006 to discuss the Environmental Awards Program and ways of using it as a conceptual framework to integrate school and community activities.
- An orientation workshop took place at the E<sup>3</sup>OP office in Cairo on December 27, 2006 for the EE Coordinators and their counterparts from the GDEPE. The purpose of the workshop was to reach a common understanding about environmental education, its tools and approaches, as well as to provide a forum for discussing the structure and mandate of the Technical Support Team (which comprises of the E<sup>3</sup>OP EE Coordinators, the EE Cadres (5 employees of the local DEPE), the Manager of DEPE at the IDARA level, and the EE Coordinators from the GDEPE), and finally to present the workplan (Jan.-March 2007).
- A meeting was held with the ERP Manager in El Marg in which he elaborated on the Community Participation activities of the ERP program in El Marg and he explained the current restructuring of the Education Reform Program.
- A visit was made to the Mediterranean Center for Sustainable Development in Beni Suef Governorate. The Center is used as a training facility for events and field trips for school children. Based on the visit, it was decided that the introductory SCALE workshop and teachers' training will be held there.

### **Technical Program Activities**

- Collected information about active NGOs working either in the environment or education fields, as well as names of community leaders, private sector representatives, media representatives and members of parliament in the four governorates where the project is working to be invited for the introductory workshops.

- Initiated meetings with NGOs in Beni Suef and Fayoum governorates to get more information about their activities.
- Planned orientation meetings for the EE Coordinators to meet their counterparts from the GDEPE. The purpose is to introduce the project and enlist their participation as members of the Technical Support Teams in each governorate.

### **Administrative**

- Hired Mrs. El Meligy as the full-time, long-term Senior Environmental Communication and Community Participation beginning December 1, 2006.
- Hired Mohamed Kamal Bayoumi as the Senior EE Coordinator in El Marg beginning December 6, 2006 and Ms. Mona Fadali as the EE Coordinator for Alexandria beginning December 29, 2006. Offers were made and accepted by both Mr. Nader Salah, EE Coordinator for Fayoum governorate and Ms. Mona Khalifa for Beni Suef governorate. Both Mr. Nader and Ms. Khalifa will begin full-time work with the project in January 2007.

### **Component #4: Media (Plus) Participation in EE & Outreach**

Activity under the Media (Plus) Participation in EE & Outreach during this quarter was minimal.

Activities carried out during this reporting period by the E<sup>3</sup>OP team included:

#### **Key Meetings**

- Michelle Ward-Brent, Media Advisor (RTI) visited the project and met with the senior staff to discuss the media component of the workplan, the team's vision of the role of media in the project, and the potential candidates for the media participation position.

#### **Technical Program Activities**

- Continued to build E<sup>3</sup>OP network contact information at the national and regional level.
- Developed a project graphic identity.
- Designed and obtained USAID approval for business cards and letterhead.
- Drafted text in both English and Arabic and designed the layout for a project brochure, including a section on the guiding principles of environmental education. The approval process is underway with the implementing partners, MOE, EEAA, and USAID prior to printing.

#### **IV. ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR NEXT QUARTER**

##### **Program Start-up & Management**

The following key activities are planned for the next quarter:

- Complete policy and procedures manual.
- Finalize office systems and procedures.
- Complete purchase of furniture and equipment.
- Finalize Letter of Agreement with the DCOP.
- Hire Secretary/receptionist, Materials & Development Specialist, and Training & Pedagogy Specialist
- Establish governorate office space for EE coordinators, including drafting of MOUs with the cooperating NGOs.
- Manage delivery of vehicle through customs, licensing and hiring of a project driver.
- Plan National SCALE Event for April/May.

##### **Component #1: EE Materials Analysis, Development & Dissemination**

The following key activities are planned for the next quarter:

- Hire a Senior Materials Development Specialist to lead this component.
- Prepare Materials Development and Replication Plan.
- Contact and negotiate agreements for use of materials.
- Initiate work on new EE materials as per Assessment report.
- Initiate work on EE training materials in conjunction with Component #2.
- Begin work on the EE Resource guide for teachers.
- Continue seeking EE materials for Resource Centers and schools.

##### **Component #2: Environmental Education in Selected Schools**

The following key activities are planned for the next quarter:

- Align and highlight EE program activities with National Standards and school accreditation scheme.
- Finalize EE teacher & NGO leadership training program.
- Finalize development of EE Instructional Package.
- Conduct the field survey in schools.
- Implement teacher and NGO leadership training program.
- Develop Monitoring and Evaluation Plan, including possible use of CAPS and

- Gather data on revised list of participating schools.

### **Component #3: Community Participation in Environmental Education & Outreach**

The following key activities are planned for the next quarter:

- Implement introductory SCALE workshops in the four governorates
- Get MOE approval for the MEDESETT kit, revise the map and explore possibility of distributing the kit to schools along the north coast.
- Orient the EE Coordinators to their tasks.
- Visit NGOs and CDAs in each governorate to determine appropriate partners.
- Establish Technical Support Teams and introduce them to the project, define their roles and responsibilities, and prepare them to work with the EE coordinators in the governorates.
- Work with World Bank Small Grants program to develop an MOU and initiate program.
- Work with other projects, NGOs as requested and agreed to increase and improve environmental education nationally.
- Build partnerships and support for the Friends of Environmental Education.
- Conduct the field survey.
- Prepare documents for introduction of the Environmental Awards Program.
- Prepare materials to assist schools to conduct Environmental Audit.
- Plan with the Technical Support Teams to implement EE activities in schools and communities.
- Participate in planning for the national SCALE event.

### **Component #4: Media (Plus) Participation in EE & Outreach**

The following key activities are planned for the next quarter:

- Complete hiring procedures to bring selected candidate for the part-time Media Participation Specialist on board.
- Produce project materials to promote environmental education.
- Compile local and governorate and national press contacts.
- Encourage media coverage of Introductory SCALE governorate workshops.
- Continue to build national and regional contact lists.
- Form SCALE Advisory Committee and prepare for a national level SCALE event.
- Draft advocacy, communication and corporate social responsibility strategy.
- Liaise with Ministry of Information and Bio-mapping on clay-mation.

- Assess opportunities for collaboration with REDI DC Media program.

## V. CHALLENGES AND ISSUES

### Program Management

While the majority of the staff have been hired and brought on board, two key positions, the Training & Pedagogy Specialist and the Materials Development Specialist, need to be filled. In addition, till now finalization of a Letter of Agreement with the Deputy Chief of Party has not been possible due to issues of approval of his salary. The primary reason for these staffing issues is the level of compensation that we are able to offer.

### Component #1: EE Materials Analysis, Development & Dissemination

As a Materials Development Specialist has not yet been hired, the drafting of the Materials Development Plan may be delayed. To address this, the project intends to assign Mr. Patrick Papania, a Senior Environmental Communication Specialist with approved STTA on the project to undertake this task beginning in January.

### Component #2: Environmental Education in Selected Schools

None at this time.

### Component #3: Community Participation in Environmental Education & Outreach

None at this time.

### Component #4: Media (Plus) Participation in EE & Outreach

None at this time.

## VI. LIST OF REPORTS

No.	NAME	DATE
1	Final Annual Work Plan (2006/2007))	November 2006
2	Final Environmental Education Materials & Activities Report	November 2006
3	Quarterly Report (October -December 2006)	December 2006