

Egypt

U.S. FOREST SERVICE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Since 2007, U.S. Forest Service technical exchange with Egypt has focused on ecotourism, interpretive planning, and recreation management in the country's globally important coastlines.

The Hurghada Environmental Protection and Conservation Association (HEPCA) and the U.S. Forest Service designed conceptual plans for Egypt's first marine research and visitor laboratory based in Port Ghalib. The site focuses on recycling, sustainability, and the interconnections between the Red Sea habitat and local livelihoods.

The U.S. Forest Service worked with the American University in Cairo's Desert Development Center to build a research green roof, testing out a variety of models, and serving as a demonstration plot for community education.

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PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Egypt lies at the northeast corner of Africa at the junction of four bio-geographical regions: Irano-Turanian, Mediterranean, Saharo-Sindian, and Afrotropical. This unique position is enhanced by the Nile, which cuts through the country. The fresh water habitats of the Nile River basin and 1,500 miles of coastline along the Mediterranean and Red Seas endow Egypt with a rich diversity of terrestrial habitats, flora, and fauna. The natural habitats include a variety of important wildlife, including 320 species of migratory bird species, unique coral reefs, sensitive desert vegetation, and endangered species of gazelles, dolphins, turtles, and dugong. Egypt has developed a national system of 30 protected areas that represent over 15 percent of its land area, and more than 70 percent of the country's diverse habitats.

U.S. FOREST SERVICE ENGAGEMENT IN EGYPT AND THE REGION

Since 2007, the U.S. Forest Service, through its International Programs, has been working closely with Egypt's governmental, and non-governmental organizations to increase natural resource management expertise through technical assistance and exchange opportunities. USFS technical teams have worked on protected area management and planning, interpretive design, visitor and recreation management, green roof experimentation, and wildlife conservation.

The U.S. Forest Service works throughout the Middle East and North Africa on natural resource management issues including protected area management, tree and shrub nursery development and reforestation, environmental education, sustainable grazing and rangelands, and disaster management.

2015 PROGRAMS IN EGYPT

The U.S. Forest Service is assisting the Hurghada Environmental Protection and Conservation Association (HEPCA) with the design and development of a "bio-boat," an innovative marine conservation classroom on a boat on the Red Sea. The "bio-boat" will aim to educate visitors, school groups, and local youth about conserving Egypt's environment and natural resources. U.S. Forest Service will provide mentorship and curriculum development assistance to HEPCA's education specialist.



The Hurghada Environmental Protections and Conservation Association's "Bio boat," is a floating environmental education classroom moored in the Red Sea. Photo courtesy of HEPCA.

