

COUNTRY : Egypt
REGISTRATION NUMBER: 6214**What are the laws or regulations regarding biodiversity in your region?****How are they addressed?****To what extent must specific issues regarding biodiversity be included in the EIA?****In your region, is there any reference or requirement related to “no net biodiversity loss” criteria?**

The development of a new power plant can only commence if a permit has been granted by the appropriate Competent Administrative Authority (CAA). Egyptian **Law 4 of 1994**, and its amending **Law 9 of 2009**, Law for the Environment stipulates that applying for a license from an individual, company, organization or authority are subject to certain conditions and require an assessment of the likely environmental impacts assessment (ESIA) for the Project.

The Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) is the authority responsible for determining the type of development that requires an environmental appraisal and the level of detail at which the study should be conducted. The EEAA publication “Guidelines for Egyptian Environmental Impact Assessment” stipulate that “..... thermal power plants falls within the category of “C Listed Projects”. This category requires a full ESIA to be submitted to the Competent Administrative Authority (CAA) (i.e. the Egyptian Electricity Holding Company (EEHC) for this type of projects) or the Licensing Authority (which, for such type of project in the designated area, is the Kafr Esh-Sheikh Governorate) in support of any application for a permit to develop a power plant). The ESIA must analyze the impacts and specify what mitigation measures (if any) are necessary in order to minimize them.

Since the proposed power plant has a nominal generating capacity of 4800 Mwe, a full ESIA was prepared and submitted to the Kafr El-Sheikh Governorate and EEHC for consideration prior to development of the plant.

EEHC is, also, required to forward the ESIA to the EEAA for review in order to obtain the environmental permit for the development of the power plant.

This ESIA Report was prepared in line with the Agency's Guidelines for Egyptian Environmental Impact Assessment and World Bank IFC guidelines and performance standers (**WB/IFC-PS**).

The environmental policy, legal and administrative framework which is relevant to the permitting of the power plant comprises the following:

- Requirement to conduct an ESIA to accompany the development of the power plant;
- Regional development planning, which must be addressed in the development of the power plant, in particular:
 - Land use planning and control:
 - Sitting
 - protection of environmentally sensitive areas;
 - protection of endangered species; *and*
 - Integrated Coastal Zone Management.

Environmental standards which must be considered in the design, layout, construction and operation of the power plant, including:

- Atmospheric emissions;
- Generation and disposal of liquid effluents, including cooling water;
- Generation and disposal of solid wastes;
- Ambient environmental quality; *and*
- Health & Safety.

INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL CONVENTIONS RELATED TO PRESERVING BIODIVERSITY:

Since 1936, Egypt always participates as member “party” in the main international and regional conventions and agreements. Before ratification of the **UNCBD** (united nations convention on biological diversity), Egypt ratified many agreements and conventions, **including:**

- Convention on the preservation of fauna and flora in their natural state, London, 1933 (ratified in 1936).
- Agreement on establishing general fisheries council for the Mediterranean, Rome, 1951.
- International Plant Protection Convention, Rome, 1953. International Convention on preventing oil pollution into the seas, London, 1963.
- Phyto-sanitary Convention for Africa, Kinshasa, 1968.
- African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, Algeria, 1968 (ratified in 1972).
- Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution, Barcelona, 1976 (ratified in 1978)
- Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Washington, 1973.
- Protocol concerning Mediterranean, especially protected areas. Geneva, 1983 (ratified in 1986)
- Convention on Wetland of International Importance, especially Waterfowl Habitat (RAMSAR), (Rasmsar, Iran, 1972), (ratified in 1988).
- Convention of the Conservation of the Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), Bonn, 1979 (ratified 1982).
- United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Montego Bay, Jamaica, 1982 (ratified in 1983)
- Convention on Biological Biodiversity, Rio de Janeiro, 1992. (ratified in 1994). After ratification of the UNCBD Egypt involved in some other related agreements and conventions such as:
- Agreement on the Establishment of the Near East Plant Protection Organization, Rabat, Morocco, 1993 (ratified in 1995).
- International Tropical Timber Agreement. Geneva, 1994 (ratified in 1996).
- Protocol concerning specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean, Barcelona, 1995.