

Rural communities' Traditional knowledge to deal with the Environment in Arab Republic of Egypt

An overview of the Traditional knowledge in Egyptian Regions.

- Egypt's history dates back to about 4000 years BC. Ancient Egyptians were distinguished by many innovations for environmental adaptation, which includes quarrying, surveying, and construction techniques that supported the construction of massive pyramids, temples and obelisks, a system of mathematics, a practical and efficient system of medicine, irrigation systems and agricultural production techniques, wooden boat making, Egyptian ceramics and glass technology, where ancient Egypt left a long lasting legacy to humankind that included various aspects of Egyptian civilization, art and architecture on a large scale, and transferred its impacts to distant parts of the world.
- Egyptian generations inherited this traditional knowledge to deal with the surrounding environment and its pristine nature. They extracted the region's natural resources and enabled to obtain a vast variety of high quality goods of all kinds from the surrounding natural environment in sustainable manner through inherited traditional methods, showing the intertwined homogeneous relationship between the region's communities and their surrounding natural environmental ecosystems.



The ASA experiences environmental audit on the implemented projects by the Egyptian government to benefit from the inherited traditional environmental knowledge of Egyptian rural communities

- The executive policy of the Egyptian state included many projects and initiatives to benefit from the inherited traditional experiences of these rural communities peoples in Egypt and benefit from their environmental knowledge and their inherited traditional methods to protect the environment and biodiversity.
- The environmental audit conducted by ASA reviewed to what extent it is possible to exploit the Egyptian rural communities people's environmental knowledge and their inherited traditional audit to protect the environment and biodiversity through projects and initiatives to benefit from the inherited traditional experiences in Egyptian regions, some of them hereinafter:

A business incubator project for owners of sustainable craft project ideas that can be applicable

- The implementation of a business incubator project for owners of sustainable project ideas that can be applicable or create a sustainable positive impact in some remote areas that included New Valley, Luxor, and Suhag governorates of Egypt. The project aims to:
 - Helping innovators and entrepreneurs transform their ideas into products, business models, or businesses with a positive impact in the surrounding environment.
 - Developing new creative ideas and supporting them in the establishment stage or helping to expand existing projects, which aim to sustainable exploitation of environment.
 - Connecting creative designers with manufacturers of handicrafts and heritage to develop them in five sectors: (handmade kilims, Talli, alabaster, khayamiya and pottery)
 - Displaying sustainable products, projects, and ideas to be displayed in international exhibitions.



Business incubator program for emerging projects in the villages of Benban - Aswan

- Providing technical support services in the field of entrepreneurship for some emerging projects in the villages of Benban, Aswan, in a way that ensures the principle of sustainability for their projects.
- The owners of the projects participating in the 'Banarir' Business Incubator were honored and given certificates of appreciation and financial support checks to complete the implementation and sustainability of their work.

Business incubator for transformation projects of palm wastes to high quality products

- The Egyptian state's program as an incubator for palm-related products and crafts activities and manufacture of fruit, and vegetable cages. The program aims to develop the innovative methods for date's production, including date molasses and date kernel coffee. In addition to, the projects to reuse other palm outputs of Arjun, fronds, and palm leaves in the production of handicrafts and palm seedlings to be able to achieve high-quality production of dates



Audit Results:

The audit concluded that inherited traditional knowledge plays a vital role in environmental management in Egypt. These communities and remote regions people are accustomed to the ability to adapt to the surrounding environment and develop sustainable methods to extract ecosystem services essential for survival and preservation of pristine natural resources, and biodiversity through a group of inherited traditional practices, which includes rotational grazing strategies, water-harvesting techniques, and traditional methods of pest control. The audit also found that incorporating traditional knowledge into environmental auditing could enhance the effectiveness of audits. Traditional knowledge provides auditors with a deeper understanding of the local environment and can help identify potential risks to the environment that might otherwise be overlooked.

- Many workshops have been conducted ,aiming to link creative designers with the manufacturers of patrimonian handicrafts to develop them in five sectors: (handmade kilims, Talli, alabaster, khayamiya and pottery)
- Sustainable products, projects, and ideas were displayed in international exhibitions in Berlin, Rome, and U.S. as part of Creative Egypt Program.
- Providing a permanent exhibition for the handicraft, heritage products, and industrial clusters products of these communities, also, helping them to promote their sustainable products and ideas.
- Providing funds for some successful projects that depend on pristine nature with sustainable manner, such as clusters for Molasses industry.

Recommendations:

- Expansion of using inherited knowledge in environment treatment in traditional way, away from destructive equipment and materials, also their ability to protect the environment from its wastes through traditional and inherited methods that enable rural communities to recycle those wastes and transform them to handmade products that are characterized by art and creativity. Furthermore, their ability to extract the natural resources to obtain a vast variety of high quality goods of all kinds from the surrounding natural environment in sustainable manner with not only preserving its pristine nature but also helping it to develop.
- Expansion in conducting workshops to link creative designers with the manufacturers of handicrafts and heritage.
- Encouragement of displaying the Sustainable products, projects, and ideas in the international exhibitions.