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THE ROLE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN BIODIVERSITY IN EGYPT

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Abstract

Biodiversity serves as important source of food. It provides people with basic ecosystem goods and services. Biodiversity is a key component of the "environmental health" pillar of sustainable development. In Egypt, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina Planetarium Science Center (PSC) has given special attention to global issues through ongoing and annual activities and events. Egyptian biodiversity signals the characters of three bio-geographical zones, Western Palearctic, Eastern Palearctic and Afrotropical. Egypt's first national assessment of biodiversity at the ecosystem level was carried out during 1996 - 1998 as part of weighing the completeness of coverage and status of existing protected areas (PAs) network as the main vehicle for biodiversity conservation. During the past three decades, Egypt has paid increasing attention to environmental issues at both official and popular levels aiming to improve the ethical management of our ecosystems and which are affected by many factors. A national biodiversity strategy was established aiming to conserve and to sustainably manage our natural heritage. Conservation of critical ecosystems and biodiversity has been mandated by regional and international conventions that necessitate the establishment of a network of protectorates to protect and conserve ecosystems, representative habitats, threatened species, cultural heritage sites and traditional knowledge. About GM technology in plants; we fear from the possibility of gene flow to close relatives of transgenic plants, the possible undesirable effects of the exotic genes or traits.

Promoting awareness and improved ethical management of our ecosystems for development is essential and this includes various issues such as atmosphere, land resources, agriculture, biodiversity, sea and fresh water resources, toxic chemicals, hazardous wastes, solid wastes and sewage. A national natural history museum, a national gene bank, regulations of the import and export trade in wildlife products and careful programs for conservation of medicinal plants; are all needed in Egypt.

Keywords: Science and Technology, Biodiversity, Activities, Egypt.

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