9 - Wadi Al -Alaqi in Aswan Governorate

Date of Announcement: 1989
Area: 30000 Km^2
Type: Desert Protected Area and Biosphere Reserve
Distance from Cairo: 950 Km

This Wadi is a large dry river that use to rise from the Red Sea hills especia Elba mountain. After the constructio of the High Dam and filling lake Nase with water, the water flowed into Wad Al -Alaqi and it became part of th Lake. Since the water level became lo in the lake, the water has gone down a great part of the Wadi and accordingly it became uncovered with water. It has greenery, its soil is rich and it is a kind of pasture for animals. Wadi Al-Alaqi is a good example for dry lands, however it exhibits an astounding picture of botanical variety. 92 species of plants have been reported.

10 - The Petrified Forest Area in Maadi ±Cairo

Date of Announcement: 1989
Area: 7 Km^2
Type: Geological protected area and a national heritage
Distance from Cairo: 30 Km

The Rocky wood Area is abundant of dense rocky stems of trees in the formation of the wood mountain that belongs to the Oligocene epoch. It consists of layers of sand, gravel, mud and rocky wood with a thickness of 70-100 meters. It is significantly rich with remains and stems of large rocky trees, taking the shape of rocks with cylindrical sections varying in dimension from a few centimeters up to several meters. They are grouped together in a rocky-wood.

Thus, the formation of the rocky wood in Maadi is most probably attributed to one of the ancient branches of the River Nile from ancient geological era. It carried those trees along and threw them in that place where they were buried and changed into rocks.

11 - Wadi Al -Asioutty Protected Area in Asiout Governorate

Date of Announcement: 1989
Area: 35 Km^2
Type: Captive and multipurpose protected area
Distance from Cairo: 400 Km

The protected Area is divided into two major sections:

- Captive and Breeding wild animals: There are possibilities o captive and breeding Egyptian dee mountain goats, bighorn, ostrich, zeb and some reptiles.
- Captive and plant genes: Since there is a need to collect plant genes threatened with extinction, especially palm trees, some types of trees, bushes, plantations, cactus, juicy plants and medical and aromatic plants that are genes of important economic crops, several types of them have been planted in the protected area where the wild genes are collected from the vicinity for reproduction.

12- Wadi El-Rayan Protected Area in Fayoum Governorate

Date of Announcement: 1989
Area: 1759 Km^2
Type: Developing management resources protected area and a natural national heritage
Distance from Cairo: 150 Km

Wadi El-Rayan area is characterized by its integrated desert environment consisting of sand dunes, natural springs, large water bodies and a different botanical life, different wild animals and important and various sea fossils. The area of El-Rayan lake is a calm natural environment and free of pollution. Wadi El- Rayan consists of the following important areas:

- Waterfall Area: this area was formed due to the gathering of farming drainage waterfalls. It is a place for various sea sports.
- The area of Oyoun El-Rayan: consists of long dense movable sand dunes. It has four natural sulfuric springs. It is characterized by the existence of plant groups that contain 15 species of desert plants and about 15 types of wild mammals like the white deer, the Egyptian deer, sand fox, red fox and others, and 16 species of reptiles, and over 100 species of resident and migrating birds.
- The Area of El-Rayan mountain El-Mashgaeega Mountain: It includes deep canyons known as split rock. It is one of the favorite places to see a panorama of Wadi El Rayan and picnics.
- Wadi Al-Hitan: It is an Area of fossils in the western north of Wadi El Rayan protected Area, it dates back to 40 million years. These fossils of petrified primitive whales skeletons, shark teeth, shells and other sea animals that are considered as an open museum. The roots of Mangroves preserved in soft rocks.

The importance of Wadi El-Rayan is attributed to the fact that it is a natural environment for animals threatened with extinction like white deer, Egyptian deer, sand fox, wolf and rare migrating birds like shahin falcon, deer falcon, free falcon, and other types of migrating birds like some kinds of ducks, quail, some kinds of herons, goats and others. Wild plants: like Aqool, zygoghyllum, Athl Tomarex, Halfa, Ghatdaa, Ghaab, Sammaar, reed and others.

13 - Quaron Lake Protected Area in El-Fayoum Governorate

Date of Announcement:1989
Area: 1385 Km^2
Type: Wetlands
Distance from Cairo: 90 Km

It is one of the ancient natural lakes the world . It is the remaining part o the ancient Morris lake. It is globally renowned for the abundance of se river, continent fossils which dat back to 40 million years like El-Fayoum Giant animal which resembles rhinoceros. There was a huge river mouth that had sedimentary cycles upon which the ancient elephants ancestors, sea horse and dolphins, also sharks and birds ancestors which live in Africa. The fossils of Egyptobethks, the oldest monkey in the world appeared and it dates back to the Oligocene periad, and the existence of some Petrified trees. In this Area, there is a large variety of kinds of reptiles, amphibians and mammals that have a great importance in the environmental system of the protected area. The existence of a lot of historical monuments "North Qaroon Lake represents cultural heritage that is utilized in Tourism. They date back to the Roman and Pharanoic Period, Qarut Al Area in the North East of the Lake, the area of churches and Lifa Monastery.

14 - Hassana Dome Protected Area in Giza Governorate

Date of Announcement: 1989
Area: 1 Km^2
Type: Geological protected area
Distance from Cairo: 23 Km

Hassana Dome protected Area is a museum and specialized scientific institute that helps in studying geology and different geological formations like folds, Foults, also the can be compared with similar formations in other places. The existence of fossils gathering in perfect reserved colonies, makes Hassona Dome a perfect area for studying fossils science or the science of paleo life and also the features of the ancient environment and the extent of climate change which took place in the Area, especially the cretaus period ,which characterized this area.

The colonies of coral reefs fossils that characterized this area are the best guiding fossils that refer to the paleo environment, so these Morine fossils represent a complete record of the Ancient history.

15 - Wadi Sanor Cave Protected Area in Beni Sueif Governorate

Date of Announcement: 1992
Area: 12 Km^2
Type: Geological protected area and national heritage
Distance from Cairo: 200 Km

The protected area contains geological formations known as stalactites and stalgmites in a perfect beautiful way that formed through million years. It formation dates back to the middle Eocene period about 60 million years. As a result of the leakage of calcium carbonate saturated water solution through the roof of the cave, then evaporated leaving behind those minerals that accumulated taking the shape of stalactites and stalgmites. The cave extends for 700m. It is 15m wide and 15 m deep. The importance of this cave is attributed to the rarity of these natural formations in the Egypt. They shed light on the circumstances of the ancient climate in this area and the age of its formation. It gives the researchers the chance to make comparative detailed studies according to the change in the nature of the Ancient environmental circumstances that dominated the middle Eocene period.

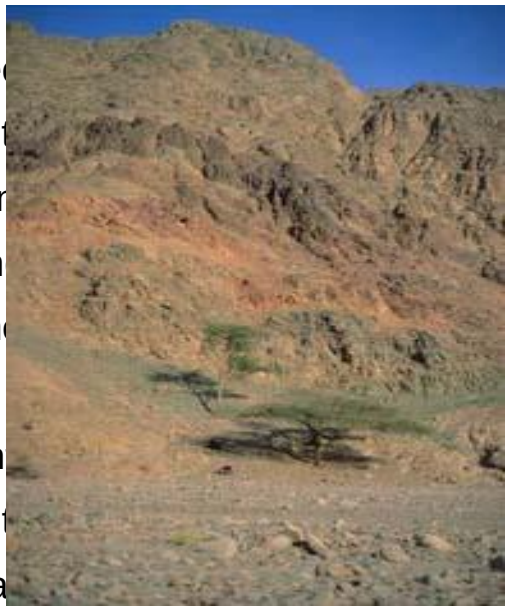
16 - Nabq Protected Area in South Sinai Governorate

Date of Announcement: 1992
Area: 600 Km^2
Type: Multipurpose protected area
Distance from Cairo: 500 Km

Nabq protected Area is characterized by a number of important environmental systems like: coral reefs, sea and land creatures, large dense mangrove woods. It includes environmental systems of desert mountain andvalleys, and animals like deer, mountain goat, hyena, reptiles and a lot of migrating and resident birds beside invertebrates. Some nomad tribes live in this area. The area is a center of tourist attraction for amateurs of diving, safari and bird watching.

17 - Abu Gallum Protected Area in South Sinai Governorate

Date of Announcement: 1992
Area: 500 Km^2
Type: landscape protected area
Distance from Cairo: 500 Km



The importance of Abu- Gallum area is represented in the existence of a spe Topography. The mountains are near t beaches and include various environmer systems of coral reefs, sea creatures, sea h lagoons, mountain and desert environm systems. The mountains and valleys are abundant of wild animals, birds and plan which make the area a tourist attraction for t amateurs of diving, safari as well as bird a animal watching. The area comprises around 165 species of plants including 44 that only exist in this area. The area is known for the cave system existing under the water for more than 100 m. deep. This system is unstable and extremely dangerous. Therefore, it is necessary to maintain this cave system and the environmental system of the area, which is an elem tourist attraction.

18 - Taba Protected Area in South Sinai Governorate

Date of Announcement: 1998
Area: 3595 Km^2
Type: Desert and natural heritage protected area
Distance from Cairo: 550 Km

The area is characterized by its distinguished Geological formations and monument sites that date back 5000 years ago, as well the rare wild life and nice scenery and traditional heritage of nomads: Some of the valleys are significant as a support for wild life like deer, large birds including bustard. These valleys have important plant communities like acacia. 72 species of plants have been recorded in water valley including Ba'ataran, Ratam and Rimth. In the adjacent areas there is a big group of plants amounting to 480 species. A group of hills that are over 1000 m. high exist in the area. They are beautiful enough to attract all kinds of tourists. The rocks have several splits and crossed separations, and represent a habitat for plants and animals. The animals of the area include hyrax, Nubian ibex, wol, hyena, deer and others. There are some wild birds like Egyptian vulture, eagle Brearded vulture and the golden eagle on top of mountains. The area is also distinguished with a group of water springs like Hadra spring in Wadi Ghazala and Oum Ahmed spring in Wadi Elswana, Fortaga spring in Wadi Wateer, which can be easily visited, and flow on the ground surface.

19 - El-Brolus Protected Area in Kafr El-Sheikh Governorate

Date of Announcement:1998
Area: 460 Km^2
Type: wetlands protected area
Distance from Cairo: 300 Km

El-Brolus lake is the second large natural lagoon in Egypt. It has number of environments includin saline and cane swamps as well sand plains. On the Lagoon shor there arehigh sand dunes. Each c these environments has its own s characteristics. This reflects on the importance of these environments as a natural place for almost 135 amphibious plant species. The wetland environments have a significant role in receiving immigrating wild birds.

20 - Nile River Islands Protected Area in DifferentGovernorate

Date of Announcement:1998
Area 160 Km^2
Type: Wet lands protected area
Distance from Cairo: 144 islands in different Governorate

The Nile River islands are natural protected ar amounting to 144 islands in different Governora in Egypt. Alongside the main stream from Asw until the Barrages, there are 95 Islands within ar of 32500 Feddans. In Rasheed branch there ar islands within an area of 3400 Feddans, Damietta Branch there are 19 islands within a area of 1250 Feddans. The total area of all the River islands is 37150 Feddans.

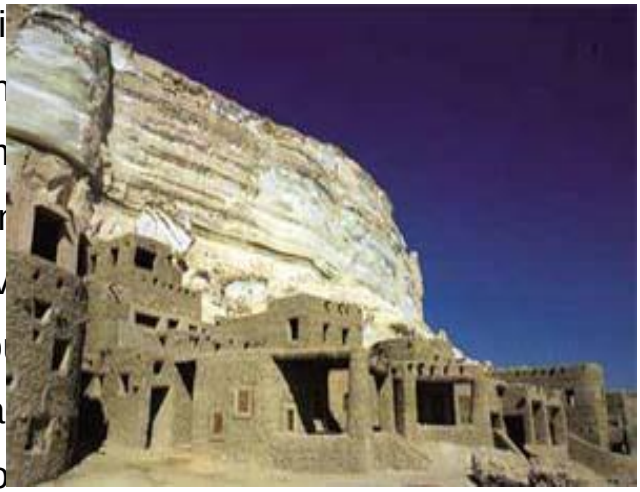
21- Wadi Degla Protected Area in Cairo Governorate

Date of Announcement: 1999
Area: 60 Km^2
Type: Desert lands protected area
Distance from Cairo: 10 Km

Wadi Degla is one of the important valleys which extend from east to west with a length of 30 k It passes through the limestone rocks that remained in the marine environment during t Eocene Epoch in the eastern desert (60 mill years). Therefore, it is rich with fossils. The height of these rocks alongside the valley is around m. A group of valleys flew into this valley. Th valley has a group of animals including mamm like dear, taital, mountain rabits, red fox, feather tailed rat, oviparous, barbed rat, little tailed bat and others. Among the insects there are and many others. 18 species of reptiles have been recorded. The rain water dropping from the waterfalls affected the limestone rocks along the years and formed the so called canyon Degla, which resembles the Grand Canyon in the U.S.

22 - Natural Siwa Protected Area in Matrouh Governorate

Date of Announcement: 2002
Area: 7800 Km^2
Type: Desert and cultural protected area
Distance from Cairo: 800 Km



Siwa Oasis is one of the areas rich wi distinguished tourists attraction including monuments tourism therapeutic tourism, safari tourism ar desert tourism, due to its distinctiv monuments area such as Amo temple as well as the scriptures a paintings of kings offering sacrifice to Gods. The hall of crowning Alexander the Great, the Dead Mountain in Aldakrour area, which has some ancient mummeries and tombs from the Roman age, having a group of coins and old jewelry . There is also Deheba area which includes tombs engraved in the rocks from the Greek Roman era, and also Khamisa area including a group of tombs dating back to the Greek age. The biological variety of Siwa is characterized by the existence of more than 40 species of wild plants including medical, pastoral and other plants that help stabilize sand. Some of them have significant genetic origins, besides mimosa and Athl trees. Moreover, there are around 28 species of wild mammals, some of them are threatened with extinction like hyena, Egyptian deer, white deer, red fox and, in addition 32 reptiles and around 164 species of birds besides numerous invertebrates and insects.

23 - Natural White Desert Protected Area in El Wady EL Gedid

Date of Announcement: 2002
Area: 3010 Km^2
Type: Desert and landscape protected area
Distance from Cairo: 570 Km

The importance of the white desert area is attributed to the fact that it is a unique model of the Karst phenomenon. It is an open museum for studying desert environments, geographical phenomena, fossils and wild life. It has relics and tombs that date back to prehistory and include a group of rare tombs and caves remains of ancient mummies and carvings. The area is distinguished with the beauty of the sand dunes. Geological formations of bright white limestone rocks and distinctive fossils. The white desert area has aground of white chalk where the geological formations are spread in the shape of snowy white chalk columns formed by the act of wind and sloppy hills, a matter which gives the area a unique nature and geological position. Al-Farafra fall crosses the white chalk layer which is a part of an obviously spread rocky unit known as the chalk unit.

24 - Wadi El Gemal - Hamata Protected Area

Date of Announcement: 2003
Area: 7450 Km^2
Type: Desert protected area
Distance from Cairo: 850 Km

The Protected Area encompasses the segment of the Red Sea coastal plain and mountains extending roughly between 24°51'N in the north and 24°06'N in the south; and between the Red Sea shoreline in the east to about 34°28'E in the west (the Sheikh Shazli road). The protected area also encompasses a section of the marine environment including the islands of Hamata and Wadi El Gemal Island.

The protected area includes marine and terrestrial components. The terrestrial component encompasses roughly a 50 X 50 km segment of the Red Sea hills and coastal desert. Wadi El Gemal and its delta are the central theme of the protected area and the area encompasses the entire watershed of the wadi. However, the protected area takes in other adjacent desert and marine habitats,

which complement the wadi, both ecologically and functionally (i.e. in terms of representing a meaningful management unit). Wadi El Gemal is the third largest wadi in the Eastern Desert draining into the Red Sea, and one of the best vegetated, with an estimated watershed area of some 1,840 km² (GEF 1998). The wadi watershed includes the northern flanks of Gebel Hamata in the south, as well as the southern flanks of Gebel Nugrus in the north. Several other important wadis are encompassed in the protected area such as Wadi Abu Ghosoun, Wadi El Ringa and Wadi El Rada. Several important peaks are included such as Gebel Hamata Gebel Nugrus, Gebel Hafafit, Gebel Hamamid, Gebel Sartut and Gebel Sikeit. The shores of the region are heterogeneous in nature encompassing rocky, sandy and muddy beaches. The coastline has several important landmarks such as the headlands of Ras Baghdadi and Ras Hankorab, and Sarm El Luli bay. The marine component of the protected area encompasses a strip of marine waters of an average width of 15 km. This component includes all the important coral reefs in the region, as well as four marine islands (the Hamata archipelago and Wadi El Gemal Island).

25 - Red Sea Northern Islands

Date of Announcement:2006
Area: 1991 Km^2
Type: Developing resources protected area

26 - El Gulf El Kebeer

Date of Announcement:2007
Area: 48523 Km^2
Type: Natural and Cultural National Park Protected Area

27 - El-Dababya

Date of Announcement:2007
Area: 1 Km^2
Type: Geological protected area

28 - El-Salum

Date of Announcement:2010
Area: 383 Km^2
Type: Marine protected area

29 - El-Wahat El-Bahreya

Date of Announcement:2010
Area: 109 Km^2
Type: Natural Heritage protected area

30 - Mount Kamel Meteor Protectorate

Date of Announcement:2012

Reference

EEAA. (2021).Ministry of Environment Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency