



INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS OFFICE | EGYPT CLIMATE CHANGE BRIEF

The USDA Forest Service International Programs Office partners with local organizations and communities in Egypt to implement natural resource management projects and build climate resilience through education and awareness raising activities. The Office also provides direct technical assistance and exchange programs to share natural resource management best practices and support professional development. Forest Service activities prioritize women and youth engagement and value indigenous and intergenerational knowledge for finding sustainable solutions to climate challenges.

Egypt is hosting the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) in November. Its greening initiatives “aim to double the per capita share of green spaces throughout Egypt, improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gases, improve the health of citizens and absorb pollutants and fumes.” ([AI-Monitor, Aug 10, 2022](#))

The Forest Service initiatives support the Egyptian government’s green aspirations.

**WHAT WE DO | CONSERVATION EDUCATION TO ACTION**

**CLIMATE EDUCATION & ARTS**

The Forest Service partners with an Egyptian sustainability advocacy organization to raise awareness on the impacts of climate change and to share local knowledge about conservation. The project unearths indigenous and intergenerational knowledge and narratives about local environments, ecosystems, and natural phenomenon to inform climate resilience awareness materials and educational activities. Community members participate in the creation and dissemination of materials such as storyboards, comic books, and video.

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*“It is wonderful to see the old people from El Heiz talking about our village, our history. We are conserving stories and environmental knowledge that will fade away soon”*

—Viewer of El Heiz documentary



The above locally produced and community-inspired comic illustrates the adverse affects of climate change, particularly water scarcity, in Egypt’s desert landscapes.

**URBAN AGRICULTURE & GREEN SPACES**

The Forest Service supports urban farming initiatives with Cairo youth. Youth participants learn about the benefits of urban farming and take part in planting activities.

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*“This is my plant. I planted this, and I will always remember that this was my plant. Every time I come here, I will check on it!”*

—Youth gardening participant



Youth planting participants expressed an eagerness to come back for harvest time. Planting locally reduces the high cost and high carbon footprint of global food production and helps create a sense of ownership and purpose within communities.



## GREEN NETWORKS & COLLABORATIONS

The Forest Service supports a group of conservation and agricultural practitioners from across the Middle East who are expanding and enhancing their urban programs with activities like rooftop gardens, pictured above.



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*I had the chance to witness the real impact of even the tiniest intervention on the community, and its importance.”*

—Julia Hani (left), an urban agriculture practitioner from Lebanon & participant in the Forest Service’s Green Study Tour of Cairo, Egypt.

## CLIMATE ASSESSMENT

The Forest Service has initiated a desktop assessment of climate change in Egypt to outline the major impacts of climate change across the country and to determine actors and programs operating in Egypt. The Forest Service will use the assessment to inform its future programming.

## PARTNERS

We partner with other U.S. government agencies and work with land management agencies, nongovernmental actors, universities and local communities across the globe. We draw expertise from U.S. Forest Service domestic programs.

## THE BENEFITS OF GREEN ROOFTOPS & GARDENS

- ✓ Absorb CO2 and pollutants
- ✓ Improve air quality
- ✓ Help mitigate climate change
- ✓ Increase environmental awareness
- ✓ Expand food production
- ✓ Moderate temperature
- ✓ Enhance architectural aesthetics
- ✓ Provide insulation
- ✓ Decrease energy consumption & costs
- ✓ Reduce storm water runoff
- ✓ Expand viable ecosystems for wildlife

## PRESIDENT’S EMERGENCY PLAN FOR ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE (PREPARE)

*(a U.S. whole-of-government effort to help more than half a billion people in developing countries adapt to and manage the impacts of climate change.)*

- ✓ Strengthen climate information services and early warning systems for people and institutions.
- ✓ Build capacity to mainstream adaptation into policies, programs, and budgets to support locally led adaptation, focusing on the impacts of climate change on food security, water, health, and infrastructure.
- ✓ Help unlock finance to support national, sub-national, and local climate adaptation action.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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