



# EGYPT

## U.S. Forest Service International Programs

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

In 2016, the U.S. Forest Service hosted two Egyptians on our annual international seminars. One participant from the U.S. Embassy in Cairo attended our International Seminar on Climate Change and Natural Resource Management, and another participant from the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency joined our International Seminar on Protected Area Management. Our seminars bring together natural resource professionals from around the world for an engaging, intensive and informative learning experience.

In addition, the U.S. Forest Service conducted two technical assistance visits to both of our community partners. We began the design phase of a hydroponic green roof at RISE, and developed curriculum for environmental education on the bioboat at HEPCA. The U.S. Forest Service is also continuously engaged in remote mentorship and consultation with our partners.

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### OVERVIEW

Egypt lies at the northeast corner of Africa at the junction of four biogeographical regions: Irano-Turanian, Mediterranean, Saharo-Sindian, and Afrotropical. This unique position is enhanced by the Nile, which cuts through the country. The fresh water habitats of the Nile River basin and 1,500 miles of coastline along the Mediterranean and Red Seas endow Egypt with a rich diversity of terrestrial habitats, flora, and fauna. The natural habitats include a variety of important wildlife, including 320 species of migratory bird species, unique coral reefs, sensitive desert vegetation, and endangered species of gazelles, dolphins, turtles, and dugong. Egypt has developed a national system of 30 protected areas that represent over 15 percent of its land area, and more than 70 percent of the country's diverse habitats

### PROGRAM HISTORY

Since 2007, the U.S. Forest Service has been working closely with Egypt's governmental and non-governmental organizations to build capacity in the field of natural resource management through technical assistance and exchange opportunities. U.S. Forest Service technical teams have worked on protected area management and planning, interpretive design, visitor and recreation management, green roof experimentation, and environmental education. The U.S. Forest Service has hosted numerous Egyptian professionals on our international study tours and seminars.

### CURRENT PROGRAMS IN EGYPT

The U.S. Forest Service is working with the American University in Cairo's (AUC) Research Institute for a Sustainable Environment (RISE) to design and construct a hydroponic research green roof on the University's campus, serving as a demonstration site for future replication throughout Cairo. The Forest Service offers technical assistance that helps RISE accomplish its mission of being a living laboratory of natural resource management, renewable energy, and sustainable agriculture in diverse environments, through research, education, and training programs. The U.S. Forest Service also works with the Hurghada Environmental Protection and Conservation Association (HEPCA) on environmental education programming. USFS has worked on the design and the curriculum development of a "bio-boat," an innovative marine conservation classroom on a boat on the Red Sea. The "bio-boat" aims to educate international visitors, school groups, and youth about conserving Egypt's precious environment and natural resources.



*The Hurghada Environmental Protections and Conservation Association's "Bio Boat," is a floating environmental education classroom moored in the Red Sea. Photo courtesy of HEPCA.*