



# CBNRM Schemes: a Tool for Enhancing Bio-cultural Diversity in Egypt's PAs

The Egyptian Italian Environmental Cooperation Project (EIECP) – Phase III

Yousria Hamed, PhD

Manager, EIECP III

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



Nature and Culture Summit

23<sup>rd</sup> of November 2018



# The Egyptian Italian Environmental Cooperation Project (EIECP): a 25-years joint effort for sustainable development in Egypt

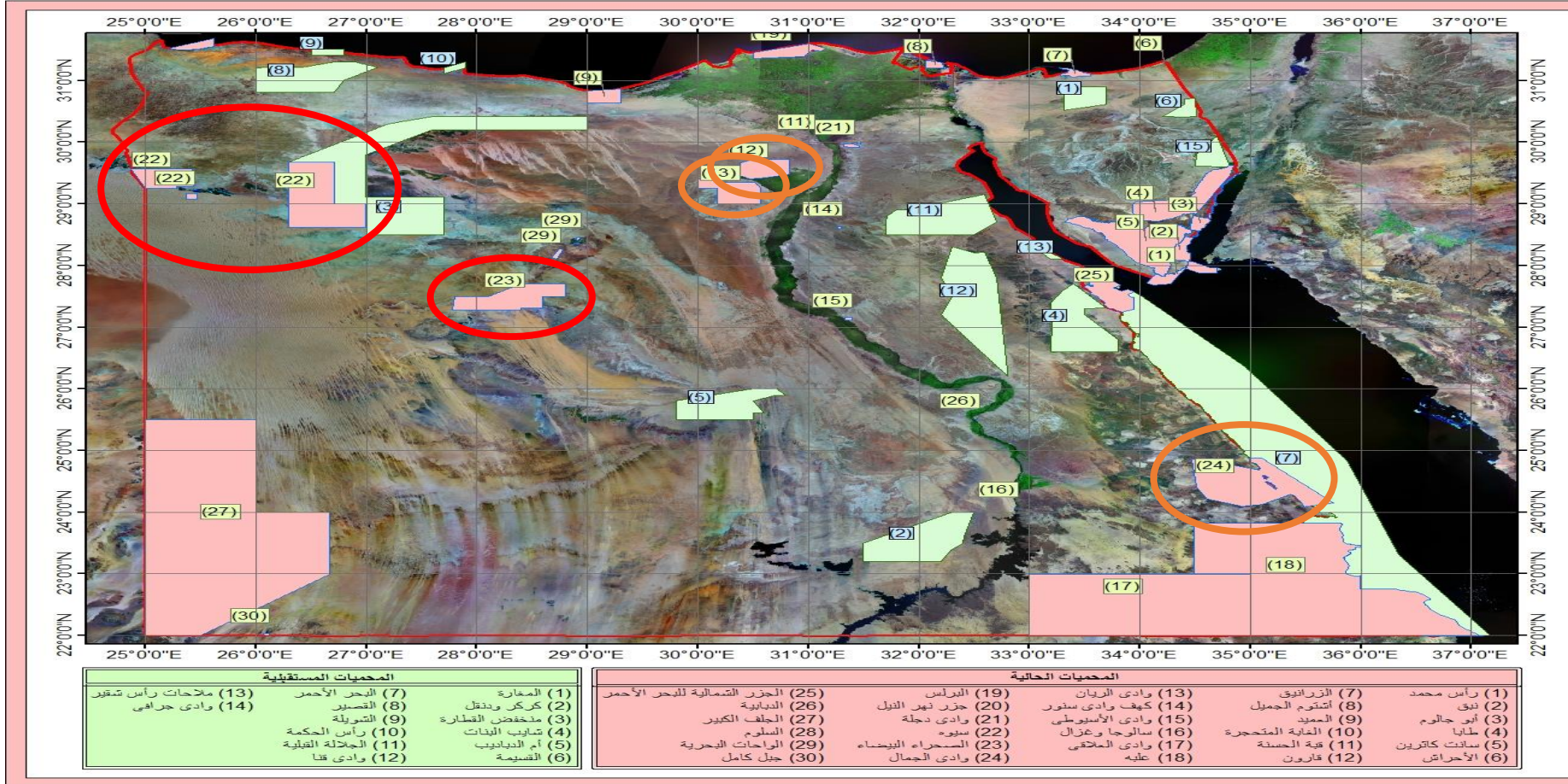
- Ministry of Environment (MoE)
- Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA)
- Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.



وزارة البيئة





# Biocultural diversity



Local communities in Egypt, especially Bedouins, are spread in various places and have developed traditional systems that conserve their local environment, with different “specialization” depending on where they live in the diverse Egyptian environment including mountain and plain deserts, Red and Mediterranean coasts and seas or the Nile Valley and Delta. Egypt's 30 PAs have been selected also to cover this unique diversity.



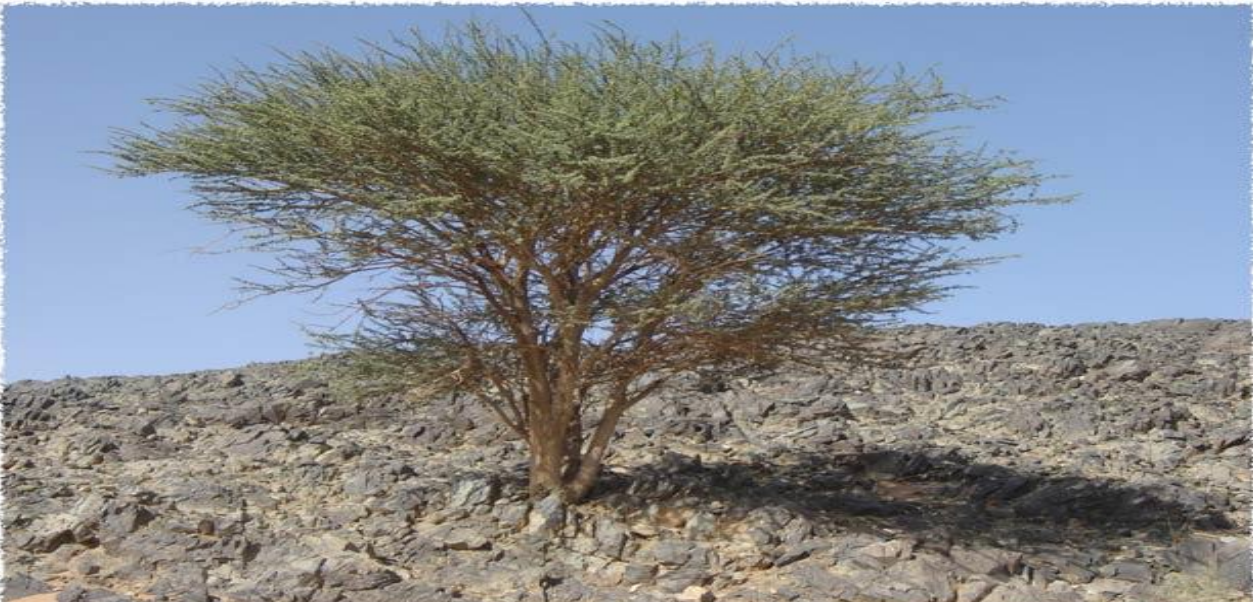
# Traditional natural resources management systems



Heilf is a traditional natural resources management system that is used by all Bedouin communities, from Morocco to the Arabian peninsula.

This system is rooted in the millenary Bedouins traditions and it is embedded in their culture and customary law.

It is adaptive and can suit the different type of resources of the various communities providing effective livelihood means based on the sustainable use of natural resources.



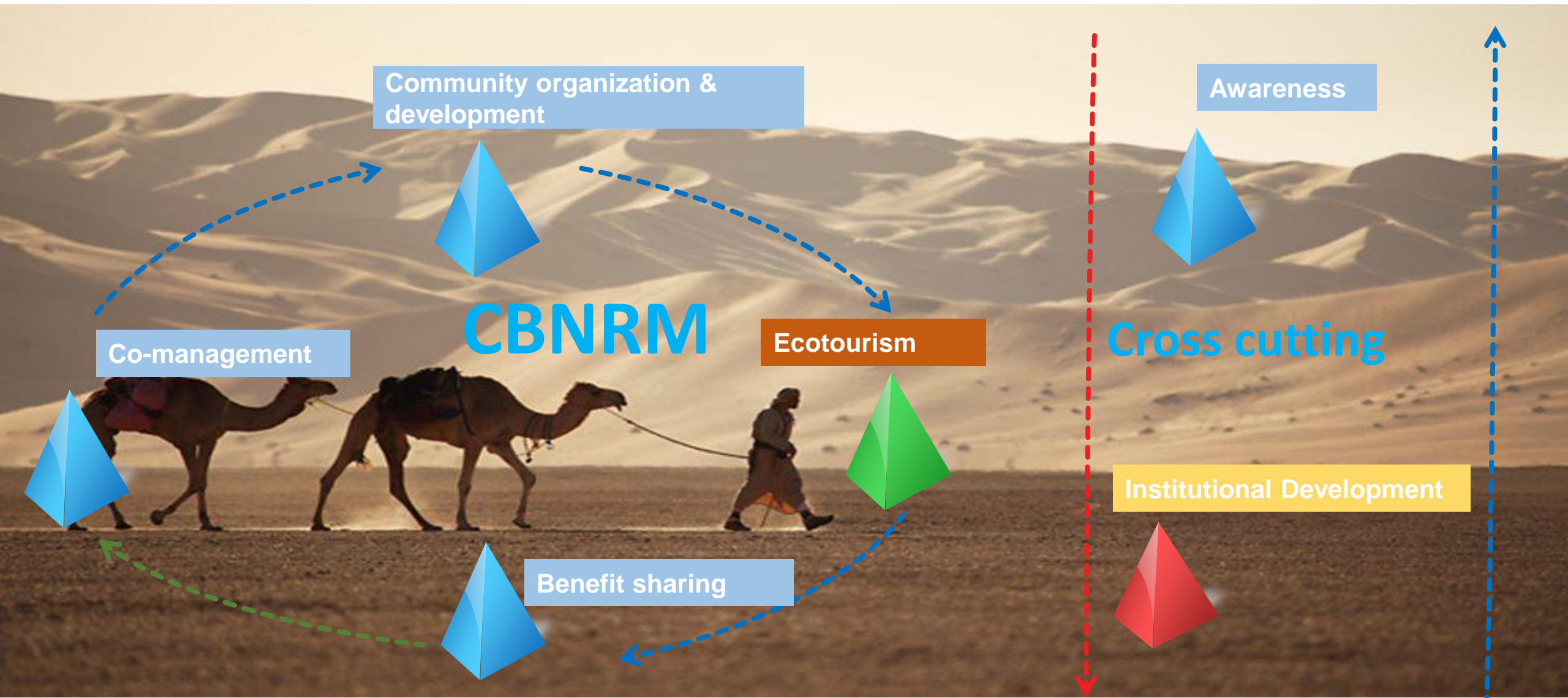


**Community traditions: a value to be preserved like a fossil or a living organism with its potential? How to tap this potential for a sustainable world?**





# Community Based Natural Resources Management scheme



To enhance Egypt's bio-cultural diversity, the project promotes CBNRM schemes that work at the interface between nature, community, and their living culture and establish economically-viable and environmentally-sustainable uses of the local natural resources and cultural heritage.



# CBNRM schemes at work: formally recognized community organizations



Communities need formal institutions that represent their needs and expectations. Authentic institutions are rooted into the community culture and they are the most appropriate interface with other institutions and stakeholders. The community development that we envisage is built around community culture and its capacity to target a changing world



# CBNRM schemes at work: traditional crafting techniques preserved but used for more marketable products for “modern uses”



Leather products were used traditionally to carry bags on camels for transportation now the same products are adapted to new market that are opening for the community through tourism.

On the time of the Bedouin mobile lifestyle they were moving to support their livelihood but now, they are no longer need to travel for business but business is coming to them.



# CBNRM schemes at work: small-scale circular economy





# Conclusions

Each culture has its uniqueness: valorizing it is the actual challenge for development projects. Our project's experience has highlighted approaches and practices to effectively tackle this challenge:

Devote genuine efforts to listen and learn from local communities before deploying development actions;

Support communities to develop their own organizations that can make their voice stronger;

Develop healthy partnerships between Protected Areas and community organization;

Build on existing skills and capacities to effectively tap their potential for nature conservation and livelihood development through integrated CBNRM actions.



**Thank you**

**شكراً جزيلاً**

**[hamedyousria@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hamedyousria@yahoo.co.uk)**