
**ECONOMICS CRITERIA FOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN EGYPT:
ECONOMIC-BASED URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS FOR
STIMULATING MIGRATION FROM THE NARROW NILE VALLEY**

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ABSTRACT: *The Egyptian State has formulated fourteen national mega development projects that focus on three principle themes: First: Projects that aim to realize economic effectiveness and efficiency to stimulate and enhance the national economy, such as the Suez Canal Area Development Project and the Qattara Depression Development Project. Second: Projects that aim to realize social justice, such as the Golden Triangle. Mining Development Project and the Eastern Desert Development Project, which concentrates on developing the Upper Egypt / Red Sea region to create employment opportunities for Upper Egypt's surplus labor force, alleviate rural and urban poverty and ameliorate the low rate of development in Upper Egypt governorates. Third: Projects that aim to safeguard national security, such as the Sinai Development Project. This paper examines and Egypt, Source: General Authority for Urban Planning, 2014 analyzes mega development projects in Egypt and attempts to define the objectives of each project and the economics criteria upon which it is based with a view to assessing the suitability of national development projects to the current situation in Egypt and in light of the future trend towards integrated sustainable development in Egypt. The research reveals that these projects are based on a variety of economics criteria. Since industry plays an effective and enduring in economic development (as opposed to tourism-based economics criteria that are constantly affected by international political developments and security issues), the majority of development projects are industry-based, followed by agriculture, tourism and service-based projects.*

KEYWORDS: Golden Triangle – Suez Canal Corridor Development – Sinai Development – Qattara Depression – El Alamein City.

INTRODUCTION:

The State has proposed a number of mega-projects for urban development in Egypt that aim to transform Egypt into an advanced country with a knowledge economy that is capable of competing on the international arena, a country that is socially balanced and cohesive, that cherishes its national identity, its cultural heritage and its religious and civilizational values. The goal is to create an integrated environmental system and a democratic climate that promote sustainable development and effective community participation to improve the quality of life for all citizens.



Figure 1: Map of Mega National Development Projects in

Statement of the Problem:

The extent to which there exist economics criteria for the mega urban development projects proposed by the Egyptian State to stimulate migration from the Nile Valley is unclear. It is this problem that the present study attempts to address.

Research Objectives:

To detect and define the economics criteria for mega urban development projects developed by the State;

To formulate urban development assistance mechanisms to help promote development of targeted areas

Methodology:

The paper uses exploratory and analytical research methods to detect and define both the types of economics criteria upon which mega urban development projects in Egypt are based and the objectives of these projects.

SECTION ONE: ECONOMICS CRITERIA FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS EAST OF THE NILE.

One of the State's fourteen mega-projects, the Mining Triangle Development Project (to be completed within the present five-year plan), is one of the State's top priority projects. Its importance is derived from the fact that it falls within the category of projects that aim to promote social justice through creating additional employment opportunities, establishing new settlement localities and alleviating poverty in Upper Egypt governorates.

I. The Mining Triangle: Golden Triangle Mining Development Project (Qena / Qeft – Safaga –Al Qoseir).

With the start of the twenty-first century, and in keeping with its role, the Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities' General Authority for Urban Planning decided to intensify its efforts in less developed areas where poverty rates are higher, beginning with the southern valley of the Nile. The “Golden Triangle Mining Development Project (Qena / Qeft – Safaga –Al Qoseir)” was thus developed as one of the national mega-projects that are part of the national plan to alleviate population density in existing urban areas and make optimal use of Egypt's abundant natural resources. The project is to serve as a point of departure for integrated development in the southern valley of the Nile while taking into account the equitable distribution of the fruits of development across the country. This requires a radical transformation in sectoral and spatial development, which will be realized by establishing new urban communities outside of the Nile Valley. The new communities, tightly linked to existing ones in the inhabited Nile Valley and sharing integrated functions, will attract inhabitants and economic activity. This will increase efficiency in the inhabited urban zones on the banks of the Nile and invigorate life outside of the valley, within a

balanced framework of old and new that promotes unified development and optimal use of Egyptian land.

1. Golden Triangle Location:

The Golden Triangle is located in the South Upper Egypt region on the Red

Sea coastal road connecting Egypt's eastern border in the north to its southern border. The Triangle is situated between the Red Sea Governorate on the east and Qena Governorate on the west. Its northern

boundary stretches along 80 km of Red Sea coast (from the outskirts of the city of Safaga in the north to the outskirts of Al Qoseir city in the south) and its



Figure 2: Golden Triangle Location, Source: Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities, 2018 western boundary extends over 155 km the borders of Qena Governorate.

2. Key Project Objective:

The project aims to:

- Create a new economic zone in the region of Upper Egypt (between Qena Governorate in the west and the Red Sea Governorate in the east and between the cities of Safaga in the north and Al Qoseir in the south) that will advance development in all cities of the region
- Attract 6 million inhabitants and generate 2.1 million employment opportunities
- Employ the surplus labor force in Upper Egypt to work on the envisaged development projects in the region
- Create new industrial communities based on the exploitation of the wealth of mineral resources in the region – The location of this triangle is unique; its abundant natural resources make sustainable development of this location an urgent national requirement that will attract investment to the area and transform it into an international economic and industrial center, while making optimal use of Egypt's natural and human resources

3. Location Attributes:

- The area is rich in metallic (iron, manganese, chrome and tungsten) and nonmetallic (phosphate) minerals, precious stones and raw materials for construction, making the exploitation and processing of mining materials a top priority. Proposed industries to be established in the Golden Triangle are: production of phosphates and phosphate fertilizers, ceramic and kaolin industries, marble cutting and polishing, production and processing of cement and shale brick, production of flat glass (transparent, colored and reflective), glassware and silicon.
- The geographic location's unique features give it a competitive advantage; three local and international development corridors stretch through areas rich in mineral resources and link Upper Egypt's populated and agricultural hinterland to coastal regions with outlets on the Red Sea, as follows:
 - The national Cairo / Upper Egypt longitudinal axis east of the Nile – Upper Egypt / Red Sea corridor – the Qena / Safaga corridor – the Qeft / Al Qoseir corridor (latitudinal axes), in addition to the railroad line from Abu Tartour in the New Valley to the Safaga Port that passes through the region
 - Three mining seaports are located in the region (Safaga in the north, El Hamarawein in the center and Al Qoseir in the south), which facilitates the direct export and import of mineral resources.
 - Proximity (distances of under 250 km) to regional (Sohag, for example) and international (Hurghada, Luxor) airport servicing zones

By facilitating both the import (locally or from abroad) of production inputs and raw materials and the export of products and industrial goods to overseas and local destinations, this network

of ports, railways, airports and local and regional transport hubs promotes the localization of integrated mining and extractive industries.

4. Investment projects in the Golden Triangle:

Given the region's geographic location and wealth of mineral resources, development plans for the Golden Triangle are based on setting up the following investment projects:

- a. Creation of an economic / logistic center northwest of Safaga based on mining and extraction activities, to include the following projects: logistic zones – financial and business centers – commercial marketing areas – upscale housing – administrative housing – outdoor recreational spaces
- b. Upgrading the Safaga seaport into an international mining, commercial and tourism port with berths for large yachts and tourism boats
- c. Upgrading Safaga city into an international commercial and industrial destination, as well as a recreational tourism destination
- d. Upgrading El Hamarawein seaport to integrate trade in minerals, sedimentary rocks and products manufactured from extracted materials with the Safaga port
- e. Development of Qoseir seaport into a commercial and passenger port
- f. Development of Al Qoseir city into a world-class environmental tourism destination
- g. Developing Qeft city and the industrial area to the east of it into an industrial center
- h. Development of the New Qena city as a residential center for people involved in mineral and agricultural activities
- i. Creation of a state-of-the-art industrial mining complex on the Safaga / Qena road to house heavy industries, extractive industries and complementary industrial activities and small industries

Based on the above, we conclude that the economics criteria for the Golden

Triangle Project are “industry / commerce” in the first place, followed by “tourism”.

I. Suez Canal Corridor Development Project:

One of the projects that aim to realize economic effectiveness and efficiency to stimulate and enhance the economy, the Suez Canal Corridor Development Project is a huge economic project that will make Egypt an international logistic, industrial and commercial center with an influential role in global trade. The project is based on exploiting and developing the existing potential of the region's ports and industrial areas and its desert hinterland to establish industrial and logistic zones that depend on using the goods and products transported through the Suez Canal. Figure 4: Suez Canal Development Components, Source: Ministry of Included in the project Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities, 2014 are plans to connect

Sinai to the mainland by digging seven tunnels (three in Port Said and four in Ismailia). Proposed industrial activities include building an automobile assembly factory, a glass-manufacturing factory, a pharmaceutical factory, as well as electronics, textile, and furniture and paper factories. Other proposed industries and activities are petroleum refineries, logistic distribution and re-distribution centers, ship service and supply services, and shipbuilding and repair industries. The project's geographic location facilitates communication with regional and international markets. A group of specialized experts will draft investment laws for the project.



1. Project Objectives:

- 1.1. Transform Egypt into a prominent international logistic, industrial and commercial center, thereby invigorating the national economy and enhancing national income
- 1.2. Attract 1.6 million inhabitants and create 5.6 million employment opportunities
- 1.3. Increase the Suez Canal's foreign currency revenues, which go directly into the State Treasury and contribute to expanding the Egyptian national economy
- 1.4. Create new employment opportunities for Egyptian youth and new investment opportunities for national and international companies, divert inhabitants from Cairo and other intensely populated areas to the governorates in the project region and enhance the revenues of these governorates
- 1.5. Increase the value of the Egyptian economy in the region and worldwide by diversifying and expanding current economic activity in the area (particularly in seaports and logistic and industrial centers)

Location Attributes:

- The unique strategic and geographical position of the Suez Canal that connects the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea; a crossroads of three continents

- The high level of confidence enjoyed by the Suez Canal Authority both worldwide and on the regional level
- The location has the advantage of being under the direct protection of the Egyptian Armed Forces (Second and Third Field Armies)
- Strong communications network with big maritime companies and naval entities
- Daily transit of cargo ships is assured, contributing to the project's economic and industrial development (manufacturing value added and complementary industries)

Investment Projects for Suez Canal Corridor Development (to Deduce Economics Criteria for the Project):

The Suez Canal Corridor Development Project comprises:

- Development of the area east of Port Said
- Development of the Technology Valley, New Ismailia city and the Al Amal Village
- Development of the area northwest of the Gulf of Suez.

1. Development of the area east of Port Said:

Development of the area east of Port Said will be through several mega development projects (Figure 5 depicts development plans for the area): Business and Financial Center –

Maritime Services Center

– Recreational Tourism Center for Conferences and Exhibitions – State-of-the-Art Industrial Area – Specialized Scientific

City



2. Development of the Technology Valley, New

Ismailia city and Al

Amal village: Figure 5: West Port Said Development Plan, Source: Ministry of Building the New Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities, 2014

Ismailia city, Al Amal

Village and the Technology Valley.

New Ismailia City

Located on the east bank of the Suez Canal, north of the Technology Valley and 12 km from the existing city of Ismailia

Al Amal Village

This new residential area will be located on the west bank of the Suez Canal about 15 km north of the existing city of Ismailia and about six km south of the Al Fardan Bridge and will be linked to the Port Said – Cairo highway.

- Technology Valley

Covering a total area of 16500 feddans located south of New

Ismailia city, the Technology Valley will house the following investment projects:
International Commercial and Permanent Conference Center – Housing for workers –
High-End and Directors' Housing – High-tech Industries – Complementary

Industries – Small Industries – Cargo Loading and Discharging Area – Administrative
Services – Commercial and Administrative Services – Technology University.

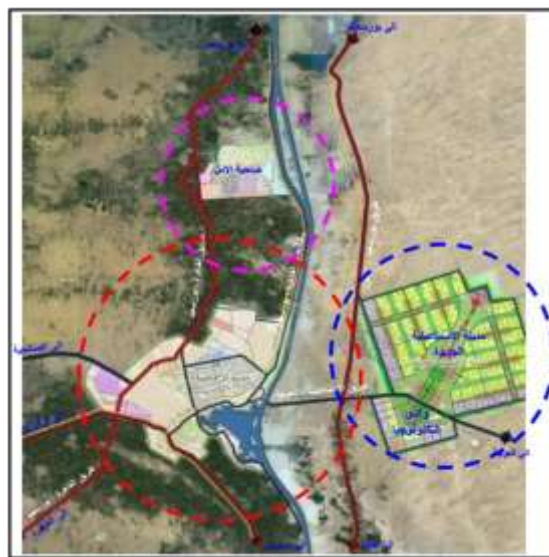


Figure 6: Technology Valley, New Ismailia and Al

3. Development of the Area Northwest Amal Village Location, Source: Ministry of of the Gulf of Suez and Al Sokhna Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities, 2014 Port:

Development of the area northwest of the Gulf of Suez and Al Sokhna seaport covers an area of 46 thousand feddans and comprises the following investment projects:

- An industrial zone housing the following industries:
 - Petrochemical industries
 - Maritime supply and services
 - Manufacture of maritime equipment / safety and rescue equipment
 - Computer component assembly
 - Container manufacture and maintenance
 - Steel rolling and molding / shaping
 - Manufacture of metal structures
 - Manufacture and assembly of overhead winch cranes
 - Manufacture and packaging of fish and fish feed
 - Production of chemical fertilizers - Cement manufacture, packaging and export
- A logistic zone comprising the following projects:

Naval shipyard – Shipbuilding – Container handling – Transit trade – Maritime services (supply, repair and maintenance) – Import – Export – Manufacture – Operation – Assembly – Packaging – Distribution – Storage – Warehouses – Freight – Technical inspection services – Repair and maintenance services
- Tourism and Recreation Activities:

Tourist and hotel accommodations – Recreational areas – International sports activities – Restaurants – Walkway – Cinemas □ A maritime city housing the following:

Maritime services – Marine products marketing – Center for marine research and studies – Manufacture of boats and yachts – Shipbuilding (small ships and yachts) – Shipbreaking and construction of floating platforms – Manufacture of aluminum products – Ship scrapping
- Office Park: Premises for international company headquarters – World-class services – World-class administrative housing – Commercial centers – Banks – High-end housing.

4. Economics criteria for Suez Canal Corridor development:

Based on the Suez Canal Corridor development projects described above, we conclude that the economics criteria for the Suez Canal Corridor Development Project are primarily “commerce / industry”, followed by “services / tourism”.

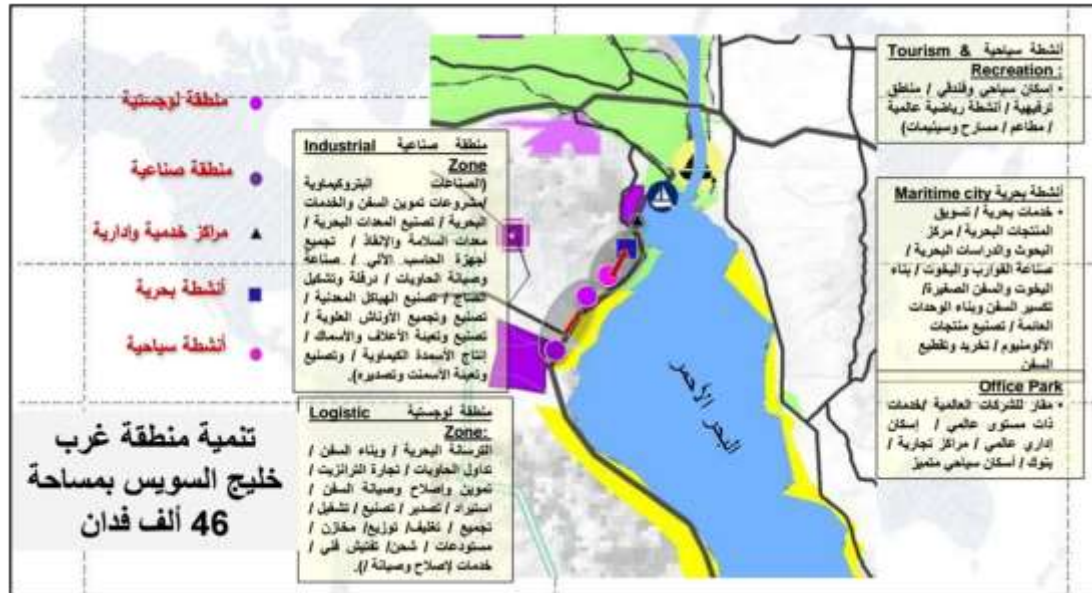


Figure 8: Overall Development Plan for the Area Northwest of the Gulf of Suez and Al Sokhna Seaport Source: Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities, 2014

III. South Sinai Development Plan: Sharm El Sheikh Extension, El Tor Sector and Ras Mohamed:

The South Sinai Development Project falls within the category of projects that aim to realize economic effectiveness and efficiency to stimulate and enhance the national economy.

1. Project Location:

South Sinai, Sharm El Sheikh

Extension, El Tor sector and Ras Mohamed are located at the juncture of the Gulf of Aqaba and the Gulf of Suez.

2. Project Objectives:

-Creation of an integrated urban development center in South Sinai to absorb some of the inhabitants of the densely populated city of Sharm El Sheikh

-Touristic development of some areas of the El Tor / Ras Mohamed sector.



Figure 9: South Sinai Development Sites

3. Economics Criteria for South Sinai Development: Source: Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban

The economics criteria for the Communities, 2014 development of South Sinai revolve around implementing investment projects in the following areas:

1. Sharm El Sheikh extension: Establishment of an international tourist and diving destination
2. Ras Mohamed / El Tor area: Establishment of a world-class aqua sports center, a high-end commercial center and first-class recreational beach tourism facilities
3. El Tor seaport and airport, including regional, industrial and housing services

Therefore, the economics criteria for the South Sinai Development Project are “tourism / services”.

IV. North Sinai Development Plan: North Sinai’s unique location, the fact that it was previously under Israeli occupation and its proximity to

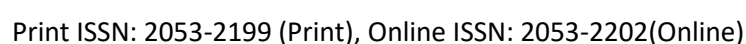




Figure 11: Figure 10 depicts the North Sinai

-Cultural and educational projects, Development Plan.Utilities and Urban Communities, 2014
Source: Ministry of Housing, such as the establishment of El Arish University.

3. Economics Criteria for North Sinai Development

The economics criteria for the development of South Sinai revolve around implementation of the following investment projects:

- Rafah City: establishment of an industrial zone over an area of 100 feddans and commercial storage facilities to serve as market outlets for industrial and agricultural products
- El Sheikh Zuweid: an 80-feddan industrial zone (food industries, construction material industry, sulphur production and economic exploitation of natural gas).
- El Arish: a 250-feddan industrial zone to house assembly industries – workshops – El Arish University

Agricultural development: El Amal Village project with an area of approximately 4000 feddans – The New Suez Canal Culvert Project, an extension of the old Serapeum culvert and the largest ever hydraulic project that will transport irrigation and potable water from the Sinai Canal through ducts passing below the Suez Canal to farms in the area east of the Canal, the Bitter Lakes and New Ismailia. This project will help to revitalize the area east of the Suez Canal and link the two axes of national development (the Nile Valley and the Sinai). In its first stage, it aims to provide water for the reclamation of 70 thousand feddans of agricultural land in the Sinai and by its second stage it will have served to reclaim 100 thousand feddans of agricultural land in the Sinai out of a total of 420 thousand feddans targeted by the National Sinai Development Project.

Based on the above, we conclude that the economics criteria for the North Sinai Development Project are primarily “agriculture”, followed by “industry / commerce”.

V. North Upper Egypt Development

The North Upper Egypt Development Project aims to realize social justice by making the Upper Egypt / Red Sea region a focal point for generating additional employment opportunities for Upper Egypt’s surplus labor force, alleviating urban and rural poverty and

addressing the issue of sluggish development in Upper Egypt governorates. 1. Project Location:

North Upper Egypt Region (El Minya, Beni Suef and El Fayoum governorates) 2. Project Objectives:

- Attract 5 million inhabitants and generate 1.75 million employment opportunities
- Alleviate poverty in Upper Egypt governorates by creating new employment opportunities
- Expand agricultural land area by cultivating 100 thousand feddans in the plain west of El Minya
- Build a group of new urban communities in the plain to the west of El Minya to link the regions east of the Nile to the north of the country (across North Upper Egypt and horizontally through the Zafarana / Al-Koraymat – Ras Ghareb / Beni Mazar / Al Alamein strip).

3. Economics Criteria for the North Upper Egypt Development Project

The North Upper Egypt Development Project is based on implementing the following projects:

- Setting up logistic zones west of El Fayoum and along the Ras Ghareb / Beni Mazar corridor
- Creating industrial complexes (mining industries, petrochemical industries, agro-industries and environmental industries)
- Establishing poultry farms in the hinterland of El Fayoum Governorate as part of the integrated plan for establishing poultry farms outside of the Nile Valley and Delta
- Building three wind energy farms on the eastern and western banks of the Nile in El Minya Governorate
- Cultivating 100 thousand feddans in El Minya's western plain, planting aromatic and medicinal plants and using wells and treated water for irrigation



VI. Lake Nasser District (Aswan High Dam) and South Egypt Development Project:

1. Project Location:

- Generate about 2.45 million employment opportunities in South Upper Egypt governorates and attract 5 million inhabitants

- Complete the Toshka Project to recover its economic returns

-Expand the agricultural land area 3. Economics Criteria for the Project:

Economics criteria for the project are based on implementation of a number of investment projects:

Agricultural:

Exploitation of agricultural regions in Toshka, Qastal, on the banks of Lake Nasser Industry:

Creation of a strong industrial base in the region by establishing industrial zones to exploit existing natural resources: construction materials in the region of Wadi El Allaqi, Toshka agricultural products in the region of Wadi WAER – Building a fishing fleet that uses clean

fuel to fish in Gerf Hussein Seaport – Fish processing / freezing and packaging factories to exploit the produce.

Tourism:

The Nuba region has a wealth of tourism assets and has been added to the map of Egypt's tourist attractions.

It is evident from the above that the economics criteria for the Lake Nasser District (Aswan High Dam) and South Egypt Development Project are “industry

/ agriculture / tourism”.

VII. Development of the Hala'ib & Shalateen and Ras Hadraba Region: This is one of the projects that aims to safeguard national security.

1. Project Location:

The project is located on Egypt's southern border with Sudan and is a fluvial and land crossing point between the two countries.

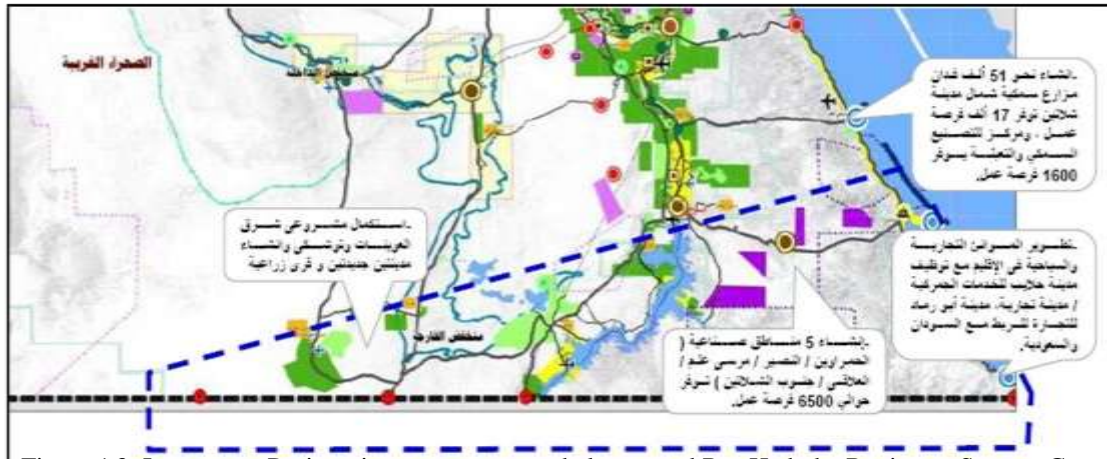
2. Project Objectives:

- Generate 1.05 million new employment opportunities in the region and attract 3 million inhabitants to the region
- Develop fluvial trade between Egypt and Sudan
- Expand agricultural land area

3. Economics Criteria for the Project:

A number of investment projects will be implemented as a basis for the economic development of the region:

- Establishment of five industrial zones (El Hamarawein, El Noseir, Marsa Alam, Allaqi, South Shalateen) generating approximately 6500 employment opportunities - Completion of the East Oweinat and Toshka projects, creation of two new cities and agricultural villages
- Establishment of about 51 thousand feddans of fish farms north of the city of Shalateen to create 17 thousand employment opportunities, in addition to a fish processing and packaging center that will generate 1600 employment opportunities - Development and upgrading of region's tourist and commercial seaports and developing Hala'ib city as a commercial city where customs services are centered and Abu Ramad into a commercial city linking Egypt, Sudan and Saudi Arabia **From the above we deduce that the economics criteria for this project are “industry / commerce / agriculture”.**

SECTION TWO: ECONOMIC FOUNDATIONS OF DEVELOPMENT

Authority for Urban Planning, 2014

PROJECTS WEST OF THE NILE**1. Developing the North West Coast and its Desert Hinterland as a World Class Tourist Destination**

This project falls in the category of projects that aim to realize economic effectiveness and efficiency to advance and enhance the national economy.

1. Project Location:

Located in the northwestern Mediterranean coastal zone, stretching from Al Hammam to El Salloum (Figure 14 shows the development project region).

2. Project Objectives:

- Generate employment opportunities
- Development of the coastal zone, up to 40 km inland (agriculture, tourism, urban communities)
- Sustainable social, cultural and environmental development

3. Economics Criteria for the Project:

- Environmental industrial zone
- Environmentally friendly tourist city in El Alamein
- World-class recreational tourist center
- World-class hospital and war injury treatment center - World-class scientific city and an international university - State-of-the-art environmental industrial zone.

The above indicates that the economics criteria for the West Coast and Desert Hinterland Development Project are “industry, tourism, agriculture, services”.

II. Qattara Depression Development:

This project falls in the category of projects that aim to realize economic effectiveness and efficiency to advance and enhance the national economy.

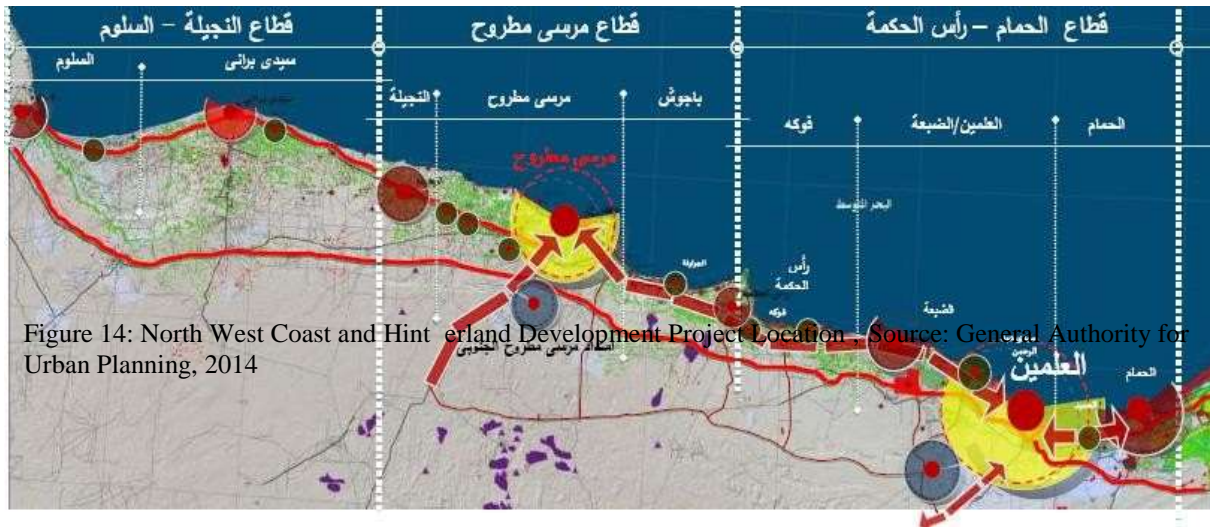


Figure 14: North West Coast and Hinterland Development Project Location – Source: General Authority for Urban Planning, 2014

1. Project Location:

Located south of the North Coast, west of El Fayoum Governorate and north of the

2. Project Objectives:

- Expand agricultural land area
- Create 11.9 million employment opportunities and attract 34 million inhabitants - Create a logistic zone.

3. Economics Criteria for the Project: The Qattara Depression Development Project is based on implementation of the following investment projects:

- Agricultural land reclamation (medicinal and aromatic plants) of 5000 feddans
- Creation of fish farms in areas with saline well water
- New residential city with a population capacity of 100 to 150 thousand inhabitants
- Establishment of a logistic zone for packaging and storage that includes a customs free zone and a dry port
- Establishment of a medical treatment center.
- Creation of environmental communities and hotels.

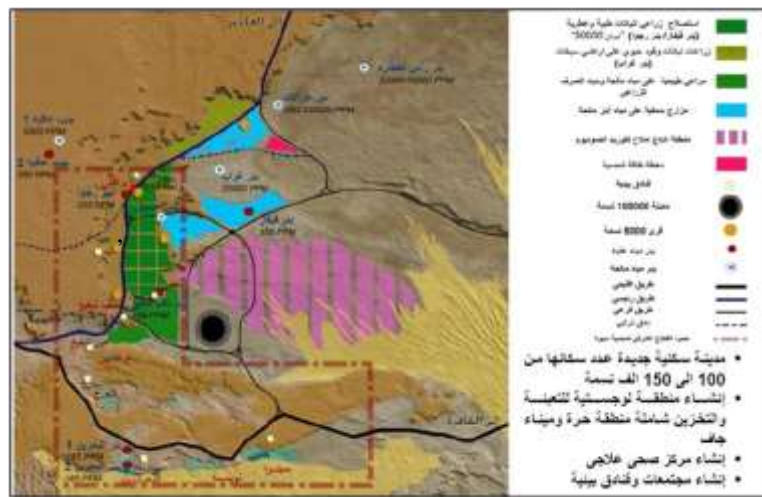


Figure 15: Map of Qattara Depression Development Investment Projects

Source: General Authority for Urban Planning, 2014

Based on the above, the economics criteria for the Qattara Depression Development Project are “agriculture, services, commerce”.

Summary

Table (1)

Project	Objectives	Proposed Investment Projects	Economics Criteria for the Project
Golden Triangle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Realize economic effectiveness & efficiency to enhance national economy -Create a new industrial zone to serve Upper Egypt and promote development in all its cities -Targeted population 6 million and generation of 2.1 million employment opportunities -Make use of surplus labor force in Upper Egypt cities to work in the proposed development projects in the region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Creation of an economic / logistic center based on mining activities northwest of Safaga -Upgrading Safaga city into an international commercial and industrial destination, as well as a recreational tourism destination -Upgrading El Hamarawein seaport to integrate trading with the Safaga port, of minerals, sedimentary rocks and products manufactured from extracted materials -Developing Qoseir seaport into a commercial and passenger port - 	<p>followed</p> <p>Primarily industry & commerce, by tourism</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Create new industrial communities based on exploitation of the region's many mining resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing Al Qoseir city into a world-class environmental tourism destination -Developing Qeft city and the industrial area to the east of it into an industrial center -Development of the new Qena city as a residential center for people involved in mineral and agricultural activities -Creation of a state-of-the-art industrial mining complex on the Safaga / Qena road to house heavy industries, extractive industries as well as complementary and small industries 	
Suez Canal Corridor Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Realize economic effectiveness & efficiency to enhance national economy -Transform Egypt into an influential and competitive international logistic, industrial and commercial center -Targeted population about 1.6 million and generation of 5.6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Develop the area east of Port Said -Develop the Technology Valley, the city of New Ismailia and the Al Amal Village -Develop the area northwest of the Gulf of Suez 	Primarily commerce and industry, followed by tourism and services

	<p>million employment opportunities -Increase the Suez Canal's foreign currency revenues, which go directly into the State Treasury and contribute to enhancing the national economy</p> <p>-Create new employment opportunities for Egyptian youth and new investment opportunities for national and international companies</p> <p>-Increase the value of the Egyptian economy in the region and worldwide</p> <p>-Diversify and expand current economic activity in the area (particularly in seaports and logistic and industrial centers)</p>		
<p>South Sinai Development (Sharm El Sheikh - El Tor Sector – Ras Mohamed)</p>	<p>-Creation of an integrated urban development center in south Sinai to attract some of the inhabitants of the densely populated city of Sharm El Sheikh</p> <p>- Touristic development of some areas of the El Tor / Ras Mohamed sector</p> <p>- Targeted population about 8 million inhabitants, creation of 2.8 million employment opportunities</p>	<p>-Sharm El Sheikh extension: Establishment of an international tourist and diving destination</p> <p>-Ras Mohamed / El Tor region: Establishment of a world-class aqua sports center, a high-end commercial center and first-class recreational beach tourism facilities</p> <p>-Establish regional, industrial and housing services in El Tor seaport and airport</p>	Tourism / commerce

North Sinai Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Create new employment opportunities in the cities of Rafah, El Sheikh Zuweid and El Arish -Agriculture reclamation of 400 thousand feddans in North Sinai -Cultural and educational projects (e.g. El Arish University) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rafah City: establishment of an industrial zone over an area of 100 feddans and commercial storage facilities to serve as market outlets for industrial and agricultural products - El Sheikh Zuweid: an 80-feddan industrial zone (food industries, construction material industry, sulphur production and natural gas exploitation) - El Arish: a 250-feddan industrial zone to house assembly industries and workshops – establish El Arish University 	Primarily agriculture, industry / commerce in the second place
North Upper Egypt Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alleviate poverty in Upper Egypt governorates by generating new employment opportunities - Expand agricultural land area by cultivating 100 thousand feddans in the plain west of El Minya - Targeted population 5 million inhabitants and creation of 1.75 million employment opportunities -Establish new urban communities in the plain to the west of El Minya to link the regions east of the Nile to the north of the country (across North Upper Egypt and horizontally through 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Set up logistic zones west of El Fayoum and along the Ras Ghareb / Beni Mazar corridor - Establish industrial complexes (mining, petrochemical, environmental and agro-industries) - Establish poultry farms in the hinterland of El Fayoum Governorate as part of the integrated plan for establishing poultry farms outside of the Nile Valley and Delta - Build three wind energy farms on the east and west banks of the Nile, in El Minya Governorate - Cultivate 100 thousand feddans in El Minya's western plain (aromatic and medicinal 	Agriculture / industry / commerce

	the Zafarana / AlKoraymat – Ras Ghareb / Beni Mazar / Al Alamein strip)	plants), using wells and treated water for irrigation	
Lake Nasser	-Create employment opportunities in Upper Egypt governorates	- <u>Agriculture</u> : Exploitation of agricultural regions in Toshka, Qastal-	Industry / agriculture / commerce

Region & South Egypt Development Project	-Complete the Toshka Project and recover its economic returns - Expand agricultural land area -Targeted population about 5 million inhabitants and generate about 2.45 million employment opportunities	and on the banks of the lake - <u>Industry</u> : Creation of a strong industrial base in the region by establishing industrial zones to exploit existing natural resources: construction materials in Wadi El Allaqi, Toshka, agricultural products in the region of Wadi WARE – Building a fishing fleet that uses clean fuel to fish in Gerf Hussein seaport and fish processing / freezing and packaging factories to exploit the produce - <u>Tourism</u> : The Nuba region has a wealth of tourism assets and has been added to the map of Egypt's tourist attractions	
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Hala'ib, Shalateen & Ras Hadraba Region Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Generate new employment opportunities in the region - Develop fluvial trade between Egypt and Sudan - Expand agricultural land area - Targeted population about 3 million inhabitants & 1.05 million new employment opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of 5 industrial zones (El Hamrawein, El Noseir, Marsa Alam, Allaqi, South Shalateen) generating approximately 6500 employment opportunities - Completion of the East Oweinat and Toshka projects, creation of two new cities and agricultural villages - Establishment of about 51 thousand feddans of fish farms north of the city of Shalateen to create 17 thousand employment opportunities, in addition to a fish processing and packaging center that will generate 1600 employment opportunities - Upgrading the region's tourist and commercial seaports and developing Hala'ib city as a commercial city where customs services are centered and Abu Ramad into a commercial city linking Egypt, Sudan and Saudi Arabia 	Industry / agriculture / commerce
Development of the North West Coast & its Desert Hinterland as an International Tourist Destination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create employment opportunities - Develop the coastal zone, up to 40 km inland (agriculture, tourism, urban communities) - Sustainable social, cultural and environmental development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmental industrial zone - Environmentally friendly tourist city in El Alamein - World-class recreational tourist center - World-class hospital and war injury treatment center - World-class scientific city and an international university - State-of-the-art environmental 	Industry / tourism / agriculture / services

		industrial zone	
Qattara Depression Development	-Expand agricultural land area -Create employment opportunities - Establish a logistic zone - Targeted population: 34 million inhabitants & 11.9 million new employment opportunities	-Agricultural land reclamation (medicinal and aromatic plants), 50000 feddans - Creation of fish farms on saline well water - New residential city with a population capacity between 100 and 150 thousand inhabitants - Establishment of a logistic zone for packaging and storage that includes a customs free zone and a dry port - Establishment of a medical treatment center - Environmental communities and hotels	Agriculture / services / commerce

The table summarizes the above findings concerning the State's mega development projects, the objectives they seek to realize and the investment projects they comprise, from which we deduce the economics criteria upon which each project is based.

CONCLUSIONS

Urban development proposals formulated by the Egyptian State that aim to encourage migration out of the narrow Nile valley are based on three economic criteria:

1. Economic effectiveness realized through optimal exploitation of location and agricultural, industrial, tourism, commercial and logistic services resources. A. In the Agricultural Sector:

- Accord priority to achievement of self-sufficiency and optimal land use
- Develop a competitive agricultural sector
- Optimal exploitation of traditional water resources for agricultural land reclamation
- Desalination of seawater and brackish water to expand agricultural land area (in the Sinai, for instance)

B. In the Industrial Sector:

- Promote the growth of competitive industries, with particular focus on export industries
- Upgrade integrated industrial complexes and enhance the quality of Egyptian products
- Production of quality competitive products

C. In the Tourism Sector:

- New international tourist sites on the North Coast and the Red Sea linked to cultural tourism destinations in the Nile Valley
- Upgrade tourist sector workers' competence and skills
- Improve and diversify the tourism product and intensify marketing to prolong average tourist stay

D. In the Commerce and Logistic Services Sector:

- Strengthen and promote Egypt's assets: skilled infrastructure workforce in the transport and communications sectors and a huge local market
- Upgrade transportation networks to link production markets, consumption markets and export outlets
- Expansion and diversification of internal national transportation networks
- Provision of appropriate venues for modern retail trade and logistic services

2. **Social Justice:** Accord priority to the development of high-poverty regions in north and central Upper Egypt (Mining Triangle Development Project, Eastern Desert Development Project) by developing the Upper Egypt / Red Sea belt to generate additional employment opportunities for Upper Egypt's surplus labor force, alleviate urban and rural poverty and address the problem of sluggish development in Upper Egypt governorates.

3. **Safeguarding National Security:** Sinai development plan, for instance

-Projects that target economic effectiveness: Suez Canal Corridor Development Project, South Sinai Development Project, North Coast Development Project, Qattara Depression Development Project, South Egypt and Lake Nasser Development Project

- Projects that target social justice: North Upper Development Project, Golden Triangle Development Project, Toshka and Oweinat Development Project, South Egypt and Lake Nasser Development Project

- Projects that target safeguarding national security: North and Central Sinai Development Project, Shalateen Region Development Project

- Demographic restructuring and re-distribution of the population to alleviate the high population density in the Delta and Nile Valley, which together comprise only 5% of the total area of Egypt.

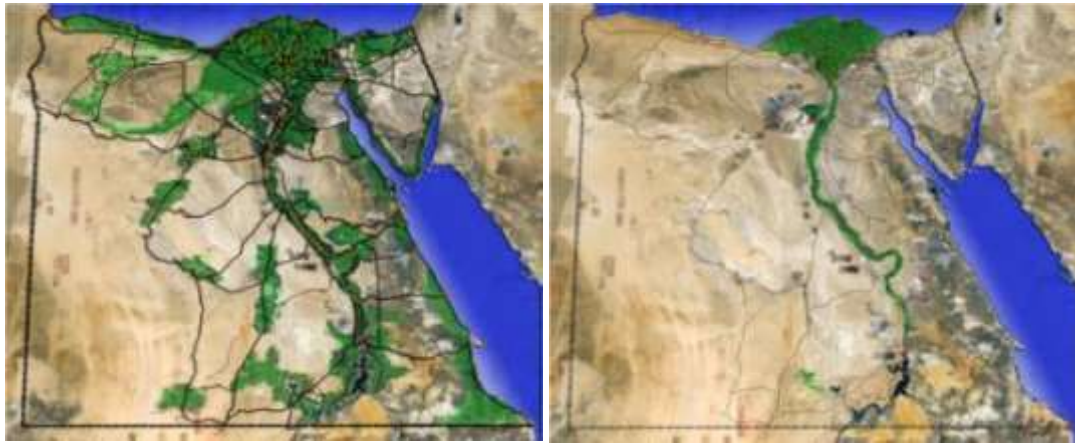


Figure 16: Map of of Egypt today and in the year 2052, Source: General Authority for Urban Planning, 2014

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- The importance of providing the required financial allocations for the implementation of each project phase at the prescribed time
- Monitoring project implementation schedules by assigning to each project a specialized body vested with the necessary authority to oversee project implementation and effectively address irregularities in a timely manner
- The above specialized bodies must present periodic reports to the Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities and to the General Authority for Urban Planning relaying project progress and reporting obstacles to project implementation to permit their urgent resolution
- The importance of civil society participation in development to ensure its assimilation in the process, promote integrated sustainable development and to maintain and protect development gains
- Develop, based on methodological prospective studies, a flexible implementation mechanism that can adapt to any future social changes that may occur. **References:**

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