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**Executive Board
First Regular Session**

Rome, 21 - 23 January 1997

PROJECTS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Agenda item 9 b)



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PROJECT EGYPT 5586

(WIS No. ARE 0558600)

Support to natural resource management in the north-western

Duration of project	Five years
Total cost to WFP	3 787 510 dollars
Total cost to Government	4 958 802 dollars
Number of beneficiaries	62 000

All monetary values are expressed in United States dollars, unless otherwise stated.
One United States dollar equalled 3.37 Egyptian pounds (LE) in August 1996.

ABSTRACT

The project—jointly implemented by WFP, the World Bank and the Government of Egypt in the poorer, inland areas of the coastal region of Matruh Governorate—is designed to improve the living conditions and income level of 7,500 – 8,000 poor Bedouin households and, at the same time, to ensure the proper conservation of the limited natural resources of the project area. In line with the WFP Mission Statement, food aid will be used - through self-help schemes - to build productive assets for beneficiary families and their communities. Furthermore, WFP's Country Strategy Outline for Egypt (presented to the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes (CFA) at its Fortieth Session in November 1995) identified assistance to the sustainable settlement of pastoralist communities as a priority for future assistance. The project's total cost of about 12 million dollars will be co-financed as follows: 31 percent by WFP (provision of food aid for unskilled labour); 27 percent by the World Bank/IDA-supported Matruh Resources Management Project (cash grants to beneficiaries for skilled labour and tools, equipment, and technical support); and the remaining 42 percent by the Government of Egypt (construction of feeder roads, supply of materials and coverage of food-related costs). The main activities of the project are in water and soil conservation, range management/livestock production, and construction of basic infrastructure. The 38 beneficiary communities will participate fully in the detailed planning, implementation and monitoring of project activities through their elected community groups which, together with the project management and local government agencies, will prepare community action plans that define the beneficiary and community self-help activities to be undertaken. Women and their priorities are expected to be adequately represented and addressed within this community-based project approach, and women will benefit directly from the assets created. The technical assistance required for an effective implementation of the WFP-assisted project will be available through the World Bank-funded Matruh Resource Management Project (MRMP), which became operational in mid-1994.

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NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This document is submitted for information to the Executive Board.

Pursuant to the decisions taken on the methods of work by the Executive Board at its First Regular Session of 1996, the documentation prepared by the Secretariat for the Board has been kept brief and decision-oriented. The meetings of the Executive Board are to be conducted in a business-like manner, with increased dialogue and exchanges between delegations and the Secretariat. Efforts to promote these guiding principles will continue to be pursued by the Secretariat.

The Secretariat therefore invites members of the Board who may have questions of a technical nature with regard to this document, to contact the WFP staff member(s) listed below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting. This procedure is designed to facilitate the Board's consideration of the document in the plenary.

The WFP focal points for this document are:

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Should you have any questions regarding matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact the Documents and Meetings Clerk (tel.: 5228-2641).



