



Under the High Patronage of His Excellency Mr Zine El Abidine Ben Ali,  
President of the Tunisian Republic

# FOURTH ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS

**Project on the Establishment of the Islamic Environment  
Information Centre (IEIC)**

**ICEM-4/2010/4.2**

The second Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers, held in Jeddah on 13-15 December 2006, adopted the Project on the creation of the Islamic Environment Information Centre (IEIC) in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The importance of the centre lies in:

- Providing environmental information;
- Applying scientific standards likely to assist decision makers in devising strategies for mitigating adverse impacts on the environment;
- Preserving natural resources;
- Achieving sustainable development in the Islamic countries.

In this connection, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, via the Presidency of Meteorology and Environment (PME), its central body specialized in environmental issues, has conducted a study in collaboration with expert agencies of world renown, in order to determine the methods of collecting, storing, recovering, presenting and analyzing environmental data and information. The main objectives of the IEIC are as follows:

- To respond to the requirements of the local, regional and international environmental commitments through contribution to mainstreaming, discussing, implementing environmental policies and relevant international conventions.
- To shore up sustainable development principles and orientations, integrate the environmental component into national and regional policies, provide information services for the beneficiaries, and adopt the environmental management system.
- To contribute toward entrenching environmental security standards at the national, regional and international levels, through providing relevant data for decision makers, scientific research centres, universities, and other executive and operating bodies.

The third Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers, held at ISESCO permanent headquarters in Rabat, on 29-31 October 2008, adopted the document prepared by the PME on the Centre, and invited the Member States and national, regional and international institutions to financially and technically assist the Centre and its activities, and provide the necessary operation facilitations and field services to the Centre to help it discharge its mission.

As part of the preparations for the fourth Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers, due to be held in Tunis on 5-6 October 2010, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, represented by the PME, entrusted a European institute with the technical design of IEIC. Afterwards, a call for bids for the project's implementation was announced which was awarded to a national company.

The project consists in reviewing the requirements and standards of IEIC's design, providing technical services for the processing of data collected through satellite sensing in order to produce information on environmental pollution rates and hot spots.

The work on the project consists in:

- Collecting environmental information, providing the infrastructure of environmental information, and building databases on environmental information necessary for the assessment of the ecological situation as well as for the safeguarding and mainstreaming of environmental information.
- Creating and developing databases, maps and images of ecosystems and natural resources.
- Establishing databases for the storage of environmental data and information.
- Conducting environmental studies to determine the characteristics of the various ecosystems and sources of pollution.

The areas covered by the project are as follows:

### **1. Requirements and standards of the IEIC's design, mainly:**

- Provision of computers;
- Automated servers;
- Data storage;
- Data backup and archiving;
- Central automated server;
- Automate workstation.

### **2. Providing services for the processing environmental data collected through satellite sensing, and producing information on environmental pollution rates, locations and forecasts. These services include:**

- Monitoring and forecasting the spread of air-polluting gazes;
- Monitoring and forecasting the movement of air-borne dust.
- Maps on urban development and its related mutations.

### **3. Developing the geographical information system through:**

- Developing web portal dedicated to geographical information;
- Establishing a geographical database;
- Storing geographical information.

### **4. Ensuring support through provision of expert advice:**

Providing services of experts skilled in a variety of fields (GIS, web, and field environmental actions), in addition to the staff to be recruited.