

PREFACE

Welcome to the 2001 Lebanon State of the Environment Report, prepared by the Ministry of Environment and the Lebanese Environment and Development Observatory for the general public, including government staff, elected officials, as well as public and private sector professionals! The Ministry hopes that this 2001 SOER will contribute to promoting environmentally sustainable development of Lebanon by rationalizing the debate on the environment, raising the environmental awareness and commitment of the population, and fostering environmental action by policy and decision makers at all levels and in all sectors.

The 2001 SOER takes stock of the current state of the environment in Lebanon and how it is affected by various human activities in different sectors. The SOER shows the intricate cause-effect linkages between what we do and the environment in which we live. If we live, work and play with total disregard for the environmental impacts of our actions, then our environment and quality of life are bound to suffer dire consequences. If, on the contrary, we craft our actions carefully, taking into consideration environmental concerns, then we can expect to enjoy a healthier and better-quality life in a cleaner and safer environment. And so will our children and their children!

Clearly, Lebanon has made noteworthy strides toward environmental protection over the past years. Since 1992, seven areas have been declared protected by law, plus 10 forests and several river basins and high mountains. Solid waste collection and disposal services have improved in several parts of the country. Standards for industrial stack emissions and wastewater discharges were established with due recognition

Following sustained media attention and awareness campaigns, the general public is more and more aware of environmental concerns and demands that we do more to protect our environment.

At the same time, Lebanon continues to face serious and in some cases urgent environmental challenges. We must promulgate and implement the Environmental Framework Law, the Decree on Environmental Impact Assessment, and the Framework Law on Protected Areas. We must work diligently to implement Law 341 (2001) to reduce air pollution from the transport sector, especially in our urban environment. We need to promote balanced development and not gradually become congested due to strip development and that our beaches remain clean and accessible to the general public. We also need to encourage environmental behavior such as pollution prevention, waste reduction, recycling and treatment, discourage harmful activities by making polluters pay for degrading the environment, and help industry to comply with the new emissions standards. Where possible, municipalities and municipal federations must be empowered to play a driving role in local development and to develop or promote financially and environmentally sustainable solutions to their solid and liquid waste management problems.

The tasks at hand are tremendous and the Ministry of Environment is committed to doing its part. We will work with our partners in the public and private sectors to achieve progress on all fronts, beginning with priority issues and concerns. Recognizing the potential limitations inherent to preparing any SOER, we hope that this 2001 SOER will provide a good starting platform for environmental policymaking and priority setting. In the coming years, the Ministry will sponsor a sustained and democratic participatory effort to formulate a national environmental strategy and develop a national environmental action plan building on this SOER. To ensure its widest possible dissemination, the Ministry has produced the report in Arabic and English, as well as in electronic format for easy browsing on the home page of the Ministry.

We dedicate this 2001 SOER to the people and institutions of Lebanon. We, and generations to come, are entitled to a better environment as a basic human right. For us and for them, let us commit now to working together, and individually, for a greener and cleaner Lebanon.

Michel MOUSSA
Minister of Environment

Date

DISCLAIMER

The findings, views, interpretations and conclusions expressed in this report are those of their authors and should not be attributed in any matter to the Ministry of Environment or the Lebanese Environment and Development Observatory (LEDO). Although all reasonable efforts have been made to present accurate information, the Ministry, LEDO, or ECODIT, assume no legal responsibility for the accuracy of presentations, comments, or other information in this report. The maps that accompany the text have been prepared solely for the convenience of the reader.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AFDC	Association for Forest Development and Conservation
ALES	
ALMEE	A
AUB	American University of Beirut
CAS	Central Administration for Statistics
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CDR	Council for Development and Reconstruction
CERMOC	udes et de Recherches sur le Moyen-Orient Contemporain
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
CoP	Conference of Parties
DGUP	Directorate General for Urban Planning
EDL	
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ELV	Environmental Limit Values
GBA	Greater Beirut Area
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GLA	Green Line Association
GoL	Government of Lebanon
GTZ	German Agency for Technical Co-operation
IAURIF	-de-France
IDAL	Investment Development Authority of Lebanon
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IUCN	World Conservation Union
LEDO	Lebanese Environment and Development Observatory
LRA	Litani River Authority
LRC	Landmines Resources Centre (University of Balamand)
METAP	Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Program
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoE	Ministry of Environment
MoEW	Ministry of Energy and Water
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoI	Ministry of Industry
MoIM	Ministry of Interior and Municipalities
MoPWT	Ministry of Public Works and Transport
MoSA	Ministry of Social Affairs
NCMS	National Centre for Marine Sciences
NCRS	National Centre for Remote Sensing
NCSR	National Council for Scientific Research
NEAM	National Environmental Audit Manual
NSEQ	National Standards for Environmental Quality
OEA	Order of Engineers and Architects
REA	Regional Environmental Assessment
SCL	
SEG	Sukkar Engineering Group
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
SLDH	Scattered Low Density Housing
SOER	State Of the Environment Report

SPASI	Strengthening the Permitting and Auditing System for Industries
SWEMP	Solid Waste Environmental Management Project
SWM	Solid Waste Management
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UPP	Unit of Planning and Programming
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WB	World Bank
WWM	Wastewater Management

SYMBOLS

Mm ³	Million cubic meters
Gg	Thousand Tonnes
Ktoe	Thousand Tonne of Oil Equivalent
Dunum	Equal to 1,000 square meters
Hectare	Equal to 10,000 square meters
KTonnes	Thousand tonnes

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>PART I: INTRODUCTION.....</i>	<i>1</i>
 <i>PART II: POPULATION AND ECONOMIC SECTORS</i>	
POPULATION	9
1.1 Administrative Boundaries	9
1.2 Population	9
1.2.1 Statistical Base.....	9
1.2.2 Distribution of population by Mohafaza according to CAS	10
1.2.3 Ministry of Social Affairs Survey.....	11
1.2.4 Best estimate of population for 2000-2001.....	12
1.2.5 Distribution of population by gender and age	12
1.3 Pressures	14
1.3.1 Solid waste	14
1.3.2 Wastewater effluent.....	15
 AGRICULTURE	 17
2.1 Targeted Description.....	17
2.1.1 Lands under cultivation.....	17
2.1.2 Agricultural production and geographic distribution	18
2.1.3 Livestock production.....	19
2.1.4 Fishing.....	21
2.2 Pressures on the Environment	22
2.2.1 Water consumption	22
2.2.2 Agro-chemicals	23
2.2.3 Grazing.....	24
2.2.4 Soil erosion and loss of terraced heritage.....	26
2.2.5 Animal waste	26
2.3 Key Policies and Actions	27
2.3.1 Government spending on the agriculture sector	27
2.3.2 Banning dangerous pesticides	28
2.3.3 Safe handling of obsolete pesticides.....	28
2.3.4 Phasing out methyl bromide.....	28
2.3.5 Land reclamation projects.....	29
2.4 Outlook	30
2.4.1 Improving water management	30
2.4.2 Revitalizing the agricultural sector in South Lebanon.....	30
2.4.3 Promoting organic farming.....	31
 INDUSTRY.....	 33
3.1 Targeted Description.....	33
3.1.1 Number of industries and geographic distribution	33
3.1.2 Evolution of industry sector.....	34
3.1.3 Size and type of industries.....	35
3.1.4 High-risk facilities	36
3.1.5 Industrial zones	37
3.2 Pressures on the Environment	38
3.2.1 Industries outside industrial zones	38

3.2.2	Light industries within residential areas.....	39
3.2.3	Water consumption by industry.....	39
3.2.4	Air emissions by industry.....	39
3.2.5	Solid waste generated by industry.....	40
3.2.6	Industrial Wastewaters.....	42
3.3	Key Policies and Actions.....	44
3.3.1	International Conventions.....	44
3.3.2	Improving Fuel Quality.....	44
3.3.3	Permitting System.....	45
3.3.4	Compliance Action Plan.....	48
3.3.5	Cleaner Production Initiatives.....	49
3.4	Outlook.....	50
4.	CONSTRUCTION.....	51
4.1	Targeted Description.....	51
4.1.1	Buildings.....	51
4.1.2	Residential and Non-Residential Units.....	52
4.1.3	Establishments.....	53
4.1.4	Building permits.....	53
4.1.5	Evolution of construction over time.....	54
4.2	Pressures on the Environment.....	55
4.2.1	Material extraction.....	55
4.2.2	Cement production.....	57
4.2.3	Urban encroachment.....	58
4.2.4	Construction activity.....	58
4.2.5	Building services at Caza level.....	59
4.2.6	Unfinished Buildings and Empty units.....	59
4.2.7	Waterfront real estate developments.....	62
4.2.8	Disposal of construction and demolition waste.....	62
4.3	Key Policies and Actions.....	63
4.3.1	Reorganization of the General Directorate of Urban Planning.....	63
4.3.2	Building standards.....	63
4.3.3	Energy efficient buildings.....	64
4.4	Outlook.....	64
.	TRANSPORT.....	65
5.1	Targeted Description.....	65
5.1.1	Road Network.....	65
5.1.2	Vehicle fleet.....	66
5.1.3	Traffic volume.....	68
5.1.4	Passenger Transport.....	68
5.1.5	Public transport system.....	69
5.1.6	Maritime transport and fishing harbors.....	70
5.1.7	Aerial transport.....	70
5.2	Pressures on the Environment.....	71
5.2.1	Degradation of landscape and natural heritage.....	71
5.2.2	Air emissions from the transport sector.....	71
5.2.3	Ribbon construction alongside roads.....	73
5.2.4	Traffic delays and traffic signs.....	75
5.2.5	Noise levels.....	75
5.2.6	Road accidents and fatalities.....	76
5.2.7	Disposal of wastes generated by the transport sector.....	76

5.3	Key Policies and Actions	79
5.3.1	Legal and regulatory development	79
5.3.2	Government investment.....	80
5.3.3	Rehabilitation of select classified roads.....	81
5.3.4	Road Safety	81
5.4	Outlook	82
5.4.1	Reform and Organization of the Land Public Transport Sector	82
5.4.2	Implementation of Law No. 341/2001 to Reduce Air Pollution by the Transport Sector....	83
6.	TOURISM AND RECREATION.....	85
6.1	Targeted Description.....	85
6.1.1	Evolution of tourism.....	85
6.1.2	Tourism infrastructure (hotels).....	87
6.1.3	Categories of tourism	87
6.1.4	Cultural tourism	89
6.2	Pressures on the Environment	90
6.2.1	Transport.....	90
6.2.2	Accommodation and infrastructure	90
6.2.3	Mechanized sports.....	93
6.3	Key Policies and Actions	94
6.3.1	National Strategy for Tourism	94
6.3.2	Linking existing ski resorts and building new ones.....	95
6.4	Outlook	96
6.4.1	Settling beachfront violations	96
6.4.2	Surveying accommodation facilities.....	96
6.4.3	Incorporating environmental considerations into the licensing procedure.....	97
.	ENERGY	99
7.1	Targeted Description.....	99
7.1.1	Energy Imports	99
7.1.2	Petroleum Bill	100
7.1.3	Power Generation.....	101
7.1.4	Electricity Pricing.....	102
7.1.5	Autonomous power generation.....	103
7.2	Pressures on the Environment	104
7.2.1	Emissions into atmosphere	104
7.2.2	Leaking Underground Storage Tanks	105
7.2.3	Accidental oil spills.....	105
7.3	Key Policies and Actions	106
7.4	Outlook.....	107
7.4.1	Operating Thermal Plants on Natural gas	107
7.4.2	Privatizing the electricity sector.....	107
7.4.3	Promoting renewable energy.....	108
7.4.4	Establishing the Lebanese Center for Energy Conservation and Planning	108
	PART III: STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MEDIA	109
.	WATER.....	109
8.1	Water resources	109
8.1.1	Water balance in Lebanon.....	109
8.1.2	Precipitation regime	110

8.1.3	Surface water resources.....	111
8.1.4	Groundwater.....	112
8.2	Uses and functions	115
8.2.1	Sectoral water consumption.....	115
8.2.2	Water supply for domestic consumption.....	115
8.2.3	Other uses of water.....	116
8.3	Water quality.....	117
8.3.1	Wastewater discharges.....	118
8.3.2	Quality of surface water.....	118
8.3.3	Quality of groundwater.....	120
8.3.4	Quality of coastal waters.....	122
8.3.5	Quality of drinking water.....	124
8.4	Economic impact of water pollution	125
8.5	Key policies and actions	126
8.5.1	Key institutional developments.....	126
8.5.2	Sector overview and spending.....	126
8.5.3	Water pricing.....	127
8.6	Outlook.....	128
8.6.1	Building dams and reservoirs.....	129
8.6.2	Privatization of water supply sector.....	129
.	AIR	131
9.1	Air Quality.....	131
9.1.1	Particulate Emissions.....	131
9.1.2	Lead.....	133
9.1.3	Other primary pollutants.....	136
9.1.4	Secondary pollutants (ozone).....	137
9.1.5	Greenhouse gases.....	138
9.2	Economic Cost of Particulate Matter Emissions in the Air.....	139
9.3	Key Policies and Actions	141
9.3.1	Ambient air quality standards.....	141
9.3.2	Stack air emissions standards for classified establishments.....	142
9.3.3	Attempts to comply with national standards.....	143
9.4	Outlook.....	143
.	BIODIVERSITY AND NATURAL HERITAGE.....	145
10.1	Geomorphology, Habitats and Biodiversity	145
10.1.1	Geomorphological regions and habitats.....	145
10.1.2	Biological diversity.....	147
10.2	Flora.....	148
10.2.1	Endemic species.....	149
10.2.2	Plant species of economic importance.....	150
10.2.3	Wild relatives and agro-biodiversity.....	150
10.2.4	Ornamental and invasive species.....	151
10.2.5	Outlook.....	151
10.3	Forests	152
10.3.1	Forest cover.....	152
10.3.2	Sources of pressure.....	153
10.3.3	Forest health.....	153
10.3.4	Forest fires.....	154
10.4	Fauna	156

10.4.1	Mammals.....	156
10.4.2	Birds.....	157
10.4.3	Marine and aquatic life.....	160
10.5	Karst Heritage	161
.	SOILS AND LAND	163
11.1	Sources of Pressures	163
11.2	Land Use and Land Cover.....	166
11.2.1	Regional land cover maps.....	166
11.2.2	Modes of land tenure in Lebanon.....	166
11.3	Soils	168
11.3.1	Soils in Lebanon.....	168
11.3.2	Soils in the Environmental Context.....	169
11.3.3	Soil Mapping.....	171
11.4	Coastal Zone.....	172
11.4.1	Land use and land cover in coastal area	172
11.4.2	Hot spots and Sensitive Areas	173
11.4.3	Uses and abuses of the public maritime domain.....	173
11.4.4	State of public beaches	175
11.4.5	Coastal erosion due to sand dredging.....	176
11.4.6	Sustainable development of the coastal zone	177
11.5	South Lebanon after the Occupation	177
11.5.1	Land cover/use of South Lebanon	177
11.5.2	The Problem of Landmines in Lebanon	179
	PART IV:ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT.....	181
.	LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK	181
12.1	Legal and Regulatory Framework	181
12.1.1	Laws and Decrees Establishing and Organizing the MoE.....	181
12.1.2	Other Existing Environmental Laws and Decrees.....	181
12.1.3	Pending Environmental Laws and Decrees The Draft EIA Decree	182
12.2	Ministry of Environment.....	183
12.2.1	Organizational Chart.....	183
12.2.2	MoE Strategy.....	184
12.2.3	MoE Workforce.....	185
12.2.4	Mainstreaming the Environment.....	185
12.2.5	Enforcement Bottlenecks	186
12.2.6	Public Outreach	186
12.2.7	Resource Mobilization.....	187
12.3	Other Government Agencies.....	187
12.3.1	Council for Development and Reconstruction	188
12.3.2	The Directorate General for Urban Planning.....	188
12.4	Municipalities.....	189
12.5	Environmental NGOs	190
12.6	Research Institutes and Universities.....	191
12.6.1	National Council for Scientific Research.....	191
12.6.2	Universities	192
12.7	Private sector	192

12.7.1	Consulting firms	192
12.7.2	Analytic laboratories	194
12.8	Donors and funding institutions.....	194
12.9	Media	196
.	LAND MANAGEMENT.....	197
13.1	Urban Planning.....	197
13.1.1	Key players in urban planning	197
13.1.2	Extent of Zoning in Lebanon	198
13.2	Nature Conservation	200
13.2.1	Nature reserves.....	200
13.2.2	Protected forests	204
13.2.3	Protected Sites.....	204
13.2.4	Ramsar wetland sites.....	205
13.2.5	Private initiatives.....	205
13.2.6	World Heritage Sites	206
13.3	Reforestation and Combating Desertification	207
13.3.1	Community-level participation	207
13.3.2	Government program.....	207
13.3.3	Combating desertification.....	208
.	SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT.....	209
14.1	Municipal Solid Waste Characteristics	209
14.1.1	MSW Quantity	209
14.1.2	MSW Composition	209
14.2	Municipal Solid Waste Management in GBA.....	210
14.2.1	The Emergency Plan for SWM in GBA	210
14.2.2	Collection	213
14.2.3	Sorting and Baling	214
14.2.4	Composting.....	216
14.2.5	Disposal at the Naameh Landfill.....	217
14.2.6	Warehousing and Disposal at the Bsalim Landfill	219
14.2.7	Costs and Financing of the SWM System for GBA.....	219
14.3	Municipal Solid Waste Management beyond GBA.....	220
14.3.1	National SWM strategy	220
14.3.2	Solid Waste Environmental Management Project	221
14.3.3	Community-Based Initiatives for MSWM.....	222
14.4	Industrial Solid Waste Management.....	224
14.4.1	Hazardous waste	224
14.4.2	Medical waste	225
14.4.3	Slaughterhouse waste.....	225
14.4.4	Special household waste	226
14.4.5	Used tires.....	227
14.5	Outlook.....	227
14.5.1	Developing a Workable MSWM Strategy Back to the Drawing Board.....	227
14.5.2	Awarding exclusive SWM arrangements	228
.	WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT.....	231
15.1	Wastewater Collection, Treatment and Disposal	231
15.1.1	Wastewater collection.....	231
15.1.2	Wastewater treatment	232

15.1.3	Wastewater disposal.....	234
15.1.4	Community-Based Initiatives in wastewater management.....	235
15.2	Key Government Policies and Actions	236
15.2.1	National Emergency Rehabilitation Program.....	237
15.2.2	Government spending.....	237
15.3	Outlook.....	238
15.3.1	Upgrading the Ghadir wastewater treatment plant.....	238
15.3.2	Management of sewage sludge.....	239
<i>PART V: HIGHLIGHTS AND CONCLUSIONS.....</i>		<i>241</i>

LIST OF CITED REFERENCES

LIST OF CONTACTS

APPENDICES

- A. Administrative Boundaries
- B. Legal and Geographic Extension of GBA
- C. Pesticides Banned in Lebanon (MoA Decision 1/94, dated 20/5/1998)
- D. Legal Status of Current Industrial Zones
- E. Loss of Architectural Heritage in Beirut
- F. Ecotourism Providers
- G. Opportunities for Waste-to-Energy in Lebanon
- H. Economic Health Impacts of Water Pollution
- I. Most Common Trees in Lebanon
- J. Freshwater Hotspots: threats, policies and on-going actions
- K. Minefields and Suspected Minefields (1999)
- L. List of Cited Legislation
- M. International Conventions and Treaties Signed by Lebanon
- N. Recent and on-going Environmental Projects (1991-2001)
- O. Existing Research Centres and Analytic Laboratories in Lebanon
- P.
- Q.

LIST OF CONTACTS

Ministry of Environment

Dr. Berj Hatjian, Director General
Ms. Nancy Khoury, Foreign Relations Office
Mr. Adel Yaacoub, Dept. of Nature Conservation
Ms. Lamia Chamas, Dept. of Nature Conservation
Ms. Alia Kaskas Dandashli, Dept. of Prevention of Technological Impacts
Mr. Samih Wehbeh, Dept. of Prevention of Technological Impacts
Dr. Naji Kodeih, Dept. of Prevention of Technological Impacts
Ms. Olfat Hamdan, Dept. of Protection of the Urban Environment
Mr. Hassan Huteit, Dept. of Protection of the Urban Environment
Ms. Lina Yammout, Dept. of Protection of the Urban Environment
Ms. Minerva Andrea, Dept. of Guidance and Awareness
Mr. Chukri Sayegh, SPASI Project
Mr. Edgard Chehab, SPASI Project
Ms. Elsa Sattout, Biodiversity Planning and Support Program
Mr. Farouk el Merhebi, Hazardous Waste Project
Mr. Garo Haoutounian, Methyl Bromide Alternatives Demonstration Project
Mr. George Akl, LEDO
Mr. Ghassan Mina, LEDO
Ms. Lara Kallas, LEDO
Mr. Rami Abu Salman, LEDO
Ms. Manal Moussallem, Unit of Planning and Programming
Mr. Ramez Kayal, Unit of Planning and Programming
Mr. Mazen Hussein, Ozone Office

Other Ministries

Mr. Bassam Jaber, Ministry of Energy and Water
Dr. Nada Ghosn, Ministry of Public Health
Mr. Fadi Asmar, Ministry of Agriculture
Mr. Michel Bassil, Ministry of Agriculture
Ms. Mathilda El Khoury, Ministry of Transport and Public Works (PIU)
Mr. Mazen Makki, Ministry of Energy and Water (SIU)

Public Institutions

Mr. Josph Abdel Ahad, Director General for Urban Planning
Dr. Hratch Kouyoumjian, National Council for Scientific Research
Dr. Mohamed Khawlie, National Center for Remote Sensing
Dr. Ghaleb Faour, National Center for Remote Sensing
Ms. Gloria Zeid, Green Plan - MoA
Ms. Zahr Bou Ghanem, Green Plan MoA
Mr. Alain Fadi, EDL (Managing Board)

Council for Development and Reconstruction

Mr. Assem Sidawi, Wastewater Management Specialist
Mr. Zoheir El Hassan, Water Supply Specialist
Mr. Sami Feghali, Solid Waste Management Specialist
Ms. Rima Yaktine, Irrigation Specialist
Ms. Wafa Charafeddine, Urban Planning and Environmental Specialist

Local Organizations

Ms. Zeina El Hajj, Greenpeace
Dr. Ali Darwish, Green Line Association
Mr. Mounir Bou Ghanem, Association for Forest Development and Conservation
Mr. Tony Matar, ALMEE
Dr. Hani Abdel Nour, ALES

International Organizations

Mr. Berthold Hansmann, German Development Cooperation
Ms. Sana Saliba, USAID
Dr. Anhar Hejazi, ESCWA - Energy Unit
Ms. Dima el Khatib, UNDP
Mr. Waleed Nasr, UNDP
Ms. Hanan Atallah, ESCWA- Environment Unit

Dr. Ghassan Ramadan Jaradi, Bird Life International

Media

Ms. Raghida Haddad, *Environment and Development* monthly magazine
Mr. Nabil Bou Ghanem, Future Newspaper

Private Companies

Mr. Diab Ayyoub, SOLIDERE Property and Services Management
Mr. Hicham Karameh, SOLIDERE - Normandy Land Management
Mr. Tony Comati, BTD

American University of Beirut

Dr. Farid Chaaban, Faculty of Engineering and Architecture
Dr. Mutasem El-Fadel, Faculty of Engineering and Architecture
Dr. Shady Hamadeh, Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences
Dr. Iman Nuwayhid, Faculty of Health Sciences
Dr. Salma Talhouk, Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences
Dr. Ramy Zurayk, Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences
Mr. Nabil Nemer, Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences