

Lebanon



GDP real growth rate: 7.0% (2008)
GDP per capita: 11,100 \$ (2008)
GDP per sector: Agriculture 5.1%,
Industry 19.1%, Services 75.8%
Human Development Index: 0.803 (rank 83)
Number of inhabitants (in 000's) : 4,139
Major industries: Banking, tourism, food processing,
wine, jewellery, cement, textiles, mineral and chemical
products, wood and furniture products, oil refining, metal.

Main Issues related to SCP

Despite the Israeli conflict in mid-2006, Lebanon has experienced continuous economic growth in the last few years. However strong consumerism and a lack of awareness for resource preservation are leading to the rapid depletion of the natural environment. Major pollution problems are concentrated on the Mediterranean coast due to the direct discharge of effluents, the elimination of inert and hazardous waste, and the accumulation of pollutants in the sea.

Energy:

Lebanon depends almost entirely on imported energy. Demand is still exceeding supply, restrictions and cuts are frequent, and have a direct impact on the economy. Renewable energies (with the exception of hydropower) do not play a significant role. Some isolated initiatives are being promoted with the support of cooperation agencies such as UNDP and the French Agency for Development (AFD).

Waste and Waste Water:

Waste management is one of the major problems. Most industrial and urban waste is dumped illegally without any control measures or treatment systems and there are no recycling methods in place. A set of measures has been designed and is pending approval within the National Action Plan for the Environment. Wastewater management is underdeveloped. In many areas of the country wastewater is directly dumped into water streams or the sea.

Natural Resources:

It is expected that Lebanon will face water scarcity within the next few years. A major challenge is the insufficient management of wastewater that strongly affects the quality of freshwater. Several projects have been considered in this field but a national strategy has yet to be designated.

Atmospheric Emissions:

Improvement has been reported in monitoring atmospheric emissions but there is no information available for the contribution of different sectors to air pollution.



Policies and Strategic Framework

A National Action Plan for the Environment with a special focus on waste management has been adopted. It includes Action Plans for Waste Management –planning the construction of 13 waste treatment plants-, Solid Waste Management in Coastal Areas, Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) -with the support of UNEP- and Collection and Treatment of Used Oil. The action plans are currently pending approval.

SCP as an integrated approach is a relatively new concept in Lebanon, and has not yet been identified in any existing public or private institution programme.

Legal and Regulatory Framework

The Lebanese legislation does not include any explicit obligation regarding the adoption of Cleaner Production measures and the most important challenge today is the lack of an overall regulatory framework as well as ineffective implementation of existing legislation. The Ministry of Environment developed a permit system for new facilities and a Compliance Action Plan for the already existing industries to improve the environmental situation of some industrial plants. The model is currently being reviewed within the framework of a project subsidized by the EU Life programme. Another relevant initiative is the National Plan for the Control of Vehicular Pollution that has promoted certain law modifications to reorganize the diesel sector and update the public transport fleet – currently in very poor condition- through tax exemptions on vehicle imports.

Certain loans and direct financial aid for incentive measures encouraging Cleaner Production and Protection of the Environment have also been reported, both from the government and international institutions. No initiatives on Sustainable Public Procurement have been reported.

Greening Industry and Society

Before the Lebanese civil war, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) was practically limited to social activities. However, during the war many companies were keen to act with more responsibility as an answer to existing management difficulties. However CSR is still very under-represented in society. Although some corporations have developed advanced programs in this field, the large majority of companies are unfamiliar with the concept.

The possibility of developing a green certification system (eco label) has been studied by the Ministry of Environment but has not yet been undertaken.

Main Actors and Projects

Main actors playing a role in promoting SCP are:

- **Lebanese National Cleaner Production Centre (LNCPC)**
 - The **Ministry for Environment** and related Ministries
 - The **Council for Reconstruction and Development (CRD)** which has a strong influence over the **National Action Plan**
 - The **National Council for Scientific Research (NCSR)**
 - The **Euro-Lebanese Centre for Industrial Modernisation (ELCIM)** that provides technical assistance
- International development cooperation organizations play a major role in Lebanon. Certain initiatives have received support and international cooperation during the study period such as the National Plan for POP's or the country energy efficiency and renewable energy demonstration project for the recovery of Lebanon.

