



**Program of Work of the Ministry of Environment of Lebanon for the Years 2010-2012  
In coordination and partnership with stakeholders from the public and private sectors in all its  
categories (Civil bodies, syndicates, educational and academic bodies, media, international  
organizations,)**

In line with the policy of the Ministry of Environment (MoE), as summarized by the law that defines the functions of the Ministry of Environment and its organization (Law 690/2005) and the decree that regulates and defines the units of the Ministry of Environment, their functions, staffing, and conditions of recruitment (Decree 2275/2009), and which is based on the following principles that highlight the right of the citizens to a clean environment:

- (1) Sustainable development
- (2) Protection through prevention
- (3) The polluter-pays
- (4) Promoting investments in environmentally feasible projects
- (5) Mainstreaming environmental concepts in developmental policies and strategies

The focus of the work program of the Ministry of Environment for the next three years, in coordination and partnership with relevant stakeholders from public and private sectors, to fully comply with the international environmental treaties, protocols and conventions concluded by the Lebanese government, through the implementation of the following ten themes:

**Theme # 1: Strengthening environmental inspection and enforcement**

Specifically in partnership with the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities and the Ministry of Finance

- 1- Issue the draft application decrees and decisions for the Environmental Protection Framework Law (Law No. 444, date 29/7/2002) and Decree 2275/2009; e.g. the draft decree on environmental impact assessment, the draft decree on strategic environmental assessment and related implementation decisions.
- 2- Identify the best means to enhance the environmental inspection and enforcement system on the basis of the following legal texts: "The State of Environmental Legislation Development and Application System in Lebanon - 2004", "The State of Environmental Jurisprudence in Lebanon - 2008" (expected very soon); e.g. review of the licensing mechanisms for all development projects, and / or activation of environmental monitoring, and / or the issuance of the draft decree on environmental police mentioned in law 690/2005 and decree 2275/2009, and / or follow-up of the dialogue on environmental fiscal reforms, etc.

**Theme # 2: Adaptation to the impacts of climate change on natural resources**

Specifically in partnership with the Ministry of Energy and Water, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Public Works and Transport and the Ministry of Industry

- 3- Activate the role of the Ministry of the Environment as the Designated National Authority to follow-up on the Kyoto Protocol under the Framework of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change, specifically in terms of promoting projects related to Clean Development Mechanisms in all sectors (energy, industry, transportation, etc.).
- 4- Develop projects on adaptation to the impacts of climate change on natural resources, in particular water resources, in coordination with relevant stakeholders.
- 5- Transform the Ministry of Environment into a Carbon Neutral institution.
- 6- Highlight the importance of monitoring the quantity and quality of water resources (including snow).
- 7- Develop the concept of fighting watershed pollution by adopting a Pilot Project in Qaraoun Lake.



### **Theme # 3: Air pollution management**

Specifically in partnership with the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, the Ministry of Energy and Water, the Ministry of Industry and the Ministry of Finance

- 8- Work on the legalization of air quality management.
- 9- Review the specifications and standards for air pollutants (Minister of Environment decision # 52/1-1996 and # 8 / 1 - 2001) and amend them where necessary.
- 10- Improve the process of continuous monitoring of air quality and access to this information, especially in areas vulnerable to pollution.
- 11- Stress the importance of improve the public transport sector and encourage its usage by, for example, trying to replace the current fleet of taxis with hybrid cars to improve energy efficiency.
- 12- Promote environmental audit, and make it mandatory for industrial establishments of the first and second categories, with the purpose of reducing air pollution from the industrial sector.
- 13- Provide continuous support to the Ministry of Energy and Water in implementing its initiatives to reduce energy use and promote renewable energy, specifically the commitment made by the Government of Lebanon at the Copenhagen Summit to develop a national road map aiming to secure about 12% of Lebanon's request for energy from renewable energy sources by the year 2020; and work on developing the National Air Atlas as a first step in encouraging the private sector to invest in renewable energies.
- 14- Follow-up the phase out of Ozone depleting substance and the proper application of the Decree 2604/2009 on "Control of Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer".

### **Theme # 4: Sustainable management of land and soil**

Specifically in partnership with the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, the Ministry of National Defense, the Ministry of Energy and Water, and the Ministry of Agriculture

- 15- Legalization of the sustainable management of quarries.
- 16- Preside over the National Council for Quarries and follow-up the implementation of the master plan in all its details, and adjust it where necessary.
- 17- Initiate the rehabilitation of quarry sites that ceased to operate.
- 18- Mainstream environmental concepts in all masterplans to reduce the deterioration of mountain and coastal areas - including maritime public property projects.
- 19- Limit the degradation of coastal areas caused by oil pollution through the development of a preventive plan, and mainstreaming of environmental concepts in the legal texts and projects related to oil exploration.
- 20- Promote the sustainable management of forests and forest fire prevention, control and rehabilitation.
- 21- Forestation of half a million trees a year, starting 2011.



### **Theme # 5: Preserving and promoting Lebanon's Ecosystem Capita**

Specifically in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Communications, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants, the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, and the Ministry of Finance

- 22- Issue the draft law on natural reserves and related draft laws and decrees (for example the draft Law on protected areas in Lebanon, the draft decree on the classification of protected areas in Lebanon, the draft decree on Natural Reserves committees).
- 23- Follow-up on the classification of protected areas and natural sites through studies and necessary legislation.
- 24- Issue the draft laws and decrees related to the "access to biological and genetic resources of Lebanon and the sharing of benefits arising from their use."
- 25- Promote eco-tourism through the promotion of protected areas within the policy of the Ministry of Tourism.
- 26- Preside over the National Council for Hunting and issue the application decrees and decisions to the law 580/2004.
- 27- Follow-up studies and projects to diagnose the biological diversity in Lebanon and to highlight its socio-economic value, including marine biodiversity and ways to rehabilitate aquatic ecosystems through for example, the experience of the marine artificial reefs.

### **Theme # 6: Promotion of of hazardous and non-hazardous waste management**

Specifically in partnership with the Council for Development and Reconstruction, the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, and the Ministry of Agriculture

- 28- Work on the legalization of the integrated management of solid wastes, including industrial waste
- 29- Manage municipal solid waste in compliance with environmental, social and economic criteria.
- 30- Develop an integrated plan to address the illegal dumps in Lebanon, and mobilize resources for implementation.
- 31- Work on establishing a hazardous wastes treatment plant (specifically industrial).
- 32- Issue the draft legal texts relating to hazardous wastes and introduce amendments to those in force where necessary.
- 33- Prepare guidelines for the treatment of specific types of waste, for example, oil waste, used batteries, used electronic equipment, organic pollutants and expired goods.
- 34- Activate the integrated management of chemicals.
- 35- Mobilize the necessary resources to treat the remaining wastes recovered from the July 2006 oil spill catastrophe.
- 36- Develop a practical plan to oblige all enterprises regardless of their geographical location or type (tourist or industrial or commercial), public or private, to treat their solid and liquid wastes. This plan will be linked to the draft decrees under the provisions of Decree 2275/2009 that relate to discharge and emissions permits
- 37- Mainstream environmental concepts in the terms of reference for to the establishment and operation of wastewater treatment plants.
- 38- Prepare and issue legislation related to the reuse of sludge resulting from wastewater treatment plants.
- 39- Review the specifications and standards for water pollutants (decision of the Minister of the Environment 52/1-1996 and 8 / 1 - 2001) and amend them where necessary.



### **Theme # 7: Promotion of environment-friendly products**

Specifically in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Industry, and the Ministry of Economy and Trade

- 40- Support and market organic agricultural products and promote the integrated management of pesticides.
- 41- Support environmental friendly industries and products, by seeking to provide financial and moral incentives, for example, identify a framework to stimulate the use of clean technology and renewable energy, and / or grant certificates of environmental compliance for industrial enterprises that improve their environmental performance.

### **Theme #8: Promotion of eco-job opportunities**

Specifically in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, the Civil Service Board, the National Council for Scientific Research, the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the academic sector

- 42- Promote environmental studies to meet the market needs.
- 43- Identify ways to upgrade the Municipal Code to promote environmental specialties within the Municipal Board and enhance local environmental management.
- 44- Provide small grants to non-profit organizations to carry out environmental activities pursuant to the decree 14865/2005, including the promotion of research in different areas of the environment.

### **Theme # 9: Striving to improve the working environment in order to preserve environmental health**

Specifically in partnership with the Ministry of Labor, the Ministry of Public Health, and the Ministry of Social Affairs

- 45- Develop guidelines for improving the working environment in order to preserve environmental health.
- 46- Encourage research in the field of environmental health.

### **Theme # 10: Activate the role of the Ministry of Environment**

Specifically in partnership with the Ministry of State for Administrative Reform and the Civil Service Board

- 47- Restructure the Ministry of Environment in line with the Decree 2275/2009.
- 48- Strengthen human resources gradually at the Ministry of Environment in line with Decree 2275/2009.
- 49- Promote modern public administration in the daily work of the Ministry of Environment; for example, the quality management system and the webpage of the Ministry which better serve the citizens.
- 50- Strengthen the Ministry of Environment with studies, strategies / plans, councils and funds, such as (1) an updated study of the state of the environment in Lebanon, or Lebanon's country environmental analysis, and/or an updated study on the cost of environmental degradation in Lebanon, and/or indicators for environment and development; and (2) sustainable development strategy and / or National Environmental Action Plan linked to the European Neighborhood Policy, the World Bank's Country Environmental Analysis and the Arab Environment Facility, etc.; and (3) study the need to activate the National Council for the Environment as stipulated in the Environmental Protection Framework Law (444/2002); and (4 ) study the framework of institutionalizing of the Environment Fund, which is run by Council for Development and Reconstruction and the Ministry of Environment, in accordance with the law 444/2002.