



Ministry of Environment
Directorate General of Environment



Republic of Lebanon

Official Report on the Work Progress of the
Directorate General of Environment
Between 1999 and 2003

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Executive Summary

This report aims at summarizing the most significant accomplishments of the Directorate General of Environment (DGoE) between 1999 and 2003, and thus abiding by the Council of Ministers' circular No. 23/2003 issued on September 2nd, 2003 and stipulating the submission of annual reports.

The report puts forth the DGoE's vision to face environmental challenges, and gives a glimpse on its administrative structure and tasks according to its law of establishment. The report tackles, then, the major outcomes as well as the progress achieved by the DGoE during the past five years on the legislative, administrative, financial, and technical levels, and in the planning and environmental guidance fields.

On the legislative level, the DGoE elaborated and contributed to the elaboration of a series of legislations, some of which were adopted, and some are still being discussed by the concerned parties.

On the administrative level, the report elaborates the internal organization of the DGoE, and broaches the initiatives undertaken by the administration to promote coordination among the Directorate's services and the international projects operating within the Directorate, and to analyze its positive and negative, internal and external factors. Moreover, the report illustrates the Directorate's interest in building human resources specialized in the environment field, and developing its technical and administrative human resources qualitatively and quantitatively. The report puts also forward the Directorate's initiatives towards administrative decentralization, reinforcing partnerships, and developing the infrastructure of administrative systems.

On the financial level, the report tackles the successful measures adopted by the DGoE in order to increase economic revenues (controlling expenditures, and increasing incomes), and achieve economic growth (projects supporting the public and private sectors).

On the technical level, the report identifies the main technical issues broached by the DGoE and highlights the accomplished activities during the past five years, **stressing particularly on those realized in 2003.**

Furthermore, the report brings forth the information and studies conducted by the DGoE in order to lay the foundations of an effective and objective planning operation, and sheds the light on the DGoE's interest in environmental guidance, and states the main awareness and media activities accomplished during this period, as well as the partnership with the public sector.

Finally, the DGoE would like to thank public administrations, private sector, universities, civic and international organizations for their effective contribution to reinforcing the role of the DGoE in particular, and the Ministry in general. The Directorate would also like to express its hope that this fruitful cooperation would continue and lead to the achievement of a more successful environmental management in Lebanon.

1- Letter of the Ministry of Environment

Fellow citizens,

The Directorate General of Environment presents its annual report to inform you of its major activities and accomplishments as you struggle to get through the difficulties of your everyday life, of which environment has a great share. While your five senses witness, usually, the environmental negative impacts only, you may wonder how the Directorate General of Environment, the administration that assumes the biggest responsibility in the environmental sector, would issue a report on its accomplishments. What accomplishments?? And what achievements??

The accomplishments are numerous, however most of the results are not tangible, and this is the case of all preventive activities. The actions are hard to describe, let alone the mechanisms evaluating their size and benefits. Nevertheless, relying on these policies, and in particular the environmental policy is essential. The policy of the Directorate General of Environment is based on five pillars, among which “protection through prevention”.

It might be easier to talk theoretically about the other four pillars (balanced development, sustainable environmental development, polluter pays, encouraging profitable environmental investments), but when it comes to the practical implementation, difficulties arise especially with the presence of the different factors tackled by the report.

The Directorate General of Environment wanted this report to be analytic not descriptive, critical not praising. But the citizens would not fully benefit from its reading unless they are aware that the protection of the environment is a collective responsibility, and all parties, from the public, private and civil sectors, as well as academic, educational and media institutions should cooperate in this direction. And the Directorate General of Environment is just the compass that leads them in the right direction.

The Directorate, finally, expresses its wish that this report would have an effective value and impact on the environmental sector in Lebanon, and looks forward to hearing the impressions and suggestions of all readers.

The Vision

To face the environmental challenges encountering Lebanon, the Directorate General of Environment set a strategy derived from the visions, tasks, and legislative competences of the previous Governments. This strategy aims at providing a sound, healthy, and sustainable environment. Therefore it lays down the principles that guide the policies and action plans and these include:

- 1- Administrative decentralization in environmental affairs.
- 2- Reinforcing human resources inside and outside the Ministry.
- 3- Relying on science and legislations in dealing with issues.
- 4- Issuing laws and decrees to legalize the work of the Ministry.
- 5- Mainstreaming environmental policies within all development sectors.
- 6- Forging partnerships with the public and private sectors, and particularly with the academic and media institutions, the civic society, and the international organizations.
- 7- Strengthening the institutional system in public administrations.
- 8- Planning and programming in order to avoid environmental problems.

2- The Administration at a Glance

The Ministry of Environment was established by virtue of the law No. 216 promulgated on April 2nd, 1993. The Ministry's cadre and appointment's conditions pertaining to some of its staff were determined by the decree No. 5591 issued on August 30th, 1994. It is worth mentioning that the law 216/1993 was amended by the law No. 667 on December 29th, 1997. The third article of the latter law stipulates that "the implementation of the law's provisions shall be determined by decrees adopted in the Council of Ministers", however these decrees have not been issued yet.

In pursuance with the law 216/93 amended by the law 667/97, the Ministry of Environment assumes the following tasks:

1. Elaborating a general environmental policy
2. Conserving the environment
3. Fighting environmental pollution
4. Determining, for example:
 - Methods to handle wastes and wastewater
 - Environmental conditions to authorize the establishment of plants, factories, industrial zones, poultry and animal farms, crushing plants, quarries, mines, etc...
 - Conditions to use beaches and riverbanks
 - Directions for use of common properties
 - Conditions for hunting and fishing
 - Organizing educational and environmental awareness campaigns
 - Approving international draft agreements
 - Participating in the elaboration of preventive plans to combat natural hazards

For further accuracy and precision, please refer to the legal texts aforementioned.

Owing to the absence of the regulatory decree relevant to the law 667/97, the structure of the Ministry of Environment is based on a combination of regulations stipulated in the decree 5591/94 and in the law 667/97.

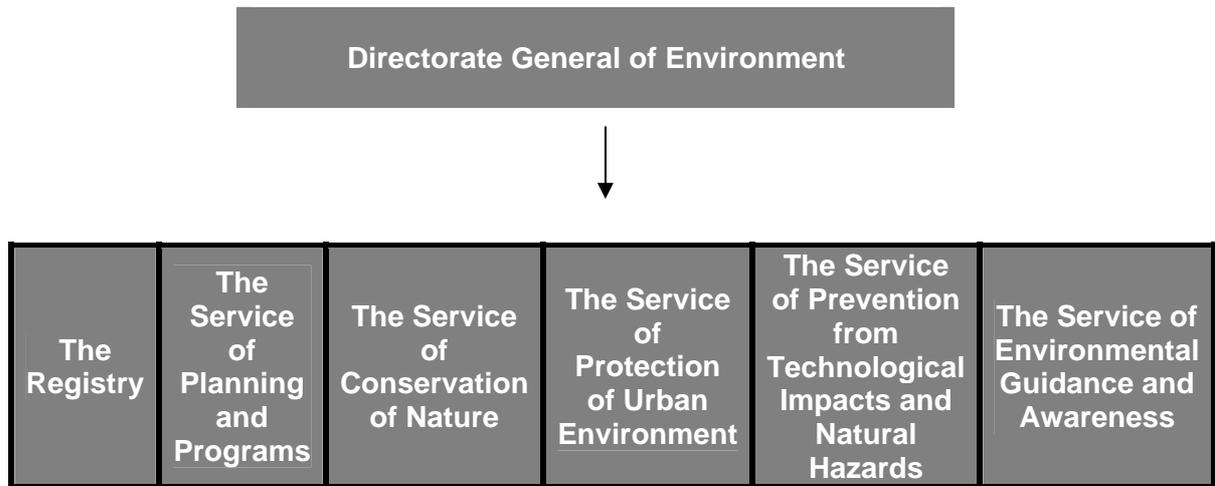
The Ministry of Environment consists of the Directorate General of Environment (DGoE) that assumes the supervision and coordination among the different units of the Ministry as well as the other administrations concerned with environmental issue. The administrative units in the DGoE comprise:

- The Registry.
- The Service of Planning and Programs.¹
- The Service of Conservation of Nature.
- The Service of Protection of Urban Environment.
- The Service of Prevention from Technological Impacts and Natural Hazards.
- The Service of Environmental Guidance and Awareness.²

¹ This service was established by virtue of the law 667/97 (amendment of the law 216/93)

² This service was established by virtue of the law 667/97 (amendment of the law 216/93)

Figure 1
The current organization of the DGoE



It is worth mentioning that the law 216/93 and its amendments did not grant enough powers to the Ministry of Environment to assume its prospective role. Therefore, and in order to strengthen and reorganize the tasks and competences of the Ministry of Environment, the DGoE prepared a draft law for "defining the Ministry of Environment's tasks". This draft law was forwarded to the Parliament; by decree No. 7749 dated April 10th, 2002, and is currently debated within the Budget and Finance Parliamentary Committee.

3- How to Read the Report?

In order to facilitate the reading process of this overview of the outcomes of the Directorate General of Environment (DGoE), this report classified these outcomes, according to their type, to the following categories: the legislative level, the administrative level, the financial level, the technical level, planning and environmental guidance.

While the Registry handles the administrative, legislative, and financial issues, the Service of Planning and Programs undertakes the planning part, and the Service of Environmental Guidance and Awareness assumes the environmental guidance. The technical issues approached by the DGoE were spread over the different services as follows:

The services	Technical issues
The Service of Conservation of Nature	Water resources Crushing plants and quarries Land use and ecotourism Natural heritage, soil, and reforestation Biodiversity and hunting
The Service of Protection of Urban Environment	Natural reserves Solid wastes Liquid wastes Classified establishments
The Service of Prevention from Technological Impacts and Natural Hazards	Air pollution Environmental Impact Assessment Hazardous wastes and chemical safety Integrated environmental management

4- Work Progress of the Directorate General of Environment

4.1- On the Legislative Level

In conformity with the theory of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) stipulating that “laws and regulations are the best means to mobilize the environmental sector”, and since the Lebanese legislation lacks numerous environmental legislations, the Directorate General of Environment endeavored to give top priority to the “activation of the development and application of local, regional and international environmental legislations”.

In addition, as the government emphasized on April 2003 in its statement on:

“Its interest in the Ministry of Environment, and the importance of drafting legislations and decrees determining its planning and monitoring role”

the DGoE sought to fill the legislative gaps at the local level during the past five years (1999-2003), recurring in its choice of issues (issues that require the elaboration of draft legislations) to a series of criteria, among which:

- The need to legislations in terms of the dimensions of the problems facing the sector (based on the cost of environmental degradation), the existing legislations and draft legislations, and for the purpose of respecting the regional and international agreements and conventions ratified by the government.
- The quality of the prospective draft legislation with respect to the Ministry's jurisdictions in addressing the different aspects of the sector, the easy implementation and monitoring, and the potential existence of an indirect economic and environmental profit for the legislation.
- The easy adoption of the legislations in terms of the number of concerned public administrations and the implication of other factors in the sector.

Therefore, the DGoE drew up and contributed to drafting a number of legislations, some were adopted (Appendix 1) and some are still reviewed in the official bodies (Appendix 2). These legislations are classified into three categories:

- Sectorial legislations / legislations related to pollution sources
- Media legislations / legislations related to pollution sinks
- Horizontal legislations

Sectorial Legislations

Sectorial legislations or the legislations governing pollution sources, i.e. man, construction, transportation, energy, industry, agriculture and tourism, can be tackled by the DGoE via two approaches:

- Either by developing specific regulations (in the guise of ministerial decisions) clarifying the environmental conditions pertaining to the establishment and/or investment in operations related to the sector. In fact, that's exactly what the DGoE did with the industrial sector (12 decisions were issued by the minister of environment between 2000 and 2003)
- Or by introducing some environmental concepts and/or conditions to the legal texts governing these sectors. For example, the law encouraging investments in Lebanon No. 360, issued on August 16th, 2001 (article 6 - clause 4), acknowledged the necessity for the protection of the environment.

Media Legislations

Media legislations or the legislations governing pollution sinks and/or their auxiliaries, i.e. water, air, noise, soil, living organisms, natural heritage, solid wastes. The DGoE seeks, with the participation of concerned parties, to develop these legislations, for example the draft law regarding the nature reserves reviewed by the official bodies.

Horizontal Legislations

Horizontal legislations are the legislations that address, directly or indirectly, both pollution sources and sinks. Perhaps the greatest accomplishment in this field was the approbation of the Law on the Protection of the Environment No. 444 in 2002, in addition to a number of draft legislations expected to be issued soon (like the draft law organizing the Ministry of Environment and determining its tasks, as well as the draft decree regarding environmental impacts' assessment).

The measures undertaken by the DGoE on the legislative level might be minimal in comparison with what should really be done. However they remain a good step in the right direction within the available human, technical and financial capacities (Refer to the remaining sections of the report).

In order to diagnose the details of the present environmental legislative framework (according to the table shown below), the Ministry launched in 2003, with the EU-ECLife program and UNESCO Technichair at the University of Balamand, a project entitled "Strengthening the Environmental Legislation Development and Application Systems in Lebanon" (decree No. 10254, issued on June 6th, 2003). The preliminary results were expected during the second semester of 2004.

Figure 2
The classification of environmental legislations

Media Legislations	Sectorial legislations/legislations affecting pollution sources						
	Man	Construction	Transportation	Energy	Industry	Agriculture	Tourism
Water							
Air							
Noise							
Soil / Land							
Biodiversity							
Natural heritage							
Solid wastes							

Horizontal legislations: environmental assessment, environment protection, determining and organizing the Ministry's tasks...

On the regional legislative level, the Ministry of Environment achieved a remarkable accomplishment on 2003 when the Arab Environment Council of Ministers adopted its proposal stipulating the establishment of an Arab Environment Facility, during its session held on the 8th and 9th of December 2003 (Clause 5 - fourth section of the decisions).

Finally, on the international legislative level, the DGoE studies the conventions, protocols and agreements pertaining to the environment, in an effort to fully implement those concluded by the Ministry on one hand, and to conclude those that have not yet been ratified by the Lebanese Government on the other hand. As an example on a convention concluded by the government we mention Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants - Law No. 432 issued on August 8th, 2002.

Appendix 3 brings forward a detailed list of conventions, protocols and agreements pertaining to the environment, ratified by the Lebanese Government between 1999 and 2003, and others the Ministry is still seeking to ratify (as of the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black sea, Mediterranean sea, and Contiguous Atlantic Area as well as the Protocol on Biosafety). Moreover, the Ministry of Environment ratified bilateral agreements for environmental cooperation with the Syrian government (decree No. 6077 on August 16th, 2001) **and with the government of Benin (decree No. 9777 on March 12th, 2003), in addition to a memorandum of understanding ratified with the German foundation Hans Seidel (decree No. 9745 on March 6th, 2003) which stipulates cooperation in the field of environmental guidance.**

4.2- On the Administrative Level

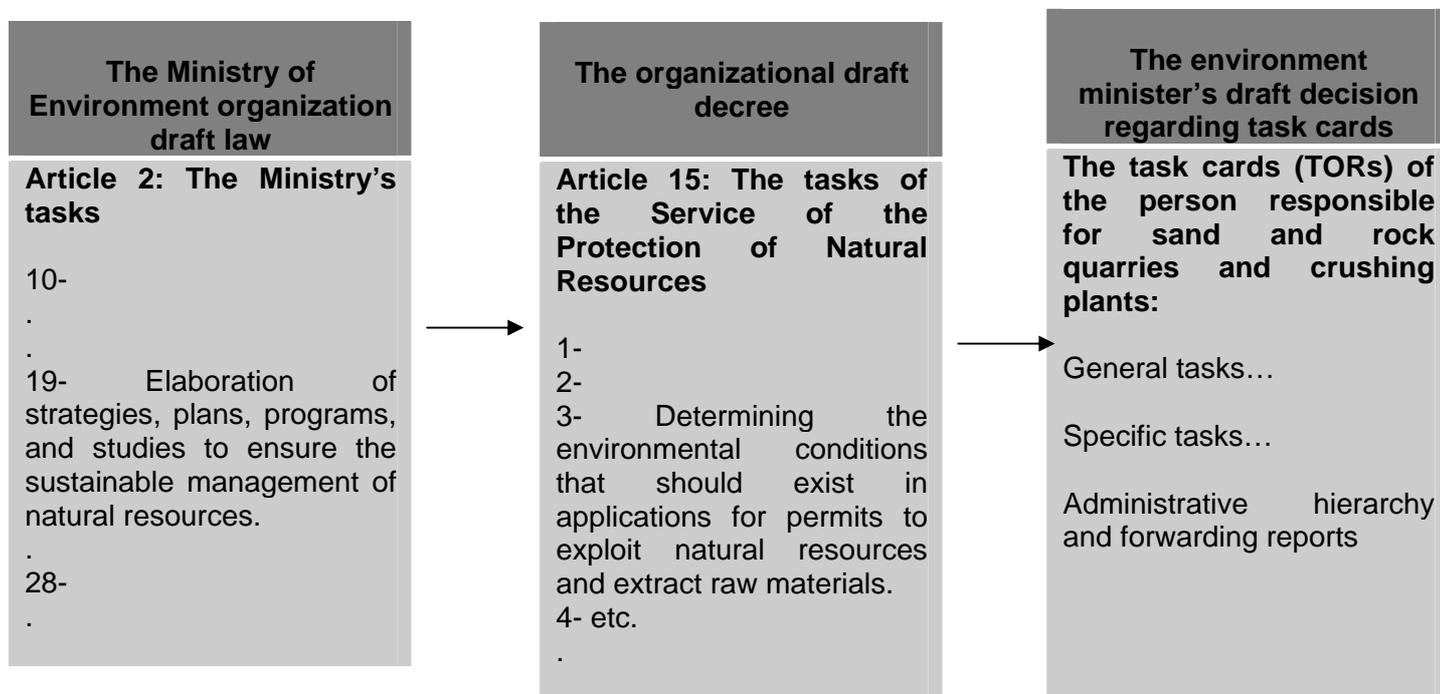
The DGoE, recognizing that any quantum leap in its performance would not be possible without strengthening and developing the administration, which constitutes a key element in any institution, spared no effort in this field and realized noticeable results in five different domains:

Internal Organization and Categorization of Tasks

Responding to the principle of “strengthening the institutional system in the public administrative work”, upon which its strategy is founded, the Directorate General launched, since 1999, an organizational workshop spread over three consecutive phases:

- 1- Update the Ministry’s general tasks and their distribution over the services according to a law (which remains a draft law).
- 2- Update the tasks of the units related to each service of the Ministry by virtue of a decree (which remains a draft decree waiting for the endorsement of the law organizing the Ministry of Environment and determining its tasks). These tasks determine the general tasks of each division acknowledged by the law.
- 3- Update the tasks of the employees of each unit according to a ministerial decision (which remains a draft decision until the endorsement of the law organizing the Ministry of Environment and determining its tasks and the relevant regulatory decree); these tasks then determine the tasks of each unit acknowledged by the decree. Figure 3 underlines this hierarchy.

Figure 3
The organizational hierarchy



In order to ensure integration among the DGoE's tasks and the objectives of the international projects executed by the Directorate General, in partnership with regional, international and local parties, **two ministerial decisions were issued in this regard. These decisions define the coordination and integration of these projects into the Ministry's structure through the administrative divisions and services within the DGoE (the minister of environment's decision No. 34/1-2003 and 35/1-2003).**

Through a pure internal initiative, **the DGoE conducted, in 2003, an analytical study (SWOT Analysis) with the aim of determining its strengths and weaknesses, opportunities as well as potential threats. Moreover, the DGoE conducted in 2003, and in partnership with the Central Inspection Administration a study on "implementing the general inspection indicators, quality monitoring criteria and institutional performance".** Both studies would help the DGoE in developing its strategies, and action plans and programs.

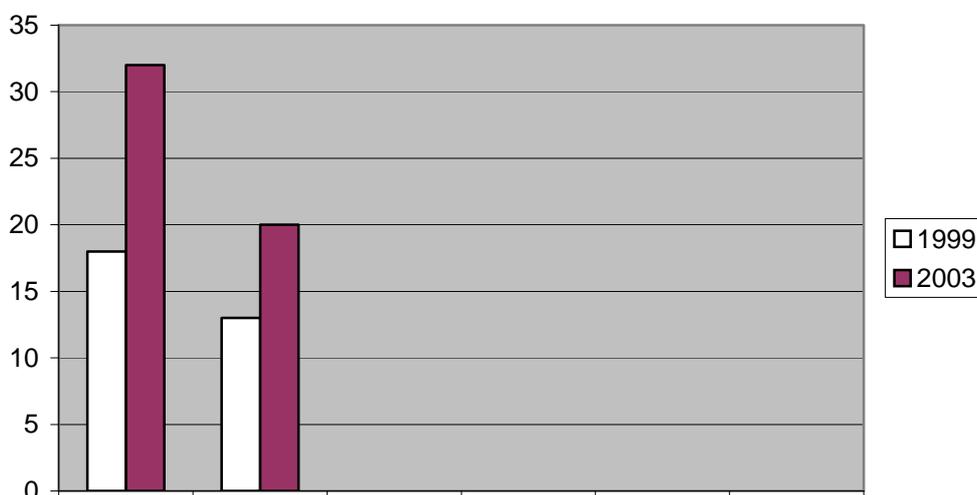
In 2003, the Ministry of Environment, in accordance with decree No. 10477 dated July 16th, 2003, signed the TARGET project (Technical Assistance to Reinforce Governance in Environmental Tasks), which will be implemented in the upcoming two years in cooperation with international and local parties.

Human Resources

In accordance with the second clause of its strategy stipulating "building specialized human resources in the public and private sectors and particularly in the Ministry of Environment", the DGoE sought to increase the number of its employees which, in 1999, consisted of 31 employees (18 technicians and 13 administrators), and thus achieved an increase of 80% for the technical staff whom became 32 by the end of 2003, and 50% for the administrative staff whom reached 20 employees in late 2003 (Figure 4). In addition to the Ministry's employees, the international projects, operating

within the Ministry, provided job opportunities for over 50 employees. **Furthermore, during 2003, 8 new employees joined the staff of the Directorate General of Environment, and 7 employees joined the international projects executed by the Ministry.**

Figure 4
The distribution of human resources in the DGoE (1999-2003)



The efforts were not simply limited to increasing the number of human resources, but also on diversifying the specializations and introducing new environmental specialties (for instance environmental management, environmental health, environmental and international law, natural resources management, etc.)

In spite of all efforts exerted, the outcomes are still not sufficient. The current number which consists of 50 employees, compared to the number acknowledged in the Ministry's regulatory decree (5591/1994), and which amounts to 139 employees, in addition to the available specialties, still do not allow the DGoE to assume its tasks soundly and rapidly. The most significant gaps lie probably in the number of computer and information systems' experts (one), and environmental health experts (one). The DGoE is working on resolving this problem by recruiting new experts, in accordance with the legal procedures.

In its efforts to develop its human resources, the DGoE encounters several problems resulting from the policies adopted by the consecutive Councils of Ministers and aiming at controlling all new recruitment operations till solving the problem of overstaffing. Moreover, the accuracy of the administrative procedures pertaining to the recruitment and contracting issues, which the DGoE insists on respecting, and the existing laws that do not acknowledge the new environmental specializations recommended by the Ministry, all impede the Directorate's attempts to move forward.

Therefore, the Ministry introduced some amendments to the decree No. 5591 issued on August 30th, 1994 (decree 5341 of April 20th, 2001 and the decree 11112 of October 7th, 2003).

On the other hand, and in order to keep pace with the scientific progress, the DGoE's employees attended a number of workshops and training sessions in Lebanon and abroad according to their specializations and fields of work.

In view of strengthening human resources and creating job opportunities in the private sector, it is expected that the implementation of the draft decree on Environmental Impact Assessment, when adopted, would contribute to creating additional opportunities for employment. It is worth mentioning that, during the past four years, increased awareness regarding the concept and role of the Environmental Impact Assessment resulted in the execution of 60 environmental impact assessment studies, which provided 480 working days.

This orientation towards creating job opportunities in the private sector meets the recommendations of the World Bank's Lebanon office in its third quarterly update for the year 2003, which emphasizes the necessity of recruitment growth in the private sector in order to alleviate the economic challenges facing the region.³

Strengthening Administrative Decentralization

According to the first clause of its strategy "strengthening decentralization in environmental management", the Directorate General of Environment sought to bring this concept into effect, and is, hence, about to realize two accomplishments:

- Establish regional units in the different Mouhafazats (whenever the parliamentary committees adopt the draft law organizing the Ministry of Environment and determining its tasks stipulating the establishment of regional units and environmental police force pertaining to the DGoE).
- Work on launching the "Capacity 2015" project, which aims at reinforcing local environmental management, in cooperation with international and local partners. This project aims at integrating and strengthening environmental management and planning at the local level. The first phase of the project will focus on the Mouhafazats.

Consolidating Partnerships

In conformity with the fifth clause of its strategy "forging partnerships with the public and private sectors and particularly with the educational, academic, media, civic and international organizations", the DGoE sought to promote coordination with the different stakeholders.

In this regard, the Directorate consolidated its relationship with other public administrations by joining a number of councils and committees (for instance, the Higher Council for Urban Planning, the committees issuing permits for industrial establishments, the Mouhafazats' health councils, the Lebanese Institutes for Norms and Standards (LIBNOR), the Investment Development Authority in Lebanon (IDAL), etc.) in an attempt to introduce environmental concepts in the various legislations and projects, on one hand, and to ensure exchange of expertise and cooperation on the other hand. Therefore, the Directorate adopted the list of companies classified by the Council of Development and Reconstruction (CDR) for environmental studies for all the studies it requires (the minister of environment's decision 7/1-2003).

Similar to its partnership within the public sector, the DGoE forged partnerships with the private sector, and specifically with the educational, academic, media, and civic organizations. Therefore it elaborated and conducted projects with public and private universities such as appointing committees to manage a number of natural reserves (Bentael, Tannourine Cedars, Tyr, Ehden's forest, Palms Island and Chouf Cedars), in addition to strengthening partnerships in the awareness and guidance fields as shown in the section 4.6 on "Environmental guidance".

³ World Bank Lebanon office (third quarter 2003). Latest updates in Lebanon. Quarterly.

Moreover, the DGoE partnered with the academic sector in joint projects with several universities, as the project of Strengthening the Environmental Legislation Development & Application System in Lebanon with the University of Balamand (refer to section 4.1 entitled “On the legislative level”), and two other projects on biodiversity, one with the American University of Beirut, and the other with the Lebanese University (refer to the paragraphs 4 and 5 of the section 4.4 entitled “On the technical level”).

As for the partnership with the international organizations, only the value of the projects funded by these organizations for the Ministry – in guise of donations – would give an idea on the depth of this partnership (refer to the paragraph entitled “Increasing revenues” in the section 4.3 “On the financial level”).

Developing Administrative Infrastructure Systems

The infrastructure of the Directorate General of Environment witnessed a remarkable improvement during the last five years:

- Developing an information system technology through establishing an internal network (*intranet*), and improving the library (computerization of the research process);
- **Promoting the computerization operation by 15% during 2003**, purchasing equipments necessary for the daily work of the Ministry (cameras, etc.), **and conducting studies and necessary procedures for the purchase of new cars (the Council of Ministers’ decision No. 71 issued on November 6th, 2003)**;
- Concluding all the necessary procedures to transfer the Ministry’s headquarters to downtown Beirut by next year;
- Computerizing of accounting operations and portfolios of employees;
- Establishing new systems to grant bonus, distribute overtime and auditing the DGoE’s expenditures related to daily transactions and maintenance works;
- Preparing to computerize the administrative procedures, by virtue of the cooperation agreement signed on February 12th, 2002 with the Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform, aiming at promoting the institutional performance, and financed by the European Union.

Upon the request of the Parliamentary Committee for Technology, the DGoE elaborated, in 2003, a detailed report on the state of the information technology at the DGoE, in addition to the Directorate’s aspiration to connecting public administrations at the level of information systems, which would facilitate the communication and work processes.

4.3- On the Financial Level

You might find it strange that the DGoE allocated in its report a separate section regarding its financial status, especially that it is one of the Directorates renowned for their relatively low budget. However, the real challenge lies in showing that, during the past five years, the DGoE was able to adapt itself to this situation by consolidating and implementing the government’s economic and financial policies aiming at increasing economic revenues through rationalizing expenses, increasing incomes and economic growth.

1- Increase Economic Revenues

The DGoE worked towards increasing economic revenues through:

❖ Rationalizing Expenses

This fact is revealed in several examples, for instance:

International Phone Lines

The DGoE canceled, since 1999, all international phone lines, and restricted them to the Minister, the Director General, and some of the international projects.

Controlling Local Phone Calls

In a serious effort to control local phone calls, the DGoE addressed a letter to the Ministry of State for Administrative Development requesting the installation of a PIN (Personal Identity Number) program in order to reduce phone bills to be paid by the Ministry of Environment, without influencing the quality of work and services. When the budget of 2004 was adopted, this program came into effect.

The Ministry's Cars

The DGoE endeavored, since 1999, to replace the 4X4 Ministry's cars, known for their high costs, with less costly cars. Therefore, it conducted a comprehensive study on the expenses that would be saved whenever the Ministry's current cars would be substituted by less costly cars.

It is worth mentioning that the council of Ministers issued a decision No. 71 on November 6th, 2003 approving the Ministry of Environment's request to buy four new cars instead of the old ones, which would be sold in public auction.

Moving the Ministry from its current headquarters located in Antelias to Lazarieh, Bachoura area.

Due to the high costs of the current lease contract, and in an attempt to rationalize expenditures, the DGoE worked towards moving its headquarters from the current building located in Antelias to one of Lazarieh Buildings which would contribute to cutting the rental cost by 24 US dollars per square meter.

The Council of Ministers issued a decision No. 3 on 21-22-23-28-29th of October 2003 approving the transfer of the Ministry of Environment's headquarters to the new location in Lazarieh building.

Internal Auditing

The DGoE, convinced that the success and accuracy of any system are based upon internal auditing, adopted a work system based on internal auditing through a regular comparison of all the bills and expenses of the DGoE (electricity and phone bills, fuel costs, power generator...)

It is worth mentioning that the DGoE addressed letters to all public services and institutions, by virtue of which asked them to provide it regularly with the payable bills, in order to correctly and realistically evaluate the budget and the Directorate's needs and conduct an accurate internal auditing.

The DGoE often seeks, when preparing the draft budget, to consult all administrative units working within the Directorate so that the budget proposed by the Ministry of Environment would be convenient and balanced matching reality and existing potentials on one hand, aspirations and needs on the other hand.

❖ **Increasing Incomes: (Grants to the Ministry of Environment between 1999 and 2003)**

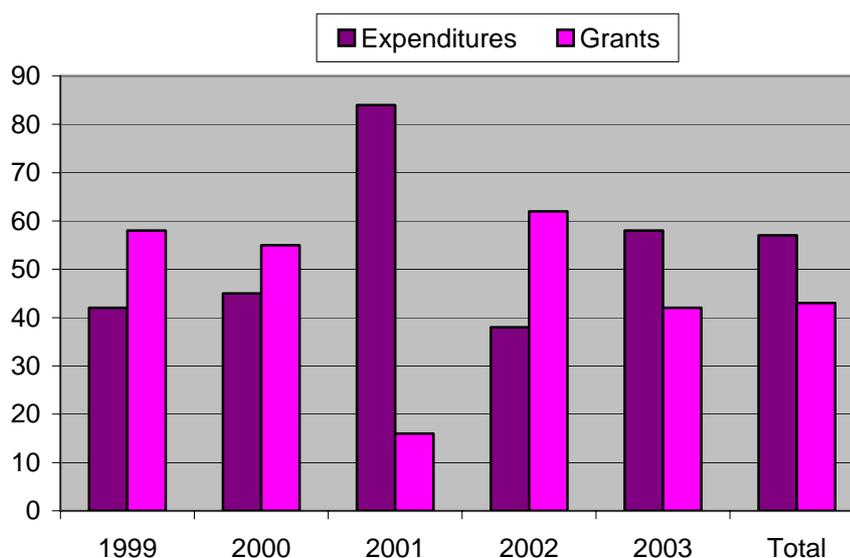
In parallel with the low budgets allocated to the Ministry, the DGoE continuously received grants from international organizations. Table 1 and the figure 5 show a comparison between the international grants and the expenditures as well as the budgets allocated to the Ministry between 1999 and 2003.

Table 1
Table showing the distribution of values of international grants received by the Ministry of Environment compared to the allocated budgets and expenditures (1999-2003)

Years	Budgets allocated	Expenses	Value of donations
1999	2,428,982,000	2,245,134,070	3,040,116,000
2000	2,800,500,000	2,288,008,000	1,777,006,500
2001	3,992,000,000	1,589,332,000	8,174,421,000
2002	5,349,963,000	1,804,110,000	1,036,770,000
2003	2,781,745,000	1,803,221,000	2,455,941,000
Total	17,353,190,000	9,729,805,070	15,447,484,500

For further accuracy, and in order to compare the budgets allocated to the Ministry of Environment with the international grants, the sums were converted to Lebanese Pounds (considering that each Euro is equivalent to 1 Dollar, i.e. 1500 Lebanese Pounds).

Figure 5
The value of grants compared to the DGoE's expenditures for the years 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003



2- Increase Economic Growth

In addition to its attempts aiming at improving economic revenues, the DGoE seeks to activate and increase the sustainable economic growth through:

A The Reforestation Plan:

The budget law of 2001 No. 326 issued on June 28th, 2001 (program law for reforestation projects) allocated a fund of 24 billion Lebanese Pounds for 5 years (5 billion L.P. per year) for reforestation projects. The Ministry of Environment conducted a bid to assign the reforestation works in all Mouhafazats covering all the Lebanese territory in an effort to ensure a sustainable decentralized development (refer to paragraph 3 on reforestation in section 4.4 entitled "On the technical level").

Natural Reserves:

The DGoE grants, annually, financial contributions to the nature reserves' committees based upon an accurate budget approved by the experts in the DGoE. **The amounts allocated for nature reserves reached 560,100,000 Lebanese Pounds in 2003.** (Refer to paragraph 5 on nature reserves in section 4.4 entitled "On the technical level").

Associations and Universities:

The Ministry of Environment grants, annually, contributions to Non-Profitable Organizations like the NGOs. In this regard, it adopts an accurate strategy in distributing the contributions according to the size of the project forwarded. Moreover, the Ministry verifies, regularly, the execution of the funded projects.

In 2003, the DGoE distributed contributions that amounted to 705,000,000 Lebanese Pounds for the projects funded in 2001. The monitoring operations were assigned for 24,000,000 L.P. (Refer to paragraph 3 on cooperation with the civic society in section 4.6 entitled "Environmental guidance").

4.4- On the Technical Level

Depending on the organization of the Ministry of Environment (MoE) (Law 216/1993 amended by the law No. 667 promulgated on January 26th, 1997), the technical tasks of the DGoE can be summarized and classified as follows:

1- Water Resources

The DGoE receives and deals with citizens' complaints regarding springs, surface and ground water pollution. In 2003, these complaints amounted to 10. The DGoE, also, conducted a study on the alleviation of the impacts of Agrochemicals on water resources. Moreover, it issued terms of reference to assign the operation management of MoE's moving laboratory to monitor water quality in Jeita, Tripoli and Tyr. The DGoE coordinates with the administrations concerned in charge with the water resources' sector by studying forms and files forwarded by the Council of Development and Reconstruction and the Ministry of Water and Energy.

2- Quarries and Crushing Plants

The Ministry of Environment presides over the National Council for Quarries. The work of this council was organized by virtue of the decree No. 9222 issued on December 12th, 2002. **This council convened in 8 sessions during 2003, and issued 28 permits.** The Directorate General of Environment performs the role of the Council's secretariat. It is worth mentioning that the guidelines that should be fulfilled in the quarries and crushing plants were set and approved by the Council of State.

In order to organize the administrative structure of the monitoring process of quarries and crushing plants, the DGoE granted permit holders a grace period. When this period expires, the DGoE undertakes reconnaissance missions on the ground to monitor the quarries and crushing plants' commitment to the conditions included in the permits. The

preliminary missions in 2003 pointed out some violations in the implementation of technical and environmental terms as well as in the commitment to the defined characteristics. As a result, the DGoE addressed letters to concerned governors to take necessary measures. In addition, the DGoE submitted a project to the European Union to follow up the issue of quarries and crushing plants, requesting the elaboration of a master plan for the rehabilitation of old quarry sites.

3- Land Use, Ecotourism, Natural Heritage, Soil and Reforestation

The responsibilities of the DGoE include soil protection from all sorts of degradation resulting from land use. The Directorate supports activities to promote ecotourism, protect natural heritage and reinforce reforestation works. Within this framework, the DGoE tasks can be classified into the following 3 main categories:

Land Use:

The DGoE contributed to the elaboration of the Land Cover / Land Use Map in collaboration with the National Council for Scientific Research. The map was elaborated at a scale of 1/200,000 and all Land Cover / Land Use maps were converted to the scale of 1/50,000 to increase their accuracy and sensitivity levels. Furthermore, the DGoE started developing a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) methodology, which aims at integrating environmental considerations into the decision making mechanisms, responding to the Lebanese situation, and paving the way to the implementation of this methodology in land use domains. The DGoE, also, reviewed the urban planning terms of reference - by virtue of which experts are assigned to prepare master plans - and suggested amendments to integrate environmental aspects. The DGoE is coordinating with the Council of Development and Reconstruction at the level of the study being conducted by the Council regarding the National Land Use Plan.

Natural Heritage and Ecotourism:

In addition to pursuing complaints pertaining to transgressions on natural sites, the DGoE coordinates with the Directorate General of Antiquities and all stakeholders to preserve the Valley of Qadisha which is considered a world heritage site by the UNESCO, and particularly to eliminate all transgressions threatening the Valley, through a membership in the sub-committee monitoring the status of Qadisha Valley and stemming from the National Committee for the International Year of Ecotourism (2002). A report on the status of the valley and recommendations for improving its situation were forwarded. Moreover, the DGoE coordinates with the Council of Development and Reconstruction with regards to the "cultural heritage and urban development project" financed by the World Bank. Furthermore, it elaborated preliminary lists of natural sites in Lebanon with the aim of sending it to the World Heritage Center to include them as World Heritage Sites on the UNESCO's list for World Heritage. In addition, the Ministry of Environment issued three ministerial decisions stipulating the designation of natural sites (refer to appendix 1).

Soil and Reforestation:

The DGoE preserves and develops the forest areas in Lebanon. For these reasons, **and through the quinquennial reforestation plan, it assigned the reforestation activities and the protection of nursery plants in 2003 and 2004 in 22 sites throughout the Lebanese territories.** The sites were selected according to a scientific methodology, and in conformity with the concept of balanced development adopted by the DGoE within its strategy. **During 2003, 305 hectares were reforested,** and the Directorate General supervised the course of work and officially received the sites. In addition, the DGoE prepared terms of reference to assign the next phase of the reforestation plan (planting and protecting nursery plants for 3 years). The DGoE coordinates with the Council of Development and Reconstruction to elaborate a project

defining capacities and requirements necessary to activate the reforestation operation in Lebanon. (Refer to Appendix 4 the reforestation sites' map).

4- Biodiversity and Hunting

Biodiversity:

In an effort to protect the green cover in Lebanon, the DGoE plays the role of the National Coordinator for the Convention on Biodiversity (CBO) and pursues all details pertaining to the convention. In addition, it participates in the execution of the biodiversity project financed by the Global Environment Facility and with the cooperation of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), in order to set a national strategy and an action plan to protect the biodiversity. Moreover, two national reports were drafted and forwarded to the CBO's Secretariat. In the second stage of the project, the work would be basically focused on the assessment of needs and priorities in this field. The DGoE attends most of the international meetings organized by the Biodiversity Agreement's Secretariat. In an attempt to support and preserve the biodiversity in Lebanon, **the DGoE endeavored, in 2003, to get funds from the Global Environment Facility, with the participation of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and the technical management of the UNDP in order to execute a project to elaborate a national framework for biosafety. The Ministry agreed with the American University of Beirut to coordinate and carry out this project.**

On the research front, the DGoE set up the "Insite Conservation of economically valuable wild plants project", and assigned to the Lebanese University the execution of the project starting with the preparatory stage, implying the elaboration of the relevant documents, which would be submitted to the Global Environment Facility to receive the necessary funds.

Hunting:

In addition to monitoring the legislative aspect pertaining to the hunting regulations and enforcement in Lebanon (issued lately by virtue of the law No. 580 on February 25th, 2004), the DGoE coordinates with the National Hunting Council to set annual action plans financed by the Ministry through contributions that amount to 25 million Lebanese Pounds yearly.

5- Natural Reserves

The DGoE achieved a quantum leap in nature reserves by improving their administration, monitoring their development, and conservation. On the technical level, scientific studies were conducted in Palms Island, Ehden's forest, and Chouf's cedars. The studies included lists of flora and fauna species existing in the reserves and their importance, in addition to setting a follow-up program for the wildlife in the reserves based upon the Geographical Information System (GIS). Several environmental activities, infrastructure and landscaping projects were undertaken in the reserves of Palms Island, Ehden's Forest, and Chouf's cedars. Moreover, the DGoE, which mobilized the necessary funds from the Global Environment Facility, coordinates with the American University of Beirut, under the management of UNDP, to conduct a study on the proliferation of the cedar's epidemic known as "*Tannourinensis Cephalcia*", which ravaged Tannourine's cedars' forest, in addition to performing an inventory regarding cedar's pests prevailing in Algeria, Morocco, Cyprus, Turkey and Syria.

On the management and financial levels, the DGoE appointed work teams to manage the nature reserves of Palms Island, Ehden's Forest, and Chouf's Cedars and modified the management plan from 2000 to 2005 and the financial plan from 2000 to 2010 for Palms Island, Ehden's Forest, and Chouf's Cedars. Moreover, the DGoE set strategies for resource mobilization and finance projects pertaining to the reserves. Furthermore,

a project aiming at developing a stable institutional structure for managing the protected areas was elaborated.

In pursuance to the “Med Wet Coast” project, and in partnership with the UNDP and GEF program (decrees 5166/2001 and 5896/2001), draft management plans for Tyr’s beach and Ammiq’s wetland were elaborated. Two expert teams were hired and equipped to undertake protection tasks in both sites. In order to support developmental and production alternatives in the reserves, organic agriculture was encouraged in Tyr’s reserve. The DGoE, concerned with widening its partnership spectrum, contacted its regional partners (Albania, Tunisia, the Palestinian Authority, Egypt and Morocco) to exchange expertise, and coordinate regional policies to protect coastal areas and wetlands of the Mediterranean.

6- Solid Wastes

Solid waste is considered one of the main issues handled by the DGoE. The DGoE had several initiatives on the planning level, whereby **it set the integrated solid waste management strategy in Lebanon which was submitted to the Council of Ministers by virtue of the letter No. 1092/B on April 3rd, 2003**. The strategy presumes reducing waste generated, encouraging waste’s reuse, recycling and recovery, the biological treatment of organic wastes and sanitary landfilling of residues.

Initiatives were not only limited to the planning level, but also addressed the technical aspects. Therefore, sites for household solid wastes treatment were selected according to environmental criteria that respect public health and safety, and the quality and sustainability of natural resources, relying on GIS maps. Moreover, technical terms of reference to treat slaughterhouses and tanneries wastes were elaborated, in addition to studies on plastic (PET) consumption and reuse opportunities, as well as a national plan for treating used oils.

The DGoE holds the reigns of the technical committee established by virtue of the decision No. 3 promulgated by the Council of Ministers on July 31st, 2003 (previous Council of Minister’s decision No. 16 of August 14th, 2002). As for the technical coordination with international organizations, the DGoE supervises the implementation of the Regional Solid Waste Management Project in Mashrak and Maghreb. This project is managed by World Bank and financed by the European Union (5,5 million Euros), the implementation period extends between 2002 and 2005. The project aims at drafting a legal framework to manage solid wastes in Lebanon. It is currently at the stage of assigning relevant studies to consulting firms.

7- Wastewater

The DGoE conducted a study and set up a map on the status of wastewater management in Lebanon. It cooperates with the concerned parties in the matter of wastewater management and studies forms and files forwarded by the Council of Development and Reconstruction and the Ministry of Water and Energy. The DGoE elaborated a plan of action to manage wastewater in remote areas in cooperation of Management Support Consultant – Investment Planning Program (MSC-IPP Environment). Furthermore, it conducted a comparative study on the costs of establishing and operating wastewater treatment plants in Lebanon according to data collected by a number of expert local contractors.

8- Classified Establishments

There is no overall survey regarding classified establishments in Lebanon. However, the number of industrial establishments amounted to 22,026 in 2000 according to the statistics conducted by the Ministry of Industry, and 29,282 in 2000 according to the

figures of the Central Administration of Statistics. The DGoE pursues the regulatory procedures pertaining to these establishments, particularly the industrial ones, and **studies the applications for permits officially submitted, and which reached 414 in the first half of 2003 (according to a study conducted by MSC-IPP project)**. Moreover, the DGoE undertakes inspection missions related to the complaints forwarded to the Ministry. The DGoE developed an information system to organize environmental monitoring and auditing operations for industrial establishments, and elaborated, in 2001, technical manuals regarding environmental auditing in industrial establishments and specific applications in hotels and hospitals within “Strengthening the Permitting and Auditing System in Industries’ Project” financed by the European Union and executed with the management of UNDP (decree 2678/2000). The DGoE collaborates with industrialists to encourage clean production, and build local capacities in this domain. Furthermore, it keeps on monitoring emissions from cement and chemical plants, as well as wastewater discharges from the various plants along the coastal line.

In order to integrate environment into developmental sectors, **the DGoE established, in 2003, in collaboration with the Industrial Research Institute, the Lebanese Cleaner Production Center (LCPC) financed by the European Union and managed by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)** (decree 7863/2002), in support of industrial establishments to increase their competitive abilities and improve their environmental performance through participation in pilot projects, as well as awareness and training programs.

9- Air Pollution

Lebanon joined the United Nation Climate Change Convention held in Rio De Janeiro (1992) by virtue of the law No. 359 issued on August 11th, 1994. The Directorate participated in the revision of the report submitted by Norway to the Convention’s Secretariat.

Supported by two international projects managed by the UNDP, the DGoE conducted, in 1999, a national inventory on greenhouse gases emissions. The inventory was updated in 2002. Within the framework of Lebanon’s commitment in response to global warming, the DGoE is communicating with the German government to buy air quality monitoring equipments.

At the level of the convention on the Phase Out of Ozone-Depleting Substances that Lebanon joined, by virtue of the law No. 253 on July 22nd, the DGoE is updating the data available on the consumption of ozone-depleting substances in Lebanon 1993, supported by the “National Program on the Phase Out of Ozone-Depleting Substances” operating within the Directorate General and financed by the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of Montreal Protocol on Ozone Depleting Substances and managed by the UNDP (by virtue of the last decree 9778/2003). These data contributed to the amendment of the National program on the Phase Out of Ozone-Depleting Substances. The project substituted 903 tons of ozone-depleting substances and converted 68 industrial plants for deodorants, refrigerators and sponges. **In 2003, 155 tons of substances were substituted and 15 industrial plants were converted.** Moreover, the Methyl-Bromide projects (decree 6769/2001) encouraged the use of alternatives to Methyl-Bromide in agriculture (Methyl-Bromide is an ozone-depleting substance), trained and assisted over 3000 farmers for using environmental friendly materials **(2000 farmers in 2003)**. As a result, 137 tons of these substances were substituted **(84 tons in 2003)** and 3,000,000 square meters of land were treated by safe environmental ways **(2,750,000 square meters in 2003)**.

The DGoE elaborated in 2003 a protocol of cooperation with E7 Group in order to improve the electricity sector and its environmental performance. The protocol

was signed on October 23rd, 2003. Moreover, the Directorate cooperated with the Directorate General of Urban Planning to elaborate an endorsement and follow-up letter for the results of a project setting and implementing energy efficiency criteria in buildings (decree No. 6038 issued on August 16th, 2001).

10- Hazardous Waste and Chemical Safety

Hazardous waste and chemical safety have an important share in the accomplishments of the DGoE. The Directorate elaborated a national inventory on hazardous liquid and solid wastes, supported by the hazardous wastes management project executed in 2001 and 2002. This project resulted in the issuance of **a circular No. 4/1 by the minister of environment on October 30th, 2003. This circular was addressed to all health care institutions to abide by the provisions of the decree No. 8006 issued on August 21st, 2002 defining types of health care wastes and their disposal methods. The Ministry will make sure to inspect these institutions' commitment to the criteria.**

On the procedural level, the DGoE collaborated with the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities in **granting an administrative permit to a facility specialized in disinfecting health care wastes for three years (Governor of Beirut's decision No. 29/S on June 19th, 2003).**

On the chemical safety level, Lebanon joined Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants by virtue of the law No. 432 dated August 8th, 2002. The DGoE elaborated **a preliminary report on dioxin emissions at the national level during the summer of 2003, and started developing a national plan to implement the convention by launching the persistent organic pollutants' management project financed by the Global Environment Facility and managed by the United Nation's Environment Program (decree No. 9892/2003).**

The Directorate General collaborates with the Directorate General of Customs in damaging inconsumable goods and checking customs' statements **(In 2003 the DGoE checked 126 customs' statements submitted under the decisions 71/1, 174/1, 26/1).**

11- Environmental Impact Assessment

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) concept witnessed an increasing concern and implementation, in an attempt to minimize the negative environmental impacts of construction and development projects, and integrate mitigation measures in the preliminary planning stages. Therefore, donor parties started claiming Environmental Impact Assessment studies for the projects they would finance. In conformity with this orientation, and within the "protection through prevention" concept, the DGoE submitted a draft decree aiming at legalizing the Environmental Impact Assessment process (refer to section 4.1 "On the legislative level"). The DGoE, awaiting the issuance of the decree, endeavored with the concerned parties to promote Environmental Impact Assessment among municipalities and public administrations. During the past four years, the DGoE reviewed more than 60 EIA studies **(20 in 2003)** for various projects, like industrial and touristic projects, water treatment and wastewater treatment stations, household solid wastes and hospital wastes treatment plants, road projects, and others.

12- Integrated Environment Management

On the industrial level, the DGoE **signed an International Declaration on Cleaner Production on June 4th, 2003.** Moreover, and by virtue of the decree No. 7863/2002

the Directorate General started establishing the Lebanese Cleaner Production Center aiming at promoting sustainable industrial development in Lebanon via raising awareness, establishing an expertise exchange network, encouraging the rationalization in the consumption of raw materials and energy in industries, replacing or reducing hazardous materials used in the production of industrial goods, and reducing emissions, solid and liquid wastes, resulting from industrial activities.

On the trade level, a study was conducted related to the impacts of trade liberalization, through joining the World Trade Organization (WTO), on the environment and specifically on agriculture - with the cooperation of the Methyl-Bromide Project - and thus within the framework of the Trade and Environment Project financed by the United Nations Environment Program and managed by the UNDP (the decree No. 5897 on July 17th, 2001).

The DGoE attended technical meetings with LIBNOR and participated in the issuance of 36 standards. LIBNOR adopted certificates of conformity to the two international standards; ISO 9001 and ISO 14001, setting national criteria for quality and environmental management systems, by virtue of its director's letter No. 82/MA on December 22nd, 2003.

4.5- Planning

The concept of reacting to urgent needs, instead of anticipating and planning to prevent them, long prevailed in the public sector. This fact influenced public administrations' planning abilities considered, currently, an essential part of modern administration. The DGoE, at its first stages, was not an exception to this rule, however, it rushed to lay the necessary foundations to develop planning and programming processes and establish them on scientific and technical basis, through conducting a number of studies which provided the necessary data to guide the DGoE's strategy and modify its priorities, to adapt to the economic and environmental developments.

In this regard, and in order to provide information for the planning process, the DGoE established the Lebanese Environment and Development Observatory, by virtue of the decree No. 1095/1999, and set the indicators that monitor trends in environment and development. It is worth mentioning that work is currently focused on finding the required structure and funds to promote this experience, spread it throughout the regions and support its sustainability. The DGoE updated the State of the Environment Report in Lebanon in 2002, which is considered a reference for environmental data and analysis regarding pressures, hazards and problems threatening the Lebanese environment.

In order to place action plans and objectives within their legislative and legal frameworks, the DGoE started reviewing the environmental and sectorial legislations that might affect the environment to determine their gaps and complementarity.

In an attempt to determine priorities and the link between environment and economy, **the DGoE, in cooperation with the World Bank's Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Program (METAP), conducted the Cost of Environmental Degradation study in Lebanon issued in 2003.** This study defined the primordial problems influencing, directly or indirectly, the national economy like air pollution that induced the Ministry to elaborate a draft Clean Air Act through "Strengthening the Environmental Legislation Development and Application System in Lebanon" project (decree No. 10254, issued on June 6th, 2003).

Since it is important to adopt a methodology for the Strategic Environmental Assessment to drive the sustainable development process forward, and for the integration of environment in the policies of the various sectors, the DGoE endeavored

to develop the Strategic Environmental Assessment methodology that aims at anticipating and assessing the prospective environmental, social and economic impacts of draft decisions, at the planning stages and before making decisions, to avoid these impacts or deal with them at an early stage, and improve the performance of public institutions. This idea stems from the Strategic Environmental Assessment and land use management project funded by the European Union and managed by UNDP (by virtue of the decree No. 7864/2002). The Directorate General started updating the National Environmental Plan and elaborated an action plan to encourage environmental investments.

In addition, the DGoE carried out a personal performance assessment (SWOT Analysis) in order to reinforce its administrative capacities, analyzing internal factors (strengths and weaknesses) and external factors (Opportunities and Threats).

The results of previous initiatives, projects and studies would constitute the foundation and data, on which the DGoE for the elaboration of its action plans.

4.6- Environmental Guidance

The DGoE is highly interested in environmental guidance for its role in promoting and integrating environmental concepts within several sectors and social communities. The Ministry's accomplishments in environmental guidance can be classified into three categories: awareness, media and civic society.

1- Awareness

The DGoE undertook activities and publications to raise environmental awareness through:

Publications and Releases:

In order to determine the state and needs in this domain, a list of publications available at the Ministry was elaborated, as well as a table classifying the releases and publications by topics to determine the gaps. The DGoE also prepared a table of awareness tools and activities planned by the Directorate by subject, in addition to a study on awareness tools which could be implemented in various matters. The DGoE elaborated many publications and releases (Appendix 5).

Awareness and Guidance Activities:

The DGoE signed a memorandum of understanding with the German foundation Hans Seidel (decree No. 9745 on March 6th, 2003) to fund awareness activities like specialized workshops, publications and technical equipment. The DGoE, in cooperation with the foundation and with a fund estimated at 160 thousand dollars, organized 35 workshops between 1999 and 2003 (7 workshops were organized in 2003). These workshops aim at strengthening and integrating environmental issues in the public sector, mainly, in addition to the civic society and the private sectors.

Along with the workshops financed by international organizations, the DGoE organized other activities (appendix 6).

The DGoE contributed to the elaboration of the Lebanese Millennium Development Goals Report (MDGR), with partners from the public sector and in cooperation with the UNDP, issued on 2003.

The DGoE contributed to the promotion of the competition organized by the United Nations Environment Program - the Regional Ozone Office - for the best

awareness programs regarding the ozone layer. The Ozone Office of Lebanon participated in the competition, and the proposals submitted by the Lebanese institutions and agencies won the first and second prize.

2- Media

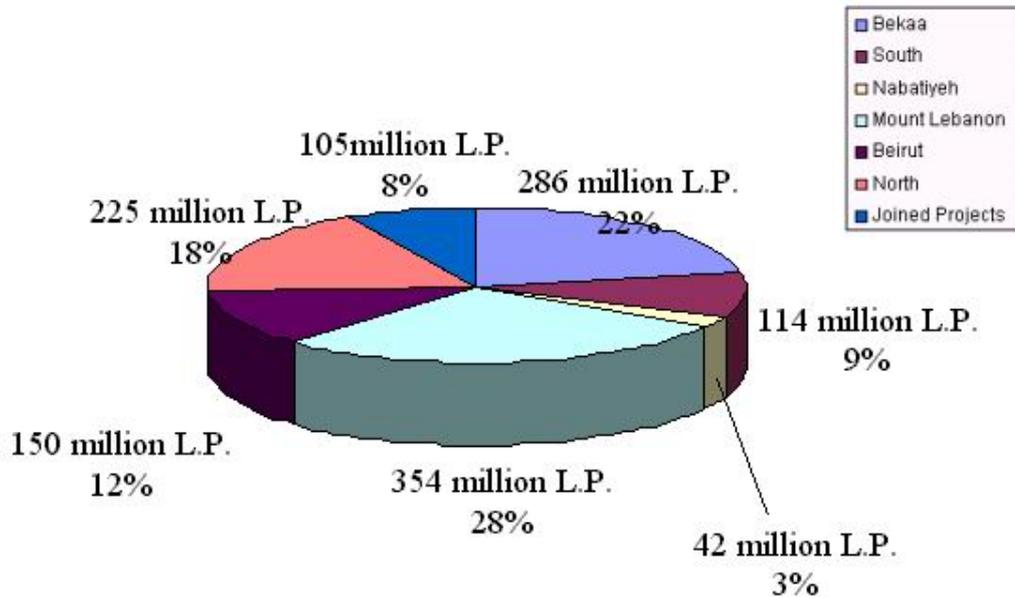
At the level of mass media, **the DGoE participated in 2003 in several TV programs on many occasions, and produced several films and advertisements (on natural reserves, electricity, ozone, water...).** The DGoE also participated in the preparation of environmental questions elaborated by Byblos Bank for its advertising campaign. Furthermore, it supported an environmental play for children at the UNESCO Palace Theater and participated, with the private sector, in an environmental campaign. Moreover, the DGoE is, currently, working on publishing an environmental magazine.

The Directorate contributed, in 2003, along with the World Health Organization (WHO), to the World Health Day campaign under the theme “A Better Environment for Children”. The DGoE hosted, and for the first time in the Arab world, the World Environment Day, which coincided with the 30th session of the Executive Office of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (3rd and 4th of June 2003). The campaign comprised several events (media campaign, documentary, scientific seminar, water exhibition, the United Nations Environment Program’s ceremony for the Global 500 prizes, two festive events).

3- Partnership with the Civic Society

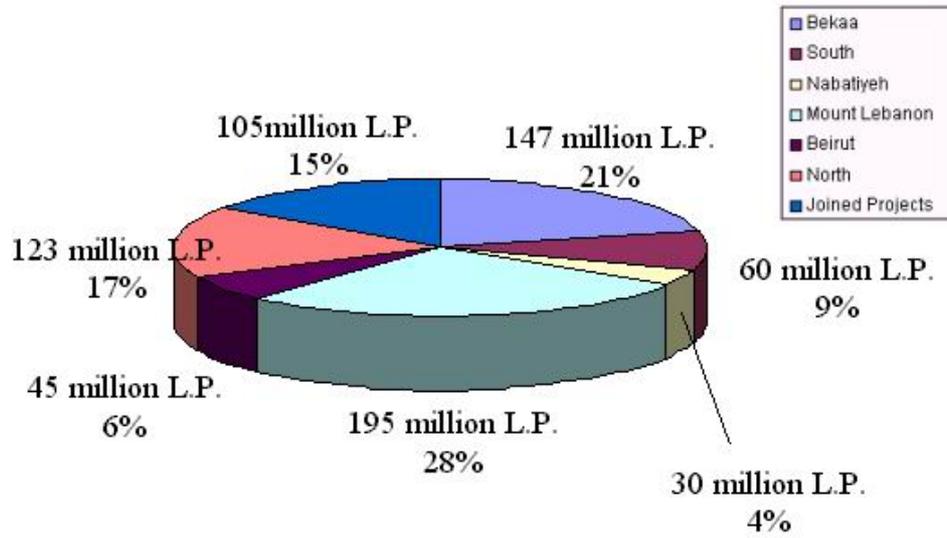
The DGoE continued updating the list of environmental NGOs, as part of its collaboration with the civic society interested in environment. The Directorate financially contributes to small and medium projects executed by Non Governmental Organizations. **In 2003, the DGoE granted contributions to 63 Non-Profitable Organizations for projects submitted in 2001** (refer to figure 6 for the geographical distribution of contributions granted in 2001 and paid in 2003) **in addition to assigning the monitoring and follow up operations during the execution of the project.**

Figure 6
The geographical distribution of the contributions
granted to the Non-Profitable Organizations
(allocated in 2001 and paid in 2003)



The financial contributions are granted to NGOs based upon a scientific methodology that defines criteria for selecting the best and most efficient projects. These criteria encompass the geographical distribution (with respect to the balanced development concept). The Ministry of Environment financed, between 1999 and 2001, 116 projects spread geographically according to the figure 7 (refer to the paragraph entitled “Universities and associations” under “On the financial level” to know the value of financial contributions).

Figure 7
The geographical distribution of the contributions
granted to Non-Profitable Organizations
between 1999 and 2001



4- Conclusion

A simple reading of the DGoE's various accomplishments reflects the size of work executed by the Directorate. However, it is important to read between the lines in order to know the obstacles and problems facing the DGoE, some of which were overcome in order to achieve part of its ambitions and goals.

The DGoE endures a shortage in human resources, since 63% of the positions acknowledged in its staff are vacant, and still await the adoption of the law organizing the Ministry of Environment and determining its tasks. Moreover, the state's policy halting employment in the public sector, which does not take the particularities of each administration into consideration, and restrained the Ministry's ability to increase its human resources and fill the vacancies.

The DGoE simply endeavored to highlight the facts objectively, and in spite of its limited resources, it aspires to achieve sustainability in the next few years.

On the legislative level, the Directorate General of Environment looks forward to the issuance of all laws, decrees and decisions, which are still under deliberation, and specifically the law organizing the Ministry of Environment and determining its tasks that will strengthen the Ministry's competences and potentials. The DGoE spares no effort on the administrative level, through a constructive auto-criticism, to strengthen its administrative and organizational abilities. The Directorate aspires to financial independence and contentment by imposing entrance fees on nature reserves, in addition to elaborating a clear legal framework for the environment fund, which will make the Ministry of Environment a public administration financially independent and contented, and help it to effectively deal with all technical issues entrusted to the Ministry. The DGoE looks up to elaborating action plans in the light of its general strategy and principles to institute a conscious society and a sound and healthy environment.

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Appendix 1

The Main Environmental Legislations Issued Between 1999 and 2003

Laws:

- Law 444/2002 (Law for the protection of environment)
- Law 341/2001 (reduction of air pollution resulting from the transportation sector and encouragement of the use of less-polluting fuel) and its amendments

Regulatory Decrees:

- Decree 8803/2002 (organization of the operations of quarries and crushing plants)
- Decree 8006/2002 (definition of the types and the disposal ways of health care wastes)

Ministerial Decisions:

- The Minister of Environment's decision No. 19/1-2002
(Considering the Qamoua region - Akkar district a natural site protected by the Ministry of Environment)

- The Minister of Environment's decision No. 21/1-2002
(Considering Wadi El Qaraqir region - Zgharta district a natural site protected by the Ministry of Environment)

- The Minister of Environment's decision No. 22/1-2002
(Considering Dalhoun's forest - Chouf district a natural site protected by the Ministry of Environment)

- The Minister of Environment's decision No. 16/1-2002
(Setting environmental conditions to authorize the establishment and/or exploitation of rubber plants)

- The Minister of Environment's decision No. 15/1-2002
(Setting environmental guidelines to authorize the establishment and/or operation of glass plants)

- The Minister of Environment's decision No. 61/1-2001
(Setting environmental guidelines to authorize the establishment and/or operation of plastic plants)

- The Minister of Environment's decision No. 60/1-2001
(Setting environmental guidelines to authorize the establishment and/or operation of construction stones' plants)

- The Minister of Environment's decision No. 29/1-2001
(Setting environmental guidelines to authorize the establishment and/or operation of dairy plants)

- The Minister of Environment's decision No. 16/1-2001
(Setting environmental guidelines to authorize the establishment and/or operation of animal and poultry farms)

- The Minister of Environment's decision No. 8/1-2001
(Setting national standards and criteria regarding air pollutants and liquid wastes generated by classified establishments and wastewater treatment plants)

- The Minister of Environment's decision No. 5/1-2001
(Setting environmental guidelines to authorize the establishment and/or operation of gas stations)

- The Minister of Environment's decision No. 4/1-2001
(Setting environmental guidelines to authorize the establishment and/or operation of slaughterhouses)

- The Minister of Environment's decision No. 3/1-2001
(Setting environmental guidelines to authorize the establishment and/or operation of meat and poultry wastes treatment plants through cooking or dry fermentation)

- The Minister of Environment's decision No. 5/1-2000
(Setting environmental guidelines to authorize the establishment and/or operation of canned vegetables and fruits plants)

- The Minister of Environment's decision No. 90/1-2000
(Setting environmental guidelines to authorize the construction of buildings within riverbanks protected by the Ministry of Environment)

- The Minister of Environment's decision No 75/1-2000
(Setting environmental guidelines to authorize the establishment and/or operation of tanneries)

Appendix 2
Draft Environmental Legislations
Set by the Ministry of Environment Between 1999 and 2003
And Have Not Been Issued Yet

Draft Laws:

- Draft law organizing the Ministry of Environment and determining its tasks
- Draft law pertaining to nature reserves
- Draft law regulating hunting in Lebanon (issued lately in February 2004)
- Draft law regarding the Integrated Management of Coastal Zones
- Draft law determining the exploitation period of assets pertaining to the environmental rehabilitation process of industrial establishments
- Draft law exempting industrial plants working on improving their environmental status from income tax
- Draft law reducing income tax for classified industrial establishments improving their environmental status to abide by the national environmental standards set by the Ministry of Environment
- Draft law on "Access to & benefit sharing of biological and genetic resources of Lebanon"

Draft Regulatory Decrees:

- Draft decree for Environmental Impact Assessment
- Draft decree for amending the decree 6603 issued on April 4th, 1995 (Setting conditions for the use of trucks, buses and vehicles operating on diesel, their monitoring and verifying the allowed density and type of emissions)
- Draft decree on the classification and management of industrial and hazardous wastes
- Draft decree for the authorization of industrial and hazardous wastes treatment facilities
- Draft decree for the control of ozone-depleting substances
- Draft decree for the classification of environmental consulting firms
- Draft decree for the organization of public interest activities protecting the environment
- Draft decree for imposing pre-authorization for all facilities
- Draft decree for the classification of environmental institutions
- Draft decree aiming at the establishment of an environmental and developmental observatory network among the Ministry of Environment and concerned Ministries and public administrations based on indicators

Draft Ministerial Decisions:

- Draft decision determining the minimal distances that should separate farms intended to be established and/or operated from populated areas
- Draft decision setting environmental conditions required to authorize the establishment and/or operation of olive presses
- Draft decision setting environmental conditions required to authorize the establishment and/or operation of hot asphalt mixer
- Draft decision setting environmental conditions required to operate sanitary landfills
- Draft decision setting environmental conditions required to design public landfills

- Draft decision setting environmental conditions required to authorize the establishment and/or operation of household organic wastes' compost plants
- Draft decision setting environmental conditions required to authorize the establishment and/or operation of household solid wastes' transfer stations
- Draft decision setting environmental conditions required to authorize the establishment and/or operation of household solid wastes' sorting plants
- Draft decision setting an integrated system for collecting household solid wastes
- Draft decision setting environmental conditions required to authorize the establishment and/or operation of small-scale wastewater treatment plants
- Draft decision on stone quarries for crushing plants and rubbles
- Draft decision on sand quarries and naturally fragmented pebbles
- Draft decision on quarries for decoration or construction stones
- Draft decision on quarries for cement industry
- Draft decision for a single pebble crushing plant without a quarry
- Draft decision on a stone quarry for mosaic industry
- Draft decision amending the decision No. 15/1 issued on March 13th, 2000 prohibiting the importation of fire extinguishers for cars and vehicles containing toxic substances
- Draft decision granting classified industrial establishments an environmental commitment certificate in exchange to their adherence to the national environmental management and auditing system
- Draft decision adding the first clause of the fourth article of the decision No. 7743 on January 4th, 2001 (support debit interests on loans granted to the industrial, touristic and agricultural sectors)
- Draft decision determining the committee that shall study the issues pertaining to granting classified industrial establishments, investing in projects respecting environmental standards, financial incentives

Appendix 3
The Conventions, Protocols and Agreements Pertaining
To Environmental Issues Concluded By the
Lebanese Government Between 1999 and 2003

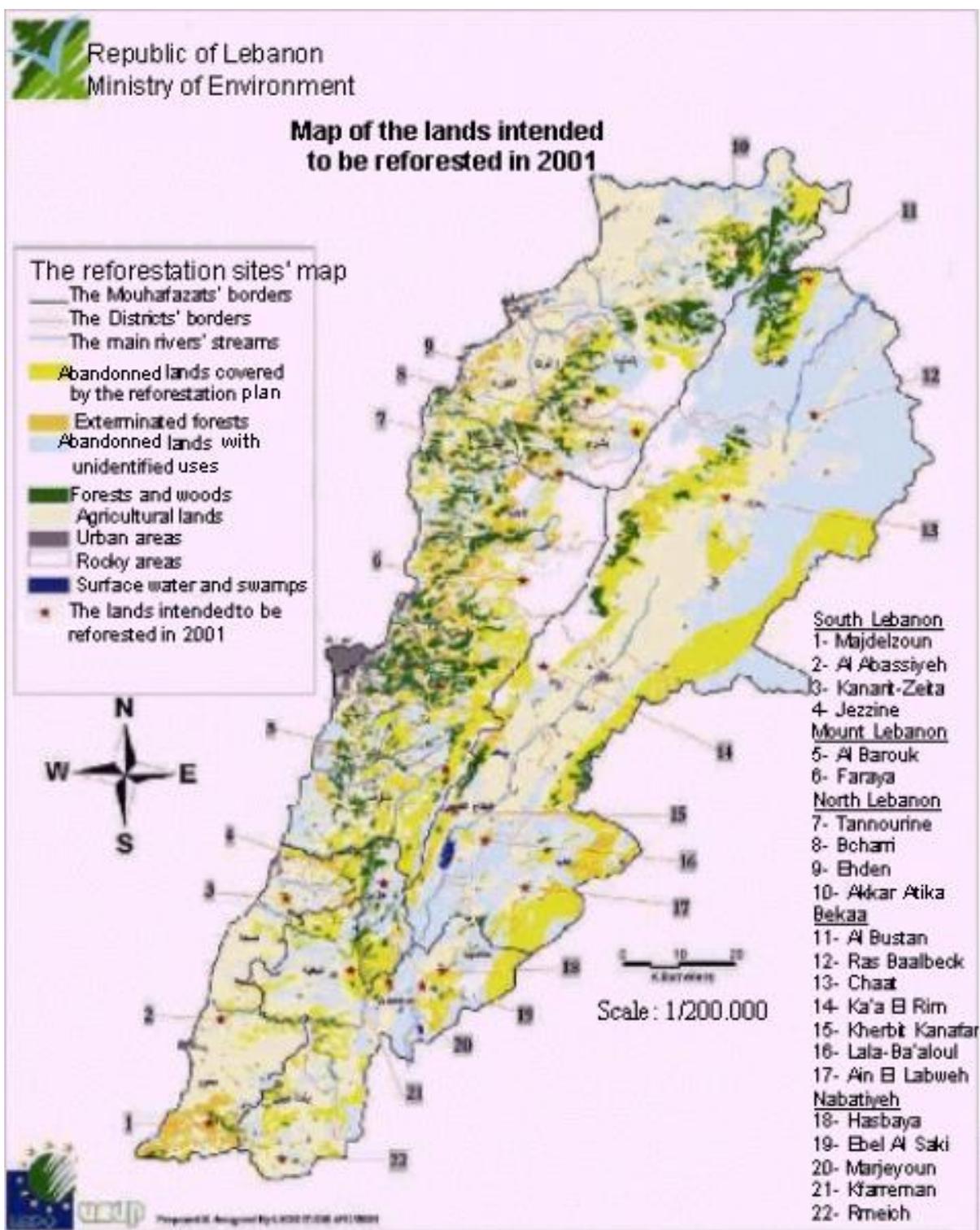
- Law No. 120 issued on November 3rd, 1999:
Lebanon joining Copenhagen Amendment to the Montreal Protocol

- Law No. 23 issued on March 1st, 1999:
Lebanon joining Ramsar Convention for the Internationally Important Wetlands Especially as Waterbirds' Habitats

- Law No. 412 issued on June 5th, 2002:
Authorize the government to adhere to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)

- Law No. 432 issued on August 8th, 2002:
Lebanon joining Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

Appendix 4 The Reforestation Sites' Map



Appendix 5
A List of the Directorate General's Environmental Guidance
Publications and Releases

- Elaboration of training manuals and slideshows on the management of nature reserves, the integrated management of coastal zones, biodiversity in Palms Island, Ehden's forest, Chouf's cedars' reserve, Tyr's beach and Ammiq swamp, as well as the wildlife in the reserves of Palms Island, Ehden's forest and Chouf's cedars' reserve.
- Elaboration of environmental management manuals for classified industrial establishments, hospitals and hotels.
- Preparation of posters on biodiversity within each of the nature reserves of Palms Island, Ehden's forest and Chouf's cedars and on sea turtles.
- Preparation of an audio manual on Palms Island reserve for the visitors.
- Preparation of a book in addition to CDs for the *State of the Environment Report, 2002*.
- **Elaboration of educative material regarding the national reforestation plan, culturing and protecting nursery plants.**
- **Print a map for the world heritage sites in Lebanon.**

Appendix 6
A List of Environmental Awareness and Guidance Activities Conducted
By the Directorate General of Environment

- Workshops: regarding the Integrated Management of Coastal Zones addressing ministries and municipalities of Damour, Sarafand and Nakoura; on the partnership with the private sector in reforestation projects; on hunting, and the draft law proposed to regulate this sector; and on Qadisha Valley.
- Exhibitions (5 moving exhibitions in Palms Island, Ehden's forest, Chouf's cedars, Tyr's beach, and Ammiq swap).
- Awareness campaigns (on natural reserves: Palms Island, Ehden's forest, Chouf's cedars and Tyr's beach and on the importance of wetlands at all levels: from students to decision makers).
- Training sessions on planning and managing nature reserves and visitors, ecotourism, and awareness campaigns.
- **Preparation of conferences and seminars (on water quality and its protection in Lebanon, Environmental Impact Assessment, cost of environmental degradation assessment in Lebanon, and the state of environment in Lebanon).**

Date: On November 19th, 2004

Reference: 731/R/2004

Dr. Berj Hatjian,
Director General of the Ministry of Environment,

Subject:

Seeking the approbation of the Prime Minister to print and publish the *Official Report on the Work Progress of the Directorate General of Environment between 1999 and 2003.*

Reference:

- The circular issued by the Prime Minister No. 23/2003 on September 2nd, 2003.
- Your letter addressed to the Council of Ministers' Secretariat No. 1655/B on October 26th, 2004.

In pursuance to the subject and reference aforementioned,

We cannot but praise your efforts to complete the annual report on the work progress of the Ministry of Environment between 1999 and 2003, and specifically your insistence on publishing this report in the Official Gazette to make it accessible to all citizens dealing with the environmental issue, and supporting the policies and procedures adopted by the agencies to protect the environment, and respect the citizens' right to having access to all information they need, in order to implement the transparency and good governance principles.

Thank you for your concern.

The State Minister of Administrative Reform
Ibrahim Hanna Daher

A letter addressed by the State Minister of Administrative Reform praising the publication of the report in the Official Gazette.