

## The Environmental Fund for Lebanon:

### *Allocations for Sustainable Forest Management*

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## Environmental Fund for Lebanon - Background

- ✓ The 2006 war on Lebanon has considerably weakened its economy and caused serious environmental damage, especially in South Lebanon.
- ✓ In 2007, severe confrontations in the Nahr el-Bared camp between Palestinian refugees and the Lebanese army have also aggravated the difficult economic situation mainly in Northern Lebanon in specific
- ✓ This has resulted in environmental pressure on the Lebanese natural ecosystems.

## Environmental Fund for Lebanon - Background

The Environmental Fund for Lebanon (EFL) was initiated in July 2007 with its objective: *“Reducing environmental risks and economic impacts of the 2006 war in Lebanon and of internal conflicts in North Lebanon”*.

This is done through the following:

1. Establish a transparent system for managing the Fund;
2. Provide grants to innovative environmental initiatives with clear environmental and economic benefits;
3. Provide necessary training and other capacity development needs.

## Financial budget and governance structure

- ✓ EFL is funded by the German Government with a total budget of €8.5 million
- ✓ It is implemented by GIZ in coordination by the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR) and the Ministry of Environment.
- ✓ Its decision making body is the Steering Committee representing the key national stakeholders.
- ✓ It is managed by a full-time team of consultants

## Establishing management and administrative procedures

- ✓ EFL established management guidelines for each call for proposals, including the application forms, evaluation criteria and guidance for applicants. The management guidelines are approved by the Steering Committee and published on the project's website.
- ✓ An independent Evaluation Committee is called upon to evaluate the submitted proposals and provides the Steering Committee with a technical basis for the selection of interventions to be funded.
- ✓ EFL established administrative and financial procedures for the implementation of the funded interventions based on GIZ's regulations.

## Funding conditions of EFL

- ✓ EFL is an open fund for which eligible beneficiaries can apply, responding to an open call for proposals.
- ✓ Individual interventions can be funded by EFL between €30,000 and €300,000.
- ✓ Private entities are requested to contribute up to 50% of the total budget of each intervention.
- ✓ Public entities are requested to contribute up to 80% of the total budget for each intervention.

## First call for proposals in February 2008

The first call for proposal was launched in February 2008 with a total budget of € 3 million allocated for funding local interventions.

The areas of intervention were the following:

**Category 1. Measures to reduce environmental risks directly or indirectly caused by the July 2006 war.**

**Category 2. Environmental investments that could economically benefit Small and Medium Enterprises.**

In May 2008, the Steering Committee selected 16 interventions covering the available budget for local interventions.

## Second call for proposals in May 2010

The second call for proposals was launched in May 2010 with a total budget of € 3 million allocated for funding local interventions.

The areas of intervention were the following:

**Category 1. Environmental interventions with income generating potential related to adaptation to climate change in North Lebanon.**

**Category 2. Abatement of industrial wastewater pollution by adopting cleaner production measures in private enterprises in Kesrwan, the Litani Basin and North Lebanon.**

In total, 12 projects were selected by the Steering Committee in December 2010 covering the available budget for local interventions.



## Contribution of EFL to Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)

EFL has cooperated with several national and local stakeholders concerned by SFM and has reached the following results:

### Measures to reduce environmental risks directly or indirectly caused by the July 2006 war:

- 137,000 seedlings planted or seedlings distributed for planting
- 50,900 ha of land and sea in marine and land ecosystems with enhanced conservation

### Environmental interventions with income generating potential related to adaptation to climate change in North Lebanon:

- 1764 ha of forests (including protected areas) in North Lebanon adopt biological pest control and promote ecotourism in forests ecosystems vulnerable to climate change

## Key recommendations:

- The involvement of concerned national and local stakeholders in SFM can ensure their financial contribution and the sustainability of SFM efforts,
- Establishing management guidelines for each call for proposals, including application forms, evaluation criteria and guidance for applicants allow a transparent and participatory system for environmental financing and SFM
- Management capacities are essential for promoting innovative environmental initiatives with clear environmental and economic benefits in line with national priorities and plans

## Key recommendations:

- Training and capacity development is needed to optimize financing of environmental and SFM activities in view of reaching a multiplying effect
- Lebanon's Second National Communication to the UNFCCC can be used as a basis for identifying forest ecosystems vulnerable to climate change
- Focusing the financial interventions on specific issues (adopt biological pest control and promote ecotourism in forest ecosystems) and on a specific regional area (North Lebanon) can improve the impact and visibility of environmental financing and SFM



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*Thank you for your attention*

