

## Report of the workshop on Estimating the Cost of Environmental Degradation

### 4 – 5 February 2019

## **Ministry of Environment, Republic of Lebanon**

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1	Report on the workshop on	Anil Markandya	Anis Ismail
	the costs of environmental		Michael Scoullos
	degradation in Lebanon.		





### THE SWIM AND H2020 SUPPORT MECHANISM PROJECT (2016-2019)

The SWIM and H/2020 SM is a Regional Technical Support Program, funded by the European Commission, Directorate General (DG) NEAR (Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations), that includes the following Partner Countries (PCs): Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, [Syria] and Tunisia. However, in order to ensure the coherence and effectiveness of Union financing or to foster regional co-operation, eligibility of specific actions will be extended to the Western Balkan countries (Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina and Montenegro), Turkey and Mauritania. The Program is funded by the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) South/Environment. It ensures the continuation of EU's regional support to ENP South countries in the fields of water management, marine pollution prevention and adds value to other important EU-funded regional programs in related fields, in particular the SWITCH-Med program, and the Clima South program, as well as to projects under the EU bilateral programming, where environment and water are identified as priority sectors for the EU co-operation. It complements and provides operational partnerships and links with the projects labelled by the Union for the Mediterranean, project preparation facilities in particular MESHIP phase II and with the next phase of the ENPI-SEIS project on environmental information systems, whereas its work plan will be coherent with, and supportive of, the Barcelona Convention and its Mediterranean Action Plan.

The overall objective of the Program is to contribute to reduced marine pollution and a more sustainable use of scarce water resources. The Technical Assistance services are grouped in 6 work packages: WP1. Expert facility, WP2. Peer-to-peer experience sharing and dialogue, WP3. Training activities, WP4. Communication and visibility, WP5. Capitalizing the lessons learnt, good practices and success stories and WP6. Support activities.





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### ABBREVIATIONS

EO	Ecological Objective
H2020	Horizon 2020
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
IMAP	Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme
LBS	Land-Based Sources
NAP	National Action Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NKE	Non-Key Expert
UNEP/MAP	United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan
MoE	Ministry of Environment
CoED	Cost of Environmental Degradation





## **1. GENERAL INTRODUCTION**

The Cost of Environmental Degradation (COED) measures the lost welfare of a society due to environmental degradation, which can be specified in categories such as: Agricultural land, Forests, Fisheries, Water, Air quality, Waste and the Coastal zone. Damages can also be classified by sources of impact, such as climate change, oil spills, ballast water, etc. The objective of COED is to quantify the degradation of the environment and provide (to the extent possible) a monetary value on these damages.

In 2000 the cost of environmental degradation in Lebanon was estimated by the World Bank at 2.8-4.0 percent of GDP per year, with a mean estimate of close to US\$565 million per year, or 3.4 percent of GDP<sup>1</sup>. At the global level, the cost to the environment is estimated at about 0.5 percent of GDP per year. Cost to health and quality of life was estimated to about 2.1 percent of GDP, followed by 1.3 percent for natural resources. The most significant negative impacts on health are caused by urban air pollution (particulates and Pb) in Greater Beirut and Greater Tripoli at an estimated cost of 0.6-1.0 percent of GDP per year, with a mean of about 0.8 percent. The last category is waste management with potential impacts on health from uncollected and unsafe disposal of municipal and industrial waste, hazardous waste and health sector waste.

In 2014, SWEEP-Net estimated the Cost of Environmental Degradation due to Solid Waste Practices (CASWD)<sup>2</sup>. The results have been divided into two distinct categories: the CASWD and the opportunity loss from interventions that could reap some benefits and improve the management of the waste sector in the future. The CASWD of Beirut and Mount of Lebanon (BML) reached US\$ 66.5 million (LP 100 billion) in 2012 with a variation between US\$ 48 and 127 million, equivalent on average to 0.3% of GDP in BML and 0.2% of the current national GDP of Lebanon in 2012. Conversely, the opportunity loss from interventions that could improve the waste sector management amounts to US\$ 74 million (LP 112 billion) almost equivalent to the same GDP figures.

The objective of the training course was to familiarize the trainees with the COED tool and to present case studies for the economical representation of environmental degradation from the region. For each category of asset and activity, or for each important source of degradation the workshop provided the participants with details on the methods used to make an estimate of the costs and a spreadsheet in which actual costs are calculated for a given set of parameters. The trainees then modified the parameters to reflect more recent data and learn how to use the tools to make estimates in the future.

<sup>1</sup> Cost of Environmental Degradation: The Case of Lebanon and Tunisia- Maria Sarraf, Bjorn Larsen, Marwan Owaygen- 2004 2 Cost of environmental degradation due to solid waste management practices in Beirut and Mount Lebanon SWEEP-Net - 2014





## 2. OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

The main objective of the activity was to provide capacity building and familiarize government officials and other stakeholders on the methods to calculate the cost of environmental degradation (COED), by providing example(s) for assessment(s) at local and/or national level. The COED provides estimates of damage and (in some cases) a parallel set of figures provides data on remediation cost for several areas of the environment that could be used by decision makers in Lebanon for priority setting and as an instrument for integrating environmental issues into economic and social development.

The workshop comprised of a mix of presentations covering the major areas of environmental degradation in Lebanon. These are air pollution, water quality and sanitation, solid waste disposal, land degradation, and coastal degradation. In addition, damages from specific activities was also evaluated. The ones with the biggest costs in Lebanon are quarrying, oil spills and climate change.

Participants were given a USB port with power point presentations on each of these topics, as well excel sheets that showed how the damages were calculated for most of them. In these sheets, cells were highlighted in yellow where participants could change the data and see how that would alter the estimated costs.

## **3. EXPECTED RESULTS OF THE ACTIVITY**

The training aimed to provide participants with detailed knowledge of the methodology used in estimating the costs of environmental degradation. By working with local data, it aimed to provide them with an understanding of how the costs are derived for different areas of environmental damages in Lebanon, what are the limitations of the present estimates and how they may be updated and improved in the future. The expected result was achieved, as shown in the following sections.



FIGURE 1 Photo from the workshop





## 4. PARTICIPANTS PROFILE

In accordance with the Terms of Reference of this activity, this workshop targeted stakeholders from: competent staff from the Public sector (Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Finance, other relevant Ministries), consultancy firms working on environmental projects that require knowledge on the costs of environmental damages/improvements from environmental improvements and academics.

As seen also from the list of participants (see 8.1), the event was attended by 32 participants (a breakdown is given in table 1 and figure 2 below): 1 participant from CDR, 1 from LEPAP MoE/UNDP, 27 from MoE, 1 from UNDP/MoE, and 2 from the private sector.

The workshop was participatory and interactive with extensive discussions both about the data and the limitations of the costs, especially where some categories of impact were underrepresented. There was a lot of discussion on the reasons for excluding some impacts and how this might be changed in the future.

In addition, the training involved a lot of discussion on the policy implications of the estimation of the costs. In some cases, the costs can be compared against the costs of remediation so that damages incurred in the past are removed. In others, the costs can form the basis of policies to control future damages through regulations of the environment that impose additional costs to households, government and industry.

Type of institution	Number of participants
Ministry of Environment	27 from MoE, 1 from LEPAP MoE/UNDP, 1 from MoE/UNDP
Ministry of interior and municipalities	0
Ministry of public health	0
Ministry of finance	0
Consultant firms and private sector	2
Academia	0

#### TABLE 1 Participants profile.

FIGURE 2 Gender statistics of the workshop participants.







## **5. EVALUATION OF THE RESULTS (BY TRAINEES)**

#### A. Feedback on organizational, administrative and planning issues of the event

A set of 7 criteria; A1-A7 (see table below) were assessed by the participants, using a qualitative description ranging between "Excellent" to "Poor", with an opportunity to provide suggestions for improvement. For the sake of comparison, the qualitative descriptions are given series numbers as follows: Excellent = 4; Good = 3; Average = 2; Poor = 1.

TABLE 2 Training rating results related to organizational, administrative and planning issues

a. Of Issue	GANISATIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND PLANNING S BEFORE AND DURING THE EVENT	EXCELLENT	GOOD	AVERAGE	POOR	Total Replies	Average Score (max = 4)
A1	Efficient logistics: location of venue	8	9	3		20	3,25
A2	Smooth flow of programme, efficient handling of emerging needs and attentiveness to participants concerns	6	11	3		20	3,15
A3	Presentations correspond and contribute to the planned objectives and are conducive to enhanced shared understanding and participation on addressed topics	3	13	3	1	20	2,90
A4	Clarity, coverage and sufficiency of concepts, objectives, anticipated outputs and outcomes	3	12	5		20	2,90
A5	The materials distributed were helpful	4	16			20	3,20
A6	Efficient and Effective Facilitation	7	10	3		20	3,20
A7	Overall rating of the event	2	15	3		20	2,95

(See also the corresponding graphs for Table 2 in Annex 8.4)





#### B. Feedback on technical aspects of the event



FIGURE 3 TRAINING COVERAGE

#### FIGURE 4 TRAINING DIFFICULTY





FIGURE 5 TRAINING LENGTH



(see more in Table 3 in Annex 8.4)

#### C. Trainer's comments on participants replies to the open-ended questions

The statement by some of the participants that they found the excel sheets helpful and they would use them in their work is encouraging. That was the aim and hope of the workshop. I appreciate the comment that more help on how to use the formulae would have been desirable. The problem in my view was limitations of time. Given the amount of material that was covered it was not possible to go through the formulae is more detail. There is a comment that more case studies on Lebanon could have been added. In fact almost all the case studies were from Lebanon. More material would have required more time, which was again the constraining factor. The point about working groups is also well taken. Next time I suggest we organize the participants in such groups. They can then work on the examples. Some time had been allocated for such work but only a few participants had brought their laptops, which meant it was not possible to ask individuals to work though examples. The suggestion of providing more background material at the start is accepted. There was one session devoted to that but more could be included.

Overall the comments point to the need for a slightly longer workshop with more hands-on sessions.

(see more in Table 4 in Annex 8.4)





## 6. ANALYSIS OF THE RESULTS

In general the results of the evaluation questionnaire indicate that the workshop met its aims and objectives. The main points which suggest a modification of the format and content for the future are:

- A. Coverage of more material
- B. Possible increased length for the workshop.

I accept the comments and note that (A) would imply (B). This would mean adding perhaps one more day to the event. The risk remains however, that in this case, several trainees would complain that the training is too long and keeps them from the their work commitments.

#### D. Remarks by the trainer

I am generally pleased with the responses. Out of a total of 140 responses of 7 answers across 20 participants only one answered 'poor' to one of the assessments and the average was around a 3 across all answers where the maximum is 4. I should also like to note that I provided my contacts to all the participants and agreed to answer any queries they might have after the workshop was over.

### 7. OVERALL ASSESSMENT & CONCLUSIONS

A training workshop such as this is an ambitious exercise. It involves training individuals who are not economists in techniques of valuation that are quite sophisticated in terms of the knowledge of economics that they demand. In the group there was a handful of economists who contributed most to the discussion. Many others also expressed intelligent criticisms about the methodology and the results. That meant they were engaged in the exercise, which is a good sign.

For the future, a workshop that is one day longer might be better, with working groups being established according to areas of interest and more time spent by the participants working on the data provided, with comments and guidance from the instructor.





## 8. ANNEXES

### 8.1 AGENDA OF THE WORKSHOP

#### **Training Agenda**

# Estimating the Cost of Environmental Degradation in Lebanon $4-5\,February\,2019$

#### **Ministry of Environment**

AM: Anil Markandya, Trainer in Charge

Time	Session	Comment/Speakers
Day 1		
8:30-09:00	Registration	
9:00-09:30	Introduction: Aims and Objectives of the Workshop	AM, MoE Representative
09:30-10:00	Basis of Cost of Environmental Degradation Estimation	AM
10:00-10:30	Coffee Break	
10:30-11:30	Estimating costs of air pollution (urban and indoor)	AM
11:30-12:00	Participants use of excel spreadsheet to make estimates	Participants
	of air pollution	
12:00-12:45	Estimating costs of water quality and sanitation	AM
12:45-13:30	Lunch	
13:30-14:00	Participants use of excel spreadsheet to make estimates	Participants
	of water quality and sanitation	
14:00-14:30	Estimating costs of waste disposal	AM
14:30-15:00	Estimating costs of land use and land reclamation	AM
15:00-15:30	Participants use of excel spreadsheet to make estimates	Participants
	of waste disposal and land degradation	
	END OF DAY ONE	
Day 2		
9:30-9:30	Estimating costs of quarrying	AM
09:30-10:00	Estimating costs of coastal degradation	AM
10:00-10:30	Participant use of excel spreadsheet to make estimates of	Participants
	quarrying and coastal degradation costs	
10:30-11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00-11:30	Estimating costs of oil spills	AM
11:30-12:00	Participant use of excel spreadsheet to make estimates of	Participants
	oil spill costs	
12:00-12:30	Estimating costs of fisheries	AM
12:30-13:00	Estimating costs of climate change	AM
13:00-14:00	Lunch	Desite the set of
14:00-14:30	Participant use of excel spreadsneet to make estimates of	Participants
14.20 15.00	Tisneries and climate change	ANA and Dauticinants
14:30-15:00	concluding session on use of methods and outstanding	Aivi and Participants
15.00 15.20	problems Evoluation of the training and Closing	٨॥
15:00-15:30	Evaluation of the training and Closing	All





### 8.2. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS OF THE WORKSHOP

	Estimating the Cost of Environmental Degradation in Lebanon (EFH-LB-3) 4-5 February 2019, Beirut, Lebanon							
No.	COUNTRY	INSTITUTION (please use the options	TITLE (Mr/Ms)	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	POSITION/ FUNCTION	ORGANISATION/ INSTITUTION	EMAIL
1	UK	INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND PROGRAMMES	Mr.	Anil	MARKANDYA	Scientific Director / SWIM-H2020 SM Expert	Basque Centre for Climate Change / SWIM-H2020 SM	anil.markandya@bc3research.org
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16	LEBANON	MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVES	Ms.	Anna	CHADAREVIAN	Head of Department Private Sector	Ministry of Environment	a.chadarevian@moe.gov.lb
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35	LEBANON	PRIVATE SECTOR	Ms.	Asma	JEITANI		SES	jeitani asma@hotmail.com



### 8.3. EXERCISES/TESTS

The materials used in the training are available as a set of presentations and excel files. They are provided in a separate document and at <u>https://www.swim-h2020.eu/4-5-february-2019-beirut-lebanon-swim-h2020-sm-consultation-workshop-on-the-cost-of-environmental-degradation/</u>





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### 8.4. DETAILS ON THE RESULTS OF THE EVALUATION FORMS

The following graphs illustrate Table 2: Training rating results related to organizational, administrative and planning issues





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Sustainable Water Integrated Management and Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism

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Overall rating of the event







#### TABLE 3 PARTICIPANTS' FEEDBACK ON TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE TRAINING

B. F	EEDBACK ON TECHNICAL ASPECTS	No. of replies
B1	Coverage of the event In your opinion did the event cover (tick one of the following):	
	All the topics necessary for a good comprehension of the subject nothing more	7
	Some topics covered are not necessary	1
	Some additional topics should be included	11
	No reply	0
	Total Replies	19
B2	Level of difficulty	
	Difficult	0
	Adequate	2
	Elementary	18
	No reply	0
	Total Replies	20
B3	Length of the training In your view the workshop duration (tick one of the following):	
	Longer than needed	0
	Sufficient	17
	Shorter than required	3
	No reply	0
	Total Replies	20

#### TABLE 4 PARTICIPANTS REPLIES TO THE OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS

Open-ended questions		Participant's replies
Β4	What is the most valuable thing you learned during the workshop (knowledge or skills)?	<ul> <li>The excel sheet that has new material to be considered while calculating the cost of environmental degradation (4)</li> <li>Calculation and estimation of the cost of environmental degradation (6)</li> <li>The knowledge on how to use formulas and functions (1)</li> <li>How to choose the factors that are needed for the study (2)</li> <li>The potential benefits of the calculations on the strategic and policy levels (1)</li> <li>The objectives of evaluating the cost of environmental degradations (1)</li> </ul>
B5	Total Replies How do you think that the current event will	<ul> <li>17</li> <li>It helps to take into consideration the cost of environmental degradation while inspecting the environmental impact assessment studies (5)</li> <li>I will apply this concept in my work (1)</li> </ul>
	work on the subject?	<ul><li>I will update the excel sheets distributed (1)</li><li>It gave me the basics to start collecting data and make more personal</li></ul>





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	Total Replies Please indicate whether (and how) you could	<ul> <li>With adequate data, we can calculate the CoED which can help with future investments, with making new laws and eventually with improving the environment in Lebanon (1)</li> <li>It will be very beneficial on the level of law proposals in terms of fines and compensations for polluters (1)</li> <li>It will help is in our environmental and CoED studies (2)</li> <li>In assessing the studies for proposing fees in environmental degradation (1)</li> <li>I will share the excel sheets with my colleagues (9)</li> <li>I will apply it in our department for the cost of environmental degradation</li> </ul>
B6	transfer part of the experience gained from the event to your colleagues in your country?	<ul> <li>for quarries and coastal area (1)</li> <li>I will use the information acquired while reviewing the environmental studies (2)</li> <li>I will transfer the information through national reports and in universities (1)</li> <li>Public sector initiatives (1)</li> </ul>
	Total Replies	14
B7	What did you like most about this event?	<ul> <li>The interaction and kindness of the trainer, he answered all the questions (3)</li> <li>All in all (1)</li> <li>All the information is helpful especially the excel sheets (3)</li> <li>The variety of the topics that have been tackled (1)</li> <li>Easy use of excel sheets and formulas (2)</li> <li>The examples given are clear and relatable (1)</li> <li>The qualitative inputs (1)</li> <li>Discussion and numbers used during the last studies for Lebanon (1)</li> </ul>
	Total Replies	13
B8	What needs to be improved?	<ul> <li>A part concerning application/exercises on how to use the formula (it would be important to have a practical training for the participants) (2)</li> <li>More case studies on Lebanon could be added, it helps understanding the actual situation (5)</li> <li>More working groups could help and improve the workshop (3)</li> <li>Logistics (1)</li> <li>More background information related to the topic could make the first day more interesting and easier (1)</li> <li>Updating the information and examples (1)</li> <li>The training material, the technical and practical part should be improved (3)</li> <li>The PPT presentations should be better (1)</li> <li>Nothing (1)</li> </ul>
	Total Replies	18

