

I. LEBANON

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This country report provides a comprehensive overview and assessment of the current state-of-play with regard to Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) in Lebanon¹. After detailing Lebanon's country characteristics, its most important maritime activities are presented. Next, the country report discusses the legal aspects, key players, plans and projects related to Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and MSP as well as the relevant international initiatives and platforms for cooperation. To conclude, the main findings related to Maritime Spatial Planning are summed up. The sources of information used and persons contacted are listed at the end.

I.1. COUNTRY CHARACTERISTICS

Lebanon is a country in Western Asia, located on the eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea. At the sea side, it is bordered by Syria to the north and Israel to the south. Lebanon has not established an Exclusive Economic Zone; therefore its jurisdiction is limited to its territorial waters. A summary of Lebanon's most important country characteristics is presented in *Table 1*.

¹ For the purpose of this study 20 country reports have been drawn up in total. Relevant available information on Monaco is included in the case study of the Western Mediterranean and information on the United Kingdom (Gibraltar) is included in the case study of the Alboran Sea.

Table 1 : Country characteristics – Lebanon

<u>Lebanon</u>		
<i>Coastal regions</i>	Beirut, Lebanon Mountains, Northern Lebanon and Southern Lebanon	
<i>Coastline length*</i>	225 km	
<i>Water depth**</i>	Up to 3 000 m	
<i>Maritime zones***</i>	<i>Breadth</i>	<i>Area</i>
Territorial sea****	12 nm	4 702 km ²

* Source: MedPAN, www.medpan.org

** Source: Institute of the Environment, University of Balamand, e-mail January 21, 2010

*** Based on the national acts or decrees of the maritime zones

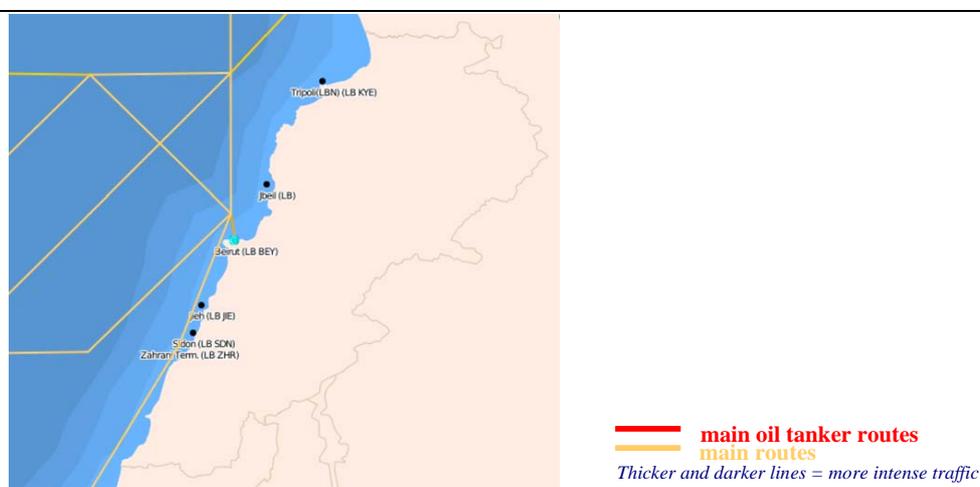
**** Source: EarthTrends, Coastal and Marine ecosystems – searchable database

Source : Policy Research Corporation

I.2. MARITIME ACTIVITIES AND THE PROTECTION OF MARINE AREAS

Maritime transport in Lebanon is concentrated around Beirut, Lebanon’s major port. Furthermore, *Figure 1* indicates the main traffic routes which are located near the coast of Lebanon.

Figure 1: Maritime traffic near Lebanon



Source: Policy Research Corporation based on the Safemed Project – Maritime traffic flows and risks analysis in the Mediterranean Sea, www.safemedgis.org

Fishery is a traditional maritime activity in Lebanon. The Lebanese fishing fleet consists of 2 700 fishing boats spread all over the Lebanese coast with approximately 1 100 being active in northern Lebanon. Fishing is not allowed within 500 m off the shoreline and between the 6 and 12 nautical miles zone for security reasons². In 2008, fish catches amounted to 3 800 tonnes³. With regard to *oil*

² Institute of the Environment – University of Balamand, 2009, *IMAC project summaries: Integrated Management of East Mediterranean Coastlines*; Institute of the Environment, University of Balamand, e-mail January 21, 2010.

and gas activities, 17 potential fields were discovered in the zone between Lebanon, Cyprus and Egypt⁴. Therefore Lebanon has signed agreements with Cyprus delimitating the Exclusive Economic Zone of each country and marking out undersea borders to facilitate future oil and gas exploration.

With regard to *maritime activities near the maritime borders with Syria and Israel*, it should be noted that⁵:

- At the southern maritime border (border with Israel), no maritime activities take place due to political conflicts between the two countries involved;
- At the northern maritime border (border with Syria), no major competition between different uses is currently experienced.

According to the Network of Managers of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean (MedPAN), Lebanon has currently established one Marine Protected Area – Palm Island – in its territorial sea. Palm Island received the legal status of a Nature Reserve and is internationally recognised as a Ramsar⁶ site and as an Important Bird Area (IBA)⁷. Its marine surface amounts to 4 km² while its total surface amounts to 4.3 km².

I.3. LEGAL ASPECTS AND KEY PLAYERS

In Lebanon, the two most important laws with respect to the coastal zone and the marine environment are:

- The *Framework Law on the Protection of the Environment* (444/2002, article 29-34) lays down the principles governing the protection of the coast and the aquatic environment in accordance with the provisions of regional and international conventions ratified by Lebanon; this law foresaw the creation of the National Council of the Environment to coordinate ICZM actions but so far this Council has not been set up;
- The *Law 690/2005* entrusts the Ministry of Environment (MoE) with the creation of coastal and water resource pollution standards and norms; it also provides for the introduction of new legal and economic instruments such as the Pollution-Pay-Principle.

Nevertheless, different sources of information indicate that laws and regulations in Lebanon, especially when it comes to planning and environment are overlapping, contradictory and not well-applied. This results in many inter-ministerial disputes related to jurisdiction and mandate⁸.

³ FAO, *Yearbook of fishery statistics*.

⁴ Institute of the Environment, University of Balamand, e-mail January 21, 2010.

⁵ Institute of the Environment, University of Balamand, e-mail January 21, 2010.

⁶ Wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention.

⁷ An Important Bird Area is designated by BirdLife International, a global partnership of conservation organisations that strives to conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity.

⁸ Institute of the Environment, University of Balamand, e-mail January 21, 2010; and Institute of Environment of University of Balamand, 2007, *Integrated Management of East Mediterranean Coastlines, Assessment of the institutional and legal setting for coastal zone management in Lebanon*.

Lebanon has multiple key players involved in coastal zone management. The most important actors in this respect seem to be⁹:

- The *Ministry of Public Works and Transport* is responsible for urban development and has jurisdiction over ports and the maritime public domain;
- The *Ministry of Interior* and the *municipalities* have jurisdiction over the coastal areas; however the government exercises both administrative and financial control over the municipalities;
- The *Council for Development and Reconstruction* (CDR) has been the executing agency for most government development projects and is the main actor with respect to land-use planning; in this respect, the CDR partially replaced the Ministry for Planning;
- The *Ministry of Environment*.

I.4. NATIONAL AND SUB-NATIONAL PLANS, PROJECTS AND STUDIES RELATED TO ICZM AND MSP

In Lebanon, no Maritime Spatial Plans were produced at national level; however efforts were made in order to produce ICZM strategies and related development projects. These strategies and plans are not binding as none of them were adopted by the government so far. Relevant plans and projects in this respect are:

- *1997*: Regional environmental assessment report on the coastal zone of Lebanon;
- *2001*: Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP) in Lebanon;
- *2005*: Physical Master Plans endorsed by the Lebanese Council for Development and Reconstruction;
- *2006-2009*: Project on Integrated Management of East Mediterranean Coastlines (IMAC).

a/ Regional environmental assessment report on the coastal zone of Lebanon

In 1997, a *regional environmental assessment study of the Lebanese coastal zone* was commissioned by Lebanon's Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR) and the World Bank¹⁰. The study included the identification of different development scenarios, a description of the environmental status of Lebanese regions and the formulation of recommendations for a Coastal Zone Management Plan. In this respect, a Geographic Information System (GIS) system was prepared for Lebanon's coastal zone with more detailed information on hotspots and sensitive areas.

b/ Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP)

The *Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP)* was carried out in the period 2002 – 2004. The CAMP resulted in a *draft national Integrated Coastal Area Management Strategy* as well as a *draft*

⁹ Doumani F.M., 2009, *Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Lebanon: The Northern Coast, Policy Brief*.

¹⁰ The study was carried out by ECODIT, an international advisory office, and the French Institut d'Aménagement Urbain de la Région d'Ile de France (IAURIF); source: <http://www.ecodit.com/ecodit.htm>.

legal framework for ICZM, but both documents are at present not yet endorsed by the Lebanese government. Table 2 visualises the area covered under the CAMP and discusses the main results.

Table 2: CAMP Lebanon

Area covered:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The area of the CAMP includes an area south of Beirut • The total area encompasses 615 km² and covers about one third of the Lebanese coastline (85 km) • The area encompasses the municipalities of Damour, Sarafand and Naqoura 	
Main results:	<p>At national level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The preparation of a national Integrated Coastal Area Management Strategy • The development of a draft legal framework for ICZM (a law on Integrated Coastal Area Management) • The preparation of updated Terms of Reference for the elaboration of urban master plans • The preparation of awareness tools that help to disseminate the ICAM concept <p>At regional level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal development plans based on extensive studies of each municipality including the environment, fisheries, socio-economic and land-use indicators • The conservation of some sites of cultural, agricultural and/or landscape value 	
Project funding:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding provided by UNEP-MAP 	
Timeframe:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2002 – 2004 	

Source: Policy Research Corporation based on Mehdi S, 2004, *Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP) Lebanon: Final Integrated Report, Split*

c/ Physical Master Plans

In 2004, *National Physical Master Plans* of the Lebanese territories were developed by the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR). These plans were not specifically developed for the coastal areas, but focus on the entire territorial area of Lebanon. In this respect, the plans:

- Define Lebanon’s potential assets;
- Determine Lebanon’s potential advantages per region;
- Establish Lebanon’s economic and environmental challenges.

d/ Project on Integrated Management of East Mediterranean Coastlines (IMAC)

Neither the CAMP, nor the Physical Master Plans resulted in a legislative framework for Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Lebanon. To this end, the project *Integrated Management of East Mediterranean Coastlines (IMAC)* aimed to establish a local process of ICZM for the coastal areas of northern Lebanon. More details on the IMAC project are provided in *Figure 2*.

Figure 2: Integrated Management of East Mediterranean Coastlines – Northern Lebanon



In the period 2006 – 2008, several preparatory studies were carried out which resulted in a *Coastal Strategy for northern Lebanon* by the beginning of 2009

The *strategy* sets a framework for long-term sustainable management of the coast of northern Lebanon (whereas the CAMP project focused on the area south of Beirut); nevertheless, this document has not been translated into a national act or decree yet

Source: Policy Research Corporation based on the Institute of Environment of University of Balamand, 2009, *Integrated Management of East Mediterranean Coastlines, Summaries and the Integrated Management of East Mediterranean Coastlines*, www.balamand.edu.lb/english/IMAC.asp?ID=8761

I.5. INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES RELATED TO ICZM AND MSP

International initiatives (including EU-funded projects) related to ICZM and MSP in the Mediterranean Sea basin are presented in *Annex II* of the final report.

Lebanon is / was involved in the following international initiatives / EU-funded projects:

- The *CoLD* project (Lebanon and Syria);
- The *MedWetCoast* project (Albania, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Authority and Tunisia);
- The *SAFEMED* project (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordanian, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey).

I.6. MAIN FINDINGS RELEVANT FOR MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING

Maritime activities:

- Political issues between Lebanon and Israel are preventing structural maritime activities; these problems hamper the application of MSP and require a political solution;
- At the northern maritime border (border with Syria), no major competition between different uses is currently experienced.

Legal aspects and key players:

- Laws and regulations in Lebanon, especially when it comes to planning and the environment, are overlapping, contradictory and not well-applied which results in many inter-ministerial disputes related to jurisdiction and mandate.

Current status of Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Maritime Spatial Planning:

- Efforts were made in order to produce ICZM strategies such as the coastal strategies developed for the northern as well as southern coastal areas of Lebanon; however these strategies are not binding as none of them were adopted by the government so far;
- In Lebanon, no Maritime Spatial Plans have been developed yet.

I.7. OVERVIEW OF SOURCES OF INFORMATION USED AND PERSONS CONTACTED

a/ Sources of information used:

- Doumani F.M., 2009, *Integrated coastal zone management in Lebanon: The Northern Coast Policy Brief*;
- ECODIT, 1997, *Regional environmental assessment report on the coastal zone of Lebanon*, www.ecodit.com/ecodit.htm;
- FAO, *Yearbook of fishery statistics*;
- Institute of Environment of University of Balamand, 2009, *Integrated Management of East Mediterranean Coastlines, Summaries*;
- Institute of Environment of University of Balamand, 2009, *Integrated Management of East Mediterranean Coastlines, Assessment report*;
- Institute of Environment of University of Balamand, 2007, *Integrated Management of East Mediterranean Coastlines, Assessment of the institutional and legal setting for coastal zone management in Lebanon*;
- Mehdi S, 2004, *Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP) Lebanon: Final Integrated Report*, Split;
- Priority Actions Programme – the coastal management centre, www.pap-thecoastcentre.org;
- Safemed Project – Maritime traffic flows and risks analysis in the Mediterranean Sea, <http://www.safemedgis.org>;
- The Integrated Management of East Mediterranean Coastlines, www.balamand.edu.lb/english/IMAC.asp?ID=8761;
- The Network of managers of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean, www.medpan.org;
- World database on protected areas, www.wdpa.org.

b/ Persons contacted:

- Berj Hatjian, Ministry of Environment;
- Council for development and Reconstruction;
- Manal Nader, Institute of the Environment, University of Balamand;
- Mehdi Sawsan, National CAMP coordinator;
- Ministry of Public Works and Transport.