

## **PART III. NATIONAL REPORTING GUIDELINES FOR CSD-14/15 THEMATIC AREAS**

### **A. ATMOSPHERE/AIR POLLUTION**

Government focal point(s): **Supreme Council for Environment and Natural Reserves (SCENR)**  
Responding ministry/office(s): **Ministry of Energy and Industry, HSE Regulation Department.**

The atmosphere is considered among the most important elements of the environment. It provides the oxygen and the required conditions for life. But it is also vulnerable to the pollution that is generated from various sources. The State of Qatar has given particular consideration to the air quality through dedicated regulations and implementation of norms and standards and through dissemination of knowledge and awareness among the society at large.

#### **Decision-Making: Strategies, policies, programmes and plans, legislation, policy instruments and the regulatory framework; involvement of Major Groups**

- **Assessing ambient air quality and the levels of air pollution:**

Qatar is situated between the two latitude lines 24' 27 and 26' 10 North and the two longitude lines 50' 45 and 51' 40 East, which places Qatar at the middle of the West coast of the Arabian Gulf.

Qatar has a Saharan like climate in general. Temperature raises in summer and autumn and cools down in winter. From October to April the temperature is lower reaching its minimum between 10 and 23 °C in January and February. In summer it reaches 40°C with high humidity levels reaching 71% in the morning and 43% in the evening. Rains fall from October to May reaching an annual average of 107.7 mm in northern Qatar while it reaches 70.7 mm in the south of the country.

- **Control of air pollution:**

The SCENR has developed a network of air fixed and mobile air quality monitoring stations in Doha and Wakra cities. Equally, the authorities at Mesaeed and Ras Laffan industrial cities are carrying out air quality monitoring activities through many fixed stations.

These stations provide valuable data related to the following pollutants: NOX, CO, SO<sub>2</sub>, OZONE, CH<sub>4</sub>, and other elements.

On the other hand, industrial companies in Mesaeed and Ras Laffan are also monitoring the emissions from their industrial plants.

- **Capacity-Building:**

By publishing the executive regulations of law Number 30 of 2002 related to the environmental protection in the state of Qatar, the norms and standards related to gas emissions to the atmosphere became legally binding. These standards and norms define the air quality and the maximum authorized values of pollutant gases that shall not be exceeded from any source in the country.

Equally, any development project including industrial projects are subject to environmental impact approval by the SCENR. It requires the submission of detailed environmental impact studies including air quality and air dispersion mathematical models and profiles.

According to law Number 30 of 2002, all the industrial infrastructures and plants are obliged to monitor their emissions according to norms, standards and conditions agreed upon in advance and subject to a quarterly report to be approved by the SCENR.

Regarding the Hydrocarbon industry including both the upstream and the downstream, the Ministry of Energy & Industry has established a department in charge of Health safety and environment Regulation (HSE Regulation Authority) . This department works hand in hand with the SCENR to implement and enforce Law Number 30 of 2002 and is in charge of developing and harmonizing the norms and standards in the Hydrocarbon sector, It has in addition, an auditing role through out the industry in the state of Qatar including air quality issues.

- **Programs aimed at reducing air pollution in closed areas:**

The State of Qatar is implementing a number of measures aimed at reducing the air pollution in closed areas and minimizing its impacts. Among the efforts, the Council of Public Health, the SCENR, the Center of the Environment Friends and others are focusing on public awareness and on implementing for instance the dispositions of laws related to no smoking in public areas.

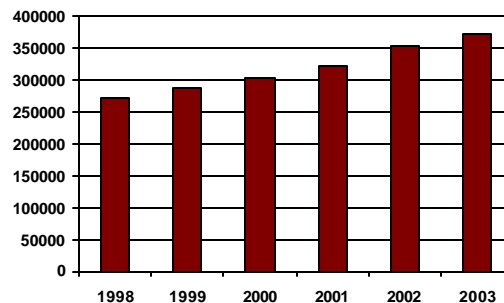
- **General policies to improve the fuel quality:**

Since 1997, all transport vehicles use lead free gasoline. It is also planned to start during the year 2005 to produce green diesel produced through converting Natural Gas to Liquefied fuels starting with 25,000 tons.

- **Policies towards the use of cleaner technologies in the transport sector:**

The official statistics in the state of Qatar show that the number of vehicles is increasing steadily in the country. This has resulted in more restrictive conditions in giving permits. The CO and NOx emission levels are now among the conditions to obtain circulation permit.

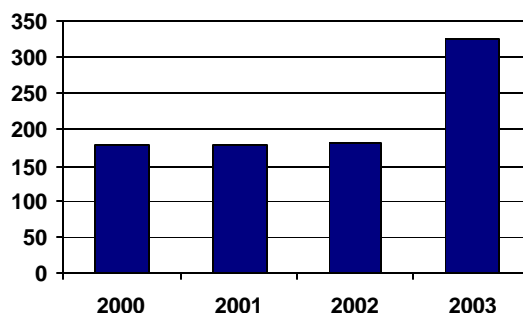
**Registered Vehicles and Motor Cycles**



- **Programs aimed at reducing the use of ozone depleting material and development of alternatives:**

Qatar is among the countries under paragraph 5 of Montreal Protocol related to ozone layer protection. Qatar has been given a period up to 2010 to reduce its use of ozone layer depleting material. The State is therefore implementing a dedicated program to reduce these materials and to act progressively using alternative materials according to a program prepared in collaboration with the UN Program for Industrial Development.

Consumption of Ozone Depleting Substances  
MT/year



- **Capacity building, information research and development**

The State of Qatar is deploying considerable efforts to build national institutions and to strengthen its legal framework to preserve good air quality. For this, valuable data is available to all concerned parties including researchers and scientists among the laboratories and universities. The State encourages and promotes scientific research in this field through specific research studies in Qatar university and the other international universities present in the Education City in Qatar.

Public awareness towards environmental issues is also important among the concerned parties that edit a number of relevant publications and that implement specific programs particularly at the school level through out the country. ( students represent 23% of Qatar population).

Many other publications and valuable information are available at the following web sites:

<a href="http://www.qatarenv.org">www.qatarenv.org</a>	(SCENR web site)
<a href="http://www.myqatar.org">www.myqatar.org</a>	(Environment friends web site)
<a href="http://www.hmc.org.qa">www.hmc.org.qa</a>	(Hamad Hospital Corporation web site)
<a href="http://www.qrcs.org">www.qrcs.org</a>	(Red Cressent Organisation of Qatar web site)
<a href="http://www.planning.gov.qa">www.planning.gov.qa</a>	(Planning Council web site)
<a href="http://www.qp.com.qa">www.qp.com.qa</a>	(Qatar Petroleum web site)
<a href="http://www.Kahramaa.com">www.Kahramaa.com</a>	(Qatar General Electricity & Water Corporation web site)