

of contaminants, and that the State should look after this prerogative as well as it should preserve nature. The present political authorities have included in their government program a commitment to the environment. They have created a national commission of the environment (CONAMA) dependent of the Ministry of National Goods, that is preparing an environmental legislation project to be presented to the Congress during early 1991. The main objectives of this state organization are: to stipulate a coherent national environmental policy, to propose an institutional scheme, and to implement training and educative programs for government employees that will be in charge of control and regulation. They have also created a commission that is dedicated to the solution of the atmospheric contamination of Santiago (Comisión de Descontaminación de la Región Metropolitana).

In summary:

The productive sector as well as the general public in Chile perceives that environmental legislation will be the topic where most of the changes will be done in the near future.

The following report does not pretend to be an exhaustive analysis of all environmental problems in Chile, but it is an abbreviated account of how Chile is responding to environmental issues, describing the main problems regarding the environment, how they are being perceived, what is being done today, and what are the proposed policies by different sectors to be implemented in the future. This study is based on the available Chilean literature published about environment as well as on seminar documents, personal communication with experts of this topic and on the informative media.