involved in environmental problems, ie. CODEFF (National Committee for the Defense of Flora and Fauna) founded 20 years ago, ACHIDAM (Chilean association for the right to the environment), Comité de Ciencias Ambientales de CONICYT, and especially CIPMA (center of research and planning of the environment) created in 1980.

Environmental issues are becoming more and more important not only in the academia sector, but also in the government, the businessworld and the general public.

People are becoming aware of the potential damage both to their health and to their working sources if productive sectors do not incorporate the environmental dimension. The public awareness of the environmental issues can be perceived not only because of the increase of conservationist groups but also, because this was a topic included in all of the 1989 presidential candidate's political proposals. Also, in the main Chilean newspapers and TV channels environmental related articles and programs are common nowadays. "El Mercurio", a Santiago newspaper, has created a permanent once-a-week environmental column. A recent Gallup study (September, 1990) carried out in Santiago, showed that 27% of people interviewed considered pollution as important as Human Rights Affairs, or as important as the Persian Gulf situation. Neighborhood and other social organizations are interested in environmental problems and they are involved in the elaboration of proposal of solutions to their community problems. One of the proposals that had caught public attention is the installment of an environmental seal to products that are "environmentally friendly". Two environmental legislative projects have been already presented to the Congress in 1990 by two groups of politicians.

The private productive sector is perceiving that Chilean exports in the near future will be tied to environmental constraints imposed by the international community. The recent restriction by the European