

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) issues a press release on World Environment Day

“The Palestinian forests and wooded land between the Israeli occupation measures and confiscation of land”

The occasion of World Environment Day (WED) is celebrated every year on the fifth of June since 1972, when the General Assembly of the United Nations declared WED at the opening of the Stockholm conference on human environment.

The theme of WED in 2011 is “Forests: Nature At Your Service” It echoes the urgent call to sustainable forest management towards a green economy.

In the Palestinian Territory, the date of WED reminds the Palestinians of the Israel's occupation of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, Gaza Strip and other Arab Territory in 1967. After 44 years of this occupation, Palestinians still live under occupation that is depleting the environmental resources in the Palestinian Territory.

“The Palestinian forests and wooded land between the Israeli occupation measures and confiscation of land”

Forests in the Palestinian Territory are divided into two main types, namely: industrial forest plantations, mostly pine and cypress, and natural forest which contains many endemic trees such as carob, oak, alshres and others.

Before the year 1967, forests covered most of the Palestinian Territory, but many of them have become barren as a result of Israeli aggression against the Palestinian land and environment, and due to excessive use by the Palestinians.

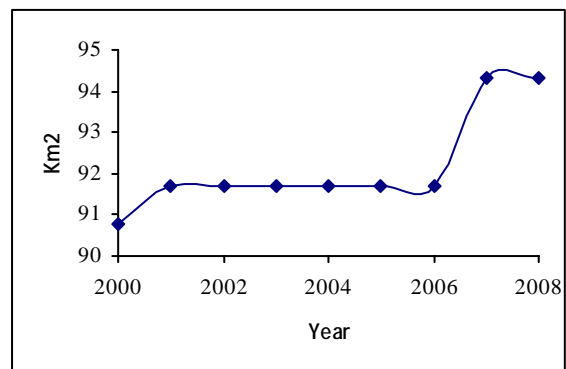
Forest Areas and the Damaged Areas by Region Until the End of June 1999 (Units in Km²)

| Region | Original Area | Damaged Area | Remaining Area | Damaged Area % |
|------------------------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| Palestinian Territory | 301.0 | 212.8 | 88.2 | 70.7 |
| West Bank | 259.0 | 174.0 | 85.0 | 67.2 |
| Gaza Strip | 42.0 | 38.8 | 3.2 | 92.4 |

Source: The Palestinian National Information Center

It should be noted that the years 2000 to 2006 had witnessed stability of the area of forests and woodlands in the Palestinian Territory. During the years 2007 and 2008, a slight increase in the area of forests and woodlands had occurred as a result of efforts of the government and citizens towards planting trees as a kind of protection against confiscation and the Israeli aggression.

Area of Forests and Woodlands in the Palestinian Territory 2000-2008 (Km²)



Source: The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics 2008. Land use database.

The Ecological Footprint (EF) in the Palestinian Territory is the least among the neighboring countries

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has started the release of the Living Planet Report (LPR) since 1998 to focus on the state of nature in the world and the impact of human activities on it.

EF represents the demand for natural resources by humans while Biological Capacity (BC) represents the supply side of these resources. The ideal situation requires that BC equal EF to maintain the

ecological balance in the nature, but when the EF exceeds the BC there will be a deficiency in the natural resources in a given country.

In the Palestinian Territory and according to the LPR 2010, based on 2007 data, the EF of the Palestinian Territory amounts to 0.74 hectares per capita¹, that is to say any individual living in the Palestinian Territory consumes the production of 0.74 hectares and LPR 2010 recorded the Palestinian Territory as the lowest number among the neighboring countries. The BC of the Palestinian Territory amounts to 0.16 hectares per capita, so a deficit of 0.58 hectares exists.

BC and EF for Selected Countries, 2007 (hectares per capita)

| Country | BC | EF | Deficit |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Palestinian Territory | 0.16 | 0.74 | 0.58 |
| Jordan | 2.05 | 0.24 | 1.81 |
| Lebanon | 2.90 | 0.40 | 2.50 |
| Egypt | 1.66 | 0.62 | 1.04 |
| Israel | 4.82 | 0.32 | 4.50 |
| World | 2.70 | 1.78 | 0.92 |

Source: Living Planet Report 2010

The sources of the EF in the Palestinian Territory are restricted in the cropland which contributes to 47% of the EF, and the energy sector with a share of 46%, while the rest are from the grazing lands (7%).

BC and EF in the Palestinian Territory, 2007 (hectares per capita)

| Component | EF | BC | Deficit |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Total | 0.74 | 0.16 | 0.58 |
| Cropland Footprint | 0.35 | | |
| Grazing Footprint | 0.05 | | |
| Forest Footprint | 0.0 | | |
| Fishing Ground Footprint | 0.0 | | |
| Carbon Footprint | 0.34 | | |
| Built-up Land | 0.0 | | |

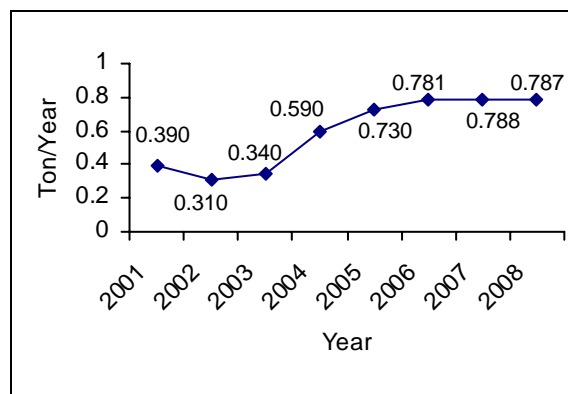
Source: Living Planet Report 2010

¹ global hectares = 10 donum

Palestinian emissions per capita in continuous rise

Global reports such as The Titi Tudorancea Bulletin (specialized bulletin in energy affairs) indicated that the per capita emissions of carbon dioxide from the energy sector in the Palestinian Territory had increased by 50% during the year 2008, compared with the year 2001. Reports attributed this change to the increase in the consumption of petroleum derivatives.

Per Capita Carbon Dioxide Emission from Consumption of Energy by Year



The Titi Tudorancea Bulletin

Globally, during the year 2008, the per capita quantities of carbon dioxide from the energy sector in the world reached 4.54 tons/year. The table below shows the per capita quantities of carbon dioxide from the energy sector of the Palestinian Territory and some neighboring countries and the world.

Per Capita Carbon Dioxide Emission from Consumption and the world

| Country/Region | Ton/year |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Palestinian Territory | 0.787 |
| Jordan | 3.578 |
| Lebanon | 3.618 |
| Egypt | 2.133 |
| Israel | 9.871 |
| World | 4.540 |

Source: The Titi Tudorancea Bulletin

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