Environmental Issues in Chile
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General Information

 Importance of natural resources in Chilean economy:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Percentage of PIB</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mining</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture - Forest</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
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</tbody>
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 During the last decade, mineral resources still represent about 40% of Chilean exportations.

 Geographical characteristics: high susceptibility to natural perils:

Chile presents a wide range of climatic conditions with very sensitive ecosystems and specific natural perils:

- Volcanism
- High seismic susceptibility
- Geomorphology

Environmental Issues

 Local environmental issues:

- Urban atmospheric pollution:
  - High concentrations of fine particles due to adverse dispersion conditions in wintertime: Santiago as well as other important cities are exceeded in PM10; efforts have been directed to reduce emissions.
  - Urban ozone concentration in summer time due to NO\textsubscript{x} and COV emissions.
- Domestic waste management: environmental authorities have approved less than 50% of landfill deposits.

 Regional environmental issues:

- Copper smelting plants: although the reduction of atmospheric emissions has been significant during the last decade, the 7 operating smelting plants are still emitting about 870,000 t/y of SO\textsubscript{2} and about 2000 t/y arsenic.
- Water resources: over exploitation of some limited basins.
- River pollution: only 25% of wastewater are treated; the objective is to increase treatment up to 80% in 2005.

 Global environmental issues:

- Low relative contribution of Chile to greenhouse gases emission: hydroelectric plants produce a significant fraction of electricity (about 40%).
- Ozone: Chile has subscribed Montreal Protocol; South of Chile (Patagonia) is significantly affected by ozone loss over Antarctica.