

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT 1/2010



Following the devastating earthquake that struck Haiti on 12 January, UNEP was mandated by the UN Relief Coordinator to coordinate the environmental response to the disaster

Post-Crisis Environmental Assessment

Under the Post-Crisis Environmental Assessment pillar of the Disasters and Conflicts sub-programme, UNEP offers technical assistance to countries where critical ecosystems or natural resources have been directly or indirectly degraded, damaged or destroyed by conflicts and disasters.

Field-based assessments using sound science and state-of-the-art technology identify environmental risks to human health, livelihoods and security with the aim of integrating environmental needs into relief and recovery programmes.

Haiti post-disaster environmental support

Early response activities: Following the devastating earthquake that struck Haiti on 12 January 2010, which resulted in



UNEP's Medium Term Strategy (MTS) for 2010-2013 designates "Disasters and Conflicts" as one of the organization's six priority areas of work. The 2010-2011 UNEP Programme of Work accordingly includes a dedicated Disasters and Conflicts sub-programme, which is comprised of four operational pillars: post-crisis environmental assessment, post-crisis environmental recovery, disaster risk reduction and environmental cooperation for peacebuilding. While the Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch (PCDMB) is tasked with coordinating the theme across UNEP, the regional offices and several divisions play an instrumental role in the implementation of the Disasters and Conflicts programme. Innovative partnerships with UN and other international organizations – including the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit and the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) – are also an essential feature of delivery.

some 2220,000 deaths, destroyed over 250,000 buildings and affected some three million people, UNEP was mandated by Under-Secretary-General and UN Relief Coordinator John Holmes to coordinate the environmental response to the disaster. As the primary environmental actor on the ground, UNEP accordingly redirected and increased its pre-existing activities in Haiti to address the immediate needs of relief and early recovery efforts in the country. Although the UNEP office in Port-au-Prince was destroyed in the disaster, no casualties were sustained and a full team was able to establish interim operations immediately after the earthquake, in conjunction with the UN Country Team (UNCT) in the MINUSTAH logistics base. From 14 January, the team temporarily divided its forces to address growing humanitarian demands. The UNEP Programme Manager was diverted to lifesaving activities such as structural assessments of hospitals and UN buildings and ongoing seismic risk assessments, whilst the remainder of the team focused on urgent environmental issues, completing a first Rapid Environmental Assessment within five days of the disaster. The UNEP Haiti team was then reinforced with staff from PCDMB's Geneva office and operations were fully functional (accommodation, staffing, transport, finance, administration) as of 1 February.

Environmental support to the relief community: In the weeks following the earthquake, the UNEP team on the ground conducted a series of rapid environmental assessments and provided wide-ranging technical assistance to the humanitarian coordination team on issues such as earthquake

aftershock hazards, minor oil spills, health care waste, debris management and timber and energy requirements for temporary settlements. UNEP was also engaged in the inter-cluster coordination process at the country and UN levels, which helped to raise awareness of the importance of including environmental considerations in the planning and execution of relief operations, and was welcomed by the humanitarian community. To support this work, the Government of Ireland pledged € 100,000 to UNEP in late March.

Interim seismic programme: As part of the response effort, an Emergency Engineering Support Unit (EESU) was established by the Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) in Haiti to cover topics such as salvage, emergency repairs and seismic related assessment. In the absence of the required expertise in country, the UNEP Haiti Programme Manager (a geological engineering expert) assumed the interim role of UN focal point for seismic issues, covering topics such as ongoing earthquake aftershock analysis and hazard prediction, and coordinating seismic data collection. As part of this effort a seismic programme tailored to both the short and longer term needs of Haiti, is being discussed between UNEP and the Earth Institute at Columbia University, New York. In this role, UNEP briefed the President of Haiti and other high-level officials, the UN and the international leadership present in Haiti at that time on key emerging issues. As seismology is not a UNEP core subject area, UNEP subsequently negotiated with UNDP to take over the focal point role as soon as was practicable.



As the focal point for environmental issues in the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment process in Haiti, UNEP provided expertise on waste management, domestic energy, deforestation, erosion and soil loss, watershed management and environmental governance



Field-based rapid assessments identified a number of environmental issues including medical waste, rubble and demolition material, secondary spills, landslides and the environmental impacts of massive population displacement

Post-disaster needs assessment and recovery planning: To support the recovery planning process, a UN/World Bank/European Commission Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) was initiated on 17 February. Within the assessment process, UNEP acted as the UN focal point for environment, providing expert staff and technical support on issues such as domestic energy, deforestation, erosion and soil loss; coastal and marine zone management; protected areas; watershed management; solid and liquid wastes; disaster reduction; and environmental governance. Following completion of the PDNA exercise, a Haiti Donor Conference was held on 31 March at the UN HQ in New York, resulting in over USD 5 billion in pledges for Haiti recovery. In addition, UNEP was also engaged in the subsequent government recovery master planning process. The early results of this investment were highly positive as approximately 15 percent of the USD 4.6 billion government recovery plan should be allocated to investments in environmental improvements such as reforestation, improved sanitation, sustainable agriculture and urban planning.

Redesign of the UNEP Haiti Strategy: At its Special Session held in February, the UNEP Governing Council called

upon UNEP to play a key role in the country's recovery and sustainable development. In response to this mandate, UNEP redirected its country strategy toward supporting the governmental recovery plan, though much of the prior project design and planning work remains relevant. The centerpiece of the revised programme will be a central project with the Ministry of Environment and the Office of the UN Special Envoy Mr. Bill Clinton to coordinate, mobilize resources, and monitor the performance of the environmental sector as a whole. In addition, UNEP and a wide range of partners will implement thematic programmes for alternative energy, catchment rehabilitation and reforestation, marine environmental management and potentially waste management. As of end March 2010, the UNEP focus is on a) providing ongoing support to humanitarian relief efforts on the ground, and b) designing projects and fundraising for recovery initiatives in the country. UNEP will also continue to suitably amend and further develop the Haiti Regeneration Initiative, a long-term programme to be implemented by a wide range of partners, aimed at reducing poverty and vulnerability to natural hazards through the restoration of ecosystems and sustainable natural resource management.

Gaza post-conflict environmental assessment

High-level discussions continued throughout the reporting period with partner agencies and relevant governments with regard to the implementation of the recommendations of the UNEP Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment report published in September 2009, and further support to environmental recovery in the Gaza Strip. The report, which examines the natural and environmental impacts on the Gaza Strip caused by the escalation of hostilities from December 2008-January 2009, concludes that Gaza's underground water supplies, upon which 1.5 million Palestinians depend for agricultural and drinking water, are in danger of collapse as a result of years of over-use and contamination that have been exacerbated by the recent conflict. Based on UNEP's recommendations, UNICEF initiated a *Gaza Safe Water* project that aims to: 1) improve the provision of safe drinking water for children in the Gaza Strip, 2) initiate a behavioral change campaign to promote safer use of water, and 3) initiate a study on the quality of water supplied across the Gaza Strip. In addition, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) based in Atlanta, USA has indicated interest in following up on the recommendations of UNEP's PCEA report, and will be mobilizing a scoping mission to the Gaza Strip in June. The establishment of an inter-agency group comprised of UNICEF, WHO, UNRWA and UNDP is also being discussed to help steer recovery initiatives in the region. Finally, a UNEP technical paper on the key groundwater issues to address from a scientific, technical, and financial point of view was finalized during the reporting period.

Democratic Republic of Congo post-conflict environmental assessment

Significant progress was made during the reporting period on a detailed, national-scale integrated environmental assessment covering environment and ecosystems, natural hazards, climate change impacts and associated social linkages, including poverty, health, migration and conflict. Important milestones in Q1 2010 included a series of extensive field missions with representatives from key national stakeholders, such as the Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Tourism (MENCT) and international partners, such as FAO. These missions were undertaken to Orientale and Maniema Provinces in the northeast and east of DR Congo respectively, to collect primary data on environmental challenges and to consult with local stakeholders. Key sectors examined during field assessments included forestry, mining, water and agriculture, as well as issues relating to the bushmeat trade and fisheries management. Progress was also made with regard to the development and finalization of a dedicated bilingual English-French website for the DR Congo UNEP Country Programme (<http://postconflict.unep.ch/congo/en>). One of the main highlights of the website is a series of short films examining the overall environmental situation in the country. The website also features a photo bank, maps, and case studies illustrating the main environmental challenges



The UNEP post-conflict environmental assessment of the Gaza Strip found that Gaza's underground water supplies, upon which 1.5 million Palestinians depend for agricultural and drinking water, are in danger of collapse



Missions were undertaken to Orientale and Maniema provinces in DR Congo, as part of the Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment

and response initiatives encountered during UNEP's field visits across the country. An on-line resource library on the DR Congo's environment is also under construction. Finally, final drafts of assessment studies on Natural Resources and Conflict, and on Transboundary natural resource cooperation were received from Adelphi and IPIS respectively. UNEP's final post-conflict assessment report on DR Congo is expected to be released by end 2010.



UNEP made significant progress in the reconnaissance phase of the ongoing environmental assessment in Ogoniland, Nigeria during the quarter

Oil contamination assessment in Ogoniland, Nigeria

Stakeholder consultations: Despite the ongoing complex political, social and security environment in the Niger Delta, the first quarter was marked by a number of high-profile events pertaining to UNEP's engagement in Ogoniland. Following the successful initiation of the reconnaissance phase of the assessment in Q4 2009, a high-level meeting of the Presidential Implementation Committee (PIC), the governing body of UNEP's environmental assessment in Ogoniland, was convened on 25 February 2010. Key stakeholders at the federal, state and local levels participated in the meeting, including the Governor of Rivers State, the National Oil Spill Detection Agency (NOSDRA), Shell Petroleum Development Agency (SPDC), and the four Local Government Chairmen of Eleme, Tai, Khana and Gokhana. Among other key outcomes, the Governor of Rivers State reiterated his support for the project and announced a meeting with key Ogoni stakeholders to discuss the ongoing issue of oil tapping, which has posed a challenge for UNEP since the initiation of field activities. Following the PIC meeting, a series of Town Hall meetings

were held in each of the Local Government Areas (LGAs). Each Town Hall meeting attracted some 2,000 local participants, and generated significant interest in UNEP's project, serving as a basis for interactive discussions with the host communities. Finally, consultations with senior representatives of national and local stakeholder groups continued throughout Q1, including with Rivers State Government, traditional rulers, Rivers State University of Science and Technology and Port Harcourt University, the Ogoni Contact Group and MOSOP.

Project implementation: Significant progress was made in the "reconnaissance" phase of UNEP's environmental assessment during the first quarter of 2010, and extensive preparations were undertaken towards the development of a technical training module to initiate the "scientific" phase of UNEP's environmental assessment project, scheduled to run from April to Q3 or Q4 2010. In addition to the two field offices that were opened in Tai and Eleme in late 2009, UNEP also opened two field offices within the Khana and Gokana LGAs during the first quarter, and continued to undertake extensive sensitization campaigns to help raise UNEP's profile amongst local communities in Ogoniland.

Rapid assessment missions by the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit (JEU)

On 7 January the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit (JEU) compiled a Hazard Identification Tool (HIT) and deployed two experts as part of the United Nations Development Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team in the aftermath of the heavy rains and subsequent floods in the northern part of **Albania**, to help identify potential secondary risks to human health and life and detect potential environmental damage in the affected area. The regions of Shkodra and Lezha were targeted as severe flooding had been occurring there since 27 December 2009, leading into the first week of January 2010. No follow-up environmental assistance was requested by the authorities.

In response to the earthquake that struck **Chile** on 27 February, the JEU compiled a Hazard Identification Tool (HIT) to identify potential secondary risks to human health and life, and environmental damage in the affected area. The HIT was shared with OCHA and UNEP, WHO and UNDP, and was made available on the Virtual OSOCC and GDACS. No further international assistance request was received from the national government.

Finally, a request for international assistance was received through the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and UNEP from the Government of **Ukraine**, in light of a potential collapse of a tailings dam in the Kalush region of Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast in the western part of the country. From 1-9 March, a technical scoping mission was conducted

jointly through the UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) system and the European Commission's Monitoring and Information Centre (ECHO-MIC). The objectives of the mission were to undertake a rapid assessment of the stability and integrity of the tailings dams and risks stemming from subsidence, and to undertake scientific sampling in the vicinity of the tailings dam and specific hazardous waste sites to screen for any immediate and/or potential environmental threats. Additionally, the mission was to assist national emergency response management organizations to identify appropriate preparedness and risk reduction measures in order to minimize the impacts on the local population. The mission team, led by the JEU, was supported by the International Humanitarian Partnership and the Environmental Assessment Module (EAM), based in the Netherlands. Key findings include the spreading into the environment of a toxic pollutant known as *hexachlorobenzene* (HCB) from a HCB storage site. Furthermore, salinization of ground and surface water was identified as posing a direct threat to human health as a result of the deterioration of drinking water. Another issue of immediate concern was the number of sinkholes which have occurred as a result of subsidence gradually taking place at the surface of underground mine fields. These could cause casualties if houses were to be affected. A number of technical as well as policy-level recommendations were made, to be shared with the authorities in due course. The Ukrainian government expressed appreciation for the efforts of the international community, and discussions are ongoing with regard to possible international assistance in funding remedial actions, once the recommendations have been received.



In March 2010, the UNEP/OCHA JEU led a technical scoping mission to Ukraine, relating to the potential collapse of a tailings dam in the western part of the country

Environment, Humanitarian Action and Early Recovery

In Q1, UNEP's recently established Environment, Humanitarian and Early Recovery programme increased its exposure to the humanitarian community through a range of initiatives. In addition to numerous activities related to the humanitarian crisis in Haiti, UNEP and Groupe URD, a French NGO, co-organized the first of three pilot training modules on Mainstreaming Environment into Humanitarian Action. The one-week training module, which took place in France, was intended to train environment focal points in humanitarian organizations to identify key environmental issues for further follow-up in the context of early recovery. Positive feedback received from participants reaffirmed the need for integration of environment as a component of humanitarian action. In addition, a one-day environment module was delivered in Brussels, Belgium in February as part of a Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) training for EC staff members.

On 24 March, UNEP and the Bureau for Crisis prevention and Recovery (UNDP BCPR) piloted a one-day training module on Early Recovery and Environment during the Early Recovery Coordinator training held in Geneva, Switzerland. The key objectives of the training were to ensure that Early Recovery Coordinators and Advisors, who may be deployed in (post-) crisis contexts, are equipped to: 1) integrate environmental considerations into their work and in the work of other actors, such as humanitarian clusters, agencies, national and international NGOs, and authorities, 2) encourage early recovery actors to adopt appropriate strategies towards



In March, UNEP piloted a one-day training module on early recovery and environment together with UNDP

addressing environmental issues in crisis situations so as not to create additional negative environmental impacts that will hamper early recovery efforts, 3) ensure that an environmental perspective is integrated into all humanitarian policies and programmes, 4) ensure funding strategies reflect the need for dedicated resources for the integration of environmental considerations into early recovery and recovery strategies, and 5) fulfill the role of advocates for the environment in the humanitarian context.

Finally, from March 11-12, UNEP participated in the Annual Fleet Forum Conference, hosted by INSEAD's Humanitarian Research Group in Fontainebleau, France. The central theme of the conference was Humanitarian Fleet Management, and how to make fleet management more ecological and efficient.

Outreach, advocacy and training by the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit

As part of ongoing discussions on the possible establishment of an Environmental Emergencies Center (EEC), the JEU held a series of meetings with the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) and critical stakeholders including UNDP, IFRC, UNICEF, UNITAR, Green Cross International and the University of Geneva's Centre d'Etude des Risques Géologiques.

On 24 March, a second meeting on the Disaster Waste Management (DWM) initiative was organized in cooperation with the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB). The meeting, which followed an initial gathering on 11 November 2009, was attended by representatives from UN agencies, NGOs, and private sector companies. The key objective was to examine lessons learned following the 12 January earthquake in Haiti in the context of the ongoing development of guidelines targeted at the humanitarian community.

Furthermore, in collaboration with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the JEU initiated preparations for the Environmental Emergencies Training (EET), held in Washington DC, USA, from 3-7 May 2010. The third course of its kind, the training featured an all-day simulation exercise assisted by the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. The objective of the EET is to train national emergency responders for international emergency response deployments and thereby contribute to strengthening international response capacity for environmental emergencies. This course marked a major milestone in expanding the resource network for environmental emergencies into the North American region, with participants from the US EPA, Environment Canada and the Netherlands.

Finally, the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit migrated its environmental emergency alert system to the Virtual On-Site Operations Coordination Centre (V-OSOCC) during Q1, thereby aligning its system more closely with that used by the global emergency response community.



Preparations are underway for the Keep Juba Green Campaign, during which 500,000 seedlings of twenty-tree species will be planted in and around Juba, Southern Sudan

Post-Crisis Environmental Recovery

Based on the outcomes of environmental assessments, UNEP works to develop recovery programmes that encompass environmental governance, clean-up and rehabilitation, and ecosystem management projects. These programmes provide an initial anchor for UNEP in crisis-affected countries, which can be used as a basis for wider programming involving other priority areas. UNEP also acts as the focal point for environmental issues within the UN country team and works to integrate environmental needs into UN recovery programmes.

Sudan country programme

Programme development: In its second phase, the UNEP Sudan programme continues to focus on capacity-building and effective management of natural resources, primarily water and forestry, to help build community resilience, address poverty issues and support peacebuilding in the region. The reporting period witnessed an increased understanding for the need to undertake climate change adaptation planning in Sudan, amongst UN agencies and within the wider humanitarian community. In March, UK DFID and the DAL Group held a Climate Change debate supported by UNEP, which garnered a great deal of interest and was attended by several high-level personalities in Khartoum. In another positive development, UNEP initiated the development of a proposal for a large-scale reforestation/

integrated natural resource management project, following expressions of interest from a number of donors. Finally, in respect to operational modalities, UNEP secured new premises in Khartoum for the project office that will not only house its expanding programme, but provide a larger meeting space and training facility.

Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) project: UNEP's practical programming on drought contingency planning in camps made solid progress during the reporting quarter, with Nyala municipal authorities seeking to expand the project to include a municipal drought contingency plan as a key follow-up activity. Work also continued on the development of a follow-up project for small-scale dams to be constructed by UNOPS. Finally, it should be noted that donor interest in environmental issues, particularly pertaining to water resources issues has continued to grow.

Aid and Environment project: With regard to advocacy efforts in Q1, UNEP continued to provide high-level support to the Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator to develop an early recovery strategy for Darfur, which built heavily on the foundation of UNEP's research and analysis. UNEP was also invited to lead on the first of three strategic early recovery workshops for Darfur under the theme of climate change. The workshop, which was attended by nine State Ministers from Darfur, provided the basis for developing adaptation and recovery strategies in the region. In addition, UNEP played an active role in the Strategic Planning Team comprising UNCT and UNAMID and the UN country team in the preparation of an Integrated Strategic Framework for Darfur.

Southern Sudan programme: UNEP offices were installed in Juba during the first quarter, and recruitment was initiated for an Operations Officer. With UNEP's support, the Ministry of Environment completed the South Sudan Environmental policy 2010 as well as the 2010 South Sudan Environment Act, which will be reviewed during a UNEP-sponsored stakeholder workshop scheduled to take place in June. In addition, an institutional needs assessment of the environmental line ministries was initiated and is expected to be finalized in July 2010. The recommendations of this assessment will form the basis for a UNEP capacity-building project for Southern Sudan. Within the context of the GBP 1 million UNEP Environmental Sustainability project, the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), UNEP and the Ministry of Environment initiated the development of a project proposal for the provision of waste management equipment and a grant for the construction of a new Juba landfill. UNEP will continue to provide technical assistance and support to the awareness-raising aspects of the project. Finally, preparations are underway for the Keep Juba Green Campaign, proposed for June 2010, during which 500,000 seedlings of twenty tree species will be planted in and around Juba.

Afghanistan country programme

Political context and programme development: The security situation in Afghanistan continued to deteriorate at an unprecedented rate during the reporting period, with incident numbers remaining consistently high throughout Q1, even though January and February are traditionally the months with the lowest numbers of incidents. Security experts have

forecast further deterioration until after the parliamentary elections, scheduled to take place in September. In light of these forecasts, UNDSS and the SRSG requested UN agencies in Afghanistan to evaluate their projects from a programme criticality perspective, and – where appropriate – to downscale operations and staff numbers, especially in Kabul. In regard to programme development, progress was made towards the finalization of the new UNEP office and guesthouse compound in Bamiyan City, and a national Environmental Education and Outreach Programme Officer and a Climate Change Coordination Officer were recruited during the quarter. Finally, extensive preparations were initiated for the EC mid-term review and feasibility assessment for Phase IV of UNEP's programme in Afghanistan.

Finally, in regard to conflict and natural resource management, UNEP worked closely with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) to support the *Peace on Pastures* project, which aims to resolve the conflict between Kuchi (migrants) and Hazara (sedentary) groups for access to and management of rangelands in Wardak province.

Institutional capacity-building: The third and fourth five-day regional workshops for National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) provincial staff were delivered from 7-11 and 20-24 February 2010 respectively in Mazar-i-Sharif and Herat. UNEP also developed a gender-focused technical training programme for NEPA's female staff on environmental management issues, and worked with MAIL to develop sub-programmes for Surveillance and Planning and Community-based Natural Resource Management for March 2010-2011.



UNEP continued to develop the institutional capacity of Afghanistan's National Environmental Protection Agency during Q1, including through training programmes for provincial offices

Environmental coordination: The Sustainable Livelihoods Working Group under the UNDAF, which is co-chaired by UNEP, met three times during the reporting period; initial activities will be undertaken in the Dai Kunde province. UNEP also undertook a gap analysis exercise of UN programmes in Afghanistan related to CBNRM and conflict and natural resource management, for which UNEP is the lead agency under the UNDAF. Finally, UNEP continued to provide technical support to the SAISEM, an environmental sustainability project jointly implemented by UNDP and FAO, and to GAIN, a joint UN programme.

Environmental law and policy: UNEP continued to work with the Environment and Natural Resource Commission in the Lower House of the Parliament regarding processing of the Forest Law. In addition, a committee was established within the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) to further develop the contents of the Rangeland Law, of which UNEP is a member. Afghanistan's National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) was also finally approved by NEPA during the reporting period. In March, UNEP trained officials from eleven line ministry environment cells on enforcement of environmental law, regulations and procedures. Finally, the "Manual for Enforcement of Afghanistan's Environmental Laws" was printed in Dari.

EIA and pollution control: UNEP delivered two training workshops on environmental inspection to 31 provincial directors and 9 NEPA central-level staff. Topics covered included EIA and pollution control procedures and practical

exercises on environmental inspection. In addition, select staff were trained on GPS through UN-AIMS to facilitate the process of survey of EIA related projects and other polluting activities, as well as the development of an NEPA environmental database. With respect to pollution control policies and standards, the National Waste Management Policy and National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) were approved during the reporting period. NEPA also completed the stakeholder consultation process for the National Pollution Control and Management Policy, National Ambient Air Quality Standard for Afghanistan, and Vehicle Emission Standards and I/M System for Afghanistan now pending approval. With regard to environmental quality monitoring, UNEP worked to facilitate a contractual arrangement between NEPA and the Ministry of Energy and Water, the Ministry of Public Health and Kabul Polytechnic University, regarding the use of the university's laboratory facilities for environmental quality monitoring and compliance verification. Finally, UNEP assisted NEPA in the printing of 1,000 copies of posters for the promotion of EIA procedures, which will be distributed to provincial offices, line ministries, other relevant institutions and donor agencies.

Environmental education and outreach: In Q1, three environmental journalism workshops were organized in regional centres, including in Mazar-i-Sharif (10-11 February), Herat (23-24 February), and Kabul (17-18 March). These workshops were arranged in cooperation with the Ministry of Information and Culture, and the International Centre for Journalism.



UNEP delivered three training workshops on environmental reporting to Afghan Journalists in three major cities in the country during the quarter

Community-Based Natural Resource Management

(CBNRM): During the reporting period, four new CBNRM project sites were designed in agreement with local communities in the Bamiyan and Badakhshan provinces. An additional eight potential sites were identified, including four in Badakhshan province and in Kabul, Kapisa and Parwan provinces. Furthermore, monitoring and evaluation missions were conducted for the Herat and Bamiyan provincial CBNRM sites. In Herat, nursery activities were initiated for each village and 70 kg of seeds for nine different species were broadcast on each plot. Restoration of the Tamarix forest was also initiated in the early part of the quarter. Local communities planted 21,000 saplings and seedlings of three indigenous species, including Tamarix. Finally, based on the recommendations of UNEP's 2009 "Rangeland Conflict Resolution Strategy," assistance was provided to MAIL for the development of a USD 5 million regional community-based pasture management programme.

Protected areas: Significant progress was made in Q1 on the development of the Shah Foladi National Park in Bamiyan province, including through the finalization of a draft physical plan and the design of eleven early action projects for delivery in 2010, which were developed for the area in cooperation with local communities, including trails, and a selection of green primary schools, community conservation centres, and a number of small-scale community based eco-lodges. UNEP also trained staff from NEPA's Natural Heritage Division on its role in developing the national protected areas system. Finally, UNEP participated in the Afghan Wildlife Executive Committee Meeting, for finalization of the list of Afghanistan's most critically endangered 51 species.

Climate Change: The Initial National Communication project made progress during the quarter, starting off with the recruitment of a Climate Change Coordinator to enhance capacity in this area. UNEP worked with NEPA and the Climate Change Working Group to finalize a concept note for a climate change adaptation project for USD 5 million, as a follow-up project to the National Adaptation Plan of Action for Climate Change. The proposal was endorsed by NEPA and submitted to GEF. In addition, a field mission was conducted to Badakhshan in Q1 for a preliminary field assessment of potential implementation sites.

Conflict and natural resource management: UNEP, in its capacity as the principal technical and management advisor, provided support to MAIL on its *Peace on Pastures* project, which aims to resolve the conflict between Kuchi (migrants) and Hazara (sedentary) groups for access to and management of rangelands in Wardak province. The project is based on one of the recommendations of UNEP's 2009 "Rangeland Conflict Resolution Strategy." Activities implemented include: (i) identification and preliminary natural resource assessment of pastures in the Wardak province, (ii) detailed stakeholder analysis and consultation, and (iii) development of field guidelines for community negotiation meetings. In addition,



During the quarter, four new UNEP Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) project sites were designed with communities in the Bamiyan and Badakhshan provinces

a concept note for a natural resource conflict assessment in Afghanistan was prepared by UNEP on the basis of the Conflict Assessment Framework (CAF) methodology. A literature review was also undertaken to determine the main geographical hotspots.

Democratic Republic of Congo country programme

Country programme development: Following completion of the country programme framework for 2009-2013 based on four of UNEP's six thematic priorities (Disasters and Conflicts, Environmental Governance, Ecosystems Management and Climate Change), development of individual projects continued during the reporting period. UNEP's country programme in the Democratic Republic of Congo covers the following nine thematic areas: environmental assessment and national action planning; humanitarian technical support; peacekeeping and peacebuilding technical support; protected area management; environmental governance; environmental communications and education; climate change mitigation; local sustainable development programmes; and transboundary cooperation.

Ongoing projects: In the context of the preparation of its National Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD), the Congolese Government received an allocation of USD 5.5 million from the UN-REDD Policy Board in March 2010 for the second phase of the process. Throughout the reporting period, UNEP continued to provide technical assistance to the National Coordination Bureau in its development of a full National Programme, including a UN-REDD strategy. A technical review of lessons learned from former forest resources management projects was completed to help inform the country's REDD planning process. In addition, as part of its ongoing technical assistance to the UN's peacekeeping mission in DR Congo (MONUC), discussions on potential follow-up activities continued in Q1, following on from an environmental awareness training workshop organized by UNEP in the previous quarter. Finally, a major UNEP publication entitled the "The Last Stand of the Gorilla – Environmental Crime and Conflict in the Congo Basin" (www.grida.no/publications/rr/gorilla/) was released in March 2010 by the Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP). The report highlights the escalating threats to gorillas in eastern DR Congo linked with militia activity, which has cost the lives of over 190 park rangers in the Virungas Park over the



In Q1, UNEP continued to make progress in the development of its country programme in DR Congo

last 15 years. GRASP also secured new funding to support ongoing conservation activities in Garamba and Kahuzi-Biega national parks.

Côte d'Ivoire hazardous waste management project

The sixth and final training module in the capacity-building programme targeting the *Centre Ivoirien Antipollution* (CIAPOL) of the Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests was presented in Abidjan from 9-18 March. The course was presented by experts from UNEP and the Swiss Spiez Laboratory on CIAPOL's premises. The participants were trained on the use of selected sampling instruments. In addition, the standard operating procedures, which were developed during the course of the programme, were finalized. As with the previous module, a practical simulation exercise was conducted as a final test of the participants' skills. Finally, progress was also made towards the procurement of laboratory and sampling equipment for a new laboratory section to be established within CIAPOL in order to improve the capacity to analyse waste from ships in the Port of Abidjan and respond to emergency situations. A consignment of laboratory and sampling equipment was delivered to the Ministry of Environment in Abidjan. The furnishing of the new laboratory premises within CIAPOL's premises is in progress. Once the laboratory is completed, a formal hand-over of the equipment and laboratory to the Ministry of Environment will take place during Q2.

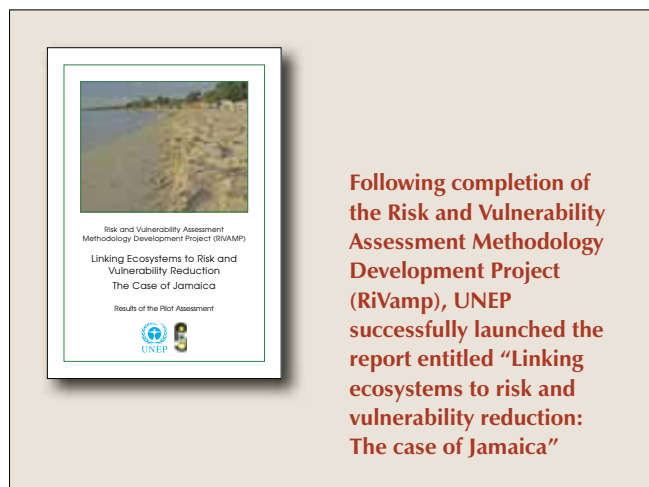
Nepal early environmental recovery programme

UNEP's main implementation partners WWF and IUCN reported steady progress during Q1 on initiatives such as anti-poaching programmes, enhancement of security and monitoring infrastructure within selected national parks, and community awareness-raising and mobilization. Solid progress was also reported towards the integration of environmental concerns in the new National Constitution, which is currently being drafted and expected to be finalized in May 2010. As part of ongoing advocacy efforts, a series of environmental policy briefs were also produced, including on mainstreaming environmental rights into the text of the new Constitution, on environmental federalism, and on climate change. The papers were presented to members of the Constituent Assembly (CA), key partners, media and other relevant conservation community organizations. Finally, as part of a targeted communications effort, two "Talk Programmes" for CA member were undertaken during the reporting quarter, on the review concept note and preliminary draft Constitution report of the National Interest Preservation Committee, and on the review draft of environmental provisions in the concept note published by the Natural Resources, Financial Rights and Public Revenue Committee.

Disaster Risk Reduction

The disaster risk reduction pillar of the UNEP Disasters and Conflicts programme focuses on countries that have been identified as vulnerable to natural hazards, and on human-made disaster events with an environmental component. As well as producing environmental risk assessments, UNEP seeks to strengthen the hand of Member States for environmental management through developing responsive strategies, building capacity and implementing pilot projects to reduce identified risks, thereby contributing to long-term disaster risk reduction. UNEP also contributes to global policy development by producing policy toolkits and training modules that demonstrate good practices and lessons learned in reducing risks, and provides environmental data and expertise on sustainable management of shared natural resources.

In addition, following a scoping mission to Sri Lanka conducted during Q4 to facilitate a planned strategic environmental assessment (SEA) of the northern province of the



Following completion of the Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Methodology Development Project (RiVamp), UNEP successfully launched the report entitled “Linking ecosystems to risk and vulnerability reduction: The case of Jamaica”

country, UNEP provided technical assistance during Q1 on the design the assessment, with a view to mainstreaming environmental sustainability and disaster risk reduction in the development of Sri Lanka’s Northern Province.



The RiVAMP methodology provides a tool that takes into account ecosystems and climate change factors in the analysis of risk and vulnerability



UNEP provided technical assistance on the design of a strategic environmental assessment of Sri Lanka's Northern Province

Integrating ecosystem and climate change factors into disaster risk assessments and associated planning processes:

During the reporting quarter, UNEP successfully launched its report entitled "Linking ecosystems to risk and vulnerability reduction: The case of Jamaica," following completion of the pilot Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Methodology Development Project (RiVAMP). The vulnerability methodology was pilot-tested in Negril on the western coast of Jamaica in 2009, which was selected on the basis of its high level of vulnerability to climate change and natural hazards, particularly hurricanes and tropical storms, and the importance of nature-based tourism, agriculture and fisheries for the local economy. RiVAMP is aimed at assisting decision-makers in evaluating their investment options effectively, taking into account long-term environmental and climate change factors in the analysis of risk and vulnerability. The report was formally presented at two national validation workshops on 16 and 18 March in Negril and Kingston respectively. Both events were well attended by local and national government agencies, NGOs, academia, international development partners and the private sector, particularly the hotel and tourism industry. The report generated positive feedback from the Government of Jamaica, and received a significant amount of national media coverage. Follow-up activities include training on how to apply the RiVAMP methodology in other parts of Jamaica and in the Caribbean region.

Enhancing the Strategic Environmental Assessment in Sri Lanka's Northern Province

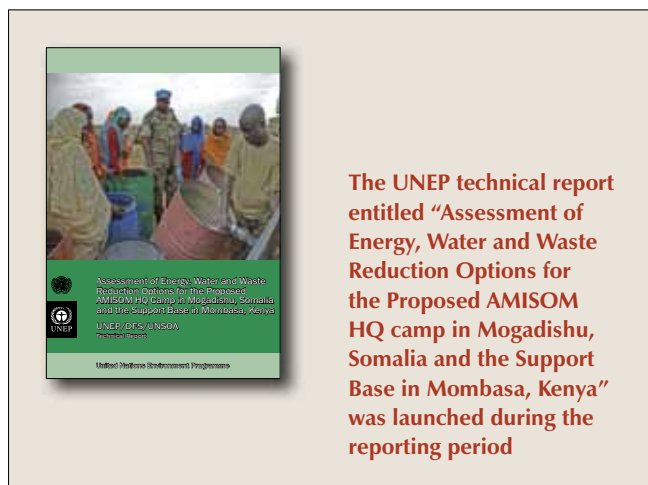
Following the cessation of hostilities in Northern Sri Lanka, the National Government launched a major development initiative known as *Uthuru Wasanthaya* (Northern Spring), involving new settlements, urban and rural infrastructure and livelihood development. Since 2009, at the request of the Sri Lankan Government and the UN country team (UNCT), UNEP has been collaborating on the preparation of an integrated Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in Sri Lanka's Northern Province. A stakeholders workshop was held on 22-23 March to discuss the implementation of the SEA, which is intended to produce a sustainable development framework for the region that meets environmental criteria and contributes to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. The assessment brings together multiple stakeholders – planners, implementers and users – from the inception, thereby providing an opportunity for development plans to be sound and sustainable. As part of the assessment, targeted studies will be conducted to address emerging needs, such as the provision of sand and building materials, the extraction capacity of groundwater, optimum use of marine and coastal resources, and management of solid and liquid waste. These studies will facilitate resource mapping, optimum use of natural resources and improved service delivery.

Environmental Cooperation for Peacebuilding

Under the Environmental Cooperation for Peacebuilding pillar of work, UNEP aims to use environmental cooperation to transform the risks of conflict over resources into opportunities for peace in war-torn societies. This includes assessing and integrating environment and natural resources issues within the peacebuilding policies and strategies of the UN, as well as using the shared management of natural resources as a platform for dialogue, cooperation and confidence-building within and between conflict-affected countries. To help address the environmental dimensions of conflict and peacebuilding effectively, UNEP has developed partnerships with the UN Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO and DFS) in New York and the European Commission (RELEX) in Brussels. Similar partnerships are being developed with DPA and UNDP BCPR. UNEP has also broadened its expertise and capacity by establishing, together with IISD, an Expert Advisory Group on Environment, Conflict and Peacebuilding.

Consultation and planning mission to Sierra Leone

From 31 January to 5 February, UNEP undertook a consultation and planning mission to Freetown, Sierra Leone, in order



The UNEP technical report entitled “Assessment of Energy, Water and Waste Reduction Options for the Proposed AMISOM HQ camp in Mogadishu, Somalia and the Support Base in Mombasa, Kenya” was launched during the reporting period

to receive final comments from national partners on the report entitled “Sierra Leone: Environment, Conflict and Peacebuilding Assessment.” In addition to securing comments on the technical content of the report, the mission team met with senior officials from the UN Country Team (UNCT), including the Executive Representative of the Secretary General (ERSG) Michael von der Schulenburg and UNDP Senior Technical Advisor Keith Wright, to plan the way forward regarding the UN Joint Vision Programme 21. The UN partners agreed to hold a workshop on 21 May to jointly launch the UNEP assessment and initiate the implementation of Programme 21.



A consultation and planning mission was mobilized to Sierra Leone during Q1, to discuss the findings of UNEP’s Environment, Conflict and Peacebuilding Assessment with national partners

UN-EU partnership on natural resources and conflict

The drafting process for the four thematic guidance notes on managing natural resources – on wealth sharing, land tenure, resource scarcity, environmental degradation and climate risk, and capacity-building for natural resource governance respectively – was completed during Q1 and followed by extensive comment and review. Final drafts are under preparation for the second quarter roll-out of the guidance notes and their associated UN Country Team and EU delegation training sessions scheduled to be held in May in Brussels (for EC staff) and Nairobi (for regional experts) respectively.

Desk study on Climate Change, Migration and Conflict in the Sahel

Progress was also made during Q1 with regard to the desk study on Climate Change, Migration and Conflict in the Sahel, a joint project with IOM, OCHA and the UN University. A first draft was finalized in March and circulated to the partners for review. The objective of the study is to identify how climate change could act as an exacerbating factor to already existing environmental vulnerabilities in the region, and may contribute to conflict and migration in the Sahel. In addition, the study will assess current policy gaps on these issues, raise awareness and inform investments to meet emerging climate change adaptation needs, and recommend

interventions for national, regional and international partners in the area. The study is scheduled to be published during the third quarter of 2010.

Environmental mainstreaming of peacekeeping operations

The first phase of the technical cooperation between UNEP and the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and Department of Field Support (DFS) to help “green” UN peacekeeping operations, which culminated in a UNEP technical report entitled “Assessment of Energy, Water and Waste Reduction Options for the Proposed African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) HQ Camp in Mogadishu, Somalia and the Support Base in Mombasa, Kenya,” concluded in early Q1 2010, with a meeting between UNEP experts and UN Support Office to AMISOM (UNSOA) engineers in Nairobi, Kenya in late January and the release of the technical report in February. Following a request from UNSOA to continue the partnership, Phase II of the cooperation was initiated during the reporting quarter. Follow-up activities include preparations for undertaking environmental impact assessments (EIA) of two AMISOM camps. In addition, the UN Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) contacted UNEP to undertake a similar study on the design and construction a new UN House compound in Juba, South Sudan. This work is expected to be undertaken between Q2 and Q4 2010.



The ongoing technical cooperation between UNEP and the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and Department of Field Services (DFS) aims to help “green” UN peacekeeping operations



The upcoming UNEP report “Sierra Leone: Environment, Conflict and Peacebuilding Assessment” focuses on issues such as slash-and-burn techniques that have been used in the country as a result of the population growth and displacement during conflict

Conflict Analysis Framework

The revisions to UNEP’s Conflict Analysis Framework (CAF) tool were completed in the first quarter, following comments and inputs from the pilot assessments in Sierra Leone, the DR Congo and the Central African Republic (CAR). The working draft will be circulated to partners, including the UN Peacebuilding Commission, Department for Peacekeeping Operations, the UN Development Group, the UN Panel of Experts on Liberia, and international NGO partners.

Global Atlas on Natural Resources and Armed Conflict

During the first quarter of 2010, UNEP re-engaged with the European Commissions’ Joint Research Center (JRC) to progress the Global Atlas on Natural Resources and Armed Conflict project. The project aims to establish an information centre that centralizes, standardizes and maintains information and data on conflict locations and on natural resources locations, exploitation and trade at the global and regional levels. Major elements of the project are to develop and spatially visualize natural resources-related indicators, to

statistically model risk factors and to independently verify and validate open source information using remote sensing.

Ongoing activities of the Environmental Cooperation for Peacebuilding programme

Several other mainline activities of the ECP programme also continued in the first quarter, including the joint UNEP-UNDP initiative on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR), UNEP’s technical report writing under the UNEP Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment in the Democratic Republic of Congo, as well as ongoing work on the upcoming flagship book on strengthening post-conflict peacebuilding through natural resource management and policy reports on environmental diplomacy and best practices for peacekeeping. UNEP also proposed establishing a dedicated task team on natural resources and conflict within the UNDG-ECHA Working Group on Transition. Inputs to the Secretary General’s progress report on Peacebuilding in the Immediate Aftermath of Conflict and to the five-year review of the Peacebuilding Commission were also provided by the ECP programme.

The Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC)

UNEP coordinates the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC), a partnership of six international organizations that provides multi-stakeholder-based analyses of environment and security risks, and implements projects addressing the identified risks and environmental legacies in Eastern Europe, South Eastern Europe, the Southern Caucasus and Central Asia.

In Q1, some 70 participants attended the Aarhus Centres Meeting organized in Istanbul from 27-29 January. The main objective of the meeting was to provide a platform for information and experience exchange among the Aarhus Centres on practical implementation of the Aarhus Convention at country and regional levels, as well as to promote participatory environmental governance. The meeting was attended by the government and Aarhus Centre representatives of the eight countries in which the ENVSEC partners are currently supporting the establishment of 28 Aarhus Centres, namely in Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Government representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan also attended to benefit from the experiences of other countries in putting the Aarhus Convention into practice.

Specific regional developments during the reporting quarter include the following:

South Caucasus

In the context of ongoing support by the ENVSEC partners to Georgia in the ratification of the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, a cost analysis for Georgia's ratification of the Convention and an analysis of the legal and institutional requirements in order to join the Convention were completed

during the reporting period, in close coordination with the Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources. ENVSEC also provided technical support to Azerbaijan and Georgia in drafting a bilateral water agreement. In this regard, a first technical bilateral meeting between Georgian and Azerbaijani experts in Baku, Azerbaijan took place on 12 January 2010 to prepare a first draft agreement to be negotiated and approved by the Governments of Azerbaijan and Georgia following the ratification of the Helsinki Convention by the Government of Georgia. Furthermore, an advanced seminar on wildland fire management was held in Antalya, Turkey from 1-4 March. The objective of the seminar was to provide technical information and field demonstrations to over 30 fire-fighting personnel from the South Caucasus and South-Eastern Europe regions including Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, FYR Macedonia, Georgia, Russia, and Turkey. Technical expertise for the seminar was provided by the UNISDR Regional Southeast Europe/Caucasus Wildland Fire Network and the Global Fire Monitoring Center. The event provided a forum to share technical information and organize field exercises on fire behaviour and fire suppression techniques, tools and equipment.

Eastern Europe

Within the context of the project entitled "Transboundary cooperation and sustainable management in the Dniester river basin," joint sampling of Dniester water quality was organized in February by Moldova's and Ukraine's sanitary services. ENVSEC also started a feasibility study for enhancing transboundary monitoring in the basin, with visits to Chisinau, Tiraspol, Odesa, Chernivtsi and Kyiv in February and March. In addition, on 10 February in Chisinau, Moldova, ENVSEC launched the third phase of the disposal of 1,300 tons of obsolete pesticides. This € 2 million project is expected to last until 2011. Finally, concluding their work on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for development planning and environment-security monitoring in Crimea, the ENVSEC partners organized a SEA workshop in February in Simferopol, Ukraine.

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