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## Post-Crisis Environmental Assessment

### Haiti post-disaster environmental support

Following the devastating earthquake that struck Haiti on 12 January 2010, which resulted in some 220,000 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. In the weeks following the earthquake, the UNEP team on the ground conducted rapid environmental assessments and provided wide-ranging



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.

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 humanitarian 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 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, including on 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. 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. As of end March 2010, key areas of UNEP focus are: a) ongoing provision of high-quality support to ongoing humanitarian efforts and b) designing projects and fundraising for recovery initiatives in the country, which expected to last for several years. 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 with partner agencies and relevant governments during the reporting period 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 improve the provision of safe drinking water for children in the Gaza Strip, initiate a behavioral change campaign to promote safer use of water, and initiate a study on the quality of water supplied across the Gaza Strip. In addition, the establishment of an inter-agency group comprised of UNICEF, WHO, UNRWA and UNDP is being discussed to help steer recovery initiatives in the region. Finally, a UNEP



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



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

technical paper on the key groundwater issues to address from a scientific, technical, and financial point of view was finalized during the reporting period.



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



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

## 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>). UNEP's final assessment report is scheduled for release by end 2010.

## Oil contamination assessment in Ogoniland, Nigeria

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 for 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. During the PIC, UNEP received high-level support from both the federal and the state levels of government. Among other key outcomes, the Governor of Rivers State reiterated his strong 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. In addition, consultations with senior representatives of national and local stakeholder groups continued throughout Q1. Finally, significant progress was made in the "reconnaissance" phase of the environmental assessment, paving the way for the "scientific" phase of the field work, which will last from April to the third or fourth quarters of 2010.



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 activities and initiatives. In February, a one-day environment module was delivered as part of a Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) training for EC staff members in Brussels, Belgium. Additionally, PCDMB 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 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 in humanitarian action. Finally, on 24 March, PCDMB 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 integrate environmental considerations into their work and in the work of other actors, such as clusters, agencies, national and international

NGOs, and authorities, and to ensure that funding strategies reflect the need for dedicated resources for the integration of environmental considerations in the early recovery and recovery strategies.

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

The JEU mobilized several technical environmental emergency assistance missions during the reporting period, including to Albania in the aftermath of heavy rains and floods in January. In March, the JEU led a technical scoping mission to Ukraine, conducted jointly through the UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) system and the European Commission's Monitoring and Information Centre (ECHO-MIC), to evaluate the potential collapse of a tailings dam in the Kalush region of Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast in the western part of the country. The specific 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 assisted national emergency response management organizations to identify appropriate preparedness and risk reduction measures in order to minimize the impacts on the local population.

## Post-Crisis Environmental Recovery

### Sudan country programme

In its second phase, the UNEP Sudan programme continues to focus on capacity development 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 that was supported by UNEP, which garnered a great deal of interest and was attended by several high-level personalities in Khartoum. UNEP also continued to provide technical support to the Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator to develop an early recovery strategy for Darfur, and played an active role in the Strategic Planning Team comprising UNCT, UNAMID and the UN country team in the preparation of an Integrated Strategic Framework for Darfur. Under the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) project, UNEP's practical programming on drought contingency planning in camps made solid progress, and

work continued on the development of a follow-up project for small-scale dams to be constructed by UNOPS. It was noted that donor interest in environmental issues, particularly pertaining to water resources issues, has continued to grow. In Southern Sudan, UNEP project offices have now been installed in Juba, and recruitment for an Operations Officer position is ongoing. 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 is currently under way 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 South 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.



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## Afghanistan country programme

Despite further deterioration of the security situation in the country during Q1, UNEP's programme made good progress as a result of effective contingency planning and an ability to adapt to a new operational environment. In regard to institutional capacity-building, UNEP completed its training programme for the provincial offices of the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA). UNEP also developed a gender-focused technical training programme for NEPA's female staff on environmental management issues. With respect to environmental law and policy, the National Environmental Action Plan was approved in Q1, and training was conducted for enforcement staff from the environment cells of eleven line ministries on enforcement of environmental law, regulations and procedures. In regard of 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. Under the environmental education and outreach pillar, three training workshops were provided to Afghan journalists in three major cities in Afghanistan. In regard to the community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) programme, four new project sites were designed in agreement with local communities in the Bamiyan and Badakhshan provinces. An additional eight potential sites have been identified, including four in Badakhshan province and in Kabul, Kapisa and Parwan provinces. On protected areas, significant progress was made in the development of the Shah Foladi National Park in Bamiyan province, including

a draft physical plan and eleven early action projects for delivery in 2010, which were designed 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. 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. On the operational side, progress was made towards the finalization of the new UNEP office and guesthouse compound in Bamiyan City.



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



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



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

## Democratic Republic of Congo country programme

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 this reporting period. In the context of the preparation of the DR Congo's National Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD), UNEP also provided additional 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.

## Côte d'Ivoire hazardous waste management project

Within the context of UNEP's laboratory capacity-building programme, the sixth and final training module targeting the *Centre Ivoirien Antipollution* (CIAPOL) of the Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests, was presented in Abidjan from 9-18 March. The module included training on the use of selected field sampling instruments and a practical simulation exercise. A consignment of sampling and laboratory equipment, in support of a new laboratory section (focusing on port and environmental emergencies) to be established within CIAPOL, was delivered to the Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests in Abidjan during January. Formal hand-over of the equipment to the Ministry of Environment will take place in Q2, once the furnishing of new laboratory premises within CIAPOL has been completed.



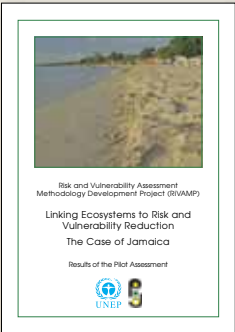
In Côte d'Ivoire, the sixth and final training module targeting the *Centre Ivoirien Antipollution* (CIAPOL) of the Ministry of Environment was delivered during the reporting period

## Disaster Risk Reduction

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) at a validation workshop in Kingston and Negril in March 2010. RiVAMP provides a tool that takes into account ecosystems and climate change factors in the analysis of risk and vulnerability. The report generated positive feedback from the Government of Jamaica and other key stakeholders, and received significant national media coverage. 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 country, UNEP provided technical assistance during Q1 on the design of the assessment, with a view to mainstreaming environmental sustainability and disaster risk reduction in the development of Sri Lanka's Northern Province.



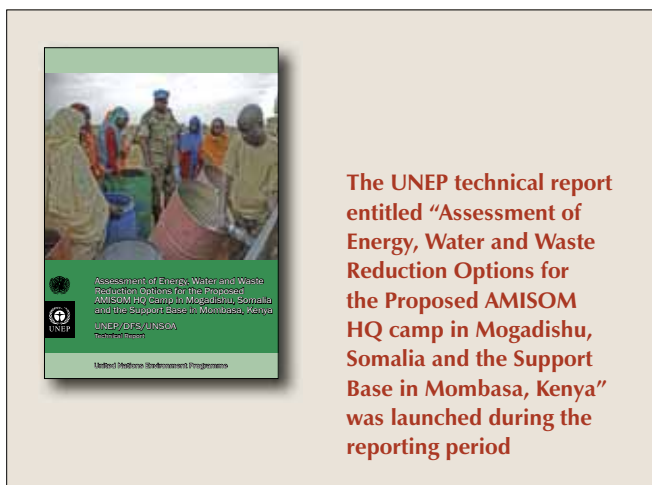
UNEP provided technical assistance on the design of a strategic environmental assessment of Sri Lanka's Northern Province



**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"**



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



**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**

## Environmental Cooperation for Peacebuilding

A consultation and planning mission was mobilized to Sierra Leone during the reporting period to receive final comments on the UNEP report "Sierra Leone: Environment, Conflict and Peacebuilding Assessment" and chart follow-up activities in the country. In addition, preparatory work was undertaken with respect to pilot training programmes scheduled to take place in Sierra Leone and Kenya during Q2, using the UN-EC guidance notes on natural resources and conflict that were finalized during the quarter. A working draft of UNEP's Conflict Analysis Framework (CAF) tool was also finalized for distribution to partners, while the draft UNEP desk study on climate change, conflict and migration was circulated to project partners (IOM, OCHA and UN University) for comment. Within the framework of the ongoing technical cooperation between UNEP and the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and Department of Field Services (DFS) to help "green" UN peacekeeping operations, the 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" was released, generating positive feedback. Following a request from the UN Support Office to AMISOM (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 of two AMISOM camps. Finally, progress was also made on the development of the policy reports on environmental diplomacy and best practices for peacekeeping, scheduled for release later this year, as well on the upcoming six-volume flagship series on strengthening post-conflict peacebuilding through natural resource management.



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



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 Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC)

During the reporting period, ENVSEC partners continued implementation of their regional programmes in Central Asia, Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and South Eastern Europe. Some 70 participants attended the Aarhus Centres Meeting organized in Istanbul from 27-29 January, whose objective 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. In addition, an advanced seminar on wildland fire management was held in Antalya, Turkey in March to provide technical information and field demonstrations to fire-fighting personnel from the South Caucasus and South Eastern Europe. In the South Caucasus region, efforts were engaged to support Georgia in the ratification of the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes. Technical support was also provided to Azerbaijan and Georgia in drafting a bilateral water agreement, resulting in the first technical bilateral meeting between Georgian and Azerbaijani experts in Baku, Azerbaijan which took place on 12 January 2010. Finally on 10 February in Chisinau, Moldova, ENVSEC launched the third phase of the disposal of 1,300 tons of obsolete pesticides, worth some € 2 million. The project is expected to last until 2011.



Dniester river basin, Moldova. The third phase of a project to dispose of 1,300 tons of obsolete pesticides was launched in Moldova in February

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