



The scientific sampling phase of UNEP's environmental assessment of Ogoniland, Nigeria was launched in April. The final assessment report is expected to be released in early 2011

## Post-Crisis Environmental Assessment

### Oil contamination assessment in Ogoniland, Nigeria

Following the successful implementation of the reconnaissance phase of UNEP's environmental assessment in Q1 2010, the scientific sampling phase of the field work was launched in April 2010 with technical training of UNEP project staff, as well as counterparts from the national oil regulators, the State Ministry of Environment, and representatives from the Rivers State University of Science and Technology. The project team then made significant progress in the field during Q2, including the installation of over 100 wells for monitoring and analysis of groundwater quality, and the collection

of soil, sediment, flora and fauna samples. The scientific sampling phase will continue into Q3, during which field activities will be expanded to determine the impacts of oil contamination on public health. In this reporting period, the project also significantly stepped up communication and outreach to the local communities in Ogoniland, and to wider audiences at the regional and national levels. Among recent initiatives was the inauguration of the Community Consultation Committee (CCC). Composed of local Ogonis representing youth and women's groups, traditional rulers, and other local stakeholders in Port Harcourt, the CCC creates a forum for positive and constructive dialogue and exchange of ideas on how to facilitate the implementation of the project. Despite ongoing security challenges, which have on occasion dictated temporary suspensions of field activities in certain areas, the project enjoys strong support throughout Ogoniland as well as from the state and national governments.

## 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 Q2 included a major field mission to central DR Congo, covering the provinces of Bandundu, Kasai Occidental and Kasai Oriental to collect primary data on environmental challenges and to consult with local stakeholders. The mission was undertaken together with national counterparts, such as the Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Tourism, as well as international partners, such as FAO. Key sectors examined included forestry, mining, water and agriculture, as well as issues relating to the urban environment and fisheries management. UNEP's final post-conflict assessment report on DR Congo is expected to be released in 2011.

## Environment, Humanitarian Action and Early Recovery

In Q2, UNEP's Environment, Humanitarian Action and Early Recovery programme continued to increase its exposure to the humanitarian community through a range of activities and initiatives, including additional pilot trainings on



A major field mission was carried out in Central DR Congo during Q2, to examine issues such as mining, forestry and fisheries

<http://postconflict.unep.ch/humanitarianaction>



A new online resource center was developed to facilitate access to existing tools, guidelines, training and best practice on how to integrate environmental considerations into humanitarian action

Mainstreaming Environment into Humanitarian Action in N'Djamena (Chad) on 12-14 April and in France on 3-7 May. The objective of the training is to provide environmental focal points within humanitarian organizations with the tools to identify key environmental issues for further follow-up in the context of early recovery. In addition, a new online resource centre on Environment and Humanitarian Action was developed to facilitate access to existing guidelines, tools, training, case studies, best practices and other resources in order to further equip actors to integrate environment into humanitarian action. It is targeted at a wide range of humanitarian actors including field staff, programme managers, country offices and policy-makers. The online resource centre is available at: <http://postconflict.unep.ch/humanitarianaction>

## Outreach, advocacy and training by the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit (JEU)

To mark its fifteenth anniversary, the JEU launched the publication "Environmental Emergencies – Learning from multilateral response to disasters," on 22 April. The event, held at the Geneva International Conference Centre, was attended by 70 participants from UN agencies, NGOs, national governments, and academia, and was chaired by Ambassador Toni Frisch, Deputy Director-General of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and Chairman of the Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies. Copies of the book can be obtained from the JEU, or found online at <http://ochaonline.un.org/ochalinkclick.aspx?link=ocha&docId=1163825>. In addition, the third Environmental Emergencies Training (EET-3) course was held for 30 trainees in Arlington, USA from 3-7 May 2010, hosted by the US Environmental Protection Agency. The five-day course is intended to prepare national environmental experts for international deployment in collaboration with UN emergency response teams in the field, thereby contributing to strengthening the international response capacity for environmental emergencies.

## Post-Crisis Environmental Recovery

### Sudan country programme

Highlights from the reporting period include the launch of the Keep Juba Green campaign, which aims to promote the reduction of waste, sustainable livelihoods and awareness of climate change. Over the course of the year, the campaign will see an additional 500,000 trees planted across Southern Sudan states. Moreover, the second phase of the Darfur Forestry Project began during the second quarter, with consultations with community leaders, researchers and authorities indicating a strong interest in an integrated natural resource management approach to forestry catchments. Under the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) project, UNEP facilitated a highly successful knowledge exchange between Sudanese and South African officials working in water resource management, which served as an important catalyst for increased dialogue and exchange amongst federal and state ministries. As a result, a number of priority water catchments have been identified in Darfur and there is broad acceptance to engage in a collaborative process to ensure appropriate integrated water resource management systems are put in place. In addition, the first aerobic sewage treatment site in Juba was completed in April and is now fully operational. In combination with

the construction of clean water dispensers and solid waste management systems, this is an important step to address water contamination problems in the Southern Sudanese capital. Under the Aid and Environment project, UNEP also continued to offer technical advice to the humanitarian community on mainstreaming environmental considerations into its programming and operations in Sudan. Ongoing analysis indicates that to date, nearly half of all humanitarian projects have integrated environmental activities as part of their programmes. Finally in Southern Sudan, UNEP experts have been called upon to assist departments to prepare for public consultations on Southern Sudan's first environmental act.

### Afghanistan Country Programme

Despite the further deteriorating security situation in the country, UNEP's programme in Afghanistan made steady progress due to some critical changes to UNEP's operational modalities during the reporting quarter, including the completion of a new UNEP office and guesthouse compound in Bamiyan City, where two international staff were relocated. In addition, a mid-term review and feasibility assessment for another phase of UNEP programming in Afghanistan was conducted by EC consultants in collaboration with UNEP staff from the 13 May to 1 June. With respect to programme implementation, UNEP continued to provide institutional capacity-building support to the National Environmental



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Field surveys and analysis were undertaken for seven new Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) project sites in Badakhshan and Kabul provinces during Q2

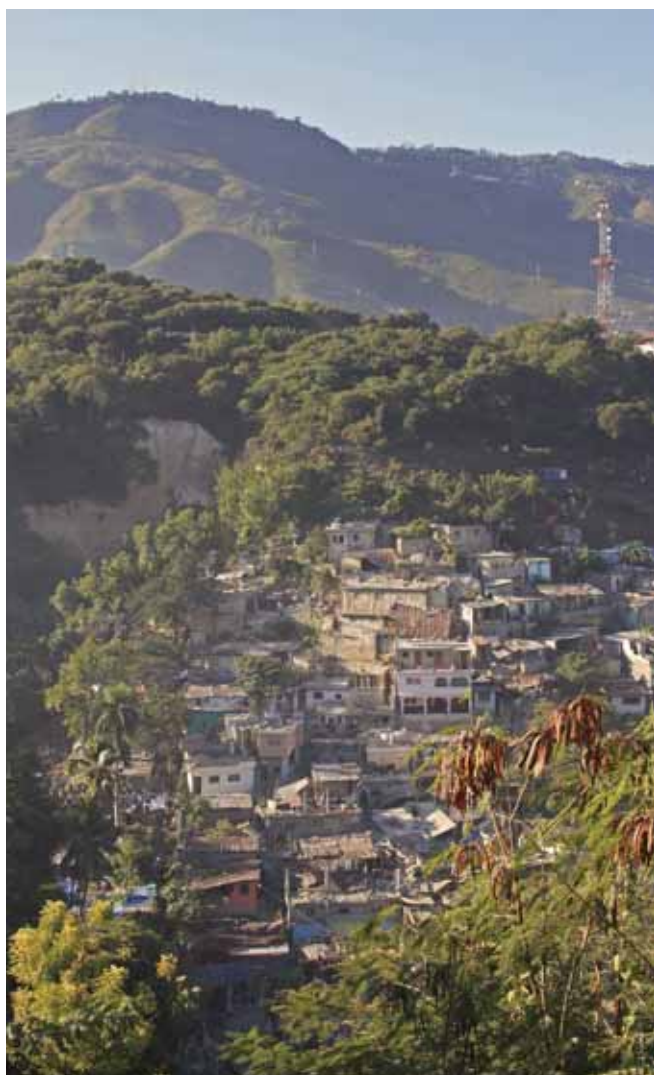
Protection Authority (NEPA), including by helping to define the mandate, scope and workplans of each division following major restructuring of the institution in March. UNEP also supported the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) to finalize the Rangeland Law as well as to address final amendments to the Forest Law. As part of environmental education and outreach activities, UNEP supported World Environment Day 2010 celebrations in Kabul and Bamiyan, where the day was marked by involving school children, community group members, and government partners. Field surveys and socio-economic analysis were undertaken for seven new community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) project sites in Badakhshan and Kabul provinces during the reporting period, in addition to monitoring and evaluation of fourteen existing CBNRM sites to determine future field activities. In Q2, UNEP also continued providing support to the MAIL Protected Area Division in developing action planning for 21 projects in Band-e Amir National Park. In addition, significant progress was made in Q2 on the development of the Shah Foladi National Park in Bamiyan

province, including through community consultation and the completion of surveys, cartography, ecotourism plans and a preliminary management plan. With respect to climate change-related activities, the Initial National Communication (INC) project made progress during the quarter through the delivery of several training sessions to the Climate Change cell in NEPA, the equipment of NEPA with office supplies for INC activities, the collection of information regarding greenhouse inventories in Afghanistan and support for the establishment of the National Climate Change committee. Finally, on conflict and natural resource management, UNEP continued its support to MAIL for the implementation of the "Peace on Pastures" project aiming at resolving the conflict between the Kuchi and Hazara groups for rangeland management in the Central Highlands.

### Haiti post-disaster environmental support

The UNEP team on the ground continued to provide technical assistance on environmental issues to organizations

in a broad range of humanitarian clusters, and to engage with the inter-cluster coordination process at the country and UN levels. UNEP also helped to launch a number of task teams focused on recalcitrant issues and emerging challenges such as improved stoves and LPG bottled gas, human waste disposal (biogas), and solid waste management. Moreover, UNEP conducted a real-time environmental evaluation of the response given by the humanitarian and recovery community in order to identify environmental risks and opportunities, based on an environmental performance rating system, noting the trend and the key challenges yet to be addressed. In addition, UNEP has provided assistance to the Energy Planning Unit of the Ministry of Public Works in the early stages of policy development in the field of clean energy. In Q2, activities were mainly focused on clean energy policy and developing a strategy for expansion of the LPG bottled gas market. Finally, UNEP supported the Ministry of Environment on data collection, analysis, and consultation for the GEO Haiti State of the Environment Report 2010,



In Q2, UNEP's activities in Haiti were principally focused on technical assistance to the relief effort, environmental coordination and recovery planning

which was launched on 5 June 2010 in Port-au-Prince. The document is by far the most comprehensive compendium of environment documentation produced in Haiti to date, and includes additional data related to the environmental impact of the earthquake.

### Follow-up to the 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. 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 the framework of this project, UNEP undertook a mission in Q2 to provide technical advice on reverse osmosis plants, which purify drinking water by removing salt and other substances from water molecules. In addition, UNEP is currently developing a technical proposal for the establishment of a constructed wetland for wastewater treatment in the Wadi Gaza, which would enable the pre-treatment of wastewater by filtration, settling, and bacterial decomposition in a natural-looking lined marsh. The successful functioning of such structures would eventually lead to the reduction of the total pollutant load arriving into the Mediterranean Sea.

### Côte d'Ivoire hazardous waste management project

The UNEP components of the joint UNEP-Basel Convention Secretariat hazardous waste management project in Côte d'Ivoire were completed during the reporting quarter with the furnishing of a new laboratory within the premises of the *Centre Ivoirien Antipollution* (CIAPOL). The laboratory will house a new service, the *Service d'Évaluation Portuaire et d'Urgence* (SEPU), dedicated to the sampling and analysis of waste entering the Port of Abidjan and to responding to environmental emergencies. To ensure that SEPU is staffed by qualified personnel, UNEP provided sixteen CIAPOL trainees with 80 days of intensive training over two years. A ceremony was held at CIAPOL's premises on 17 June to hand over the new laboratory and equipment to the Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests of Côte d'Ivoire, to mark the completion of the capacity-building programme with CIAPOL, and to celebrate the other achievements of the project, including the development and adoption of a hazardous waste management plan for the district of Abidjan. The remaining components of the project are expected to be finalized by the Basel Convention Secretariat by end 2010.

## Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

UNEP as part of the Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR) organized a special session on “Ecosystem Management and Disaster Risk Reduction” at the Third International Disaster Risk Conference held in Davos, Switzerland from 31 May to 3 June. In addition, as an invited panel member at the Risk Reduction and Prevention Plenary Session, UNEP PCDMB gave a presentation on post-earthquake reconstruction challenges in Haiti. The Davos event was an important milestone for PEDRR, marking the public launch of the ten-member partnership, which promotes environmental and ecosystems management as the key strategy to reduce disaster risk, increase local resilience and adapt to a changing climate. UNEP also represented PEDRR in a meeting of contributing authors to the 2011 Global Assessment Report (GAR) on 17-19 May in Miami, USA. PEDRR will be developing a support study on ecosystems-based approaches and instruments for disaster risk reduction, which UNEP is co-leading together with ProAct Network. The support study on ecosystem-based DRR will be completed in October 2010.

## Environmental Cooperation for Peacebuilding

UNEP, together with the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), undertook a two-week mission to Freetown from 14-28 May, which centered on a joint workshop

with the Sierra Leone Environmental Protection Agency (SLEPA) to discuss government priorities on environment and natural resource management, and launch the UNEP technical report “Sierra Leone: Environment, Conflict and Peacebuilding.” UNEP also agreed with stakeholders on the way forward regarding the implementation of UNEP’s portion of the UN Joint Vision Programme 21, including the deployment of a UNEP project coordinator to Freetown to oversee the implementation of the activities funded by Delivery as One fund. In addition, as part of the UN-EU partnership on natural resources and conflict, UNEP held a pilot training and initial review of the four thematic guidance notes on managing natural resources in Nairobi, Kenya, from 11-14 May 2010. UNEP also conducted a joint mission with UNDP to Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo from 24 April to 14 May, to assess the linkages between natural resource management and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programmes in both countries. With regard to UNEP’s technical cooperation with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and the Department of Field Support (DFS), the reporting quarter was marked by a high-level meeting between the three respective Under-Secretary-Generals on 14 May in New York and the negotiation of an appropriate Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Lastly, UNEP successfully proposed to the UN Development Group/Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs (UNDG/ECHA) Working Group on Transition to establish a task team on natural resource management, whose objective will be to strengthen UN capacity to assess and address land, natural resource management and environmental governance challenges in transition settings and peacebuilding processes.



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The assessment of the Nubarashen pesticides burial site near Yerevan, Armenia revealed an emergency situation with uncovered pesticides exposing nearby village populations to imminent health risks

## The Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC)

During the second quarter of 2010, the implementation of regional ENVSEC programmes in Central Asia, Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and South Eastern Europe was marked by the following highlights. In Eastern Europe, a meeting gathering some 50 participants was organized in Odessa to discuss the status of implementation of the project “Transboundary cooperation and sustainable management in the Dniester river basin” and to launch a new climate and flood component. Under the project entitled “Disposal of stocks of rocket fuel toxic component,” 3,100 tons of

mélange from two of Ukraine’s six storage sites were sent by the ENVSEC project to be eliminated at specialized chemical works in Russia. In South Eastern Europe and in Central Asia, ENVSEC Regional Coordination Meetings were organized respectively on 20-21 May in Szentendre, Hungary, and on 23 June in Almaty, Kazakhstan. In addition, after its launch in the South Caucasus, the CASE (Civic Action for Security and Environment) project was extended to Tajikistan, with a view to building the capacity of civil society organizations to address environment and security challenges. Finally in the South Caucasus, ENVSEC undertook an assessment of the Nubarashen pesticides burial site near Yerevan which revealed an emergency situation with uncovered pesticides exposing nearby village populations to imminent health risks.

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