

# QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT 3/2010



Pakistan experienced the worst flooding in its history during the 2010 monsoon season, UNEP deployed a Senior Environmental Coordinator to Islamabad in September and environmental experts through the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit as part of United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) teams

## 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.

## Environmental response to the Pakistan floods

Pakistan experienced the worst flooding in its history during the 2010 monsoon season, with massive floods devastating the country from late July to September, affecting more than 20 million people. As an immediate response to the disaster, two environmental experts were successively deployed through the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit as part of United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) teams. Their task was to undertake initial rapid assessments to identify any major environmental hotspots that would require addressing as part of the humanitarian



UNEP's Disasters and Conflicts sub-programme 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 programme implementation. 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. For more information on the Disasters and Conflicts programme, please contact Silja Halle, Programme Officer, at [silja.halle@unep.org](mailto:silja.halle@unep.org)

response. Acute environmental issues identified were disaster waste management and landslides. In addition, UNEP deployed a Senior Environmental Coordinator to Islamabad for a period of three weeks in September, to engage with and provide continued support to relevant cluster partners in order to mainstream environmental considerations into ongoing humanitarian operations. The Coordinator also contributed to the UN-led Flood Impact on the Millennium Development Goals Assessment (FIMA) process, by co-leading (together with UNDP) the development of the section on environmental sustainability (MDG 7). The final FIMA report will be released during the Pakistan Development Forum in mid-November.

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### Oil contamination assessment in Ogoniland, Nigeria

UNEP's multi-disciplinary assessment team made significant progress in the field during the reporting period, with samples of soil, sediment and water gathered and dispatched for analysis, and wells installed for monitoring groundwater quality. The collection of flora and fauna samples to analyse the impact



UNEP's aquatic team continued its fieldwork during Q3, collecting samples of soil, sediment, water and fish from a range of waterways in Ogoniland

of oil on the agricultural and forestry sectors in Ogoniland included testing for heavy metals in samples from major crops. The scientific fieldwork will continue into Q4, along with community sensitization and laboratory analysis. UNEP's environmental assessment of Ogoniland will culminate in an assessment report, together with a website and supporting searchable online databases, to be delivered in early 2011.

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### Democratic Republic of Congo post-conflict environmental assessment

The fieldwork phase of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) post-conflict environmental assessment (PCEA) initiated in 2009 was successfully completed during the reporting quarter. In total, fourteen separate multi-thematic field missions were carried out, covering all of the country's eleven provinces and major ecological regions. During Q3, two major field missions were undertaken to Katanga and Orientale provinces respectively. A six-member UNEP Expert team, including scientists from the Swiss Spiez Laboratory, carried out a mining environmental survey of the Katanga copperbelt region, which extends over 400 kilometers. In



During UNEP's mission to Katanga, DR Congo, the team collecting samples of heavy metal residue along river channels in the Likasi mining region



Widespread use of mercury by artisanal miners in Mongbwalu, Ituri district, poses a major health and environmental hazard

In addition to on-site testing, approximately 220 water, soil and air samples were collected and sent to Spiez Laboratory for detailed heavy metal and radiometric analysis. The UNEP team focused on water quality issues, with a specific emphasis on potential heavy metal contamination of community drinking water sources during the mission. With excellent cooperation from government authorities, state and private mining enterprises, the UNEP team was able to visit the major mines of interest, including the Shinkolobwe uranium mine. Based on the sampling strategy followed, UNEP will be able to characterize the extent of pollution in and around the mining sites. In Orientale Province, the UNEP team concentrated on Ituri district, which despite its war-torn past is now enjoying a period of stability. The UNEP team sought to gain a better understanding of the scale of illegal cross-border timber trade with neighbouring countries, and the timber supply chain. Other issues examined included the challenges facing indigenous Batwa in the Okapi Faunal Reserve, artisanal gold mining and associated mercury use, and overfishing problems in Lake Albert. The field missions were carried out with the collaboration of the Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Tourism (MECNT). UNDP provided

logistical support, and specific site visits were conducted jointly with international partners, such as the Wildlife Conservation Society and PACT. UNEP's final post-conflict assessment report on DR Congo will be launched in 2011.

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## Environment, Humanitarian Action and Early Recovery

**Launch of new online resource center:** On the occasion of World Humanitarian Day on 19 August, UNEP launched a new online resource centre, which aims to facilitate access to a wide range of practical information – including existing guidelines, tools, training materials, case studies and best practices – on how to integrate environmental considerations into humanitarian action. The resource center, which is the first tool of its kind, has generated positive feedback from a wide range of actors across the humanitarian field. For more information please see: <http://postconflict.unep.ch/humanitarianaction/>

**Greening humanitarian supply chains:** In July, UNEP met with INSEAD (European Institute for Business Administration) Humanitarian Research Group, Unilever and logisticians from several humanitarian organizations to discuss best practice in greening procurement for goods and services for humanitarian operations. Preliminary research undertaken by INSEAD on the logistical supply chain during the humanitarian response to the Haiti earthquake reveals lack of coordinated information-sharing on items shipped, as well as gaps in terms of ensuring green humanitarian logistics.

**Alternative energy in humanitarian settings:** From 22-23 September, UNEP participated in a workshop on Safe Access to Firewood & Alternative Energy in Humanitarian Settings (SAFE), organized by the World Food Programme. During the event, UNEP presented its work in relation to improved stoves and access to alternative energy sources under its programmes in Sudan and Haiti. Several participants recognized the added value of UNEP's expertise and involvement in this field

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### Emergency response by the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit (JEU)

**Lead intoxication in Zamfara State, Nigeria:** In August, the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit received a request from the Ministry of Health of Nigeria for assistance in assessing environmental impacts and threats to human well-being resulting from widespread lead intoxication in Zamfara State. The intoxication, which is related to artisanal gold mining activities, affected some 18,000 people across seven villages, killing 400 people, 200 of which were children. Led by an environmental expert from the JEU, a thirteen-day mission was deployed to Nigeria from 20 September. The Government of the Netherlands provided staff and equipment from its Environmental Assessment Module mobile laboratory for sampling and analysis during the mission. Preliminary findings in some areas show excess levels of mercury in the air, and lead concentrations in water and soil above the norms set by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Government of Nigeria. While the number of areas potentially contaminated is still growing, the full extent of the impact on the population is difficult to assess as many deaths and illnesses are still unreported. A final report presenting key findings will be released in Q4.



On World Humanitarian Day 2010, UNEP launched an online resource centre as part of its ongoing efforts to help raise awareness of humanitarian actors on how to mainstream the environment in humanitarian action



The Government of Netherlands deployed a mobile laboratory to Zamfara State for the assessment

**Gulf of Mexico oil spill:** The JEU closely monitored the massive oil spill that began in the Gulf of Mexico following the explosion of the Deepwater Horizon oil drilling rig on 20 April, coordinating continuous information-sharing between JEU and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and the European Commission (EC), in addition to several key donor partners. In July, the Chief of the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit (JEU) was invited by US authorities to participate in an international observer mission to discuss the ongoing response to the oil spill. No further request for assistance has been received.

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

On 15 July, in connection with the Humanitarian Affairs Segment of ECOSOC in New York, a side event followed by an informal dinner was hosted by the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations. The side event entitled “Environmental Emergencies: At Humanitarian and Environmental Crossroads”, was well attended, bringing together senior diplomats and civil servants including Sir John Holmes, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Ambassador Toni



An expert mission team was deployed to Zamfara State, Nigeria in September to assess the extent of widespread lead contamination in the region

Frisch, Deputy Director-General of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and Margareta Wahlström, Assistant Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction. The session called for a high-level commitment by the international community to ensure that environmental emergencies do not fall between the proverbial gap of humanitarian and environmental fields.

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## 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

**Environmental mainstreaming:** Thanks to UNEP's advocacy within the humanitarian cluster system, environmental issues became firmly anchored as a UN priority for Darfur during Q3. Released in September, the new UN recovery strategy for Darfur, *Beyond Emergency Relief* ([http://www.unsudanig.org/docs/Darfur\\_LT\\_100905\\_med.pdf](http://www.unsudanig.org/docs/Darfur_LT_100905_med.pdf)), features as one of

four priorities improved environmental management to support sustainable and equitable livelihoods in the face of conflict, displacement, urbanization and climate change. This represents a breakthrough with regard to the acceptance of the environment as a key factor in achieving a sustainable recovery. UNEP was also active in the preparation of the UN Workplan 2011 for Sudan during the reporting period. A pilot environment marker for projects registered in Sudan was developed to help ensure that future projects minimize environmental damage. This work will be expanded in the coming months through the Humanitarian Environmental Integration Project, which aims to develop minimum environmental standards tailored to the situation in Sudan, suggest possible "gold standards" for agencies that want to be recognized as leaders in environmental programming and assess the best way to influence environmental programming. Finally, UNEP provided substantial input into the planning processes for a UNAMID Integrated Strategic Framework meeting in Darfur on 13 September, to promote complementary action on the environment. UNEP's aim was to encourage UNAMID, the joint African Union-UN mission, to adopt a similar stance towards environmental sustainability as the UN agencies working in Darfur.



Thanks to UNEP advocacy, environment was identified as one of four priorities in the UN's recent recovery strategy for Darfur



UNEP strengthened its collaboration on forest management and other environmental issues with the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Physical Development of the Government of National Unity during the quarter

**Darfur programme:** Significant progress was made during Q3 on the Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) project in Darfur, as the first step in rehabilitating a large reservoir for El Fasher was completed. The next stage will involve working with senior government policy-makers to ensure that the concept of water management, and in particular watershed management, is encapsulated in policy. In addition, a project entitled Darfur Alternative Energy, which aims to promote alternative energy sources by evaluating current initiatives and identifying and analysing constraints and opportunities for energy in Darfur, was initiated during the reporting period through a scoping study. Finally, progress was made towards the launch of UNEP's Community Environmental Action Plans (CEAPs) project, which will empower communities to make important decisions related to the environment and take control of local issues affecting environmental degradation. During the next quarter, CEAPs will be implemented across selected communities in Darfur as a pilot initiative.

**Southern Sudan programme:** As part of its ongoing waste management campaign in Southern Sudan, UNEP supported the creation of a Waste Management Forum that will meet once a month to discuss and propose solutions to the significant waste management issues facing the region. The Multi Donor Trust Funds of the World Bank, Japan International Cooperation Agency, Italian Cooperation and the Joint Donor Team Office led by UNEP are among the Forum's participants. Its first proposed action is to

streamline waste management activities to prevent efforts from being duplicated. In addition, preparations continued for the launch of UNEP's capacity needs assessment of the Government of South Sudan in mid-November. This major milestone will strongly support the development of the draft *Environment Policy and Protection Bill 2010* and is part of UNEP's response to the government's request for technical assistance. Finally, UNEP also made progress assisting the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in drafting a forest policy and formulating related laws.

**Capacity-building:** UNEP strengthened its collaboration on forest management and other environmental issues with the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Physical Development of the Government of National Unity during the quarter, following a post-election re-structuring during which the Forests National Corporation (FNC) moved under the ministry's authority. UNEP also worked with government agencies and other stakeholders to evaluate the potential for increased use of liquid petroleum gas (LPG) to offset the use of woodfuel. UNEP's initial research on this issue will culminate in the release of a series of studies and a UNEP-convened workshop to be held in Khartoum on 12-13 December. The forum will bring to the table the government, the international community, the private sector and NGOs to consider options for expanding the use of LPG.

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*UNEP colleagues remember Linda: <http://postconflict.unep.ch/Linda/>*

### Tribute to Linda Norgrove

The death of Linda Norgrove in Afghanistan on 8 October shocked and deeply saddened her former UNEP colleagues. Linda, 36, died during a rescue attempt following her kidnapping in Kunar province some two weeks earlier.

From 2005 to 2008, Linda was a valued member of UNEP's programme team in Afghanistan. She left to serve in Laos as Head of the Environment Unit, a joint UNEP and UN Development Programme post for the Poverty and Environment Initiative, before returning to Afghanistan in January this year to work for an international non-governmental organization, Development Alternatives.

Among her many achievements, Linda will be remembered for making a pivotal contribution to UNEP's work in Afghanistan. She led the development of Afghanistan's first action plan for climate change adaptation as well as an assessment of Afghanistan's readiness to comply with its international obligations under relevant multilateral environmental agreements.

Dedicated to improving the lives of the Afghan people, Linda is also credited with laying the foundations for UNEP's current community-based natural resource management and protected areas programmes in Afghanistan. Linda, who was known for her generosity and integrity, won the admiration of her UNEP colleagues and many others in the humanitarian community.

*Dr Asif Ali Zaidi  
Operations Manager  
Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch and former head of UNEP's Afghanistan programme*

## Afghanistan country programme

**Environmental law and policy:** From 26-28 July in Kabul, UNEP conducted the first three-day Enforcement of Environment Laws, Regulations and Procedures Workshop for 26 NEPA and MAIL staff from across 13 provinces. Two more regional workshops are expected to be delivered in the next quarter in the cities of Mazar-i-Sharif and Herat.

**Environmental impact assessment (EIA) and pollution control:** During Q3, UNEP supported NEPA in the drafting of a Noise Pollution Prevention and Control Regulation. Stakeholder consultations will be undertaken by NEPA in Q4 to help finalize this regulation. UNEP also provided training to NEPA on ambient air quality standards; vehicle emission standards and auto inspection and maintenance systems; and emission standards on brick kilns, industrial boilers and cement plants. Furthermore, UNEP supported NEPA in completing the tender document for two roadside ambient air quality stations to be established in Kabul, financed under the regular budget of the Government of Afghanistan. UNEP also worked closely with NEPA's Sustainable Development Division through regular mentoring sessions focusing on evaluation of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) project components. Finally, assistance was provided in translating

the Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam conventions into Dari, and in developing three project proposals on waste surveys, ambient air quality monitoring systems, and a training programme on environmental compliance for submission to the Ministry of Finance for the coming fiscal year.

**Environmental education and outreach:** On the occasion of the International Day of Peace on 24 September, UNEP, together with the UN Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), organized a five-kilometre Peace Trek in the Shah Foladi protected area in Bamiyan, in which school children and local community leaders participated. The Trekking for Peace campaign commenced with speeches from the Governor of Bamiyan Province, Ms. Habiba Sorabi, and the UN Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Robert Watkins. The message of peace and reconciliation was highlighted during the trek through a variety of arts, and cultural and outdoor activities. During Q3, UNEP also worked with MAIL's Education Unit and UNDP to develop a package of environmental awareness-raising and outreach materials for areas of special conservation and natural resource significance. The kit, which includes posters, guides and ideas for outdoor activities focusing on nature conservation, will be finalized in the fourth reporting quarter and ready for use in at least three projects in early 2011.

**Community-based natural resource management (CBNRM):** In Q3, final design and implementation plans for the initial set of CBNRM projects were completed for Herat, Badakhshan and Bamiyan areas. As the Afghan government develops its peace and reintegration of ex-combatants programme, the Natural Resource Management (NRM) sector and CBNRM in particular will grow in importance. UNEP will provide vital field-level data on methods and strategy for a large-scale roll out of CBNRM in forestry, protected areas, restoration works and rangelands issues in the coming months.

**Protected areas:** Significant progress was made by MAIL in Q3 on the development of a national park at Shah Foladi in Bamiyan province, including through the establishment and training of a Community Conservation Committee (CCC). Sixteen communities currently participate in this committee, which works together with relevant government partners and UNEP to undertake planning for the proposed park. Situated in a peaceful part of the country, the site – currently estimated to be 450 km of high-alpine rangeland – is regarded as an ideal community development model, as well as a chance to develop capacity in the field of protected areas. Two international consultants were also recruited in Q3 to consolidate the monitoring system and assist in master planning. Furthermore, within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity Programme of Work on Protected Areas (POWPA), UNEP continued to provide technical support to NEPA and MAIL, including through inputs to annual work plans, proposal writing for individual park projects and training delivery. One key achievement



School children and local community leaders participated in a five-kilometre walk in the Shah Foladi Protected Area, in Bamiyan Province, to celebrate the International Day of Peace on 24 September

was the approval by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) of a project proposal worth USD 394,000 related to the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The project to be implemented over the next 18 months aims to: i) enable the mainstreaming of in-situ and ex-situ biodiversity conservation in NEPA, MAIL and line-ministries; ii) create a National Biodiversity Conservation Experts Working Group; and iii) develop a biodiversity strategy. Field projects will focus on the Shah Foladi Project in Bamiyan and the Kabul University Botanical Garden in Kabul.

**Environmental coordination and joint programming:** In Q3, UNEP continued to provide technical advice to the SAISEM project (Strengthening Approach for Sustainable Integrated Environment Management), jointly implemented by UNDP and FAO. UNEP also became a key member of the NRM Taskforce in the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL).

**Climate change:** The Initial National Communication (INC) project made progress during the reporting quarter through a number of activities undertaken by UNEP to assist MAIL and NEPA mainstream climate change risks into national and local development plans. Moreover, a planning grant for the development of a National Adaptation Plan of Action for Climate Change, worth USD 5 million, was approved by the GEF during the reporting period. Finally, UNEP and NEPA staff participated in a climate change workshop in Manila, Philippines from 29 September-1 October, during which the

Afghan climate change expert was introduced to the range of technical support which could be provided by the UNFCCC Secretariat Consultative Group of Experts in order for NEPA to meet its reporting obligations and deliver its reports to the UNFCCC Secretariat in the coming months.

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### Haiti post-disaster environmental support

**Environmental support to the relief, recovery and reconstruction effort:** In Q3, UNEP continued to provide wide-ranging technical assistance on environmental issues to a broad range of humanitarian actors, and to engage with the inter-cluster coordination processes at the country and UN levels. In addition, following the completion of rapid environmental assessments in Q1, UNEP conducted a second real-time environmental evaluation of the response given by the humanitarian and recovery community in order to identify environmental risks and opportunities. The assessment was based on an environmental performance rating system, noting the trend (improving, stable or worsening) and the key challenges yet to be addressed in the relief, recovery and reconstruction processes. As a global first, the report offered an environmental performance appraisal of the humanitarian clusters – providing at times a harsh spotlight on the issues and the response noted. In general, the environmental performance for humanitarian



UNEP undertook a wide range of baseline studies in the southwest of Haiti to guide the design of the new sustainable rural development programme in the area



UNEP is working with the Government of Haiti and a range of partners on the development of a programme designed to rehabilitate coastal and marine areas

relief remains very poor (2 out of 5), while the performance for recovery and reconstruction is rated as 3 (mixed progress and worsening), as good early indications on intentions were found to have yet to be translated into practical action. UNEP is now reducing its activities in the humanitarian field and redirecting efforts towards resolution of a few key issues within recovery and development as set out below.

**Biogas:** In Q3, UNEP catalysed the creation of a working group on biogas and provided technical support to the government-led forum. The use of anaerobic biodigestion (biogas) for the treatment of human waste is seen in Haiti as a promising option for an urban population of 5 million without any sewage system. A national strategy paper, which is technically supported by UNEP, was developed to set out the proposed direction of investment in this field. Work with partners is currently progressing on: i) expanding the number of small/domestic-scale urban biogas units, and ii) undertaking a feasibility study for a single industrial scale unit for the city of Port-au-Prince.

**The Haiti Regeneration Initiative (HRI):** The HRI aims to propose a new model for the design and delivery of programmes in the field of sustainable rural development. During Q3, UNEP started putting this model into practice with the detailed design of a major new programme for the southwest of Haiti. The Haiti Southwest Sustainable Development Programme will cover a mountainous coastal area of 600 km<sup>2</sup> with a population of 200,000. While still under development, the programme is likely to operate on a 20-year vision. The programme will include a Millennium Village Project based upon the highly successful local

development approach tested in Africa and Asia by the Earth Institute of Columbia University since 2006.

**Marine programme:** Despite a plethora of serious issues such as shore-based pollution, overfishing and mangrove destruction, there is currently very little investment in marine environmental management in Haiti. In partnership with the Government of Haiti and regional partners, UNEP has progressed on the design of a national-scale programme, combining policy and legislative work with practical field-based investments.

**Clean energy:** Upon request of the national Government, UNEP significantly increased its engagement in the clean energy sector during the reporting period, namely through support to two government-led working groups, on improved cooking stoves and bottled liquid petroleum gas (LPG) expansion respectively. Both working groups seek to coordinate efforts and the creation of medium to long-term plans for development and investment. In partnership with the Government, UNEP also designed a 14-month bridging programme to enhance coordination and policy development in the field of clean energy in Haiti, which is expected to start in late 2011.

**Transboundary environmental management:** UNEP and UNDP worked together with the governments of Haiti and the Dominican Republic during Q3 to design a transboundary programme aimed at addressing deforestation in the border zone between both countries.

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## Democratic Republic of Congo country programme

**DR Congo country programme:** The UNEP country programme for the DR Congo is a coordinated “One UNEP” programme of projects and activities focused on a well defined and locally endorsed set of environmental and natural resources management priorities within the country. The UNEP Country Programme team and its support office in Kinshasa serves major ongoing activities including the large-scale UNEP post-conflict environmental assessment, UN REDD, and Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP).

**UN-REDD programme for DR Congo:** Phase II of DR Congo’s National Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD), of which UNEP is a key partner, progressed steadily during Q3 with the organization of a workshop in July to kick-start the establishment of REDD national and inter-ministerial committees. To prepare DR Congo for REDD deliberations at the UN Climate Change conference in Cancun (COP16), Mexico, the REDD-National Coordination office underwent substantial expansion with the recruitment of nine national staff. In addition, an important communication and awareness-raising initiative on the REDD process was organized by the Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation, and Tourism and the REDD-National Coordination office from 18-27 August, under the title “REDD Summer University in the DRC,” bringing together some 500 participants. REDD messages are also being popularized through music and song. Finally, the Congolese Government received an allocation of USD 5.5 million in March 2010 for the implementation of UN-REDD Phase II.

**Great Apes Survival Partnership:** UNEP’s Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP), in collaboration with the Spanish Ministry for Environment (MMA), conducted a field-based evaluation in September of its ongoing project to strengthen the capacity of Kahuzi-Biega National Park authorities in South Kivu, currently listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site in danger. The mission also discussed options for MMA Phase II and the LifeWeb Initiative funded project with the Congolese Park Authorities (ICCN) and conservation partners. GRASP’s conflict resolution work has resulted in a significant reduction in illegal activities inside the park. Moreover, monitoring surveys of previously inaccessible areas in the Kasese sector has provided positive results confirming the existence of chimpanzee, gorilla and elephant populations.

**CASCADE programme:** Under UNEP’s “Carbon Finance for Agriculture, Silviculture, Conservation and Action against Deforestation” (CASCADE) programme, activities to support DR Congo to develop forestry and bio-energy carbon projects were ongoing. Technical assistance was provided to facilitate the validation of selected projects by the Executive Board of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), namely the Ibi Bateke and the Bonobo Peace Forest reforestation projects.

In late September, an agreement was signed with DR Congo to provide support on: (i) a legal review of the national CDM regulatory framework; (ii) the convening of the first meeting of the DNA’s main body (Conseil National du Mécanisme de Développement Propre de la République Démocratique du Congo); and (iii) website development.

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## 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. In particular, UNEP worked with UNICEF to finalize the *Gaza Safe Water* project, which aims to: i) improve the provision of safe drinking water for children in the Gaza Strip; ii) initiate a behavioral change campaign to promote safer use of water; and iii) initiate a study on the quality of water supplied across the Gaza Strip. Within the framework of this project, UNEP provided technical advice on reverse osmosis plants set up by the government, private operators, and individuals. These plants serve to purify drinking water by removing salt and other substances from water molecules. UNEP is now collaborating with UNICEF to develop a comprehensive proposal for enhancing the performance monitoring of these plants.

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## Nepal early environmental recovery programme

The Nepal early environmental recovery programme, focusing on national parks and protected areas and implemented in collaboration with WWF and IUCN, was successfully completed in late August. In order to fight encroachment and illegal activities in these areas, the programme promoted initiatives such as construction and maintenance of guard posts, bridges and fire lines, as well community awareness-raising and mobilization. The major strategies followed were: i) advocacy at the national and local levels (political parties, civil society organizations, key decision-makers and other concerned stakeholders); ii) capacity enhancement of District Forest Offices (DFOs), protected area offices, and Community-Based Anti-Poaching Operations (CBAPOs); and iii) national awareness-raising on encroachment through a media campaign. A workshop to mark the closure of this programme to review the progress and agree on future activities with other stakeholders was held in November.

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## 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.

### Integrated Strategic Environmental Assessment (ISEA) in Sri Lanka

Two missions were carried out by UNEP in Q3 in relation to the Integrated Strategic Environmental Assessment (ISEA) process conducted in collaboration with the National Government and UNDP in Sri Lanka. Following the cessation of hostilities in 2009, the Government of Sri Lanka launched a major development thrust known as Uthuru Wasanthaya or Northern Spring, involving new settlements, urban and rural infrastructure and livelihood as well as economic development. In order to anticipate and avoid the potential adverse environmental consequences of accelerated development, the ISEA is expected to produce a sustainable

development framework for the region that identifies development opportunities based on environmental sustainability and disaster risk management criteria. From 12-16 July, UNEP participated in a consultation process between national government agencies to develop initial environmental sensitivity and “opportunity” maps using GIS. These integrate information on planned development initiatives with environmental baselines, providing an indicative visual appraisal of potential conflicts between development priorities and the environment. In addition, UNEP delivered a two-day training on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) involving over 40 participants from different government agencies. The main objective of the second mission, which took place from 23 August to 5 September was to continue providing additional technical support and mentoring, working especially with the Central Environment Authority (CEA) and the Urban Development Authority in further refining “opportunity maps” and preparing the assessment according to identified strategic environmental objectives, different development alternatives and different stress-testing scenarios. Moreover, field visits to all five districts in the Northern Province were undertaken to raise local awareness of the ISEA process and to consult with district authorities. UNEP engagement in Sri Lanka has already shown positive results, as the initial preparation of development plans and environmental baselines facilitated greater inter-agency cooperation and coordination with respect to the sharing and integration of data. Enhanced national capacity and greater awareness of the value of undertaking ISEAs is expected to help bring about improved institutional practices with respect to sustainable land-use planning that effectively anticipate and mitigate against adverse environmental outcomes, as well as vulnerabilities to natural hazards.



The Ecosystems, Livelihoods and Disaster Risk Reduction Workshop organized by the PEDRR from 21-23 September gathered scientific and practitioner communities in order to improve knowledge and practice on ecosystem management approaches for disaster risk reduction (see next page)



The Ecosystems, Livelihoods and Disaster Risk Reduction Workshop organized by the PEDRR from 21-23 September was organized to promote dialogue between the scientific and practitioner communities

## The Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR)

Within the context of the Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR) and together with the UN University's Institute for Environment and Human Security, IUCN and UNDP, UNEP co-organized a workshop on "Ecosystems, Livelihoods and Disaster Risk Reduction," which took place on 21-23 September in Bonn, Germany. The objective of the three-day workshop was to enhance dialogue between the scientific and practitioner communities in order to improve knowledge and practice on ecosystem management approaches for disaster risk reduction. As the first major workshop organized by PEDRR, the event brought together 50 participants from around the world, including scientists, researchers, practitioners, international development partners, civil society, and government representatives. Participants deliberated on the potential role of ecosystems in providing natural hazard protection and reducing vulnerability to hazard impacts. Special focus was placed on storm surges, flooding, landslides and wildfires. Latest scientific research was presented, complemented with field-based experiences on good practices of ecosystems-based disaster reduction shared by practitioners. A key outcome of the event was the development of an "Agenda for Action" based on key issues and gaps identified during the sessions. PEDRR and its expanding network will use the Agenda as a catalyst for mobilizing activities in the future, which include: investing in capacity-building and awareness-raising events on environment and disaster risk reduction, mainstreaming of ecosystems-based DRR in development planning processes, further research on ecosystem and livelihood thresholds for different types of hazards, and improving valuation of ecosystem functions and services.

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## Building Capacity for Industrial Risk Reduction with a focus on Emergency Preparedness in Developing Countries – APELL

During Q3, UNEP initiated contacts with government agencies and industry associations in Argentina to undertake preparations for a regional workshop on experience-sharing on APELL (Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level) in Latin America, and to promote UNEP's new Flexible Framework Initiative for Chemical Accident Prevention and Preparedness. During a mission to Argentina in early July, UNEP met with the Secretary of Environment of Argentina, the Ministry of Production of Buenos Aires Province, the Latin American Association of Chemical and Petrochemical companies (APLA), the Argentinean Association of Chemical Engineers (AAIQ), the Federation of Municipalities and the Chamber of Chemical and Petrochemical Industries (CIQyP). The CIQyP, a key industrial association in the country responsible for the promotion of "responsible care" in Argentina, agreed to host the workshop together with APLA on 29-30 November 2010. A significant number of regional public and private sector organizations are expected to attend to share their experience and expertise in the implementation of the APELL process in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, and Peru, in both the chemical and mining sectors.

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## 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 resource 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. UNEP believes that effectively addressing the environmental dimensions of conflict and peacebuilding can only be done in partnership with a wide range of international and national actors. As a result, UNEP has developed partnerships with a number of peace and security actors including the UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR), the UN Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support (DPKO and DFS) in New York and the European Commission (RELEX) in Brussels. UNEP has also broadened its expertise and capacity by establishing, together with the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), an Expert Advisory Group on Environment, Conflict and Peacebuilding.



UNEP entered into an agreement with the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) to deliver advice on sustainable technologies and practices which could be implemented at the new UN House being built by UNMIS in Juba, South Sudan (see page 17)

## Environment, conflict and peacebuilding programme in Sierra Leone

UNEP's environment, conflict and peacebuilding programme in Sierra Leone began in earnest with the arrival in July of an environmental expert tasked with implementing an ambitious programme of work as part of the UN's "Delivering as One" approach in the country ([http://postconflict.unep.ch/publications/Sierra\\_Leone.pdf](http://postconflict.unep.ch/publications/Sierra_Leone.pdf)). The programme, developed by UNEP together with FAO and UNDP, aims to build the capacity of key environment and natural resource actors in Sierra Leone, including the Sierra Leone Environmental Protection Agency (SLEPA), the Ministry of Agriculture (Division of Forestry), and the Ministry of Transportation and Aviation (MET) Directorate. Following extensive consultations with government counterparts, civil society actors and other agencies, a number of activities were initiated during the reporting period, including: (i) building SLEPA's capacity to review and monitor Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) effectively through direct technical assistance, training and the development of EIA guidelines; (ii) preparing for a training workshop on Strategic Environmental Assessment in Q4; (iii) arranging for external experts to share experiences of land reform efforts elsewhere and support the ongoing process of land tenure reform; (iv) procuring six automatic weather stations to gather climate data; and (v) working to secure new funding for environmental issues in Sierra Leone through the GEF and other sources. These initiatives will be finalized during Q4 2010.

## The Secretary-General's Report on Peacebuilding in the Aftermath of Conflict

The latest report by the Secretary-General on Peacebuilding in the Immediate Aftermath of Conflict was released on 16 July 2010 (<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N10/438/27/PDF/N1043827.pdf?OpenElement>). Among other recommendations, the report called for Member States and the United Nations system to question and further examine natural resource allocation, ownership and access as an integral part of peacebuilding strategies. Statistics from UNEP's report "From conflict to peacebuilding: The role of natural resources and the environment" ([http://postconflict.unep.ch/publications/pcdmb\\_policy\\_01.pdf](http://postconflict.unep.ch/publications/pcdmb_policy_01.pdf)), were cited in the report as further evidence of the need for coordination and capacity-building on this topic. This level of political recognition represents an important milestone in UNEP's efforts to bring greater attention to this issue across the UN system. As a follow-up to Secretary-General's report, UNEP proposed to establish and chair a dedicated task team on natural resources, conflict and peacebuilding as part of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG)/ECHA Working Group on Transition, which held its first meeting on 12 October. It is anticipated that the task team will include representatives from: DPA, PBSO, DPKO, DFS, HABITAT, ILO, FAO, UNICEF, DESA, and UNDP.

## UN-EU partnership on natural resources and conflict

Within the context of the UN-EU partnership on natural resources and conflict, of which UNEP is a Steering Committee member, a dedicated training course is under development by the UN Staff College on natural resources and conflict prevention. This first course will be based on the four guidance notes developed by the project, which cover: (i) Land and conflict (ii) Extractive industries and conflict, (iii) Environmental scarcity and conflict, and (iv) Capacity development for managing land and natural resources. The course was held in Turin, Italy, from 15-19 November 2010.

## UNDP-UNEP Joint Initiative on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration and Natural Resource Management

From 22 June-11 July, a mission was conducted to northern Uganda, with support from IOM, to assess the role of natural resource management in current reintegration and community stabilization programmes in the region. In addition, a workshop was held in collaboration with

UNCTAD to explore the use of bio-trade and value chain approaches to support reintegration activities in northern Uganda. On 19 August, the UNDP-UNEP Joint Initiative held a meeting in Geneva, Switzerland to present its preliminary findings to colleagues based in New York and Geneva. The meeting was attended by a range of colleagues from BCPR, UNEP, ILO, IISD, UNCTAD, the UN Employment Policy, the UN Framework Team on Preventive Action, and the Business Call to Action of the Partnership's Bureau. The preliminary findings touched upon the role of land and natural resource tenure in ensuring sustainable reintegration, as well as opportunities to address sustainable economic reintegration through the development of integrated natural resource-based value chains.

## Study on Climate Change, Migration and Conflict in the Sahel

Solid progress was also made in Q3 with regard to the desk study on climate change, migration and conflict in the Sahel, a joint project between UNEP, IOM, OCHA, and the UN University. The objective of the study is to identify how climate change acts as an exacerbating factor to existing environmental vulnerability in the region, and could contribute to conflict and migration in the Sahel. Stakeholder



In Q3, a mission was undertaken to study the role of natural resource management in current reintegration and community stabilization programmes in northern Uganda



Under the UNEP-DPKO/DFS partnership, progress was made towards maximizing resource-efficient technologies and practices at peacekeeping bases in Mogadishu, Somalia and Mombasa, Kenya

meetings were held with the partners in the project, the OECD's Sahel and West Africa Club, as well as with Salzburg University's Centre for Geoinformatics. Extensive consultations to ensure adequate regional-level inputs will be ongoing throughout the fourth quarter, including through meetings with the Comité Permanent Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel (CILSS) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The study is expected to be completed and published in Q1 2011.

### Environmental mainstreaming in peacekeeping operations

Within the context of UNEP's technical cooperation with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and the Department of Field Support (DFS), two new projects were initiated in Q3. First, Phase II the UNEP-UNSOA cooperation began with the launch of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for the two UNSOA/AMISOM bases in Mogadishu, Somalia (HQ) and Mombasa, Kenya (logistics-base), as well as Environmental Baseline Studies (EBS) of two potential sites

for the Mombasa logistics base. The respective assessments and studies are expected to be completed in the following quarter.<sup>1</sup> Second, UNEP entered into an agreement with the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) to deliver advice on sustainable technologies and practices which could be implemented at the new UN House being built by UNMIS in Juba, South Sudan. This project, which includes feasibility studies, will provide UNMIS with practical recommendations, including specifications for procurement, by the end of 2010. An initial UNEP mission was undertaken in August to visit the UN House site and gather the necessary information on the engineered design and construction. Efforts also focused on preparations for a pilot training course of 30 peacekeeping personnel on this issue, to be held in UNEP's headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya from the 8-11 November. As a result of the significant progress made by UNEP under this pillar, the team managing this collaboration, together with its external contributing partners, was nominated as a finalist in the "Greening" category of the UN21 Award.

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## 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. Specific regional developments during the reporting quarter include the following:

**South Caucasus:** ENVSEC responded to a request by the government of Georgia to support a forest fire management training for local fire-fighters in Borjomi National Park. The training was followed by a meeting with local administrations and community members and a national roundtable in Tbilisi, organized with the help of the Global Fire Monitoring Centre. In Armenia, ENVSEC assisted the Government in addressing environmental and health problems associated with the Nubarashen pesticide burial site near Yerevan, which is estimated to have more than 500 tons of dangerous and banned pesticides. The creation of a working group under the auspices of the Prime Minister's Office to coordinate the recovery and rehabilitation of the site and a public hearing at the European Parliament signified the importance given to this issue by the national and international partners. Finally, upon the request of the government of Armenia, ENVSEC undertook an assessment of mining sites that could constitute a danger to populations and the environment. Civil society involvement in ENVSEC activities also gained significant momentum in Armenia and Azerbaijan through implementation of CASE Small Grants Programme.

**Eastern Europe:** During the reporting period, the Government of Belarus approved the application of the Espoo Convention on the Neman River. As part of a project to improve flood monitoring, ENVSEC counterparts in Belarus and Ukraine prepared risks maps in the Styr- Prostyr sub basin of the Pripyat River, in consultation with communities, the media and local authorities. In the Dniester area, UNEP, together with the OSCE and UNECE, convened a stakeholder meeting in Odessa, where a new working group for climate change and floods was launched. The same project organized an annual festival for children from the two banks of the Dniester River (Ukraine and Moldova). In the Danube region, the VIII Standing Working Group under the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICDPR) adopted a resolution supporting the development of the Danube delta analysis and management plan, followed up by an ENVSEC project led by UNEP and UNECE, and implemented jointly with the ICDPR.

**South Eastern Europe:** In Q3, ENVSEC began the implementation of a new programme funded by Finland and

Austria, "Transforming Risks into Cooperation," to prevent and reduce tensions over shared natural resources, pollution and waste. Under the project "Governance, Implementation and Enforcement of Illegal Logging in Eastern and South Eastern Europe," ENVSEC conducted several diagnostic audits that helped assess the magnitude of illegal logging in the region and ways to address it. In parallel, a Regional Report on illegal logging in South-Eastern Europe was drafted. The report adopts a regional approach to the illegal logging issue, and provides conclusions and policy recommendations to tackle the problem on a regional scale, including through the establishment of a regional platform. During the reporting period, ENVSEC activities in the Timok river basin included the production of a short movie to inform and raise awareness of ENVSEC's project to ensure cooperation and dialogue between Serbia and Bulgaria for the management of the river (<http://timok.rec.org/>). In addition, ENVSEC partners, in consultation with Government, local authorities and communities, supported the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the implementation of the principles of the Aarhus Convention. After having organized a study visit to the Aarhus Information Centre in Albania and a national workshop on provisions and requirements of the Aarhus Convention, the project re-launched the web portal of the Department for Environmental Protection of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina providing both access to relevant information and facilitate public participation opportunities.

**Central Asia:** ENVSEC's work on the impacts of climate change in Central Asia, which is embedded in the UNDP programme on climate change in Central Asia, was progressed through an international training course for high-level officials and experts held in Moscow, Russia from 16-20 August. During the course, delegations from the five Central Asian countries learned from the experience of the Russian Federation with regard to the maintenance and management of hydro-technical installations, and were briefed on recent scientific developments in this area. The project on addressing the consequences of uranium waste in Central Asia also made significant progress by prioritizing, together with the national government of Kyrgyzstan, a number of projects to be submitted to donors for funding. During this process, a UNEP expert was deployed through the secretariat of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) in Vienna to assist in analysing environmental impacts of radioactive waste management and identify measures for protecting health and the environment from radioactive contamination, in coordination with the International Atomic Energy Agency. Finally, an ENVSEC newsletter in Russian highlighting the status of ENVSEC work programme and updates from ENVSEC projects in Central Asia was developed (see <http://ws.undp.sk/enveng+envsec/envsec-central-asia-newsletter-2010+13479>).

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In Q3, ENVSEC assessed potential threats to populations and the environment resulting from mining sites throughout Armenia

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