



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

### 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, to undertake initial rapid assessments to identify any major environmental hotspots that would require addressing as part of the humanitarian response. 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).



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)



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

### **Oil contamination assessment in Ogoniland, Nigeria**

UNEP's multi-disciplinary assessment team made significant progress in the field during the reporting period. 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.

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

The fieldwork phase of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) post-conflict environmental assessment (PCEA) was successfully completed during the reporting quarter. In total, fourteen separate multi-thematic field missions were carried out between April 2009 and September 2010, covering all of the country's eleven provinces and major ecological regions. The two final field missions were undertaken during Q3 in 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. In Orientale Province, the UNEP

expert team concentrated on Ituri district, focusing on the issue of illegal cross-border timber trade with neighbouring countries, and on the timber supply chain. UNEP's final assessment report on DR Congo is expected to be launched in 2011.

### **Environment, humanitarian action and early recovery**

On the occasion of World Humanitarian Day on 19 August, UNEP launched a new online resource centre (<http://postconflict.unep.ch/humanitarianaction/>) that 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. In July, UNEP met with INSEAD (European Institute for Business Administration) Humanitarian Research Group, Unilever and logisticians from several humanitarian organizations to discuss best practices in greening humanitarian supply chains. Finally, in September, UNEP participated in a workshop on Safe Access to Firewood & Alternative Energy in Humanitarian Settings (SAFE), during which it presented its work in relation to improved stoves and access to alternative energy sources under its programmes in Sudan and Haiti.

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

In August, the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit received a request from the Government 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, killing 400 people, 200 of which were children. Led by an environmental expert from the JEU, a thirteen-day mission was deployed to Nigeria in September. The Government of the Netherlands provided staff and equipment from its Environmental Assessment Module mobile laboratory for sampling and analysis during the mission. A final report presenting key findings will be released in Q4.

## Post-Crisis Environmental Recovery

### Sudan country programme

In Darfur, significant progress was made during Q3 on the Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) project, as the first step in rehabilitating a large reservoir for El Fasher was completed. 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. In South 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. In addition, preparations continued for the launch of UNEP's capacity needs assessment of the Government of South Sudan in mid-November. UNEP also worked at the national level with government agencies and other stakeholders to evaluate the potential for increased use of liquid petroleum gas (LPG) to offset the use of woodfuel. Finally, as a result of UNEP's advocacy within the humanitarian 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.



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



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

## Afghanistan country programme

UNEP's programme in Afghanistan made steady progress during the reporting period, despite the further deteriorating situation in the country. Under the environmental education and outreach pillar, UNEP together with the UN Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) co-organized a "Peace Trek" in the Shah Foladi Protected Area on the occasion of the International Day of Peace. The event proved to be a remarkable success with the participation of several high-profile figures, as well as community leaders and children. With regard to community-based natural resource management (CBNRM), final design and implementation plans for the initial set of projects were completed for Herat, Badakhshan and Bamiyan provinces. Significant progress was also made by the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) Protected Areas Division on the development of the Shah Foladi National Park in Bamiyan province, including through the establishment and capacity-building of the Community Conservation Committee (CCC). Furthermore, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) approved a project proposal related to the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which will enable the mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation in governmental institutions, and the development of a

biodiversity strategy. 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. Finally, with regard to climate change, the Initial National Communication (INC) project made progress through various activities undertaken 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 (NAPA) for climate change, worth USD 5 million, was approved by the GEF during the reporting period.

## Haiti country programme

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. UNEP also 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. However, UNEP is now reducing its activities in the humanitarian field and redirecting efforts towards resolution of a number of key issues within recovery and development. The main thematic areas include biogas, sustainable rural development, marine, clean energy and transboundary environmental management. Major achievements during Q3 include the detailed design of a major new programme for the southwest of Haiti – the Haiti Southwest Sustainable Development Programme -- which will cover a mountainous



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

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 local development approach tested in Africa and Asia by the Earth Institute of Columbia University since 2006. In partnership with the Government of Haiti and regional partners, UNEP also progressed on the design of a national-scale marine environment programme, combining policy and legislative work with practical field-based investments. In addition, 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. Finally, 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.

### Democratic Republic of 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 (NRM) priorities within the country. During the reporting period, Phase II of DR Congo’s National Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD) progressed steadily with the organization of a workshop in July to kick-start the establishment of REDD national and inter-ministerial committees and the substantial expansion of the REDD National Coordination office to prepare the country for REDD deliberations at the upcoming UN Climate Change conference (COP16) in Cancun, Mexico. Furthermore, UNEP’s Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP), in collaboration with the Spanish Ministry for Environment, 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. Finally, 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).

## Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

UNEP continued to provide technical assistance to the ongoing integrated strategic environment assessment (SEA) process in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka. Over the course of two missions during Q3, UNEP participated in consultation meetings with national government agencies and local authorities in all five districts of the Northern Province. In addition to providing technical advice and mentoring, UNEP also provided a two-day training on SEA attended by well over 40 participants from various government agencies. In addition, 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, to assess current knowledge and practice on ecosystems-based approaches for disaster risk reduction and develop a plan for action. Finally, within the framework of the APELL (Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level) project, UNEP initiated contact with government agencies and industry associations in Argentina to undertake preparations for a regional workshop on experience-sharing on APELL in Latin America, and to promote UNEP's new Flexible Framework Initiative for Chemical Accident Prevention and Preparedness.

## Environmental Cooperation for Peacebuilding

In Q3, UNEP initiated an "Environment, Conflict and Peacebuilding programme" in Sierra Leone as a follow-up to the assessment report that was launched in Freetown in May 2010. Within the new programme, UNEP is working closely with FAO and UNDP to build the capacity of key environment and natural resource actors in Sierra Leone, including the Sierra Leone Environmental Protection Agency. 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 for the two UNSOA/AMISOM bases in Mogadishu, Somalia and Mombasa, Kenya, as well as environmental baseline studies of two potential sites for the Mombasa logistics base. 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. 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. In addition, a mission was conducted to 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



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

under the auspices of the Joint UNEP-UNDP Initiative on Natural Resources and Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) from 22 June-11 July to assess the role of natural resource management (NRM) in current reintegration programmes and community stabilization programmes in the northern part of the country. Finally, the latest report of the Secretary-General on *Peacebuilding in the Immediate Aftermath of Conflict*, released on 16 July, called on the international community to question natural resource allocation, ownership and access as an integral part of peacebuilding strategies. As a follow-up, 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.

## The Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC)

The implementation of regional ENVSEC programmes in Central Asia, Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and South

Eastern Europe was marked by the following highlights during the reporting period. In South Caucasus, ENVSEC supported the organization of a forest fire management training for local fire-fighters in Borjomi National Park, Georgia. In Armenia, ENVSEC assisted the Government in addressing environmental and health problems associated with the Nubarashen pesticide burial site near Yerevan. In Eastern Europe, to improve flood monitoring, ENVSEC counterparts in Belarus and Ukraine prepared risks maps in the Styr-Prostyr sub-basin of the Pripyat River. In the Dniester area, UNEP, together with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), convened an all-stakeholder meeting in Odessa, where a new working group for climate change and floods was launched. In South Eastern Europe, ENVSEC began the implementation of a new programme entitled “Transforming Risks into Cooperation,” to prevent and reduce tensions over shared natural resources, pollution and waste. Finally, under the UNDP-led project to address the consequences of uranium waste in Central Asia, an expert was deployed to analyse the environmental impacts of radioactive waste management and identify measures for protecting health and the environment from radioactive contamination.

For more information on UNEP’s Disasters and Conflicts Programme, please contact:

United Nations Environment Programme  
Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch  
International Environment House  
15 chemin des Anémones  
CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva  
Switzerland

Or:

Tel.: +41 (0)22 917 8530  
Fax: +41 (0)22 917 8064

[www.unep.org/conflictsanddisasters](http://www.unep.org/conflictsanddisasters)  
[www.envsec.org/](http://www.envsec.org/)