

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT 4/2010



During the reporting period, the UNEP team completed the bulk of the scientific fieldwork for its assessment of oil contamination in Ogoniland, Nigeria

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.

Oil contamination assessment in Ogoniland, Nigeria

Field assessment phase: The bulk of the fieldwork for UNEP's multi-disciplinary assessment of oil contamination in Ogoniland was completed during the reporting period, and the remaining samples of soil, sediment, flora, fauna and water were dispatched for analysis to selected internationally certified laboratories. Drafting of the final UNEP report also commenced in late Q4. The comprehensive report will be finalized in the first half of 2011, together with a website and supporting searchable online databases. In addition, communications and outreach activities continued to be



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



Tribute to Clement Kempte Nekabari Faah

The death on 19 February 2011 of Clement Faah, a respected Nigerian scientist, has deeply saddened his UNEP colleagues and many others involved in the ongoing environmental survey of Ogoniland. Clement was a valued member of the UNEP Project Team and indeed was one of the first local experts to be recruited in October 2009. He died in Ogoniland following a shooting incident.

We will remember Clement for making a pivotal contribution to UNEP's work in Ogoniland. He worked as a Technical Assistant on the project's agriculture and forestry component and was also a key contact point between UNEP and its lead scientific partner, the Rivers State University of Science and Technology.

As an Ogoni with scientific expertise, Clement provided invaluable local knowledge and continuity, and was heavily relied upon by me and others working alongside him on the project. Known for his leadership, strong ethics and open approach, Clement won the respect of colleagues at UNEP and RSUST, as well as the local community representatives, and he will be sorely missed.

*Michael Cowing
Project Coordinator*

widely implemented throughout Ogoniland to enhance the awareness and understanding of UNEP's in-country mandate amongst local communities. Key activities in this regard included an initiative targeted at schools, also known as *the Green Frontiers schools programme*, as well as stakeholder sensitization and consultation meetings at the local, regional and national levels.

Transition phase: During the Presidential Implementation Committee meeting held in Abuja in December 2010, UNEP introduced the idea of a twelve-month transition phase to prepare for the clean-up of oil contamination in Ogoniland, as a key follow-up activity to the assessment. During the transition phase, UNEP proposes to complete detailed designs and bidding documents, identify sites to be developed as treatment centers, and carry out environmental monitoring programmes.

Contact: Mr. Michael Cowing, Programme Coordinator, Environmental Survey of Ogoniland at mike.cowing@unep.org

Democratic Republic of Congo post-conflict environmental assessment

PCEA report: The first output of the DR Congo post-conflict environmental assessment (PCEA) reporting process, a technical study on water resources, was finalized in December. Entitled *Water Issues in the DRC: Challenges and Opportunities*, the report was extensively reviewed and endorsed by the national government, as well as by key development partners. The main findings and recommendations of the study were presented at the Third Africa Water Week (AWW) organized by the African Ministerial Conference on Water (AMCON), which was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 22-26 November. The Congolese delegation at the AWW welcomed the report, stressing the need to follow-up on its recommendations. The technical report is available in both English and French. In addition, a small dedicated report writing team was set up to draft and finalize the overall DR Congo PCEA report, which will be launched in 2011. The team met in November to review and take stock of the 'zero draft', identify gaps and discuss the way forward. Finally, a United Nations Volunteer (UNV) from Belgium, Mr. Henri Esseqqat, joined the UNEP DR Congo project office in Kinshasa in November 2010, in the capacity of Energy and Environment Specialist. One of his key tasks will be to support the PCEA process, including by preparing an energy technical study that will outline the key environmental challenges and opportunities in the sector.

Symposium on DR Congo mining: UNEP participated in an international symposium on the DR Congo mining sector (entitled *The Scramble for Mineral Resources in Africa: The mining sector in the DR Congo- State-of-the-art and prospects*) organized by the Royal Museum for Central Africa under the auspices of the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1-3 December in Tervuren, Belgium. The meeting was

attended by some 100 participants including lead scientists and researchers on the DR Congo mining sector, particularly from Belgium and DR Congo. Development partners and UN agencies including the World Bank, GTZ, the European Union, the Belgian development cooperation and UNESCO were also well represented in the meeting. The event provided an important opportunity for UNEP to interact with key specialists and access the latest environment-related research and thinking on the mining sector in DR Congo, including in relation to overall governance and planned investments. On this occasion, UNEP delivered a well received presentation on the preliminary findings of its environmental assessment of the Katanga Province.

Contact: Mr. Hassan Partow, Programme Manager, UNEP Country Programme for the DR Congo at hassan.partow@unep.org

Post-disaster assistance to Saint Lucia

Following the passage of Hurricane Tomas on the island states of Saint Vincent & the Grenadines and Saint Lucia on 30-31 October 2010, UNEP received a request from Saint Lucia to assess post-disaster environmental impacts and threats to human well-being. From 22-30 December 2011, UNEP deployed a senior environmental expert to conduct initial meetings with key government stakeholders and assess priority needs for possible assistance and guidance from UNEP. The main issues of concern included water supply and quality, liquid waste, slope stability, forested areas, solid waste management, the coastal marine environment, satellite imagery and environmental education. Follow-up meetings will be conducted with between UNEP and key national stakeholders during Q1 2011.

Contact: Mr. Michael Cowing, Programme Coordinator at mike.cowing@unep.org

Environment, Humanitarian Action and Early Recovery

New project supported by Flanders: A new project supported by the regional Government of Flanders (Belgium) entitled "Strengthening the capacity of humanitarian actors to integrate environmental considerations into humanitarian action and early recovery" was developed during the reporting period to build the capacity of humanitarian actors to integrate environmental considerations into policy development, planning, programme design, and operational activities. Implemented in partnership with the NGO *Groupe URD* (Urgence Réhabilitation Développement), the project will include the following key outputs: two training sessions on "Mainstreaming Environment into Humanitarian Action and Early Recovery" conducted in 2011 in Johannesburg, South Africa and another country in southern Africa; the development of a training of trainers (ToT) toolkit; and the dissemination of the toolkit and resource material in both DVD and online formats.

Energy in humanitarian settings: In December 2010, UNEP joined the Advisory Committee of the International Network on Household Energy in Humanitarian Settings. The International Network on Household Energy is a key multi-sectoral mechanism for NGOs, researchers, technical experts, international organizations, the private sector, government agencies, donors and others to share, receive and discuss information regarding household energy related initiatives and technological innovations for use in humanitarian settings worldwide. The network's overarching goal is to help identify and institutionalize solutions to the security, environmental, technological, health and other concerns that arise around firewood collection and household energy use and supply in humanitarian situations.

Contact: Mr. Tom Delrue, Programme Officer, Environment, Humanitarian Action and Early Recovery at tom.delrue@unep.org

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

Lead intoxication in Zamfara State, Nigeria: The final report of the mission coordinated by the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit (JEU) to assess environmental impacts and threats to human well-being resulting from widespread lead intoxication in Zamfara State, northern Nigeria, was completed during the reporting period. 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. This report is based on the findings of a sampling and analysis mission requested by the Federal Ministry of Health of Nigeria in September 2010. The mission, which was supported by four technical experts, utilizing equipment from the Environmental Assessment Module (EAM), a mobile laboratory designed and assembled specifically for international deployment provided by the Government of the Netherlands, focused on determining quantities of lead in soil and ground and surface water, building on previous investigations in Zamfara State. High levels of lead pollution were found in the soil, and mercury levels in the air were determined to be nearly 500 times

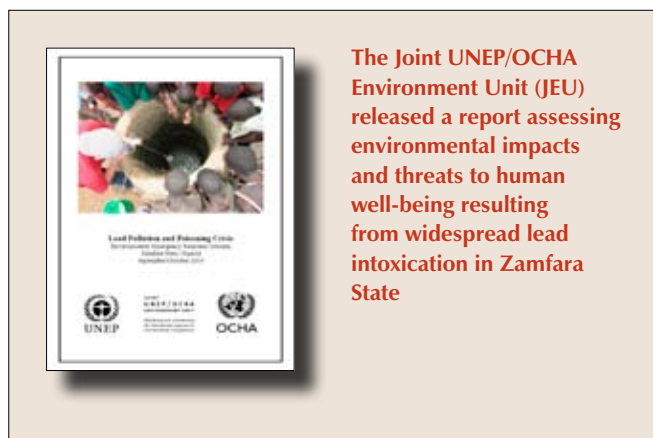
the acceptable limit. The report calls on Nigerian authorities to prevent further lead poisoning in northern Nigeria and recommends taking greater measures to limit ore processing activities at sensitive sites, such as water sources from which humans and livestock drink. The report also calls for the clean-up of polluted villages as soon as possible to ensure that children suffering from lead poisoning can return to their villages for recovery and receive necessary follow-up care. The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has allocated USD 2 million in response to the crisis. The response involves medical care for the most severe cases of lead poisoning among children under five, as well as the decontamination of houses and villages. For further information please see: <http://ochaonline.un.org/OchaLinkClick.aspx?link=ocha&docId=1178375>

Contact: Mr. Rene Nijenhuis, Programme Officer, Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit at nijenhuis@un.org

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

Launch of the Green Star Awards: Nominations for the second Green Star Awards (GSA) were received from 1 October to 30 November 2010. The Green Star Awards recognize those who have made remarkable efforts to prevent, prepare for, and respond to environmental emergencies around the world. A joint initiative between UNEP, OCHA and Green Cross International (GCI), the Awards aim to: i) raise awareness of environmental emergencies and disasters; ii) encourage increased international efforts to prevent, prepare for and respond to such disasters; and iii) amplify the connection between environmental impacts of disasters and emergencies, and the consequences for affected populations and providers of humanitarian assistance. The awards ceremony is scheduled to take place on 19 May 2011 in Bern, Switzerland at the 9th international Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies (AGEE) meeting. For further information please see: <http://www.unep.org/greenstar/>

International Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies (AGEE): A one-day meeting of the Steering Committee of the international Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies (AGEE) was held in The Hague, Netherlands on 22 November 2010. Participants included the Chief of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs' (OCHA) Emergency Services Branch (ESB) Rudolph Muller and key governmental counterparts including Austria, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Jordan, the Netherlands, Norway, the Philippines, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States of America, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Green Cross Australia. Key items discussed during the meeting included the establishment of an Environmental Emergencies Center and the associated resource mobilization strategy, as well as the regionalization of approaches in environmental emergency response, with a first regionalization arrangement to be explored with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in early 2011.



The Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit (JEU) released a report assessing environmental impacts and threats to human well-being resulting from widespread lead intoxication in Zamfara State



In Q4, the JEU delivered an Environmental Emergencies Training refresher course in Sandö, Sweden, during which environmental emergency simulation exercises were undertaken

Refresher Environmental Emergencies Training, Sandö, Sweden: The first-ever Environmental Emergencies Training refresher course took place from 30 November to 2 December 2010 in Sandö, Sweden. The course was hosted by the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB). Participants included Swedish and Dutch nationals who had received the initial training in August 2008 in the Hague, Netherlands. The refresher course focused on preparing national environmental experts for deployment on international missions under the auspices of the UN, and featured the introduction of several new training modules, including a session on the role of gender in environmental emergencies; rapid environmental

mapping capacities; disaster waste management; post-disaster needs assessment; and environment as a cross-cutting issue in the humanitarian cluster system. The training culminated in a one-day intensive simulation exercise that provided participants with the opportunity to apply the experience gained in the classroom to potential real-life situations they could encounter in the field. The next comprehensive training course will be hosted by Switzerland in the first half of 2011.

Contact: Mr. Rene Nijenhuis, Programme Officer, Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit at nijenhuis@un.org

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

Water management: Three information sessions on Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) were conducted in Darfur – in El Geneina, Nyala and El Fasher – in October 2010, together with the WASH sector and government partners. These sessions led to the drafting of a 2011 IWRM plan for the three Darfur states, which was endorsed by the government. In early November, UNEP led a high-level Sudanese delegation on a seven-day study tour to South Africa to foster understanding among policy and decision-makers of the importance of IWRM. The visit, arranged in conjunction with the South African Water Research Commission, gave fourteen senior Sudanese officials concrete examples of how to tackle the sustainable development, allocation and monitoring of water resources. In addition, a water conference held in El Fasher on 30 November further engaged the water sector stakeholders of North Darfur state in groundwater monitoring and management. Among the 43 participants were several officials who took part in the study tour to South Africa. Finally, the first phase of the Golo Dam rehabilitation was completed and the dam was handed over to the Government of Sudan after a satisfactory inspection following the contracts liability period. Golo Dam is a key component of the water supply to El Fasher, the capital of North Darfur, but its capacity has been reduced by 80% due to siltation. This is caused by erosion of the catchment upstream due to deforestation and desertification. The first phase of the rehabilitation works, implemented by UNOPS with technical support from UNEP, involved partial desilting and flood protection. It is one of five dam rehabilitation projects UNEP has brokered in Darfur. In addition, UNEP-led water assessments of Kas and five internally displaced person (IDP) camps began, aimed at guiding possible interventions to provide sustainable water to the Kas community and the IDP camps. The assessments are due to be finalized in February 2011.

Alternative energy: A workshop entitled “LPG – Production, Consumption and Future Perspectives” jointly organized by UNEP, the Ministry of the Environment, Forestry and Physical Development and the Ministry of Petroleum on 12-

13 December in Khartoum, resulted in strong government support for promoting greater use of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) in Sudan. The event, which was attended by representatives from the Government, the private sector, UN agencies and civil society, was aimed at influencing a shift in Sudan’s energy consumption profile towards less polluting and more sustainable sources, and developing a strategy on the promotion of LPG. The workshop also prompted other UN agencies and NGOs to consider the use of LPG in their operations in Sudan. A report of the workshop, including an agreed vision statement on the way forward for promoting the growth of LPG in Sudan, and a UNEP study on LPG, will be released in early 2011. Furthermore, field research commenced on alternative energy options in all three Darfur states, with a view to contributing to a change in Sudan’s energy consumption profile. In conjunction with the Swiss NGO ProAct, UNEP is conducting the “Darfur Alternative Energy Project” to develop an alternative energy strategy for Darfur, where demand for timber for fuelwood, charcoal and brick-making has depleted the area’s forest resources. The research will propose pilot projects to showcase possible energy alternatives for Darfur and other parts of Sudan.

Sustainable livelihoods: As part of an engagement to improve the monitoring and analysis of trade in Darfur and assess how it affects livelihoods, UNEP and Tufts University (USA) conducted a market monitoring training workshop on 23-26 October. The workshop trained staff at UNEP’s NGO partner, the Darfur Reconstruction and Development Agency (DRA) and several community-based organizations, and covered market monitoring methodology and the design of a pilot questionnaire. The workshop initiated UNEP’s market monitoring engagement, which will set up regular weekly market monitoring, bi-monthly analysis workshops, associated bi-monthly bulletins and market analysis. A pastoralism peer group was also established to determine and monitor the project’s progress in 2011 and produce a stakeholder map.



UNEP produced a poster encouraging sustainable forests in Sudan to mark the UN International Year of Forests



Participants in the Integrated Water Resource Management capacity-building tour in South Africa visited irrigation facilities, ranches and citrus farms

Community environmental management: During Q4, the Community Environmental Action Plans (CEAP) project continued with initial training workshops in El Fasher, attended by representatives of DRA and several state ministries. One principal objective of this project is to build the capacity of DRA to become a leading advocate and resource center for CEAP approaches, which introduce a participatory process for involving local communities in a broad range of environmental activities. The location of pilot CEAP projects will be selected in early 2011.

Waste management: The Italian Development Cooperation donated a further EUR 120,000 to support improved waste management in Juba, South Sudan, for the benefit of the city's burgeoning population of 1.2 million people. The funds will enable the purchase of 300 garbage bins and the introduction of the city's first waste management contracts as part of activities supervised by UNEP. Two waste management companies will be contracted for six months, to collect waste from schools in Juba and to keep the core of Juba town clean. Also as part of the UNEP-initiated *Keep Juba Clean campaign*, the Italian Government funding will go towards expanding the landfill to accommodate the needs of Juba for another two years.

Environmental mainstreaming: Finally, sector guidelines and lessons learned for environmental integration and action were developed during Q4 as part of the Humanitarian



During Q4, UNEP helped convene a workshop on the future of LPG in Sudan

Environmental Integration Project (HEIP), which involves assessing guidelines and capacities for integrating the environment into humanitarian action in Sudan and assisting other UN agencies and NGOs to properly address environmental concerns in their work.

Contact: Mr. Robin Bovey, Programme Manager, Sudan Country Programme at robin.bovey@unep.org



UNEP Afghanistan team with local government officials and villagers from Bamyan province collecting baseline information for an ecological restoration project

Afghanistan country programme

Environment law and policy: From 25-27 October in Mazar-i-Sharif, Balkh province, UNEP delivered a regional workshop on the “Enforcement of Environment Laws, Regulations and Procedures” for 31 NEPA and MAIL staff from across 9 provinces. In addition, UNEP provided support for NEPA’s participation in major international environmental conferences during the reporting period, such as the UN Conference on Climate Change (COP 16) from 29 November to 10 December 2010 in Cancun, Mexico and the UN Convention on Biological Diversity Conference (COP 10) from 18 to 29 October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan.

Environmental impact assessment (EIA) and pollution control: As a result of support and guidance provided by UNEP to national institutions, Afghan authorities ratified and promulgated environmental quality standards during the quarter. These will be not only be integrated within the Environment Law, but also be addressed through the Afghan National Standards Authority, which will be responsible for creating the practically enforceable standards. NEPA also contributed to further strengthening the environmental legal system by helping to draft waste management regulations including standards

and guidelines on municipal, hazardous and medical wastes. Finally, UNEP advised NEPA on the procurement of road-side environment monitoring stations for Kabul as demonstration pilot projects for the use of environmental monitoring equipment in urban areas in Afghanistan.

Climate Change: The Initial National Communication (INC) project made progress during the quarter, with the NEPA climate change cell now fully operational. An inception workshop for the INC project will be organized in early 2011, and five thematic National Study Teams are currently being set up to prepare a report for the INC project. During this quarter, UNEP also provided technical support to NEPA for drafting and developing two nationally significant initiatives, the environmental assessment of the Aynak Copper Mine project and a proposal for German Climate Initiative funds the “Climate-friendly economy.” During Q4, UNEP also assisted the national government and implementing bodies to deal with climate change issues, through assisting in fulfilling reporting obligations to the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC). Finally, numerous capacity and awareness-building events to increase technical knowledge in NEPA and the University of Kabul on climate change mitigation and adaptation were undertaken.

Protected areas: As at end 2010, the Protected Areas Division (PAD) within MAIL had developed action planning for 30 potential conservation areas in an ambitious programme aiming to meet the national target of covering 2% of the land surface by 2015 with special conservation zones. This includes a broad selection of key ecological biomes and landscapes from forest cover, wetlands, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Category V community conservation areas and species conservation sites for ibex, blue sheep and snow leopards. UNEP provided direct inputs to the Band-e-Amir, Badakshan, and Kole-Hashmat Khan Wetlands park projects, and continued the implementation of the Shah Foladi conservation project in the Koh-e Baba Mountains located in Afghanistan's Central Highlands. Conservation planning, addressing linkages between natural resource conservation and disaster risk reduction, climate change and biodiversity, and poverty and environment, was particularly emphasized in regional parks training sessions facilitated by the UNEP in Bamyan, Badakshan and the central office in Kabul during the reporting quarter.

Community-based natural resource management (CBNRM): The potential of community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) projects to enable conflict resolution and achieve food security nationwide gained significant momentum within the national government. UNEP worked closely with MAIL on a critically important Natural Resource Management (NRM) strategy paper, which will guide the government strategy towards using community-based approaches for implementing national programmes in forestry, rangelands, protected areas, and restoration of degraded landscapes and reintegration of Taliban fighters in coming years. The NRM strategy paper was combined with a training programme for senior MAIL experts on the

integration of CBNRM in forestry, rangelands, parks, as well as agronomy, which took place in Kabul in November and December. Finally, field surveys continued to be undertaken for 26 of UNEP's CBNRM current sites in Badakshan, Herat, Kabul and Bamyan. The majority of project implementation is now being handled mainly by national and regional MAIL and NEPA colleagues, with UNEP providing technical advice.

Environmental education: In Bamyan, practical soil, water and biodiversity conservation messages were delivered as part of a series of community training programmes for the Shah Foladi Protected Area. Together with NEPA, UNEP drafted a strategy and action plan in relation to conservation education campaigning in protected areas, as well as regional-scale projects. During the reporting period, UNEP also continued to support the development of an environmental science curriculum course at the Environment Department in the Kabul University.

Environmental coordination and joint programming: In Q4, 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 continued to play a key role in the NRM Taskforce in MAIL. Finally, UNEP collaborated with FAO in the development of a policy paper on natural resources for the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) Working Group-B on Agriculture and Livelihoods, which will guide the *One UN* process in Afghanistan.

Contact: Mr. Wali Modaqiq, Officer-in-Charge, UNEP Afghanistan Programme at wali.modaqiq@unep.org



Girls from Jawkar Community in Shah Foladi participated in environmental education outreach activities undertaken by UNEP in Q4

Haiti country programme

Hurricane Tomas – Post-disaster rapid environmental assessment: Hurricane Tomas brushed the far western tip of Haiti on 6 November 2010. A UNEP field team conducted a rapid assessment of damage to natural resources from 7-16 November, which found only limited damage from flooding, winds and salt spray, although significant erosion and crop losses were recorded. The findings were incorporated into the needs assessment for the sustainable development project that UNEP is developing for the south-western part of Haiti, known as Côte Sud Initiative (CSI).

Environmental support to the earthquake relief, recovery and reconstruction effort: UNEP completed its activities in the post-earthquake humanitarian relief effort during the reporting period by providing environmental technical support to large-scale cash and food-for-work rural/per-urban erosion control projects and urban canal clearing and drainage repair programmes in Port-au-Prince, managed by the World Food Programme and UNOPS respectively. UNEP will continue to provide this type of technical support in 2011, but focusing mainly on recovery projects.

Sustainable rural development: In October 2011, the Haiti Interim Commission for Recovery and its associated trust fund, the Haiti Recovery Fund, allocated USD 8 million in funding for a “Haiti Southwest Sustainable Development Project” (SW SD). This project in turn provides the core for a larger and longer-term initiative – the Côte Sud Initiative (CSI),

which will impact an area of 780 km² with a population of 205,000. Major partners of the CSI, alongside UNEP, include the Government of Haiti, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Earth Institute Columbia University (EI CU) and UNOPS. Thematic partners include the US NGO The Nature Conservancy, the Haitian Organization for Rehabilitation of the Environment (ORE) and the US NGO Earthspark. At the present time, the CSI is the only large-scale integrated rural development programme within all of Haiti. It is hence expected to play a critical demonstration role.

Marine programme: Despite a plethora of serious issues such as shore-based pollution, overfishing and mangrove destruction, Haiti has not benefitted to date from investments in marine environmental management. In partnership with the government of Haiti, UNDP and regional partners, UNEP is designing a national-scale programme, combining policy and legislative work with practical field-based investments. The proposed programme scale is in the order of USD 5-7 million per annum and negotiations have commenced with the Global Environmental Facility (GEF).

Clean energy: During the reporting period, UNEP provided substantive technical and logistical support to two government-led working groups on improved cooking stoves and bottled LPG expansion respectively. The objectives of each group are similar – the coordination of efforts and development of medium to long-term plans for development and investment. Membership of each group includes representatives from the Government of Haiti, UN agencies, NGOs, USAID, as



After the passage of Hurricane Tomas in November 2010, a UNEP field team conducted a rapid assessment of damage to natural resources

well as the private sector. In addition, UNEP in partnership with the Government, designed a fourteen-month USD 1.5 million bridging programme for coordination and policy developments in the field of clean energy in Haiti.

Biogas: 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. In October 2010, UNEP was awarded USD 470,000 in funding from the Haiti Emergency Relief and Recovery Fund to continue progress on biogas, stoves and provision of technical assistance. Also in Q4, UNEP, UNOPS and the US Government started cooperating technically and financially to deliver a feasibility study on Waste to Energy (W2E) using biogas. The concept would entail directing human and vegetable waste from the greater Port-au-Prince region to an industrial waste energy plant, where it would be treated so that the resultant methane would power gas electric generators producing up to 4 megawatts of electrical power for sale into the national grid. The study is due end of Q2 2011. If feasible and constructed, this scheme would revolutionize waste management and sanitation for a population of over 2 million.

Transboundary environmental management: Together with the national governments of Haiti and the Dominican Republic, UNEP and UNDP jointly designed a transboundary programme aimed at addressing deforestation issues in the border region between both countries. The initiative, known as “Frontera Verde,” will be launched in early 2011. The project will have an estimated 100,000 beneficiaries and presents significant potential for transboundary benefits.

Contacts: Mr. Andrew Morton, Coordinator, Haiti Regeneration Initiative at andrew.morton@unep.org, and Mr. Antonio Perera, Programme Manager, Haiti Country Programme at antonio.perera@unep.org

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 (PCEA), UN Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (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

this reporting period. A UNEP mission (5-8 October) followed by a joint UN-REDD mission (25-29 October) to Kinshasa provided the opportunity for key stakeholders to agree on plans to incorporate the social and environmental dimensions of REDD+ into safeguards, standards, risk management and land use planning in the country. In order to fully take advantage of the multiple environmental, economic and social benefits that forests can provide under REDD+, countries will need to direct new and additional investments towards transforming land and resource use patterns to reverse, slow or deflect drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. This will require making provisions for such REDD+ investments in relevant national policies and strategies. The REDD+ programme in DR Congo is expanding to include these dimensions through the REDD National Coordination’s (the lead operational and implementation agency for REDD+ in DR Congo) launch of six proposals relating to national sectoral, thematic and integrated programmes to take REDD+ to the implementation phase. A multi stakeholder working group was convened and an operational framework defined for the strategic social and environmental assessment (SESA) process for REDD+. The SESA will begin in 2011 with funding from the World Bank and the UN-REDD Programme. Studies on the lessons learnt from forest conservation practices in DR Congo were completed and input for the national strategy (under development) was provided. At the UN Climate Change conference in Cancun (COP16), Mexico, DR Congo was represented by an important national delegation including representatives from the REDD National Coordination and civil society, and organized a well attended high-level side event on REDD+ on 8 December 2010.

Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP): The Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP) has been supporting the African Parks Foundation (APF) since 2008 to manage the conflict-impacted Garamba National Park, including the re-building of infrastructure and the training of park staff. New funding was received from the Spanish Ministry for Environment and from the Spanish Ministry for Foreign Affairs (via the Spain-UNEP *LifeWeb* Initiative) which enabled the signature of a new contract with APN in November 2010. Activities to be implemented under this contract include provision of health services, improvements to the transport infrastructure and conducting animal surveys. In November 2010, UNEP conducted a mission to Kinshasa to discuss a new agreement concerning the Mayombe Forest Transboundary Project between DR Congo, Angola and the Republic of Congo with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Norwegian Government. With an implementation period of 6-12 months, activities will focus on a number of feasibility studies facilitating the development of a transboundary strategic plan, as well as emergency activities designed to prevent the destruction of potential biological corridors.

Contact: Mr. Hassan Partow, Programme Manager, DR Congo Country Programme at hassan.partow@unep.org

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.

Roundtable discussion on “Managing Forests and Watersheds for Natural Hazards Protection and Livelihoods”

On the occasion of the International Day for Disaster Reduction on 13 October 2010, a roundtable discussion on “Managing Forests and Watersheds for Natural Hazards Protection and Livelihoods” attracted close to 50 participants and raised awareness on the environmental dimensions of disaster risk and the importance of the sustainable

management of ecosystems in reducing vulnerability to disasters. The discussion focused on the multiple benefits provided by forests and watersheds, including for natural hazard mitigation and regulation, local livelihoods, and economies. Invited speakers included His Excellency Manuel B. Dengo, Ambassador Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations in Geneva; Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction; Andrew Morton from the UNEP Haiti Programme; and Karen Sudmeier-Rieux, Disaster Risk Reduction Thematic Group Lead, Commission on Ecosystems Management, International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). For further information please see: <http://www.pedrr.net/PEDRR%20Roundtable%20Summary-%20PEDRR%20website.pdf>

2011 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction

During the reporting period, UNEP, together with other Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR) partners, completed a research paper focusing on ecosystems-based approaches to DRR. This paper synthesizes the “state of knowledge and practice” in the field of environment-DRR to date, illustrated through a selection of 13 case studies. Entitled *Demonstrating the Role of Ecosystem-based Management for Disaster Risk Reduction*, the paper will be provided as an input to the forthcoming



His Excellency Manuel B. Dengo, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations in Geneva; Asif Zaidi, Operations Manager for the Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch and Ms. Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction participating in the roundtable discussion on “Managing Forests and Watersheds for Natural Hazards Protection and Livelihoods” organized on the occasion of the International Day for Disaster Reduction



APELL practitioners from Latin America met in Buenos Aires, Argentina to share lessons learned and best practices on the implementation of the APELL process in the chemical and mining sectors

2011 Global Assessment Report, to be published at the Global Platform in Geneva, Switzerland in May 2011.

Training on environment and disaster risk reduction

The Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR) is developing a training course that aims to build the capacities of national and local governments in particular, targeting both policymakers and practitioners, in promoting and implementing environmental management and ecosystem-based initiatives for DRR. The course aims to enhance awareness of the linkages between environment, livelihoods and disasters and to provide practical tools on how integrate environment and DRR considerations in development planning. The training will be pilot-tested in Sri Lanka in March-April 2011, with a view to making it available to national training institutes and integrating it into disaster management training programmes.

Contact: Ms. Marisol Estrella, Project Coordinator, Environmental Management for Disaster Risk Reduction at marisol.estrella@unep.org

Building capacity for industrial risk reduction in developing countries – APELL

A regional meeting on experience-sharing of APELL applications in Latin America was organized on 29-30 November 2010 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The event brought together 45 APELL practitioners from across the private and public sectors, including multinational companies, government agencies and industry associations from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Peru, who shared lessons learned and best practices on the implementation of the APELL process in the chemical and mining sectors. As a direct result of this meeting, two communities based in Argentina are being considered by local partners for the implementation of the APELL process, to be driven by the local municipal governments. Negotiations are also underway for the implementation of the APELL process in the port of Talcahuano in Chile, in cooperation with The Dow Chemical Company, and the University of Concepcion.

Contact: Ms. Ruth Coutto, Programme Officer, Building Capacity for Industrial Risk Reduction at ruth.coutto@unep.org

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 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.

Environment, conflict and peacebuilding programme in Sierra Leone

The two focus areas for the joint UNEP/UNDP/FAO environmental support programme to Sierra Leone in Q4 were a package of initiatives to build national capacity on Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and the revision process of the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP). UNEP facilitated south-south collaboration through the deployment of experts from a Namibian-based specialist Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) organization to review a backlog of EIAs and develop guidelines for upcoming ones. UNEP also delivered a two-day training course on EIA methodologies on 13-14 December in Freetown, which involved the participation of 24 individuals from across the government and civil society. In addition, UNEP carried out three separate aerial and ground monitoring visits investigating nine different mining, infrastructure, and biofuel sites throughout the country. On 16 December, UNEP organized a high-profile seminar entitled "Environment Assessment: a tool for sustainable development," which was attended by 140 people. Key speakers included Minister I.B. Kargbo (Minister of Communications) on behalf of President Koroma and Mr. Michael von der Schulenburg, Executive Representative of the Secretary-General. In addition, as part of the revision process of the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP), UNEP commissioned a desk study to review the current plan and conducted consultations with



Aerial snapshot of artisanal diamond mining on the Sewa river in eastern Sierra Leone

relevant stakeholders. This study culminated in a meeting on 3 December, involving 15 participants from across the Government, to agree on a road map for developing a new NEAP.

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

A mission was undertaken to Aceh, Indonesia in early Q4, as part of the UNDP-UNEP Joint Initiative on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) and Natural Resource Management (NRM), to jump-start the UNDP-UNCTAD BioTrade and reintegration pilot programme in Aceh Selatan, as well as to identify linkages between NRM and reintegration. Technical support was provided to the UNDP Country Office for the pilot project, and efforts were made to identify other opportunities for upscaling, using NRM as a livelihoods option. Following this mission, a presentation on the Aceh Initiative was given in Nagoya, Japan at the UN Convention on Biological Diversity Conference (COP 10). The presentation detailed how BioTrade could be used as a reintegration option and peacebuilding tool.

Environmental diplomacy for conflict prevention and peacebuilding

On 20 October, the UN-EU Partnership on Natural Resources, Conflict and Peacebuilding launched a new training programme in Brussels, Belgium to support war-

torn and vulnerable countries to prevent conflict and build peace through improved natural resource management. The programme, geared towards national and local governments, as well as UN and EU field staff, was developed over a period of two years and is one of the outcomes catalysed by UNEP's 2009 report *From Conflict to Peacebuilding: The Role of Natural Resources and the Environment*. The training materials include a series of guidance notes, manuals, and an online learning tool covering the four following themes: land, extractive industries, environmental scarcity, and capacity development for managing land and natural resources. In the coming year, the training programme will be rolled out to four pilot countries – Timor Leste, Liberia, Peru and Guinea-Conakry. Following the launch of the training programme, training of trainers (ToT) and trainings on "Land, Natural Resources and Conflict Prevention" were conducted in November at the UN Staff College in Turin, Italy and in Brussels, Belgium. For more information please see: <http://www.unep.org/conflictsanddisasters/Policy/EnvironmentalCooperationforPeacebuilding/UNEPPartnership/tabid/29405/Default.aspx>

Study on climate change, migration and conflict in the Sahel

Related to the desk study currently being developed on climate change, migration and conflict in the Sahel, the Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch of UNEP



An ongoing study on climate change, migration and conflict in the Sahel will provide policy-makers with a robust method for mapping and identifying areas of the Sahel that may be vulnerable to conflict and migration due to changes in the availability and distribution of natural resources from climate change drivers

participated in the VII African Development Forum on "Acting on Climate Change for Sustainable Development in Africa," which took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 10-15 October. UNEP presented the the upcoming study and facilitated a session on disasters during an EU-sponsored "African Climate Change and Security" side event.

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), three key milestones were achieved during Q4. In collaboration with the Swedish Defense Research Agency (MSB), UNEP formally completed, through a formal hand over to UNSOA/AMISOM an Environmental Baseline Study and an Environmental Impact Assessment for two peacekeeping bases in Mogadishu, Somalia and Mombasa, Kenya respectively. These reports established the baseline environmental condition of four potential sites, and identified areas of concern where prevention or mitigation measures for environmental impacts should be put in place. Upon request, work also continued on a report assessing and recommending resource-efficient measures for the design and construction of a new UN House in Juba, South Sudan, as well as on a feasibility study for a bio-energy production system on the site. Finally, in partnership with UNITAR and IISD, two pilot training courses for improving the environmental management of UN field peace missions were delivered during Q4. The first training, conducted on 8-12 November at the UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi, involved 25 environmental focal points of UN Field Missions and five representatives from regional peacekeeping training centers in Ghana, Zimbabwe, Malaysia and India. A second training course was delivered at the Cairo Regional Center for Training on Conflict Resolution from 4-9 December 2010, involving 15 participants from military, civilian, academic, and NGO backgrounds. For more information, please see: <http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=651&ArticleID=6824&l=en&t=long>

UNDG ECHA Working Group on Transition

UNEP's ongoing initiative to provide UN entities with common tools for the consideration of environmental and natural resource aspects in conflict transitions took another important step during Q4, as the inter-agency Natural Resource Task Group, chaired by UNEP, held its inaugural meeting in New York on 12 October. The Task Group, which reports to the UNDG-ECHA Working Group on Transitions, is working to bring together various UN work streams dealing with environment, natural resources, and conflict. Within its first months of existence, the Task Group expanded from 11 participants to 15.

Contact: David Jensen, Programme Manager, Environment Cooperation for Peacebuilding at david.jensen@unep.org

The Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC)

UNEP hosts and coordinates the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC), an inter-agency programme of six international organizations comprising the UNEP, UNDP, OSCE, UNECE, REC and NATO as an associated partner, that aims at reducing tensions and increasing cooperation through the joint management of natural resources and environmental threats in Eastern Europe, South Eastern Europe, the Southern Caucasus and Central Asia. Specific regional developments during the reporting quarter include the following:

Central Asia

In Central Asia, ENVSEC promoted regional cooperation in addressing climate change issues by supporting the organization of a workshop in Kazakhstan on “Modern problems of glaciology and prospects of scientific cooperation.” Over 30 scientists, experts and representatives of international organizations from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan met on 15 November to discuss the state of knowledge on glaciology, observation systems and general research priorities in Central Asia. One of the key outcomes of the workshop was the establishment of the Central Asian Regional Glaciological Center of Category II, supported by the Government of Kazakhstan, which is expected to be operational in early 2011. ENVSEC partners also assisted the Central Asian governments to organize a regional meeting of government representatives, NGOs and

the private sector on a regional action plan on radioactive waste management in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. In addition, a national seminar with 60 participants was held on 19 October in Astana, Kazakhstan, to discuss harmonizing national legislation on dam safety, which resulted in an outline for improving national legislation on the safety of hydrotechnical installations. In November 2010, finally, the parliament of Tajikistan adopted a national law on dam safety, based on the model law developed under the ENVSEC project.

South Caucasus

On 5-6 October 2010, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) organized the ENVSEC Regional Coordination meeting for the South Caucasus in Tbilisi. The meeting provided a platform to review the ENVSEC South Caucasus Work Programme and discuss regional priorities for the coming years. On 9-10 November, within the framework of CASE (Civic Action for Security and Environment), practitioners from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Tajikistan representing government agencies, CASE grantee NGOs, UNDP and OSCE field missions, came together in Vienna to exchange experiences and lessons learned in implementing the first phase of the CASE Programme and plan the next phase. In Georgia, the OSCE and UNEP organized a training course in December 2010 on sustainable urban planning, sustainable housing, energy, sustainable transport, and climate change. The training was attended by 39 participants representing Tbilisi City Hall, Tbilisi City Assembly, central government agencies, NGOs, Aarhus Center and international organizations.



As part of the remediation work undertaken by ENVSEC at the abandoned mining site of Rreshen, Albania, the tailing dam front has been reshaped and a water drainage system has been installed to avoid destabilization of the dam structure

South Eastern Europe

At a conference on “Illegal Logging and Environmental Crimes” organized by the Regional Environmental Center (REC) from 24-25 November in Budapest, Hungary, concrete steps towards the implementation and enforcement of natural resource and forestry legislation, as well as combating environmental crimes, were taken as Ukraine and the South Eastern European countries including Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, the Former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia and Kosovo agreed to set up a regional network on illegal logging and environmental crimes (THEMIS). During the reporting period, UNEP and UNDP also completed joint remediation work on two non-active mining sites in Repts and Rreshen, in Albania. Technical and capacity-building support was provided to more than 40 experts from all six Western Balkan countries in environmental risk reduction and the planning of physical risk reduction measures. The outcomes of the remediation work were presented on 6-8 October at a Regional Workshop on “Environmental Risk Reduction at Abandoned Mining Sites in South Eastern Europe,” which was organized by UNDP and UNEP in Tirana, Albania.

Eastern Europe

Within the framework of the project “Sustainable management of shared water resources in the upper Pripjat basin” implemented by UNEP and UNDP, an historic agreement on the management of a major freshwater resource between Belarus and Ukraine was brokered as the operation rules for the Beloozerskaya water-feed system were officially signed by the Plenipotentiaries in Lutsk on 24 November 2010. The rules were developed at the request of both governments, thanks to the two-year ENVSEC project, which involved extensive fieldwork, analytical and modeling studies, and consultations involving water, environment and transport authorities and experts from Belarus and Ukraine. These new rules were considered as a critical prerequisite for addressing the unresolved issues of ownership and joint management of water management infrastructure where the river meets the border between Belarus and Ukraine. In addition, a kick-off meeting of a new ENVSEC project on “Joint environmental

monitoring, assessment and exchange of information for integrated management of the Danube delta Region” was held in Odessa on 20-21 December 2010, bringing together representatives and experts from Ukraine, Romania and Moldova. The project aims at developing a Danube Delta Sub-basin Analysis as the necessary step to a Management Plan for the Danube Delta Sub-basin; at strengthening joint monitoring, information exchange and communication in the basin, as well as improving public participation in water and environmental decision-making at the regional level.

Contact: Marika Palosaari, Programme Officer, Environment and Security Initiative at marika.palosaari@unep.org



ENVSEC helped to broker an historic agreement on the management of the Pripjat River, a major freshwater resource shared by Belarus and Ukraine during the reporting period

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
www.envsec.org