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Post-Crisis Environmental Assessment

Oil contamination assessment in Ogoniland, Nigeria

The bulk of the fieldwork for the UNEP assessment of oil contamination in Ogoniland was completed during the reporting period, allowing drafting of the final report to

commence. The comprehensive report will be finalized during the first half of 2011, together with a website and supporting searchable online databases. In addition, 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.



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

Democratic Republic of Congo post-conflict environmental assessment

The preparation of the DR Congo post-conflict environmental assessment (PCEA) report continued to progress with the organization of an internal review meeting to examine the 'zero draft' of the full report in November. Meanwhile, the first output of the PCEA process, a technical study entitled *Water Issues in the DRC: Challenges and Opportunities*, was finalized and its findings and recommendations were presented during the Third Africa Water Week (AWW) meeting held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in November 2010. UNEP's final assessment report on DR Congo is expected to be launched in 2011.

Environment, Humanitarian Action and Early Recovery

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. Implemented in partnership with the NGO *Groupe URD*, the project will include 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.

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

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. 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.



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

Post-Crisis Environmental Recovery

Sudan country programme

UNEP achieved notable breakthroughs in encouraging greater support for Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) and for the uptake of Liquefied Petroleum Gas as an alternative to woodfuel. In particular, a 2011 plan for IWRM in the three Darfur states was drafted and endorsed by the Government during the reporting period. In early November, UNEP also led a high-level Sudanese delegation on a study tour to South Africa to foster understanding among policy and decision-makers of the importance of IWRM. Moreover, a workshop jointly organized in December by UNEP, the Ministry of the Environment, Forestry and Physical Development and the Ministry of Petroleum resulted in strong Government support for promoting greater use of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG). The workshop also prompted other UN agencies and NGOs to consider the use of LPG in their operations in Sudan. Additional funding was also secured from the Italian Development Cooperation to support progress in the field of waste management in Juba, including the introduction of the city's first-ever waste management contract for schools, as well as the propagation of 200,000 seedlings. Local residents will be invited to plant the trees during the rainy season in Q2 2011 as part of the popular *Keep Juba Green* campaign.

Afghanistan country programme

UNEP worked closely with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) on a critically important Natural Resource Management (NRM) strategy paper, which will guide the overall national governmental strategy towards using community-based approaches for implementing national programmes in forestry, rangelands, protected areas, restoration of degraded landscapes, and the reintegration of Taliban fighters in coming years. In addition, as a result of support and guidance provided by UNEP to national authorities, Afghan authorities ratified and promulgated environmental quality standards during the reporting period. In October, UNEP delivered a regional workshop in Mazar-i-Sharif, Balkh province, on the Enforcement of Environment Laws, Regulations and Procedures for 31 NEPA and MAIL staff from across 9 provinces. UNEP also contributed to further strengthening the environmental legal system by supporting the drafting process of waste management regulations including standards and guidelines on municipal, hazardous and medical waste. Finally, UNEP provided support for NEPA's participation in major international environmental conferences such as the UN Conference on Climate Change (COP 16) from 29 November-10 December 2010 in Cancun, Mexico and the UN Convention on Biological Diversity Conference (COP 10) from 18-29 October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan.



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

Haiti country programme

In Q4, UNEP Haiti completed its transition from humanitarian support activities back to sustainable recovery and development. In spite of a major cholera epidemic, damage caused by hurricane Tomas and increased violence related to the Presidential election, a sustained effort on project scoping and partnership development achieved a number of significant early successes. 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 the *Haiti Southwest Sustainable Development Project* (also known as the Côte Sud Initiative). UNEP, together with UNOPS and the US Government also initiated a cooperation to deliver a feasibility study on Waste to Energy (W2E) plant using biogas. Finally, a joint transboundary programme known as "Frontera Verde," aimed at addressing deforestation and natural resource degradation issues in the border region between Haiti and the Dominican Republic, was developed during the quarter.

Democratic Republic of Congo country programme

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 launch of six proposals relating to national sectoral, thematic and integrated programmes to take REDD+ into the implementation phase. In addition, as part of UNEP's support to 'conflict parks' within the Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP), new agreements were signed with partners concerning the Garamba National Park and the Mayombe Forest Transboundary Project between DR Congo, Angola and the Republic of Congo. This will enable the implementation of activities such as animal surveys, feasibility studies facilitating the development of a transboundary strategic plan or emergency activities designed to prevent the destruction of potential biological corridors.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

On the occasion of the International Day for Disaster Reduction on 13 October, a roundtable discussion on “Managing Forests and Watersheds for Natural Hazards Protection and Livelihoods” was organized to raise awareness on the environmental dimensions of disaster risk and the importance of sustainable management of ecosystems in reducing vulnerability to disasters. Several high-profile speakers attended the event, including Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction. Also during Q4, the Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR) partners completed a research paper synthesizing the “state of knowledge and practice” in the field of environment-DRR to date, which will contribute to the 2011 Global Assessment Report on DRR. PEDRR partners also made progress on the development of a training course aiming to build the capacities of national and local governments in promoting and implementing environmental management and ecosystem-based initiatives for disaster risk reduction. The training will be pilot-tested in Sri Lanka in March-April 2011. Finally, within the framework of the APELL (Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at the Local Level) project, a regional meeting on experience-sharing of APELL applications in the chemical and mining sectors was organized on 29-30 November 2010 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, bringing together 45 APELL practitioners from the private and public sectors, including multinational companies, government agencies and industry associations.

Environmental Cooperation for Peacebuilding

In October, the UN-European Union (EU) Partnership on Natural Resources, Conflict and Peacebuilding, in which UNEP is a core partner, launched a new training programme 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 report *From Conflict to Peacebuilding: The Role of Natural Resources and the Environment*, released in 2009. In the coming year, the training programme will be rolled out to four pilot countries – Timor Leste, Liberia, Peru and Guinea-Conakry. In Sierra Leone, where UNEP is implementing an environmental support programme in collaboration with UNDP and FAO, a package of initiatives including technical support and training was delivered during the quarter to build national capacity on Environmental Impact Assessments. In addition, as part of the revision process of the Sierra Leone National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP), UNEP commissioned a desk study to review the current plan and conducted consultations with relevant stakeholders. 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



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

collaboration with the Swedish Defense Research Agency (MSB), UNEP formally completed an Environmental Baseline Study and an Environmental Impact Assessment for two peacekeeping bases in Mogadishu, Somalia and Mombasa, Kenya respectively. 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 peacekeeping missions were delivered during Q4.



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

The Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC)

In Central Asia, ENVSEC promoted regional cooperation to address climate change by organizing a workshop on “Modern problems of glaciology and prospects of scientific cooperation” and assisted Central Asian governments to develop and adopt a Regional Action Plan for the management of radioactive waste in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. In addition, a national seminar on Dam Safety was organized by ENVSEC on 19 October in 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 the South Caucasus region, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and UNEP co-organized training in Georgia on urban environmental planning and management within the framework of the ENVSEC project entitled “Regional Cities: Environmental Assessment and Capacity Building in Tbilisi.” In South Eastern Europe, 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). UNEP and UNDP also completed joint remediation work on two non-active mining sites in Repts and Rreshen, Albania. Finally, in Eastern Europe, ENVSEC assisted in brokering an historic water management agreement between Belarus and Ukraine. The agreement is instrumental for improving the sustainable allocation of water from the Pripjat River, a major freshwater resource shared by the two Eastern European countries. Finally, a kick-off meeting of the ENVSEC project “Joint environmental monitoring, assessment and exchange of information for integrated management of the Danube delta Region” was held in Odessa, Ukraine, on 20-21 December 2010.

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