

QUARTERLY  
PROGRESS  
REPORT

# Summary

2/09

## POST-CRISIS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

### Gaza emergency response and post-conflict environmental assessment

Following the escalation of hostilities in the Gaza strip between December 2008 and January 2009, a UNEP staff member was deployed as part of the UN Early Recovery Rapid Needs Assessment mission in February 2009. Subsequently, in its Decision 25/12, UNEP's Governing Council requested the organization to initiate a post-conflict environmental assessment to examine the environmental impact of hostilities on the Gaza strip.

UNEP was also requested to conduct an economic evaluation of the cost of environmental rehabilitation and restoration. UNEP therefore deployed a team of eight international experts from 10-20 May to undertake fieldwork as part of a post-conflict environmental assessment (PCEA). Samples taken during the PCEA mission were analysed, assessment findings compiled and a report was drafted, followed by consultations with the Palestinian and Israeli authorities.

The PCEA findings will, together with concrete recommendations and cost estimates for rehabilitation, be published in a UNEP PCEA report released in September 2009.

### Rwanda post-conflict environmental assessment

The second and final national consultation workshop, marking the final step in the Rwanda post-conflict environmental assessment process conducted during 2008, was held in Kigali from 28-29 April 2009. UNEP proceeded to integrate the comments received from national counterparts and has now finalized the report, which covers eleven cross-cutting issues and sectors, for layout and publication.



UNEP DEPLOYED A TEAM OF EIGHT INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS IN MAY TO UNDERTAKE FIELDWORK AS PART OF A POST-CONFLICT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT TO EXAMINE THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF HOSTILITIES ON THE GAZA STRIP BETWEEN 2008- JANUARY 2009.

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

In the context of the UNEP DR Congo environmental recovery programme, good progress was made on a detailed, national-scale post-conflict assessment covering environment and ecosystems, natural hazards, climate change impacts and associated social linkages, such as poverty, health, migration and conflict. Key outputs delivered include a range of preliminary desk studies and the commencement of the fieldwork phase of the assessment. The fieldwork will receive extensive audiovisual coverage and will result in a major documentary and a number of short films for web-based distribution. A range of partners, including the government, UNDP, FAO and WWF, will assist UNEP with the fieldwork. The final assessment report is scheduled for release by mid-2010.

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From Kosovo to Afghanistan, Lebanon, Sudan or China, UNEP has responded to crisis situations in more than 30 countries since 1999, delivering high-quality environmental expertise to national governments and partners in the UN family. On this basis, UNEP's Medium Term Strategy (MTS) for 2010-2013 designates "Disasters and Conflicts" as one of the organization's six priority areas of work. The new UNEP 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. The Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch (PCDMB) is tasked with coordinating the theme across UNEP.

**Oil Contamination Assessment in Ogoniland, Nigeria**

UNEP progressed significantly in its preparations for the environmental assessment of oil contamination in Ogoniland, Nigeria. Key activities during Q2 included the deployment of a high-level mission with UNEP’s Director for the Regional Office for Africa to help generate support for the project. In addition, a security assessment of Ogoniland was conducted in June. Preparations continued for the establishment of a UNEP project office in Port Harcourt. This included recruitment for eighteen national staff positions. UNEP will continue to focus its efforts on communication and consultation with the key stakeholders, such as the four primary Ogoni communities, regarding its proposed programme of work.

**Republic of Vanuatu volcanic eruption**

Following intense volcanic activity in the Republic of Vanuatu, the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit (JEU) monitored the continued activity of the Ambrym volcano during April. Water contamination from acid rain, caused by volcanic ash, was identified as an immediate post-disaster risk. The acid rain could potentially contaminate rain water catchments and affect food crops, since rain water is the islands’ main water source. No further assistance was requested.

**Namibia**

The Namibian national authorities requested emergency assistance following severe flooding in the Namibia-Angola-Botswana border region. The JEU monitored the situation and through its Hazard Identification Tool (HIT) highlighted potential damage to infrastructural and industrial facilities that could pose a threat to human health and life. In addition, the JEU deployed an environmental expert from the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) to participate in an UNDAC mission from 26 March - 8 April. Field assessments were undertaken, but no major secondary environmental impacts were identified.

**Outreach, advocacy and inter-agency support**

The eighth meeting of the international Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies (AGEE) took place from 6-8 May in Brussels, Belgium. The meeting, co-organized by the JEU and the European Commission, brought together over 70 key UN agencies, disaster managers and environmentalists to exchange ideas on global environmental emergency response issues. Key outcomes include the adoption, in principle, of the Guidelines for Environmental Emergencies, which advise recipient Member States on the mobilization and receipt of international assistance in emergencies, as well as the revival of the UNEP Trust Fund for Environmental Emergencies. Participants re-affirmed the need to strengthen rapid environmental response systems and elected to establish an AGEE Steering Committee to provide guidance on the implementation of AGEE recommendations.

**POST-CRISIS ENVIRONMENTAL RECOVERY**

**Sudan country programme**

UNEP and the UK’s DFID signed a three-year funding proposal for Phase II of the UNEP Sudan programme. The proposal, compiled with key Sudanese stakeholders and project partners, covers the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2012. In its second phase, the programme will continue to focus on capacity building and effective management of natural resources – primarily water and forests – to help build community resilience, address poverty and support peacebuilding in the region. Preparations were made to establish UNEP project offices in Juba and El Fasher. Work also continued on the joint UNEP/FAO “Timber and Energy” project, which will include the roll-out of 300,000 fuel-efficient stoves, the production of an additional 1.8 million tree seedlings, a natural resources assessment with a focus on forestry, and the introduction of agro-forestry as a land use management system in Darfur. Activities under the “Integrated Water Resource Management” project were significantly affected by the expulsion of sixteen NGOs critical to the water sector, many of whom were UNEP implementing partners. As a result, UNEP adapted its strategy to work increasingly with local counterparts, who have taken on the responsibilities of the expelled NGOs.



UNEP’S COUNTRY PROGRAMME IN SUDAN WILL CONTINUE TO FOCUS ON CAPACITY-BUILDING AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, PRIMARILY WATER AND FORESTS.

**Afghanistan country programme**

Despite deteriorating security conditions, UNEP’s programme in Afghanistan continued to deliver a significant number of outputs across its programme components: A training programme was developed for the provincial offices of the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA). The Forest Law, to which UNEP contributed, was approved by the Ministry of Justice and Legislative Committee of the Cabinet, and Afghanistan’s first National

Environmental Action Plan was finalized. *The Strategy for Resolution of Conflicts regarding Access to the Rangelands of the Central Highlands*, developed by UNEP, received attention from the national government, donors and the United Nations system. To raise awareness of environmental matters, a successful World Environment Day campaign was undertaken in Kabul and Bamiyan province on 5 June. Progress was also made on the implementation of nine community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) field projects across three provinces. Following the identification of a flagship protected area in Bamiyan province, preliminary assessments for the Shah Foladi Nature Reserve were finalised. Concepts for infrastructure, delimitation of boundaries, community consultations and a plan for livelihood generation projects in the buffer zone were developed. Finally, significant progress was made on the implementation of the UN joint programme on environmental sustainability, funded by the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) Fund.

### Democratic Republic of Congo country programme

Country-level operations of UNEP's DR Congo programme were further developed during Q2. Progress was made towards establishing a fully operational country project office in Kinshasa, together with a smaller provincial project office. A four-year programme framework and a 2009-2010 work plan were completed in consultation with the government. Fundraising for and development of individual projects are ongoing, including the Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment, National Action Plan, UN REDD (Reduced Emissions Deforestation/ Degradation), Conflict Parks (Garamba and Kahuzi-Biega), Mayombe Forest Transboundary Initiative and CASCADE DR Congo (carbon finance) projects. Concept development also continued in respect of projects on Eastern DR Congo sustainable energy, shelter and sanitation; trans-boundary cooperation on environment and natural resource management in the Central Albertine Rift; and technical assistance and capacity-building for environmental legislation.

### Côte d'Ivoire hazardous waste management project

UNEP delivered the fourth training module in its laboratory capacity-building programme for staff members of the Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests' Centre Ivoirian Antipollution (CIAPOL) in Abidjan. The programme aims to strengthen CIAPOL's capacity to conduct sampling and analyses of waste entering the Port of Abidjan from vessels. In addition, a joint assessment of hazardous waste management practices in the Port of Abidjan was undertaken by UNEP, the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and the International Maritime Organization. The port assessment report contains the mission team's findings and recommendations on issues such as reception facilities, equipment, control procedures and capacity building needs in relation to the port waste management cycle.



PROGRESS WAS ONGOING DURING THE SECOND QUARTER OF 2009 ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LONG-TERM HAITI RESTORATION INITIATIVE, EXPECTED TO LAST BETWEEN 5-20 YEARS.

### Haiti country programme

In 2008, following a request from the national government and the UN system, UNEP developed a "transformative" country programme in Haiti for the period 2009-2013. In 2009, development has continued on a major and very long-term programme known as the Haiti Restoration Initiative, which focuses on sustainable development and practical action at the field level for a time period of between 5 and 20 years. For this purpose a working group, consisting of key UN agencies, national government and other relevant stakeholders, was established. A national and international "lessons learned" study was commenced, and a comprehensive analysis and screening of potential target sites and regions for early intervention measures was conducted. UNEP also made progress on the development of the overall project design and continued to provide technical assistance on reforestation and re-vegetation, erosion control, sustainable buildings and solid waste management to implementing agencies and national government counterparts.

### China earthquake early recovery and reconstruction programme

As part of the environmental response to the earthquake that struck the Sichuan Province of China in May 2008, UNEP continued to assist the Chinese Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) to draft and review reports, project proposals and inputs into national recovery plans. In Q2, UNEP developed and presented proposals and concepts in respect of green reconstruction, asbestos laboratories, contaminated site assessment and national guidelines in disaster reduction and emergency response. UNEP supported the China Environmental Protection Foundation in the delivery of further training on solid waste management in the post-disaster context.

### Nepal early recovery programme

UNEP's environmental recovery programme in Nepal, which focuses on national parks and protected areas, continued during Q2. UNEP continued to undertake advocacy work at the national and local level to help sensitize politicians

and decision-makers on wildlife management issues. In the framework of UNEP's partnership with IUCN, progress was made towards the integration of environmental concerns in the New National Constitution.

## DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

UNEP participated in the Second Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Geneva from 15-19 June to promote the importance of good ecosystems management as a cost-effective disaster risk reduction measure. During the session, UNEP hosted a high-level roundtable on ecosystems management, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, as well as a special event on ecosystems management for sustainable livelihoods and disaster risk reduction. In the context of the "Capacity Building to Integrate Disaster Risk Reduction into Coastal Zone Management" project, national peer review meetings took place in Sri Lanka, Indonesia and India. Finally, implementation proceeded on the Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Project (RiVamp), which is developing an assessment methodology to assist decision-makers in evaluating their investment options effectively, taking into account long-term environmental and climate change factors.

## ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION FOR PEACEBUILDING

### Sierra Leone and Somalia

Two major field missions were conducted during Q2: The first was an environment, conflict and peacebuilding assessment mission to Sierra Leone; the second a planning mission to Nairobi, Kenya with the UN Department of Field Support. The objective of the latter was to progress the "greening" of the design of the AMISOM (African Union Mission in Somalia) compound in Mogadishu, minimizing the environmental impact of operations and promoting the use of best environmental technologies. Progress was also made to include UNEP's inputs in the Strategic Peacebuilding Framework for the Central African Republic



UNEP DEPLOYED A MISSION TEAM TO UNDERTAKE AN ENVIRONMENT, CONFLICT AND PEACEBUILDING ASSESSMENT TO SIERRA LEONE DURING Q2.

and to initiate work on an environment, conflict and peacebuilding analysis in DR Congo within the framework of the overall Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment.

### UN-EC partnership on natural resources and conflict

UNEP continued to engage with the UN-EC partnership on natural resources and conflict, and the EU's Global Atlas and Information Center on Natural Resources and Conflict. In Q2, UNEP focused on finalizing the Conflict Analysis Framework, which now includes assessment methodologies and best practices.

## THE ENVIRONMENT AND SECURITY INITIATIVE (ENVSEC)

During Q2 ENVSEC partners continued implementation of their regional work programmes in Central Asia, Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and South Eastern Europe. Following the recommendations from the Joint OSCE-UNEP Assessment Mission on the environmental impacts of the August 2008 conflict in Georgia, ENVSEC in June sponsored joint fire management training for technical experts from Georgia and Armenia. Also in June, the ENVSEC South Eastern Europe team organized a workshop in Podgorica, Montenegro, bringing together over 60 national and protected areas experts, as well as NGO stakeholders. The workshop resulted in a renewed expression of interest by donor governments to continue the programme and increased stakeholder involvement. Follow-up project activities will now be developed. In Eastern Europe, consultations were held with authorities in Kiev, Tiraspol and Chisinau to initiate implementation of the 'Transboundary cooperation and sustainable management in the Dniester river basin' project (phase 3). In Central Asia, ENVSEC organized the first regional training course on dam safety, which took place in Tashkent, Uzbekistan in May 2009. Finally, following a strategic review of the ENVSEC initiative, Q2 efforts focused on defining the future vision and focus of the Initiative.

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