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# ENVIRONMENT AND EMERGENCIES FORUM

26-28 September 2017 - Nairobi, Kenya

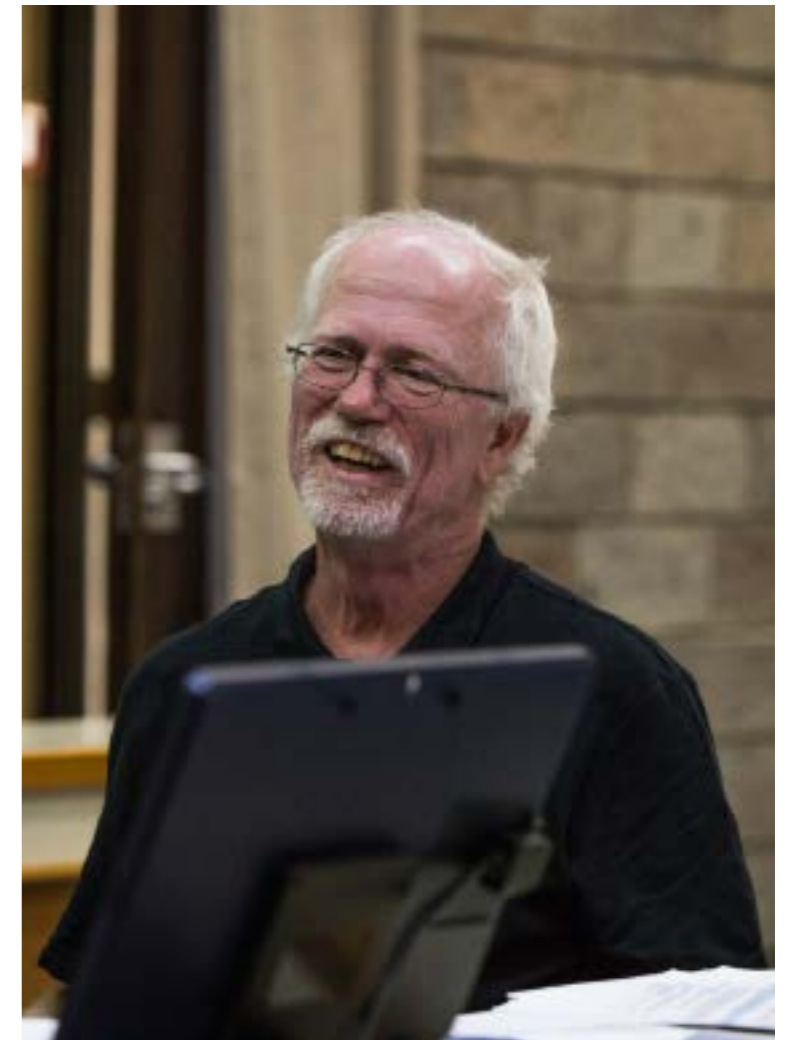
[eecentre.org/eeef](http://eecentre.org/eeef)

## CHAIR'S SUMMARY



“We have come here  
with a purpose:  
to share, to learn,  
to network and to  
prompt action. The  
Environment and  
Emergencies Forum  
has brought us all  
together in our  
ambition to inspire  
a shift in how we  
address environment  
in emergencies. As  
we move forward,  
let's become agents  
of change”

Leif Jönsson, SAGEE Chair



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# Executive Summary

The [Environment and Emergencies Forum](#) (EEF) is a global event where actors connect, learn, share and act to minimize human and livelihood impacts from disasters and conflicts, while strengthening resilience to environmental shocks. The Forum has been organized biennially by the [United Nations Environment Programme](#) (UN Environment) and the [Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs](#) (OCHA) since 1995.

The 2017 Forum took place from Tuesday 26 to Thursday 28 September 2017, and was hosted by UN Environment at the United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON). Focusing on the topic “From crisis to opportunity: building resilience by managing environmental risk in emergencies”, the event drew upon the Agenda for Humanity, and set the scene for the third United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), to be held in Nairobi in December 2017. The Forum centered around three themes: 1) environmental emergency readiness and response; 2) integrating environment in humanitarian response; and 3) the links between environment and conflict.

The Forum brought together 165 participants from 52 countries, representing over 100 emergency response, humanitarian and sustainable development organizations. The continuing growth of the Environment and Emergencies Forum is proof, not only of the increasing diversity of stakeholders involved and the growing interest from countries affected by these issues, but also demonstrates that the challenges are real and concrete.

Indeed, against the backdrop of shifts in the nature of humanitarian crises as well as global change agendas, and the consequent reshaping of humanitarian assistance, there is an expanding interest in the nexus between humanitarian relief and sustainable development.

Participants unanimously agreed that environmental and humanitarian goals go hand in hand. By fostering partnerships between the sustainable development and humanitarian communities, the Forum encouraged actors to work on collective outcomes. The Forum also contributed to the development of a common language between participants from varied backgrounds and fields of work. Forum participants consistently emphasized the urgent need for the humanitarian, security, peacebuilding and environmental communities to work together to enhance emergency preparedness and response efforts, which would in turn contribute towards the achievement of the sustainable development goals. The Forum further strengthened the community of practice working to address the challenges related to the links between environment and emergencies.

Forum outcomes focus on joint action aimed at moving disaster response from mere short-term stability to long-term resilience. To this end, participants recognized the need for greater engagement of humanitarian actors with local and national responders and sustainable development

actors in the spirit of partnership, to reinforce rather than substitute national and local capacities.

Participants agreed to promote greater uptake of, and support to, existing platforms and networks, such as the [Environmental Emergencies Centre](#) (EEC) maintained by the [UN Environment / OCHA Joint Unit](#) (JEU). The inclusion of environmental elements into exercises and trainings, as championed by partners such as the [European Union Civil Protection Mechanism](#) and the [Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency](#) (MSB), were highlighted as best practice.

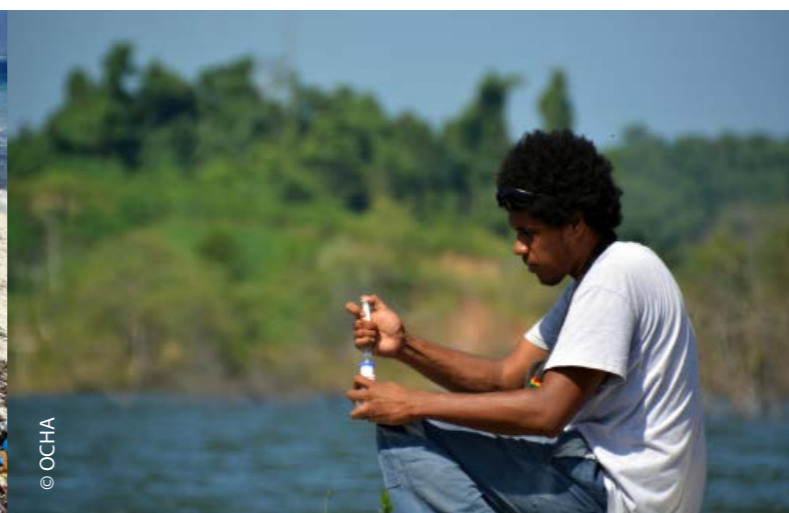
The Forum also featured readiness and response tools, such as the [Flash Environmental Assessment Tool \(FEAT\) 2.0](#), which was launched in four languages at the event. The FEAT has been identified as a successful approach used at both the national and international levels, most recently in response to a chemical fire in Armenia. The “[framework for environmental data assessments in humanitarian action](#)” was presented and further refined, a process that will continue as part of the [Leading Edge Programme](#). The Forum also saw the launch of the [Somali Institute for Environmental Peace](#) (SIEP), the first of its kind in the country which aims to raise community awareness, educate youth and provide a platform for research on the impacts of the protracted conflict on the environment.

The Forum's outcomes on conflict and the environment - a key theme throughout the event, set the ground

for further action ahead of the [UN Environment Assembly](#), which is expected to see discussions around conflict pollution. Participants urged for strengthened leadership on pollution impacts, and highlighted the role that more effective partnerships between affected communities, civil society and UN entities could play in the early identification and assessment of the health and environmental risks from conflict pollution and the toxic remnants of war.

In a networking session on the final day, over 60 commitments between individuals and organizations were made, primarily focused on joint research, advocacy and training, as well as on sharing data and information. Ultimately all commitments emphasized the ambition to strengthen collaboration between and across communities, sectors and actors at the local, national, regional and global levels.

All in all, the three days of intense discussions and knowledge-sharing at the 2017 EEF provided a significant opportunity to further streamline and advance the agenda of addressing environment as part of emergency preparedness, response and recovery. Numerous networks and partnerships were established and strengthened, which, in the years to come, are expected to deliver concrete actions aimed at saving lives and livelihoods, through better integration of the environment in humanitarian action.



## Forum Highlights



**165 participants  
from 52 countries,  
representing over 100  
organizations**

**16 different organizations  
facilitated the various  
breakout sessions**



**17 paper-free  
breakout sessions**

## Participants' Key Commitments

- Joint actions aimed at moving disaster response from short-term stability to long-term resilience
- Promote greater uptake of, and support to, existing platforms and networks such as the [Environmental Emergencies Centre](#) maintained by the [UN Environment / OCHA Joint Unit](#)
- Personally identify as leaders in addressing environment in emergencies by (i) taking action, (ii) sharing knowledge, (iii) engaging with the Joint Unit and (iv) signing up as environmental experts on the [HumanitarianID](#)
- Provide inputs to the ongoing process, led by the [Joint Initiative](#), to update the rapid environmental assessment approach by the end of 2018
- Update the [Disaster Waste Management Guidelines](#) and pilot disaster waste management projects
- Strengthen leadership on the impacts of conflict pollution, and enhance partnerships between affected communities, civil society and UN entities in the early identification and assessment of the health and environmental risks from conflict pollution and the toxic remnants of war – with the possible development of practical guidance on remote- and field-based approaches to environmental data collection related to conflict
- Over 60 additional commitments between individuals and organizations, primarily aimed at joint research, advocacy and training; sharing data and information; and strengthening collaboration across sectors and communities, and between the local, regional and global levels



# Summary of Discussions and Key Outcomes

## Opening Ceremony

MC of the day: Joy Doreen Biira, Media Personality and Communications Advisor

Ms. Biira welcomed participants to the United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON), and introduced the [United Nations Environment Programme \(UN Environment\)](#) Executive Director Erik Solheim; Jesper Holmer Lund, Chief of the Emergency Services Branch (ESB) at the [Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs \(OCHA\)](#) Geneva; and Leif Jonsson, Chair of the [Strategic Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies \(SAGEE\)](#).

**Mr. Solheim** expressed his personal interest in bringing together environmental issues and conflicts. Citing the example of Bangladesh, he argued that while countries are increasing their preparedness for disasters, the challenges posed by climate change and environmental degradation are also increasing. Mr. Solheim noted that factors such as poverty, climate change and environmental degradation are contributing to an increased likelihood of war. Given the complexity of these interlinkages, Mr. Solheim warned that while poverty can exacerbate conflict and contribute to the development of conflict, it is never the root cause – human action is.

Mr. Solheim identified three key areas in which UN Environment continues to engage:

1. **Prevention:** Mr. Solheim emphasized the importance of prevention and preparedness for disasters and conflicts. To this end, he urged for greater action in the areas of poverty, climate change and environmental degradation, which are all increasing the likelihood of war and conflict. Mr. Solheim highlighted the case of Somalia, where the development of energy solutions in order to reduce the influence of the charcoal economy, may prevent further escalation of the conflict.

2. **Environmental diplomacy:** Mr. Solheim identified environmental diplomacy as crucial to resolving environmental conflicts and managing crises, as environmental issues often contribute to conflicts. Environmental diplomacy, he noted, thus offers an opportunity for actors to work together across sectors.
3. **In the aftermath of war,** environmental recovery actions are vital to reduce the long-term impacts on nature and people: Mr. Solheim highlighted the support requested by the Governments of Iraq and Colombia to solve the many environmental issues in the aftermath of conflict. He emphasized that UN Environment can address these, working together with the respective governments and other relevant actors and donors.



“*Small adjustments to humanitarian action can make a long term impact towards resilience*”

Jesper Holmer Lund, OCHA



“*We are much better prepared for natural catastrophes today. But the challenges are intensifying, and we must prepare even better to survive*”

Erik Solheim, UN Environment

**Jesper Holmer Lund** and **Leif Jonsson** then each took the stage to welcome participants to the 2017 Environment and Emergencies Forum (EEF) and shared their hopes and expectations for the event. Mr. Lund highlighted the importance of building resilience in the long-term rather than being purely focused on short-term action. He warned that both the humanitarian and environment communities are under funding pressure, and consequently, for some humanitarian actors, addressing environmental risk is considered as a “nice-to-have” rather than a moral imperative, or something which offers “value-added”. Mr. Jonsson emphasized his hope for participants to leave the Forum, having shared knowledge, exchanged ideas, and committed to collaborative actions moving forward.



## Keynote speech by Dr. Zaid Noori, Ambassador, Iraqi Embassy to Kenya – Nairobi

Dr. Zaid Noori delivered the keynote address on behalf of Dr. Jasim Almohamadi, Deputy Minister of Environment and Health of Iraq. In his remarks, Dr. Noori drew attention to the environmental destruction caused by terrorism in his country. He noted the grave threat posed by mines and unexploded bombs to the environment. He also highlighted the Mishraq Sulphur Plant as an example of how technological accidents caused by the conflict have resulted in serious environmental damage. Dr. Noori drew attention to the urgent need for environmental impact assessments to be conducted following liberation from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), in order to determine the extent of pollution, and assess the harmful impacts of pollutants on the environment, human health and biodiversity in the region. Dr. Noori emphasized that improvised explosive devices, explosive remnants of war and debris remaining after the conflict, are key concerns, and that reconstruction efforts would require great effort and time.

Dr. Noori's keynote address linked closely to the theme of the third UN Environment Assembly in December 2017, where a draft resolution on conflict pollution will be tabled by the Government of Iraq. The question and answer session highlighted the crucial role that effective partnerships between affected communities, civil society and UN entities could play in the early identification and assessment of the health and environmental risks from conflict pollution and the toxic remnants of war.



“*Debris, as a result of the war, is a key concern and reconstruction efforts will require great effort and time*”

Dr. Zaid Noori,  
Iraqi Embassy to Kenya –  
Nairobi



## High-level Panel on “Environment for Humanity”

The high-level panel featured representatives from humanitarian and environmental organizations. The panel was moderated by Joy Doreen Biira and featured Mette Wilkie (Director, [Ecosystems Division, UN Environment](#)); Dr. Abbas Gullet (Secretary General, [Kenya Red Cross](#)); Gabriella Waaijman (Regional Director for Eastern Africa and Yemen, [Norwegian Refugee Council, NRC](#)); and Jesper Holmer Lund (Chief of ESB, OCHA).

Panelists discussed their visions and expectations for the Forum, in the context of major trends expected to shape the future integration of environmental considerations in humanitarian action. Panelists highlighted the important role of the environment as a cross-cutting issue in humanitarian and development work. They discussed the importance of partnerships for integrating the environment into humanitarian action, in order to improve lives and livelihoods. Speakers highlighted the opportunities the environment presents in recovery and peacebuilding processes. Links to several international processes were made, including the [Agenda for Humanity](#), the [New Way of Working](#), the [UN Environment Assembly](#), and the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#).

In her remarks, **Mette Wilkie** noted that the environment can be seen as a victim of conflict, but also a(n) (indirect) cause of conflict, as is often the case with scarce resources. She emphasized that the environment can be used to create trust and opportunities amongst communities. In building resilience, Ms. Wilkie drew attention to environmental resilience, with stable ecosystems; social resilience, with equitable access to resources; and economic resilience, with a stable economy. The need to work on prevention was also highlighted. Ms. Wilkie concluded her remarks with her expectations for the Forum: “a) coming up with innovative solutions; b) building coalitions to help move forward; and c) helping us all be better at creating the political will for political action”.



**Dr. Abbas Gullet** emphasized the environment as “an enabling asset in building the resilience of communities”. He noted that the policy architecture does not protect all equally, and that ad hoc response mechanisms do little to change the status quo. He urged participants to focus on linking science and practice to reduce vulnerabilities, as well as to include informal knowledge in climate change adaptation efforts. Dr. Gullet recognized the need for the private sector to engage more significantly in activities that are risk-screened, in order to minimize the potentially negative impacts on the environment posed by their involvement. In response to a question on the current situation in South Sudan, where the impacts of war and displacement are further complicated by the effects of climate change, Dr. Gullet concluded his remarks with a powerful message, “...when do we all stop talking and start acting?”



“*The environment is an enabling asset in building the resilience of communities*”

**Dr. Abbas Gullet,**  
Kenya Red Cross



“*Resilience is one way for humanitarians to act as change agents for environmental and humanitarian action*”

**Gabriella Waaijman, NRC**

**Gabriella Waaijman** shared her organization's experience of working on resilience in eastern Africa, where a holistic approach was adopted, which at the same time acknowledged the specific characteristics of each community. She aptly remarked that “resilience is one way for humanitarians to act as change agents for environmental and humanitarian action”. Ms. Waaijman urged participants of the need to respond early, based on “the probability of a disaster, rather than a confirmation that a disaster had happened”. Re-emphasizing Ms. Wilkie's comments, she also remarked upon the manner in which systems, governments and ministries work in silos, and of the need to empower youth.

**Jesper Holmer Lund** drew attention to the challenges of mainstreaming environment in the humanitarian community. While each cluster should, in principle, be responsible for mainstreaming the environment, he remarked that in reality it does not work effectively, with humanitarians arguing that there is a lack of time to address the environment. He urged actors present to recognize the need for long-term strategic discussions on how to include the environment in humanitarian action and disaster risk reduction. Mr. Lund emphasized the importance of “translating UN jargon into concrete action that improves the daily lives of communities that we are trying to assist, and ensures resilience in the long-term.”

On the issue of government capacities to absorb the overwhelming number of refugees in the region and the consequent shocks it poses to the system and the environment, Ms. Waaijman emphasized the need for involving all actors, and all four pillars of the UN. She referenced the New Way of Working, which calls for development actors to stay with humanitarian actors even as a crisis unfolds. In his response, Dr. Abbas argued for the need “to look at our own way of working”, and the importance of linking existing local practices with current scientific understandings. Mr. Lund reminded participants that short-term gains too often push aside long-term solutions. He urged actors to work with governments to build trust, and highlighted prevention and preparedness as the cheapest ways of dealing with disasters.



## “My Vision for the Future” - Launch of the Somali Institute for Environmental Peace (SIEP)

Khalif Hassan Dalmar  
Environmental Officer, Office for Environmental Affairs,  
Federal Government of Somalia

At the Forum, **Khalif Hassan Dalmar** launched the **Somali Institute for Environmental Peace (SIEP)**, the first of its kind in the country. Established in response to ongoing environmental degradation in Somalia, SIEP will serve as a center for enhancing knowledge to rehabilitate and restore degraded lands through awareness-raising, research as well as education. The Institute aims to raise community awareness through education, dialogue, fora, and various environmental campaigns. For instance, it intends to aid local communities in understanding the links between environmental degradation and food security. The Institute also seeks to provide a platform for research on the impacts of conflict on the environment, and conduct environmental as well as risk assessments to monitor the impacts of environmental degradation and climate change on livelihoods in Somalia. Educating future generations is another key component of SIEP's work to ensure a more sustainable future for Somalia.



“Peace cannot be built without alleviating poverty, and the country cannot be secure amidst starvation...durable peace requires a broad vision encompassing areas such as environmental, food, health and economic security...”  
Khalif Hassan Dalmar, SIEP



# Theme 1: Readiness for Environmental Emergency Response

This session comprised three roving sessions: a) learning from past responses: experiences from around the world; b) getting ready to respond: exercises and trainings; and c) local level prevention and preparedness for technological hazards and environmental emergencies. Participants had an opportunity to attend two of the three sessions.

## A. Learning from past responses: experiences from around the world

While progress has been made to incorporate environmental considerations into emergency response at both the system and country levels, serious challenges persist. Through interactive discussions, participants shared their experiences of environmental emergency response missions and identified lessons learned.

Organizers:  
UN Environment,  
OCHA

### SUMMARY OF KEY OBSTACLES TO ADDRESSING ENVIRONMENT IN EMERGENCY RESPONSE

- Lack of awareness and political support: traditional perception of environment as a “nice-to-have” or “throwing up obstacles to life-saving activities” rather than a moral imperative or providing livelihoods through the provision of services such as food and water
- Lack of communication between environmental and emergency response communities
- Lack of funding that supports both short-term stability and long-term resilience: while emergency responders in the field focus on “basic needs” and have limited risk tolerance to scale-up good ideas, short term response missions make it difficult to change past patterns
- Limited knowledge of the local context hinders locally-led response efforts, and means that local actors are not always included from the earliest possible stages
- Lack of consideration and awareness of gender roles in the context of environmental emergencies, conflicts and disasters, which is often closely linked to the dependence on, and management of natural resources

“Most politicians do not take the environment seriously...they do not integrate climate change or environment in their political agendas. Governments need to be more committed to environment and climate change and the potential associated disasters...”

2017 EEF Participant

### SUMMARY OF KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Identify environmental champions and team leaders who encourage the incorporation of environmental issues into emergency response
- Preparedness and good planning is key, where environment must be addressed by actors and donors from the very first stages of a response
- Avoid reinventing the wheel by sharing good and bad practices and by providing guidance
- Emergency response is not exempt from national and local laws and regulations: environmental assessments must be conducted or incorporated into emergency needs assessments using local standards
- There is a need to establish and strengthen existing helpdesks, such as [Green Recovery Connect](#), that can provide rapid response and advice to any responders aiming to address the environment in emergencies
- Environment is a part of accountability; environment must therefore be integrated into policies and standards on accountability to help it gain traction as a humanitarian issue
- Environment can be at the forefront of a participation revolution, whereby international responders include beneficiaries (men and women) in the decision making process
- There is a need for greater awareness-raising about the interconnections between gender, environment and emergencies at the local, national and international levels, where donor support is crucial
- Local environmental safeguards should be integrated into emergency interventions, especially where situations are likely to be extended or chronic. IASC and donors should insist on this

### KEY OUTCOMES

UN Environment committed to leverage its work on gender and conflict to raise awareness of the interconnections between gender, environment and emergencies. In response to the request for additional guidance for environmental experts deploying for response missions, participants agreed to further strengthen the [Environmental Experts Hub](#) and to engage with the [UN Environment / OCHA Joint Unit \(JEU\)](#) to this end. Multiple environmental experts signed up on the [HumanitarianID](#) environmental expert community.



## Theme 1: Readiness for Environmental Emergency Response

### B. Getting ready to respond: exercises and trainings

“Before anything else, preparation is the key to success.” Preparing for disasters is crucial not only for communities at risk, but also for those organizations and staff involved in emergency response. Disaster responders do not always have access to environmental expertise, nor are they always aware of the linkages between environment and emergencies. Participants recognized that training and simulation exercises are key to ensuring responders are ready to work together, move quickly, and efficiently start response planning and aid delivery. Participants also stated that if simulation exercises in operational readiness trainings did not consider the environment, this would make the exercise unrealistic.

#### SUMMARY OF KEY RECOMMENDATIONS



- Environmental elements must be included in all emergency response trainings. The [joint ECHO/JEU Environment and Emergencies Training](#) was highlighted as best practice in this regard. Online learning paths, knowledge hubs and webinars enable actors worldwide to access the knowledge, tools and materials that already exist, and share additional information and training materials.
- The [Environmental Emergencies Centre](#) should be strengthened as a knowledge hub. The associated online and face-to-face operational readiness trainings form the basis of capacity development for national actors on environmental emergency response.
- Readiness at the individual level should be strengthened through mandatory training and e-learning courses for emergency responders from the outset of their work. Further needs include improved guidance for experts being deployed, where the JEU-maintained [Environmental Experts' Hub](#) can act as a repository of knowledge.
- Readiness at the system level should include learning from good and bad practices, recognizing that one size does not fit all.
- Greater emphasis must be placed on learning from failures and identifying key lessons.

Organizers:  
UN Environment,  
OCHA,  
Swedish Civil  
Contingencies  
Agency (MSB);  
European Civil  
Protection and  
Humanitarian  
Aid Operations  
(ECHO)

### KEY OUTCOMES

Participants confirmed their commitment to exchanging training resources and tools, with 16 actors taking immediate action to share information on environment in emergency response exercises under the leadership of the JEU. In the future, organizations wishing to disseminate information on existing trainings and knowledge concerning environment and emergencies, are encouraged to reach out to the JEU ([ochaunep@un.org](mailto:ochaunep@un.org)) in order to feature their trainings on existing JEU knowledge hubs.



“There are endless opportunities to include environmental elements in trainings and exercises. We must ensure we prioritize these elements”

Gavin Reynolds,  
Swedish Red Cross



## Theme 1: Readiness for Environmental Emergency Response

### C. Local level prevention and preparedness for technological hazards and environmental emergencies

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction highlights the importance of considering technological hazards, including those technological accidents triggered by natural hazards (so-called Natech events). The pollution that is emitted from industrial accidents can have environmental, social, human and economic impacts on surrounding communities. In addition, the Sendai Framework further highlights the importance of empowering local authorities and communities to ensure coordinated prevention and preparedness.

Organizer:  
UN Environment

#### SUMMARY OF KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Including environmental concerns in preparedness and planning is crucial to ensure the integration of the environment in humanitarian action.
- A step-by-step process is recommended, including getting the right participants on board, linking to existing disaster risk reduction (DRR) programmes, improving awareness in the community, developing plans for local community preparedness, and building local capacity to implement emergency plans.
- Multi-stakeholder approaches to integrated disaster management and technological hazards at the local level must be strengthened. Together with strong leadership, this ensures coordinated prevention and preparedness for disasters with community members, government authorities and industry.
- Humanitarian action should engage with local and national responders in the spirit of partnership, aiming to reinforce rather than replace local and national capacities. It is essential to institutionalize local-level awareness and preparedness for emergencies into national regulations and policies, including in response coordination frameworks.
- Accomplishing an effective disaster risk reduction framework requires a devolution approach – a bottom-up approach to planning which identifies and addresses existing needs at the local level.
- Localization is key when it comes to ensuring the sustainability of response. The humanitarian community must draw upon the experiences of environmental actors with respect to community engagement and the involvement of indigenous communities. Training activities with strong local and national orientation are needed and would support a locally-led response in case of an emergency. Inclusive engagement of communities and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) is vital to ensure reliable and unbiased information, stakeholder inclusion and local ownership.
- A participation revolution must be promoted, in which potentially affected populations at the grassroots level are included in local data collection and the knowledge creation process.
- The use of the [Flash Environmental Assessment Tool \(FEAT\) 2.0](#) must be increased to enable local actors and communities to conduct rapid risk assessments.



“Disaster risk reduction involves advocating for the poor and vulnerable communities”

Eva Wanjiku,  
Kenya Red Cross Society



#### KEY OUTCOMES

A number of participants committed to providing feedback to the [Sendai Framework Words in Action Capstone and Simulation Exercise \(SIMEX\) Guidelines](#) as well as the [Guide on Man-Made and Technological Hazards](#).



“Community involvement in data collection is key for awareness raising”

Mubarick Masawudu,  
Green Cross Ghana



## Green Star Awards Ceremony

The **Green Star Awards (GSA)** is a collaborative initiative of **Green Cross International**, **UN Environment** and **OCHA**. Now in its fifth edition, the GSA Ceremony is a biennial event, which aims to raise awareness about environmental emergencies, and recognize the leadership of those who inspire action in their work.

This year, over 50 individuals and organizations were nominated for a GSA in one of three categories: prevention and preparedness, response, and environment and humanitarian action.

The winners of the 2017 GSA are: **Maestros Leadership Team**. (Malawi), **PAX** (Netherlands) and **Cooperación Comunitaria A.C.** (Mexico).



In the category of Prevention and Preparedness, **Maestros Leadership Team** was recognized for their outstanding work through their MaGREEN project which was launched in response to torrential rains in Malawi in 2015. Through the project, over 5,000 trees were planted in Malawi's flood-prone areas covering 20,000 square meters, and over 500 youth were trained to campaign for climate action. Accepting the award on behalf of Maestros Leadership Team, CEO Charles Lipenga remarked, "Effective leaders are in short supply and empowering the youth is the surest way to increase it for an inevitable future transformation."



The Green Star Award for Response was presented to **PAX**, with Wim Zwijnenburg, Project Leader, accepting the award on behalf of the organization. PAX was recognized for its professionalism and leadership in the protection of civilians during war and armed conflicts, and its commitment to building peace with justice. "PAX is humbled by winning the Green Star Award and we aim to contribute further to demonstrating the link between conflict, environmental impact and pollution", said Zwijnenburg. The organization promotes local peace initiatives in 15 countries, building better humanitarian responses to those communities affected by the toxic remnants of war.



In the category of Environment and Humanitarian Action, the Mexican organization **Cooperación Comunitaria A.C.** was recognized for its efforts to reconstruct communities following the devastating hurricanes and landslides in the mountainous region of Guerrero State in 2013. The organization supported the building of two community centers, reinforced 48 adobe homes, created five community maps of risk, and provided trainings to locals and leaders. Accepting the award, Director of Cooperación Comunitaria A.C., Isadora Hastings Garcia, quoted the indigenous tradition El Buen Vivir, "there is not a dichotomy between human and nature, we all are nature, we all come from Mother Earth."



## Theme 2: Integrating Environment in Humanitarian Response

This session comprised three roving sessions, which engaged participants in discussions on a range of issues including: a) energy provision in humanitarian settings; b) environmental management systems and c) the need for improved coordination between environment and humanitarian actors, both pre- and post-disaster. Participants had an opportunity to attend all three breakout sessions.

### A. Country experiences of reducing environmental damage through improved provision of energy in humanitarian settings

Humanitarian emergencies have detrimental environmental impacts, in part due to the manner in which energy is provided in these situations. Reliance on solid fuels, such as firewood, is not only harmful to the health of refugees and displaced communities, but it also has the potential to exacerbate tensions with host populations, and increase rates of deforestation. Many humanitarian operations are also dependent on diesel generators, which can have negative environmental consequences. Nevertheless, new opportunities to reduce environmental impacts and operating costs are emerging due to recent innovations in the provision of energy in humanitarian settings, and increased engagement with non-conventional humanitarian partners.

Participants discussed the issue of energy provision in humanitarian settings over three breakout sessions. Two of these focused on experiences from sub-

Saharan Africa, and one highlighted experiences from the Middle East with regional environmental experts providing the context.

Participants engaged in an interactive fishbowl discussion on the negative environmental impacts of energy in the humanitarian setting, and recent innovations in addressing these challenges.

Through the discussions, participants recognized that energy provision is a major point of contention between refugees and communities and that the question of energy goes beyond the provision of fuelwood, and also includes lighting and heating. While there is a similarity in terms of the challenges and opportunities for energy delivery for forcibly displaced people in camps across Sub-Saharan Africa, discussions revealed the very different dynamics which exist in the Middle East. In Sub-Saharan Africa access to energy is critical, while in the Middle East, participants identified affordability and the quality of energy supply as key concerns.

Organizers:  
UN  
Environment;  
Practical Action/  
Moving Energy  
Initiative; Groupe  
URD



“Energy is a systematic element of life”

Francois Grunewald,  
Groupe URD



### SUMMARY OF KEY RECOMMENDATIONS



- Cultural aspects must be taken into account when NGOs, private sector, and government actors provide alternative sources of energy to refugees, for example by implementing behavioral change activities. Lessons could be learned from similar efforts in the development sector, which faced comparable challenges, and where significant progress has been made around energy access for rural communities in the last decade.
- Improved access to energy in refugee camps in Sub-Saharan Africa can be an opportunity for socio-economic development for both refugee and host communities. Interventions should be designed with the aim of benefiting these two groups.
- Donors and other actors who develop programmes on energy delivery, should focus on ensuring availability, accessibility and affordability of alternative energy technologies, and take into account the specific challenges and dynamics that each context presents.
- Energy provision can enable most humanitarian and development efforts. Therefore, it has to be planned from the very start of any humanitarian action, recognizing that the majority of interventions are not as short-term as may be initially expected.
- The complexity of energy delivery and use in the humanitarian field can only be successfully overcome through systemic approaches which require a diverse number of actors operating at different levels of energy provision.
- Greater involvement of local energy markets is essential, in order to ensure that beneficiaries become more active consumers, with greater freedom to choose their energy options, rather than the approach of free hand-outs of energy products and services, which is not viable for the humanitarian sector in the long run.

### KEY OUTCOMES

Organizations working on the provision of energy in humanitarian settings committed to continue sharing information as part of existing initiatives including the [Safe Access to Fuel and Energy](#) and the [Moving Energy Initiative](#).

## Theme 2: Integrating Environment in Humanitarian Response

### B. How to apply environmental management systems

Public and international institutions, including the United Nations agencies, are increasingly committing themselves to achieving a range of environmental objectives. One way to achieve these objectives is to implement environmental management systems (EMS) in line with ISO 14001, the globally recognized standard for improving environmental performance.

This session introduced participants to EMS and ISO 14001, and examined how challenges to implement these systems within international and governmental institutions can be overcome.

This session was conducted in a modified fishbowl format. Facilitators provided a brief introduction to EMS, and highlighted ways in which it has been implemented in the UN system.

Participants were then asked to share experiences in the field and across organizations, in order to identify challenges associated with implementing EMS, and consider possible solutions. The level of knowledge of EMS varied significantly among participants, with over two thirds of participants having little to no knowledge or understanding of EMS. Of these, few considered their organizations' operational environmental footprint to be significant. Participants did however recognize that EMS allows for a systematic approach to identify environmental problems and focus on subsequent actions, as well as helps practitioners to better consider environmental impacts and apply environmental safeguards.

Organizers:  
UN Environment;  
World Food  
Programme (WFP)

“An EMS allows for the systematic approach to identify environmental problems and focus on subsequent actions”

2017 EEF Participant



### SUMMARY OF KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- The development of a community of practice would be beneficial, particularly given the number of people who are unfamiliar with EMS.
- When engaging with individuals unfamiliar with EMS, elements related to establishing organizational context as a means to determine compliance obligations and stakeholders relevant to the organization, are useful entry points to a broader discussion on EMS and enhancing knowledge and understanding around it.
- Implementation of EMS is particularly beneficial in instances where an organization's operational footprint is sufficiently large to warrant systematic embedding of process to produce environmental benefits, or where organizations wish to attract donors who require such a criterion for further funding.

“EMS... A means to encourage an organization to implement environmental concerns and act according to the mandate... A push factor that promotes reporting”

2017 EEF Participant



### KEY OUTCOMES

UN organizations working on the development of EMS committed to continue sharing information and strengthening synergies as part of the Environment Management Group's work stream on environmental safeguards. The EMS guidance toolkit under development at the UN could be useful for small organizations to identify basic elements of EMS relevant to them, and will be shared once available. Donors are encouraged to consider whether such a toolkit could be used in lieu of formal certification for organizations that are identified as having a limited environmental footprint.



## Theme 2: Integrating Environment in Humanitarian Response

### C. Coordinating environmental assessments in humanitarian response

This session comprised three identical rotating sessions and allowed participants to contribute to the "Framework for Environment in Humanitarian Action", as well as consider critical aspects of coordinating environmental assessments. The Framework maps out key entry points for the environment and environmental assessments in the humanitarian system at four levels: (i) preparedness, (ii) disaster-wide level, (iii) national level coordination and (iv) direct programming implementation. Participants were able to choose the level of most interest to them. The dynamic conversations held for each of the four levels, repeated three times, thus enabling the "Framework for Environment in Humanitarian Action" to take an important leap forward with inputs from over 150 participants. Particular emphasis was placed upon environmental assessments. This will contribute to a broader mapping of assessment tools being conducted as part of the "Coordination of Assessments for Environment in Humanitarian Action" initiative, led by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the JEU, the United Nations

High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), World Wildlife Fund, the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Organizers:  
"Coordination of  
Assessments for  
Environment in  
Humanitarian  
Action"

Participants discussed some of the key challenges and recommendations at each Environment and Humanitarian Action (EHA) Framework level and provided ideas for new additions such as: national level contingency plans; national adaptation plans; national crisis management centres; academic institutions; environmental diplomacy initiatives; local environmental field advisers; remote data collection tools and techniques; help desks and technical advice; environmental risk screening sheets; and community risk mapping and assessment tools.



“We cannot manage what we do not know: environmental assessments are key to ensuring that natural capital resilience is taken into account and improves lives and livelihoods before and after disasters”

Mandy George, Coordination of Assessments for Environment in Humanitarian Action



### SUMMARY OF KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- All EHA Framework levels interlink and data gathered from one can inform the others. This should be translated into an approach that uses data gathered across levels and thus eliminates the need to repeat data collection in assessments.
- The Framework should be linked to the humanitarian programme cycle at all levels.
- The Framework must include links to national legislation, national systems and national level coordination.
- When updating environmental assessment methodologies used by humanitarians, a humanitarian lens must be applied and the term "environment" should be deconstructed so that it clearly explains links to humanitarian action.
- Local knowledge and community perspectives are key and must be captured in assessments and reflected in the Framework for as many entry points as possible. Often approaches that involve community perspectives are more beneficial than the use of a tool itself.
- Protracted crises are not as well addressed as sudden onset crises. Both should be equally represented in the Framework.
- Illustrative examples of best practice at each Framework level should be documented.

### KEY OUTCOMES

The Joint Initiative, with financial support from USAID, committed to capturing the above recommendations in the Framework for Environment and Humanitarian Action, and finalizing this by the end of Q1, 2018, in connection with the Leading Edge Programme. The Joint Initiative will use this Framework as the basis for the update of the rapid environmental assessment approach, to be completed in 2018 and for which additional partners are invited to contribute.



# Disaster Waste Management

This session explored the issue of disaster waste management (DWM) in the aftermath of earthquakes and hydro-meteorological disasters. An Ignite stage conducted prior to the session introduced participants to the topic. In three breakout groups, participants discussed various dimensions of DWM, notably: (a) mainstreaming (D)WM within disaster preparedness; (b) DWM in recovery and reconstruction – building back better and addressing livelihoods; and (c) disaster contingency planning in local and national waste action plans. The breakout groups were also designed to identify opportunities for enhanced networks and cooperation between participants.

## SUMMARY OF KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Countries are encouraged to develop national DWM Strategies and Action Plans, linking to existing legal frameworks, and to mainstream DWM into National Waste Management Policies, Strategies and Action Plans. These should be accompanied by communication and capacity development measures at all levels.
- Policies and actions across waste management and disaster risk management communities need to be harmonized, where the presence of an overarching coordinating body is key.
- Country-specific DWM guidelines need to be developed and utilized at the national and local levels.
- Public-private partnerships for safe demolishing should be encouraged.
- DWM should be recognized as a resource for sustainable reconstruction and recovery where the 3 R strategy (Reduce-Reuse-Recycle) should be applied for building back better.
- Regional platforms for DWM should be set up to promote awareness raising and strengthen capacity and resilience. The Asia Pacific region, including Nepal and the Philippines, can be used as a pilot project. Regional platforms should be established in collaboration with various stakeholders including UN Environment, MSB, the United Nations Development Programme, OCHA, SPREP, the Japan International Cooperation Agency, and the Ministry of Environment, Japan.
- In emergencies, a task force or working group on DWM that is linked to the cluster system, should be established.
- Models for assessing disaster waste, including disaster risk mapping, can be further elaborated and improved upon. GIS tools should be used to assess possible areas for temporary disposal sites and its subsequent inclusion into DWM contingency planning. Countries are invited to consider existing decision support tools and guidelines to help them in this process (for example, the Mediterranean Oil Spill Waste Management Decision Support Tool).

Organizers:  
MSB Sweden, UN  
Environment International  
Environmental Technology  
Centre, Japan Society of  
Material Cycles and Waste  
Management, Secretariat  
of the Pacific Regional  
Environmental Programme  
(SPREP)

“DWM is a cross-cluster activity in the cluster approach mechanism, but it is not yet well understood nor coordinated among clusters”

2017 EEF participant



## KEY OUTCOMES

The Disaster Waste Management Guidelines will be updated under the leadership of MSB Sweden, in close coordination with UN Environment and other partners. Simultaneously a region-specific Disaster Waste Management Guideline will be developed by the Government of Japan's Ministry of the Environment for increased hands-on usability; as well as to practically guide officers-in-charge to promote institutional and technical arrangements. Pilot DWM projects will be developed for Nepal and the Philippines where a training or mentoring programme is foreseen to support these efforts and the dissemination of the results.



## Theme 3: Environment in Conflict Settings

### Collecting environmental data and monitoring risks before, during and after conflicts

Environmental and health risks arising from conflicts are a growing challenge in humanitarian operations. Pollution from the shelling of industrial sites and natural resource extraction can expose civilians and humanitarian operators to severe health risks and cause long-term environmental damage. Increased urban warfare, and rapidly expanding camps due to rising levels of displacement all contribute to a growing environmental footprint from conflict. There is an urgent need to collect environmental data during conflicts, address the lack of specific data on the health risks posed by conflict-born pollution, and identify how to build more effective response mechanisms.

This session addressed various challenges and identified best practices from existing and emerging field- and remote-based data collection methods used by a wide range of organizations working in this area.

With respect to remote-based data collection, participants identified vital data to include geographic conditions, population data, potential

sources and vectors of pollution and impact zones, amongst others. Verifiable information, authenticated by multiple sources, was considered to be a major challenge. During discussions, it was noted that data collectors and users should be conscious of the risk of politicized data being used to serve the purposes of parties to a conflict.

Concerning the opportunities and pitfalls of analysis based on remote sensing (e.g. satellite images), discussions highlighted that while remote analysis prioritizes what you can see, users must be careful not to downplay the risks that you cannot see remotely, such as underground pipelines or other hidden infrastructure. While an absence of baseline environmental data limits interpretation of the visible impacts, participants discussed the value of remote collection as a starting point, particularly in instances where the alternative is that little data is collected due to security and access constraints.

Where the purpose of data collection is to inform and prioritize response, discussions highlighted the difficulties faced by actors in using such data, unless it is fully verified by field data, particularly where data on harm could become politicized. Participants noted that local sources may not always be reliable, either due to the lack of political impartiality inherent in conflict situations, or due to overstating the issues as a means of accessing funding, support or emergency assistance.

**Organizers:**  
PAX, Swedish Defence  
Research Agency  
(FOI), Regional Marine  
Pollution Emergency  
Response Centre for  
the Mediterranean  
Sea (REMPEC), Toxic  
Remnants of War  
Project

“We must be aware of the risk of politicized data that serves the purposes of parties to the conflict”  
2017 EEF Participant

With regard to field-based data collection, participants discussed the need for better access to data on the characteristics of environmentally risky facilities that are or may be damaged; the collection of air, water and soil samples; and access to data on the impacts of flora, fauna and ecosystems as well as medical data on health impacts. Participants discussed a range of actors who may already be present in the field and collect or communicate environmental data, such as the environmental or chemical defence units of the armed forces, civil protection units of the parties to the conflict, international observers and monitors, deminers, local and NGO health professionals, humanitarian responders and affected communities themselves.

As with remote collection, the absence of baseline data, or lack of access to it often remains an issue. To this end, participants recognised the value of environmental information obtained from official authorities (including data from past or ongoing monitoring within the conflict zone or close to it); data and analyses from local or international environmental research; and the expertise of internally displaced persons (IDPs) such as environmental professionals, engineers, and community representatives with local knowledge who have moved outside the conflict zone and could thus be more easily accessible.



“There is a need to create a platform for data sharing on all relevant environmental issues that can be accessible to responders”

Christiaan Triebert, Bellingcat



## Collecting environmental data and monitoring risks before, during and after conflicts

### SUMMARY OF KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Effective data collection is a key preparedness activity, and there is a need to invest time and resources in creating networks and understanding for collecting as well as sharing data across sectors, and through comprehensive dialogue between numerous stakeholders.
- There is a general need to share and analyze information across various organizations (including I/NGOs, military, governments, and the private sector), as different actors tend to work in silos and are often unwilling or unmotivated to share information, or lack the knowledge and/or a platform to do so; to this end, more effective partnerships between UN agencies, humanitarian and environmental organizations are required.
- A data sharing platform accessible to responders and which features data from reliable sources should be developed; this platform should include various types of data from conflict areas, such as pollution carrying with it acute risks to health.



- Younger generations should play a more prominent role in decision-making and in advancing innovative technology, as they bring a fresh mentality, and approach challenges from a different perspective.
- Robust data collection methodologies are needed, where the purpose of the data collection must be made clear to communities.
- Community inclusion and ownership of data, as well as the development of participant-based approaches to data collection and analysis are critical, despite the associated challenges in a conflict setting due to the political and security context. To this end, affected communities should play a role in data collection, both as a repository of local knowledge and as active participants, through the use of citizen science data collection methodologies. New tools should be developed to address issues such as data security and ownership.
- The ability to access information through remote sensing or other means of remote information collection, including the analysis of mainstream and social media, is a vital tool to aid humanitarian

organizations in identifying key needs of affected populations and potential sources of pollution and harm.

- A rapid environmental assessment focused on issues common to conflicts could serve as a valuable tool to help humanitarian responders both in gaining access to relevant information, and in building a clearer data profile on the affected areas; this in turn could eventually support faster and more effective reconstruction efforts.
- A number of sources of environmental information or methodologies exist and should be shared. These include: sources of satellite imagery / remote sensing, unmanned aerial vehicles, participatory approaches, information gathered by local NGOs and humanitarian agencies, storytelling, proxies, existing platforms and technology e.g. mobile phones. Data collection should also deal with issues around security and privacy. Crowd-sourcing could be used to complement practitioners' collection, analysis and use of data and imagery.



## KEY OUTCOMES

There was a high degree of interest from participants to increase the use of environmental data in their activities. Participants recognized the need to develop practical guidance on what is available and possible in terms of remote- and field-based data collection, analysis and sharing of data on environmental risks related to conflict, with a number of organizations including PAX, the JEU, the Toxic Remnants of War Project and Zoi Environment Network interested to work on this. High-level commitment and funding is needed to move this proposal forward.

# Ignite Stage



**Environment in WASH:**  
The sidelined cross-cutting issue  
**Moritz Hauer, JEU**  
Challenges integrating environmental concerns in the WASH Cluster and options moving forward



Hazard Quantity  
Exposure  
**FEAT 2.0**  
Flash Environmental Assessment Tool

**FEAT: the chemical preparedness and response tool for you!**  
**Emilia Wahlstrom, JEU**  
Launch of the **FEAT 2.0 Pocket Guide** – a compact hands-on reference guide for emergency responders



**The promise of open source investigation**  
**Christiaan Triebert, Bellingcat**  
Exploring the possibilities for environment and emergencies



**Connecting environmental responders through HumanitarianID**  
**Anthony Liew, JEU**  
HumanitarianID: a new tool to connect with environmental responders and humanitarian practitioners anywhere in the world



**Words and Needs**  
**Gavin Reynolds, Swedish Red Cross**  
The value of, and challenges associated with conducting informative community consultations on environmental issues



**Lessons learned from Cameroon**  
**Francois Grunewald, Groupe URD**  
Groupe URD's research on the negative environmental impacts of the Minawao refugee camp and possible ways to minimize these impacts



**Celebrating 40 years of cooperation in the Mediterranean: preventing and combating marine pollution from ships**  
**Gabino Gonzalez, REMPEC**  
**Video presentation** highlighting REMPEC's past achievements and the outlook moving forward



**The Dadab Story**  
**Eva Wanjiku, Red Cross Society**  
**Video presentation:** the environmental impacts of the refugee community in Garissa County and Kenya  
Red Cross efforts to achieve environmental sustainability



**How environmental woes are fueling Iraq's conflict: a reporter's take from the field**  
**Peter Schwartzstein, Freelance Journalist**  
One journalist's experiences of how ISIS – and parts of the anti-ISIS coalition – have thrived off water, agricultural and climate woes



## Exhibition Space

At the 2017 Environment and Emergencies Forum, participants had an opportunity to showcase their work at a designated Exhibition Space. Participant exhibits included poster and banner displays of projects, toolkits, training manuals and the latest technological innovations in environmental emergency preparedness, response and environment and humanitarian action. The Exhibition Space was set up inside the UN Gigiri Compound, in the main corridor.

The following organizations showcased their work at the Exhibition Space:

1. Raising Gabdho Foundation, Uganda
2. UN-Habitat, Kenya
3. The International Centre for Research in Agro-Forestry (ICRAF), Kenya
4. MSB Sweden
5. Maestros Leadership Team, Kenya
6. Zoi Environment Network
7. The Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines in Kenya/Philippine Permanent Mission
8. Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resources Management (WOCAN)
9. The UN Environment / OCHA Joint Unit

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**A IGAD, UNDP, NDMU, REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES & KENYA RED CROSS Initiative**



**Interactive Natural Resources Planning and Action Tool**  
**Watershed Management and Geo-hydrological Modals**

The innovatively designed watershed management modal was developed at a time when the communities only knew village boundaries and Development organizations had compartmentalized approach to develop natural resources. Subsequently, a Geo-hydrological modal is also developed. Both Modals are used as an interactive resource planning and action tool by the development organizations in India from areas characterized by undulating lands, soil and water erosion, erratic rains, degraded forests, water scarcity, over-exploited water resources, illiteracy, caste and class bound and gender blind communities etc.

Village level decentralized water resources planning and action by both women and men, based on surface features of land form

Geo-hydrological modal was developed after massive earthquake in Kutch, India. It is used for regional-level water harvesting and ground water recharge planning and action based on Geo-hydrological characteristics of the land form

**Meena Bilgi**  
Specialist (Gender and Sustainable Solutions) India  
[meenabilgi@gmail.com](mailto:meenabilgi@gmail.com) Cell - +91 9825050639

**MAPPING the environmental dimension of the DONBAS CONFLICT**

**The Washington Post**

**Shelling around Ukrainian industrial facilities may trigger serious environmental consequences, report says**

**DAMAGE TO INDUSTRIES AND NATURE**

**ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION AND PLANS**

**WHAT IS AHEAD?**

in cooperation with the OSCE, assess in the field environmental impact and risks to Donbas environment

review findings of recent studies (UNICEF, OCHA, CHD, Minsk group) and boost availability of data on-line

discuss directions for environmental management and post-war reconstruction in Eastern Ukraine

**Zoi environment network, Geneva, Switzerland • [www.zoinet.org](http://www.zoinet.org)**

## Panel Discussions and Plenary Sessions

### How to move forward: environment as a means to strengthen resilience

Protecting the environment and ecosystems has been shown to prevent damage and deaths from disasters. Furthermore, protection of natural resources can prevent conflict, as the degradation of land and the misuse of resources often lead to tensions. Investment in ecosystems and resilience projects is a major opportunity for development and climate finance, including for the private sector, as these investments can have a significant positive impact. This session explored the potential to further use the environment as a means to strengthen resilience.

Moderated by Sarah King (Food Security Advisor, [NRC](#)), the panel featured a debate and discussion between Jane Madgwick (CEO, [Wetlands International](#)), Charles Owino (Director, National Disaster Operations Centre (NDOC), Kenya), Carlota Lucia Cordon Gonzalez (Director, [Coordinadora Nacional para la Reducción de Desastres](#) (CONRED) Guatemala), and Patrick Alzona (Acting Section Chief, [Environmental Protection and Waste Management Department](#), Quezon City Government, Philippines).



“*Environmental degradation is driving disaster risk and human insecurity...the challenges do not have to do a lot with money, but instead with mindsets*”

Jane Madgwick, Wetlands International

The panelists shared their perspectives on how to move forward, strengthen societal resilience and ensure greater sustainability in the future.

**Jane Madgwick** argued that healthy ecosystems foster peace, and that the environment can function as a means to strengthen cooperation. She called for a change in mindsets in order to adopt a new development approach across all sectors of society; one which focuses on more resilient landscapes, and thus, more resilient partnerships. Despite the inevitable challenges, she urged humanitarian and development actors to connect and collaborate more to make a difference in people's lives.

**Charles Owino** highlighted the need to address environmental degradation as part of national development, and to make sustainability a key



principle when using natural resources. He argued that resilience initiatives require strong political support, and that the integration of environmental concerns and risk reduction ought to happen across all policy formulations. Mr. Owino emphasized the importance of sensitizing land owners to the environmental impacts of various land use practices.

**Carlota Lucia Cordon Gonzalez** stressed the need to adapt legal frameworks to ensure that DRR becomes a key component of government activities at all levels. She further highlighted the need to break the silos between development and humanitarian sectors, and integrate reconstruction plans with sustainable development approaches. Ms. Cordon Gonzalez called for a reconceptualization of ourselves and nature, towards seeing humans as part of the environment instead of placing humans first.

**Patrick Alzona** called for greater investments in DRR, particularly in the urban context, as part of developing resilience. Using the example of the Philippines, he illustrated the value of volunteerism for managing waterways to reduce environmental degradation. Mr. Alzona also pointed out that strong leadership is necessary to induce change at various levels.



## Bringing it all together: addressing environment in protracted crisis settings

Nature is often an afterthought in conflict and displacement settings, even though environmental factors play a role along the entire conflict curve. Issues such as security and logistical supply of peacekeepers and UN staff are naturally higher on the priority list. On the other hand, physical destruction of infrastructure, mass population movements, chemical incidents, the exploitation of natural resources, and the breakdown of environmental institutions and the rule of law, are just some of the impacts of conflict and displacement on the environment. If no appropriate measures are taken, peacekeeping operations themselves can also constitute a source of environmental degradation. Environmental damage and contamination present threats to both public health and people's livelihoods. Consequently, the environment is a critical component of humanitarian response, conflict resolution, peacebuilding as well as reconstruction efforts.

This session drew upon the experiences and lessons learned from a wide variety of organizations working on different environmental issues in conflict and displacement settings. Building on previous Forum sessions, it showcased inspiring examples of how environmental issues can be addressed even in the midst of crisis.

Moderated by Richard Pearshouse (Associate Director, Environment and Human Rights, Human Rights Watch), the panel featured Raouf Mazou (UNHCR Representative in Kenya), Fatime Ousmane (Ministry of Environment and Fisheries, Chad), Francois Grunewald (Director, Groupe URD) and Andre Dzikus (Coordinator, Urban Basic Services Branch, UN-HABITAT).

**Raouf Mazou** explained that the environmental impacts of protracted crises are very serious and must be considered, especially in fragile environmental contexts. He noted that long-term planning for settlements is crucial as they tend to exist for many years, often beyond the intended timeframe. To this end, Mr.

Mazou emphasized that increasing the self-sufficiency of settlements must become a key concern. He further stressed that states should drive forward the economic integration of refugees, as it not only improves the relationship between host communities and refugees, but it also allows refugees to return faster.

**Fatime Ousmane** emphasized the need for governments to work more closely with communities to adapt to climate change. She explained that in many contexts, women's ability to anticipate, respond to, and recover from disasters is undermined by their inability to fully exercise their human rights, as well as their economic insecurity and lack of land ownership. Ms. Ousmane explained that strengthening women's capacities to manage disaster risks as well as establishing income-generating schemes with women in communities is essential to reduce vulnerabilities.

**Francois Grunewald** elucidated the challenges of working in protracted crises, arguing that the protracted dysfunction of basic services (such as waste management) can cause detrimental environmental



“We need to get out of our disciplinary boundaries and work together”  
Francois Grunewald,  
Groupe URD



and social impacts. He called for multi-disciplinary approaches to address the interaction between protracted crises, the environment, and the consequent psychological impacts. Mr. Grunewald also highlighted the importance of changing settlement planning practices. He explained that settlements should be planned in a similar fashion to cities, and that political as well as donor support is needed to move away from cheap and unsustainable materials.

**Andre Dzikus** argued that, apart from advancing the nexus of humanitarian action and development, it is crucial to also integrate human rights, and bring together a multiplicity of actors to address urban crises. He explained that the combination of unprecedented urban growth across Africa and Asia, and weakening local authorities due to protracted crises, cause new challenges in the urban context. Mr. Dzikus highlighted the importance of mapping resources and hazards in cities, using remote sensing, artificial intelligence systems and city profiling tools.



“We are seeing increasing conflict in cities, but also an increase of cities in crises”  
Andre Dzikus,  
UN-HABITAT

## Plenary Session on Next Steps: Forum outcomes and the Road to UNEA

During the plenary session on next steps, **Carl Bruch** (Director of International Programs, [Environmental Law Institute](#)), summarized key lessons learned and outcomes from the Forum.

He concluded that the Forum, its participants, the presentations and discussions, are inevitable proof of the fact that environment and humanitarian goals go hand in hand. Mr. Bruch noted that, while we are working on distinct issues in separate countries and contexts, there is much we can do together. He emphasized the ways in which the Forum had brought communities together, pointing out that we are collectively increasing our understanding of the complex interplay between environment and emergencies.

He remarked that, through the Forum, we are jointly creating a community of practice and a mutual language of how better to address environment in disasters and conflicts. Mr. Bruch further

highlighted the multiple ongoing and planned projects and initiatives which had been shared at the Forum, which serve as irrefutable evidence that change is underway. He drew attention to the innovative methods being used by new actors to shape the future of environment and emergencies. The Green Star Award winners, he observed, are all inspiring examples of what can be achieved when we set our minds to it.

Mr. Bruch stressed that each participant has their role to play in implementing the Forum outcomes and in integrating environment in humanitarian action, in order to ensure tangible benefits for affected populations.

He requested participating organizations and actors to support the work of the JEU in maintaining and strengthening a community of practice on the topic of environment and emergencies, as well as in ensuring that the good work conducted continues to be advanced and disseminated.

Mr. Bruch concluded by reminding all participants to play their part in creating coalitions and political commitments to further action in this field.

**Monika MacDevette** (Deputy Director, Division of Environmental Policy Implementation, [UN Environment](#)) and **Jesper Holmer Lund** (Chief of ESB, [OCHA](#)) echoed the words of Mr. Bruch, emphasizing the need for organizations to support the work of UN Environment and OCHA through its partnership and the JEU. Ms. MacDevette outlined how the Forum outcomes will feed into UNEA, encouraging participants to [pledge their support](#) for a pollution-free planet.



## Networking Session

During the networking session, participants were invited to walk around the room, engage with other participants, identify areas of joint action and write down personal commitments at the individual and organizational levels.

At the end of the networking session, the commitment cards were collected. The JEU compiled all commitments made by participants. A total of 68 commitments were made. Most commitments concerned sharing information, developing joint trainings and collaborating on research related to environment and emergencies. Participants also committed to creating comprehensive guidelines at the national level, and conducting joint advocacy efforts. The main theme which emerged from the commitments, was the willingness of participants to explore options for collaboration, be it through sharing information, training materials or designing future joint projects. (See Annex IV for the full list of commitments).



## Closing Ceremony

During the Closing Ceremony, participants had an opportunity to offer their feedback on the Forum through an online survey. (See Annex III for preliminary results).

**Mette Wilkie** (Director, Ecosystems Division; UN Environment), **Jesper Holmer Lund** (Chief of ESB, OCHA) and **Leif Jonsson** (SAGEE Chair), each thanked participants for their contributions and offered closing remarks.





“*The 2017 Environment and Emergencies Forum has proven to be a game changer in terms of how the links between environment and humanitarian action are viewed. We recognize and welcome the crucial work of the UN Environment / OCHA Joint Unit in inspiring and supporting us on the road to better integrate environment in disasters and conflicts. Now it’s up to each of us to translate this understanding into action*”

Leif Jönsson, SAGEE Chair

# Annexes

## Annex I - Agenda

Day 1: Tuesday, 26 September	
08:30	Participants Registration
09:30	Opening Ceremony Welcome by Erik Solheim (Executive Director, UN Environment) Welcome by Jesper Lund (Chief, Emergency Services Branch, OCHA – Geneva) Welcome by Leif Jönsson, Chair of the Strategic Advisory Group on Environment and Emergencies (SAGEE)
10:00	Keynote speech by Dr. Zaid Noori, Ambassador, Embassy of Iraq to Kenya - Nairobi
10:30	Coffee break
11:00	High-level Panel “Environment for Humanity” Panel discussion with Mette Wilkie (Director, Ecosystems Division, UN Environment), Jesper Lund (Chief, ESB, OCHA-Geneva), Dr. Abbas Gullet (Secretary-General, Kenya Red Cross), Gabriella Waaijman (Regional Director for East Africa and Yemen, Norwegian Refugee Council)
12:00	“My vision for the future” Presentation by Khalif Hassan, Environmental Officer, Office for Environmental Affairs, Federal Government of Somalia
12:30	Lunch
14:00	Introduction of agenda and administration
14:30	Readiness for Environmental Emergency Response, roving sessions (60 minutes per session: participants take part in two sessions) Topic 1: Learning from past responses: experiences from around the world Topic 2: Getting ready to respond: exercises and trainings Topic 3: Local level prevention and preparedness for technological hazards and environmental emergencies
15:30	Coffee break
16:00	Readiness for Environmental Emergency Response, continued
17:00	Free Time
17:30	Green Star Awards Ceremony followed by cocktails

Day 2: Wednesday, 27 September	
09:00	Day 1 Summary by Leif Jönsson, SAGEE Chair and Jesper Lund (Chief, Emergency Services Branch, OCHA)
09:30	Setting the Scene: Integrating environment in humanitarian response Introduction to the three topics to be discussed in the upcoming roving sessions, held in plenary
10:15	Coffee break
10:45	Integrating environment in humanitarian response, roving sessions Participants are pre-split into three groups and move across the three rooms in interactive roving sessions. Topic 1: Country experiences of reducing environmental damage through improved provision of energy in humanitarian settings Topic 2: How to apply environmental management systems Topic 3: Coordinating environmental assessments in humanitarian response
13:00	Lunch
14:30	Disaster Waste Management
15:45	Coffee break
16:15	Collecting environmental data and monitoring risks before, during and after conflicts
18:00	Free Time / Ignite Stage
19:00	Dinner

Day 3: Tuesday, 28 September	
09:00	Day 2 Summary by Leif Jönsson, SAGEE Chair
09:15	How to move forward: environment as a means to strengthen resilience Debate moderated by Sarah King (Food Security Advisor, Norwegian Refugee Council), between Jane Madgwick (CEO, Wetlands International); Charles Owino (Director, National Disaster Operations Centre, Kenya), Carlota Lucia Cordon Gonzalez (CONRED, Guatemala) and Patrick Alzona (Acting Section Chief, Environmental Protection and Waste Management Department, Quezon City Government, Philippines)
10:15	Coffee break
11:00	Bringing it all together: addressing environment in protracted crisis settings Debate moderated by Richard Pearshouse (Amnesty International) between Raouf Mazou (UNHCR Representative in Kenya), Francois Grunewald (Director, Groupe URD), Country Rep (TBD), and Andre Dzikus (Coordinator, UN-HABITAT Urban Basic Services Branch), with interventions from the audience through live polling
11:45	Networking Session Plenary Session on Next Steps: Forum outcomes and the Road to UNEA Discussion between Mette Wilkie (Director, Ecosystems Division, UN Environment) and Jesper Lund (Chief, Emergency Services Branch, OCHA), moderated by Carl Bruch, Environmental Law Institute
13:00	Closing ceremony and evaluations

## Annex II - Participants

Participants included representatives from the following governments: Argentina, Armenia, Chad, Finland, Guatemala, Jordan, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Norway, Senegal, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, The Gambia, The Philippines and Ukraine.

Representatives from the following regional organizations, institutions, unions/associations, private sector, civil society organizations and academia also attended the 2017 EEF: African Alliance for Health Research Development, BBC, Bellingcat, BW Association, Centre for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction (CESDRR), Centre for Human Development, Cooperación Comunitaria A.C., Coordination of Assessments for Environment in Humanitarian Action, Diakonia, Directorate General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), Engineers without Borders, Environmental Conservation Society, Environmental Law Institute, Federal University of Technology (Nigeria), Fundación Pueblo para el Pueblo, Green Cross Ghana, Groupe URD, Hope Hospice, Human Rights Watch, International Centre for Research in Agro-Forestry (ICRAF-Kenya), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), KBR, Kenya Red Cross Society, LEAD Nepal, MADO, Maestros Leadership Team Kenya, Mercy Corps, Mkokoteni Aid Development Organization, Naya Slopes, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), PAX, Practical Action, Prepare-d, Peru, Raising Gabdho Foundation, Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), Regional Resource Center for Asia and the Pacific, RR Construction Pvt Ltd., Sanivation, Sirimon Aquarium, Sosurwa Fund Kenya, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB), Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI), Swedish Red Cross, TerraGraphics International Foundation, The Toxic Remnants of War Project, Tumani Letu Africa, University of Nairobi, USAID, West African Youth Network, Wetlands International, Women Environmental Network, Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resources Management (WOCAN), World Bank, Zoï Environment Network and independent experts.

Representatives from the following UN and other international organizations also participated: OCHA, UN Environment, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), the World Bank, and the World Food Programme (WFP).

For the full participant list, please visit:  
[http://eecentre.org/eef/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/2017EEF\\_Participants-List.pdf](http://eecentre.org/eef/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/2017EEF_Participants-List.pdf)

## Annex III - Summary of Evaluations

At the end of the 2017 EEF, participants were asked to fill in an Evaluation Form. Sixty-eight participants responded to our request. Below is a brief analysis reflecting views of the respondents:

1. 83% of the respondents were 'Very' to 'Extremely' satisfied with the Forum.

2. 83% of the respondents found the duration of the Forum 'Just right'.

3. The majority of respondents rated each item of the EEF (content, agenda, administration and logistics, registration, venue, hospitality, background materials, website, involvement of participants, facilitation methods, networking opportunities) as 'Good' or 'Excellent'.

4. Aspects of the EEF that were the most interesting and useful according to respondents included:

- Networking opportunities
- Diversity of session formats
- Participatory and interactive sessions
- Breakout sessions / Group work
- Experience / Information sharing
- Fishbowl format
- Ignite stage presentations
- Diversity of participants coming from environment and humanitarian communities

5. Some aspects of the EEF that should be improved according to respondents include:

- Agenda could be less cramped with fewer sessions
- Plenary sessions could be more dynamic
- Translation services to help non-English speaking participants to better engage in discussions
- Greater involvement of the private sector
- Greater ethnic diversity of participants
- Greater gender balance

6. The EEF met the expectations of 44% of the respondents and exceeded expectations for more than 52%.

Respondents were especially satisfied with:

- The quality of the topics discussed
- The opportunities for sharing experiences and enhancing one's knowledge of environmental emergencies
- The active engagement of and contributions by participants, coming from a range of professional backgrounds
- The multiple networking opportunities throughout the event

7. The majority of respondents will apply information from the EEF in their work place to a certain extent ('sometimes' 28%; 'often' 42%; 'always' 28%).

8. 100% of respondents said they will share what they learned with others in their organization.

9. The majority of respondents rated each session of the forum positively. The highest-rated sessions were: the 'Ignite Stage presentations'; the plenary panel on 'Bringing it all together'; the 'Plenary Sessions on next steps'; and 'Collecting environmental data and monitoring risks'.

10. A few examples of topics that respondents would like to see being featured at the next EEF:

- Disaster Waste Management
- Climate change
- Conflict and the environment
- The voice of the affected / civil society / community
- Good practices
- Gender and emergencies

11. 82% of respondents will attend a future EEF.

12. 93% of respondents will recommend others to participate in the next Forum.

13. 61% of respondents are interested in contributing to the Environmental Emergencies Centre (eecentre.org).

## Annex IV - Summary of Commitments

At the end of the networking session, the commitment cards were collected and the UN Environment / OCHA Joint Unit compiled all commitments made by participants. A total of 68 commitments were made.

“*We commit to conduct joint advocacy, develop joint trainings, and make and share the case for environment in humanitarian action*”

An estimated 20% of commitments concerned sharing information with each other, developing joint trainings and collaborating on research related to environment and emergencies. Many emphasized the potential for advancement, simply through the exchange of expertise and joining forces to battle and resist environmental crises. The advantages of creating comprehensive guidelines at the national level, and conducting joint advocacy efforts was highlighted by numerous actors. Participants also identified the importance of engaging younger generations in environmental concerns, and committed to educating the youth and ensuring their voices are heard.

“*We will assist the government in the development of attainable policies and legislation regarding humanitarian response and environmental considerations*”

Commitments to form better connections and to coordinate with various environmental and humanitarian actors, as well to provide regular trainings for their country's humanitarian actors were also noted. Additionally, participants committed to drafting projects focused on long term solutions for issues such as DWM, as well as to incorporate scientific research in order to better comprehend and prepare for future environmental challenges.

Some participants specifically committed to supporting UN Environment and other relevant actors in implementing conflict-related resolutions. Particular mention was made to raising the profile of the UN Environment / OCHA Joint Unit, as well as to explore opportunities for advanced environmental peacebuilding.

“*Our pledge is to explore the potential to collaborate with other environmental actors to engage refugees and IDPs in environmental management interventions*”

In summary, the main theme which emerged from the commitments is the willingness of organizations to explore options for collaboration, be it through sharing information, training materials or designing future joint projects.

## Annex V - List of Acronyms

DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DWM	Disaster Waste Management
ECHO	European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
EEC	Environmental Emergencies Centre
EHA	Environment and Humanitarian Action
EMS	Environmental Management Systems
ESB	Emergency Services Branch, OCHA Geneva
FEAT	Flash Environmental Assessment Tool
FOI	Swedish Defence Research Agency
GIS	Geographic Information System
GSA	Green Star Awards
JEU	UN Environment / OCHA Joint Unit
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
MSB	Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
REMPEC	Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea
SAGEE	Strategic Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies
SIEP	Somali Institute for Environmental Peace
SIMEX	Simulation Exercise
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WFP	World Food Programme
UNEA	UN Environment Assembly



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