

Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit



International Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response

Major Activities 2011-2013
(as of 15 April 2013)

Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit



OCHA UNEP

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Marine Pollution Bali beach Indonesia, Credit: Lawrence Hislop

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Acronym List

ACDM	ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management
AGEE	Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies
APELL	Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASEON	ASEAN Senior Officials on Environment
AU	African Union
CADRI	Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative
CAP	Consolidated Appeals Process
CAREC	Central Asia Regional Environment Centre
CEPREDENAC	Centro de Coordinacion para la Prevencion de los Desastres Naturales en America Central
DCPEP DSB	Directorate for Civil Protection and Emergency Planning (Norway)
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DWM	Disaster Waste Management
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECHO	Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department of the European Commission
ECOWAS	Economic Community Of West African States
EEC	Environmental Emergencies Centre
EET	Environmental Emergencies Training
EMSA	European Maritime Safety Agency
EPA	Environment Protection Agency
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
EU	European Union
EWG	Expert Working Group on the FFI
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FCSS	Field Coordination Support Services
FEAT	Flash Environment Assessment Tool

FFI	Flexible Framework Initiative for Addressing Chemical Accident Prevention and Preparedness
FOI	Swedish Defence Research Agency
GCI	Green Cross International
Groupe URD	Groupe Urgence Réhabilitation Développement
HIT	Hazard Identification Tool
IACRNE	Inter-Agency Committee on Radiological and Nuclear Emergencies
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IFRC	International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
ISWA	International Solid Waste Association
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
JEU	Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit
LAS	League of Arab States
MIC	Monitoring and Information Centre (EU)
MIRA	Multi-Cluster Initial Rapid Assessment
MSB	Swedish Civil Defense Agency
MSF	Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors without Borders)
NATECH	Natural-hazard triggered technological accidents
NCSE	US National Council for Science and the Environment
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OIC	Organisation for Islamic Cooperation
OPCW	Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

PEDRR	Partnership for Environment and DRR
PPRD	Programme for Prevention, Preparedness and Response to Natural and Man-made Disasters
RC/HC	Resident / Humanitarian Coordinator
RHC	Regional Humanitarian Coordinator
ROWCA	Regional Office for West and Central Africa (OCHA)
SCDF	Singapore Civil Defence Force
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SEA	Senior Environment Expert
UN	United Nations
UNCSD	UN Conference on Sustainable Development
UNDAC	UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDP BCPR	Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (UNDP)
UN DSS	UN Department of Safety and Security
UNEP DTIE	Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (UNEP)
UNEP PCDMB	Post-Conflict & Disaster Management Branch (UNEP)
UN RC	UN Resident Coordinator
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP GC	Governing Council (UNEP)
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	UN International Children's Emergency Fund
UNITAR	UN Institute for Training and Research
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organisation
WMO	World Meteorological Organisation
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

Introduction

Humanitarian catastrophes, including natural disasters, complex emergencies and industrial accidents, can cause environmental emergencies that threaten human health and/or livelihoods. A vital part of effective humanitarian response is to ensure that these emergencies are promptly identified, prioritized and addressed.

The Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit (JEU) assists Member States in preparing for and responding to environmental emergencies by coordinating international efforts and mobilizing partners to aid affected countries requesting assistance.

By pairing the environmental expertise of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the humanitarian response network coordinated by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the JEU ensures an integrated approach in responding to environmental emergencies.

The JEU also cooperates with organisations dedicated to medium and long-term rehabilitation to ensure a seamless integration with recovery and development initiatives. Through networks such as the Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies (AGEE), an international forum that brings together environmental experts and disaster managers from around the world, the JEU supports preparedness activities, including capacity building and contingency planning.

The AGEE is in return a key source of guidance for the JEU. In 2007, a five year strategic vision, known as the Rosersberg Initiative, outlined three thematic areas that would guide the JEU's programme of work.

This document describes the activities in those thematic areas, as well as the environmental emergency responses undertaken by the JEU from May 2011 to April 2013.

1. Mobilisation and Coordination of International Assistance

One of the core functions of the JEU is to mobilise and coordinate urgent international assistance to countries affected by environmental emergencies when domestic capacity is exceeded or additional response resources and specialized expertise are required.

From 2011 to 2013, the JEU ensured timely and effective response to countries requesting international assistance for environmental emergencies. Depending on the nature and scale of the emergency, the potential environmental impacts, and national capacity, assistance was adjusted appropriately. In some cases, no international assistance was requested, and the JEU's activities were limited to hazard identification and monitoring. In others, the JEU facilitated rapid environmental assessments and/or ensured the deployment of specialized expertise.

These responses are outlined in the following pages. Full mission reports may be found on the Environmental Emergencies page of OCHA's website (www.unocha.org/unep).

Argentina: Volcano eruption (July 2011)

Following the eruption of the Puyehue-Cordón Caulle volcanic complex in Chile, and the deposit of volcanic materials to an area of around 74,000 km² in Argentina and Patagonia, the Ministry of the Interior of the Argentine Republic requested technical cooperation for the assessment of risks and



People from the town of Ingeniero Jacobacci during an ash storm, Argentina
Credit: Jean Friedrich Schneider

hazards to the population and the environment. Subsequently, in July 2011, a joint technical cooperation mission with Belgium under the leadership of the JEU was deployed to work with the Argentinian authorities. Four experts from Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland and France were deployed through the European Union's Civil Protection Mechanism. The mission concluded that the volcanic material deposited posed a serious burden on lives and livelihoods. The team recommended a full toxicological risk assessment of volcanic material and to establish a comprehensive monitoring system of air, water and soil.

Kenya: Fuel spill and fire (October 2011)

In September 2011, the Kenyan Ministry of Environment and Mineral Resources requested assistance for environmental emergency response services following the fuel pipeline explosion and fire in the Mukuru-Sinai slum of Nairobi, Kenya. The JEU subsequently compiled an expert team (in partnership with the private sector and the humanitarian French organisation Veolia Waste Force) to undertake a rapid environmental emergency assessment. The scope of the mission was to provide scientific information on the extent



Household landfill near Mukuru-Sinai slum
Nairobi, October 2011

Credit: Laurent Doveil, VPWF/OCHA

and nature of pollution and to assist the decision-making and priority-setting by the authorities and other actors for follow-up activities on the affected site. The main conclusion was that the fire was not caused by a pipeline explosion as initially reported by the media, but by an

industrial accident that caused a large amount of unleaded petrol to enter a storm water drainage system. A further conclusion was made that it is highly likely a similar type of accident could occur.

Ghana: Flash Flooding (November 2011)

The Rapid Disaster Waste Management Assessment took place from 1 to 11 November 2011 following an official request by the Ghanaian authorities to the United Nations Resident Coordinator, after flash flooding in October 2011. Through its network, the JEU mobilized a waste management expert from the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB). The flooding caused the discharge of massive amounts of waste during a short period of time in affected areas. It also caused hygienic pollution from sewage polluted water in the inundated areas. The mission concluded that



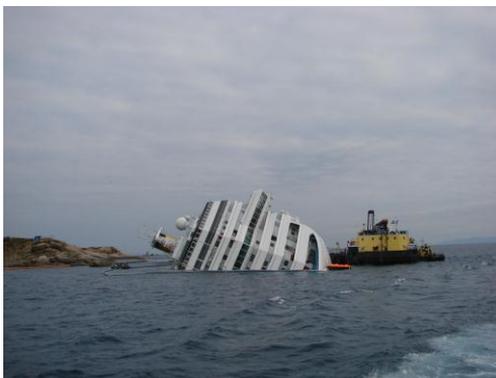
Storm water channel
Accra, Ghana, November 2011

Credit: Anna Nordlander, MSB Sweden

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) measures needed to be taken in order to reduce the flood risk and effects on waste management. With the support of the UN system, the Government of Ghana has developed a five-year National Plan of Action on DRR. The plan deals with both natural and man-made hazards.

Italy: EU Observer Mission to the Costa Concordia (January 2012)

Following the collision of the Concordia Costa Cruise ship against a surfacing reef that fatally damaged the keel of the ship, the Italian Civil Protection invited an EU mission to observe the rescue and marine pollution operations and to draft a report on the main findings in order to share lessons learned with Participating States of the EU Civil Protection



Costa Concordia,
Giglio Island, Italy, January 2012
Credit: Rene Nijenhuis/OCHA

Mechanism. The JEU joined a team composed of five experts, including the Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC) Liaison officer, three experts from Member States and one expert from the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA). The mission was organized in partnership with the Italian Civil Protection Department and ECHO-MIC (Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department of the European Commission).

The emergency resulted in a highly complex response effort with a very high success rate (in terms of people saved). Soon after the mission, operations shifted from remains recovery to the environmental emergency aspects, including the removal of 2,200 metric tons (2,200 million litres) of fuel, and a cocktail of other hazardous materials on board.

Congo, Brazzaville: Munitions depot explosion (March 2012)

In the aftermath of the devastating explosions at an ammunition storage site in Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo in March 2012, which reportedly killed more than 200 and injured 1,500 people, the JEU and OCHAs Field Coordination Support Services (FCSS)



Explosions at an ammunition storage site,
Brazzaville, Congo, March 2012
Credit: MAG International

deployed a United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team (United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS), Switzerland, France) and a Swiss expert -in response to a request by the UN Resident Coordinator (UN RC) and in coordination with the OCHA Regional Office for West & Central Africa. The UNDAC mission team undertook a rapid environmental assessment of industrial sites located within 500 meters of the exploded ammunition storage to determine if any installations had been damaged to an extent that would pose additional secondary risks to the population and the environment. This rapid environmental assessment did not point to any significant additional hazards. Sampling results received from the Swiss national Laboratory indicated that traces of lead, copper and mercury were detectable in soil samples from the impact zone. No significantly elevated amounts of heavy metals were measured in other samples¹. No immediate follow up was needed, and a more detailed assessment will be undertaken once the Unexploded Ordnance (UXOs) has been cleared.

¹ In the absence of national threshold values, Swiss chemical limits were used.

Philippines: Tropical Storm Bopha (December 2012)

As a response to the devastation caused by Typhoon Bopha/Pablo in December 2012, a UNDAC environmental expert from Denmark was deployed by the JEU to carry out a Rapid Needs Assessment in selected areas or cities.



Philippines, January 2013
Credit: Denis Bruhn

Following the recommendations and conclusions of this first assessment mission, a Senior Environment Expert (SEA) was deployed by MSB, on behalf of the JEU, to Mindanao in the Philippines. During her three weeks in the field, the SEA supported the clusters and the national government in their

recovery efforts, and worked to integrate environmental considerations into the Bopha/Pablo Action Plan for Recovery, which was launched in January 2013. The expert provided sound analysis of underlying environmental considerations and advocated for the support of sustainable agricultural livelihoods and reforestation as part of recovery efforts. In addition, the collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and local authorities on disaster waste and early recovery is being followed up with training of trainers on sound disaster waste management. Overall, the deployment clearly showed how recovery can be enriched through the application of an “environmental lens” - leading to wider collaboration and synergies across clusters.

Mozambique: Floods (March 2013)

The JEU deployed an Environmental Expert from MSB to Mozambique following a request to assess the environmental impact of heavy flooding in the country in March 2013.

The Environmental Expert was requested to take part in a multisectoral damage and needs assessment; ensuring that the environmental impacts of the flooding, in particular on water and sanitation services, were assessed.

The assessment evaluated the extent of damage to various socio-economic sectors caused by floods and identified immediate response needs, as well as short and medium term recovery needs of the affected communities. The Expert recommended appropriate means of restoring livelihoods and reducing vulnerability to future disasters. The process was led by the Government of Mozambique and was supported by the civil society organisations, UN Agencies, World Bank, Non Governmental Organisations (NGO) and the private sector. While no major secondary environmental risks were identified, the floods clearly exacerbated poor environmental practices.



Flooded area in Mandlakazi
Mozambique, March 2013
Credit: Kaisa Nugin / Konstanze Kampfer

Syria Crisis (on-going)

Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos, in consultation with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Principals, declared the Syria Crisis as a Level 3 (L3) Humanitarian System-Wide Emergency Response and activated the accompanying measures on 15 January 2013. As part of the L3 measures, OCHA ensured the availability of additional capacity, including technical expertise.

The JEU has been coordinating with partners, including UN DSS, the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) on the need to have technical expertise available in the field. Given the potential threats arising from working in a contaminated environment, a Technical Advisor was deployed by the JEU to the OCHA office in Amman, Jordan to support humanitarian agencies operational in Syria and/or neighbouring countries to take necessary and appropriate preparedness measures.

The Advisor's primary role is to coordinate preparedness measures and information. He provides expertise to the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator (RHC) as well as to the Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) in Syria and neighbouring countries on issues relating to operating in a potentially contaminated environment.

Under the overall guidance of the RHC, RC in Syria and OCHA Head of Office, with support of the JEU and of UNDSS, the Technical Advisor provides expertise on the following: risk assessment, training, technical advice on work in a contaminated environment and reporting.

2. The Rosersberg Initiative

Thematic Area 1: Awareness raising, engagement and capacity-building

Thematic Area 1 focused on promoting stakeholders' awareness of environmental emergencies, and on encouraging further engagement in preparedness and response activities through increased efforts in communication, advocacy activities and training. Political advocacy is also included in this thematic area.

ADVOCACY

9th meeting of the AGEE, Bern, Switzerland (May 2011)

The JEU organized the ninth meeting of the AGEE, hosted by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in Bern, Switzerland in May 2011.

Major outcomes of the meeting included:

1. Under the leadership of Ambassador Toni Frisch of the SDC, agreement to attract greater political attention to generate awareness of environmental emergencies at the highest possible level.



AGEE participants, Switzerland, May 2011

Credit: OCHA

2. AGEE participants strongly supported efforts to explore possibilities of a UN General Assembly on environmental emergencies, and/or a Ministerial Declaration at the Rio+20 Sustainable Development Conference.
3. There was strong call, and support, for the JEU to increase its preparedness and capacity development activities through its Environmental Emergencies Centre.

Green Star Awards II, Bern, Switzerland (May 2011)

The second edition of the Green Star Awards took place on 18 May at the 9th AGEE meeting.

The Award, a collaborative initiative among Green Cross International (GCI), OCHA, and UNEP, recognizes individuals, organisations, governments and private enterprises that have demonstrated leadership in preparing for, responding to, and reducing the environmental impacts of disasters and conflicts. They also draw attention to the need to improve international coordination for environmental emergency response.

The 2011 laureates were:



2011 Green Star Awards laureates
Switzerland, May 2011
Credit: OCHA/GCI

- Ms. Dionysia-Theodora Avgerinopoulou, Member of the Greek Parliament, for her work on reconstruction efforts following environmental emergencies;
- Dr. Mary Catherine Comerio, Professor of Architecture, University of California, Berkeley, for her work in the area of post-disaster reconstruction;
- Ms. Linda Norgrove (posthumous Award) for her outstanding leadership and commitment in responding to the severe environmental challenges facing Afghanistan;
- The Blacksmith Institute, for its dedication to solving pollution problems in low and middle income countries;
- TerraGraphics, for its promotion of environmental clean-up methodologies in developing regions;
- Artsen zonder Grenzen (Médecins Sans Frontières - Holland), for its ongoing contribution to environmental emergency response efforts.

Green Star Awards III (to be announced - September 2013)

The third biennial Green Star Awards call for nominations was launched in December 2012 during a press briefing, through social network, and with an email campaign.

Nominations were open until 15 March 2013.

The 2013 Green Star Awards ceremony will be held on 2 September in Geneva, Switzerland, during Green Cross International's 20th anniversary celebration (www.greenstarawards.net).



TRAININGS

Environmental Emergencies Training 4, Spiez, Switzerland (April 2012)

In April 2012, the JEU held the Fourth Environmental Emergency Training (EET) in Spiez, Switzerland for 23 environmental emergency responders. The training was co-hosted by SDC and MSB with private sector participation by Veolia Environment Foundation. The comprehensive EET training course focused on the synergies between UNDAC and



UNDAC EET training,
Spiez, Switzerland, April 2012
Credit: OCHA

Environmental Emergency deployment, Disaster Waste Management (DWM), and the Flash Environment Assessment Tool (FEAT). The EET consisted of classroom sessions taught by experts, and an all-day field simulation exercise where participants applied the tools learned during the first two days. The simulation was a good demonstration of what is faced by environmental emergency responders before, during and after their deployment.

UNDAC Induction Course, Lausanne, Switzerland (May 2012)

The JEU provided training on Environmental Emergencies at the UNDAC Induction Course in Lausanne in May 2012. The presentation included information on the types of environmental emergencies, the JEU, the scope and role of UNDAC experts, and the phases of emergency response.

UNDAC EET, Giglio, Italy (June 2012)

In June 2012, the JEU together with the Italian Civil Protection held the first Environmental Emergencies Training for UNDAC members. The training was hosted by the Italian Civil Protection Agency, on Giglio Island, Italy. Thirty participants attended the training, which focused on enhancing

UNDAC team member's skills and competencies in disaster waste management and rapid environmental assessment. The aim of this course was to update and familiarize active UNDAC members and Italian Civil Protection experts with the FEAT and the DWM Guidelines as part of an UNDAC deployment. In addition, participants learned on-site about the immediate response activities to the capsized Costa Concordia, including the environmental emergency response components.



A simulated gas leak during the EET,
Giglio, Italy, June 2012

Credit: Rene Nijenhuis/OCHA

UNDAC EET, Reykjavik, Iceland (February 2013)



Participants to UNDAC Training,
Iceland, February 2013

Credit: Bjorn Oddsson/ Iceland

A second UNDAC EET was hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iceland in February 2013. Over 20 UNDAC members were trained in undertaking rapid environmental emergency assessments and applying the disaster waste

management guidelines. The newly acquired knowledge and skills were tested in a full day outdoor simulation exercise. In addition, a dedicated field trip to the environmental impacts of ash, toxic gases and floods following the 2010 Eyjafjallajokull volcano eruption took place, giving the UNDAC team members first hand exposure to the emergency circumstances of operating following a volcano eruption. UNDAC participants came from Europe/Middle East/Africa and America's regions as well as OCHA South Sudan.

Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS) Beyond Response Pilot, Abuja, Nigeria (November 2012)

A pilot eLearning course of the Beyond Response: Better Preparedness for Environmental Emergencies Programme was organized in Nigeria, in November 2012. The purpose of the Beyond Response Programme (eLearning course plus 3-day workshop) is to help low- and middle-income countries improve their preparedness for environmental emergencies by teaching them how they can use tools and approaches that international emergency responders already use. A total of 16 national responders participated in the workshop. Upon completion of the Beyond Response workshop, participants graduated with enhanced knowledge on effective responses to environmental emergencies and an understanding of the tools and guidance available for assessing environmental risks, contingency planning, and preparedness at the local level.



Participants to ECOWAS Beyond Response Pilot Training,
Nigeria, 2012
Credit: OCHA

PPRD South/JEU, Beyond Response Workshop, Istanbul, Turkey (February 2013)

The training workshop Beyond Response: Better Preparedness for Environmental Emergencies was held by the JEU in collaboration with the Euromed Programme for Prevention, Preparedness and Response to Natural and Man-made Disasters (PPRD South), with additional support provided by the UNEP Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch (UNEP DTIE) and SDC.

For five days, 27 experts from the Civil Protection Authorities of 11 Mediterranean and Balkan countries reviewed environmental emergency preparedness tools and worked to develop priority measures to improve their national environmental emergency preparedness. The training consisted of an eLearning module, a three-day training workshop and a field visit. The workshop feedback was very positive. Participants were very engaged and expressed that they valued this training opportunity significantly.



Participants to Beyond Response Workshop
Istanbul, Turkey, 2013
Credit: OCHA

WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

Consultation on Natural Disasters and Flood Preparedness for Central Africa, Yaoundé, Cameroon (April 2011)

The JEU participated in the first Regional Consultation on Natural Disasters and Flood Preparedness with the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). The consultation was jointly organized by the Government of Cameroon, OCHA's Regional Office for West and Central Africa (ROWCA), and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) for Central Africa. All countries of the Central African region attended the regional consultation. Other UN entities (Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), WFP, UNDP, WHO, and Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI)) were also present. The consultation addressed the development of regional preparedness and response plans, given the high environmental emergency risks in the region. The JEU gave a presentation and provided advice on how to integrate preparedness and response to industrial accidents into their planning.

Toward Creative Reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake, Tokyo, Japan, (May 2011)

The JEU participated in the expert group meeting "Toward Creative Reconstruction from Great East Japan Earthquake" in Tokyo, Japan from 29-31 May. The objectives were: (1) to provide valuable advice to Japanese experts working for recovery and reconstruction, based on experiences gained from other large-scale disasters in the world, and; (2) to start the process of lessons learned from this disaster in Japan and to disseminate them for a more effective preparedness and disaster risk reduction across the world. This mission also included visits to the disaster affected areas in the Tohoku region of Japan.

Wilton Park Conference, Montreux, Switzerland (September 2011)

A Wilton Park Conference, "Environmental Emergencies: Strengthening the Multilateral Humanitarian and Environmental Response" was organised by SDC on 12-14 September in Montreux, Switzerland. The Conference was chaired by Ambassador Toni Frisch of the SDC. The JEU provided substantial logistical support for the event, which was attended by more than fifty high-level participants from Member States, the private sector, civil society organisations and the UN. In preparation for the upcoming UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD), participants were requested to provide strong input on environmental emergencies for inclusion in the outcome documents of the conference. Follow-up activities were established for a high-level event prior to the conference (see p23: Swiss High Level Working Luncheon in Belgium, May 2012) to strengthen prevention of and preparedness for environmental emergencies through raising awareness.



Participants to the Wilton Park Conference, Switzerland,
September 2011 - Credit: Wilton Park

Belgium/ECHO MIC Lessons learned: Argentina, Brussels, Belgium (September 2011)

On 15 September in Brussels, the JEU attended a meeting of lessons learned following the Technical Cooperation Mission to Argentina. The meeting was organized by ECHO/MIC in response to volcanic eruptions that had taken place in July (see page 3). The findings of the meeting will be incorporated in the future joint missions of the JEU with the EU-MIC.

Working Group on Chemical Accidents, Paris, France (October 2011)

On 5-6 October, the JEU participated in the OECD's annual meeting of experts on the management of chemical accidents in Paris. The JEU made a call for financial support to developing countries to participate in the workshop on Natech (Natural Hazards triggering Technological Accidents) Risk management, which resulted in a generous contribution from Norway Directorate for Civil Protection and Emergency Planning (DCPEP DSB) to the UNEP Trust Fund on Environmental Emergencies.

Workshop on Natech Risk Management, Dresden, Germany (May 2012)

The JEU was part of the steering group that organized the OECD Workshop on Natech Risk Management, 23-25 May in Dresden, Germany. Tasks included the organisation of the session on International Cooperation on Natech Risk Management. Almost 100 participants attended presentations from government, private sector and academics/research sectors. The JEU, with the financial support of Norway, arranged for the participation of Sri Lanka and the Philippines. The participation of non-OECD countries was warmly welcomed by the OECD secretariat and the participants. Recommendations included:

- UNEP's Flexible Framework for Chemical Accident Prevention and Preparedness can be a useful tool and framework for Natech risk management in non-OECD countries focusing on capacity-building opportunities for authorities and industry.
- The Hazard Identification Tool (HIT) and the FEAT are examples of good practice to respond to natechs in non-OECD

countries. The potential of these tools to assist countries' natech risk management should be further developed.

- Stronger coordination and exchange of information is needed. The OECD, as well as others (such as the AGEE), have an important role to play in this respect.

Working Group on Chemical Accidents Meeting, Paris, France (October 2012)

The JEU presented at the 22nd Meeting of the OECD Working Group on Chemical Accidents from 17-19 October in Paris. The objectives of this special session were to raise awareness of international activities on chemical accident prevention, preparedness and response, and to increase coordination, encourage and strengthen efficiencies and synergies. The JEU introduced the Environmental Emergencies Centre (EEC) and presented the training platforms “Beyond Response: better preparedness for environmental emergencies” and “Industrial Accidents: prevention, preparedness and response”.

UNITAR-WMO Symposium, Geneva, Switzerland (October 2011)

The JEU participated in the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)/World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) Symposium “Leveraging Satellite Applications for Global Challenges” that was held in Geneva on 11 and 12 October. Building upon the 2005 UNITAR/OCHA Symposium, which discussed the use of satellite applications in emergency response, this symposium sought to further leverage satellite applications in relation to natural hazards and human security. Lessons learned from case studies highlighted the gaps among satellite capabilities and user requirements.

8th PPRD South “Prevention and Preparedness” Workshop for staff-level officials, Cyprus (March 2012)



prevention,
preparedness,
response to
natural
and man-made
disasters

للوقاية
من الكوارث الطبيعية
والتأقبة عن التلأقبات البأشري
والأستعداد
والأستجابة لها

prévention,
préparation,
réponse
aux désastres
naturels et
humains

pprd
south
programme

The JEU was invited to join a team of disaster management experts in presenting and facilitating the 8th PPRD South workshop, “Emergency preparedness and disaster mitigation for critical facilities failure”. The purpose was to raise awareness of societal dependency upon critical facilities, and to improve knowledge of good practices and lessons learned. The JEU presented environmental emergency response frameworks highlighting practical considerations for international assistance and selected case studies. The JEU also presented information on strengthening national response, detailing the HIT, the FEAT, and the online and classroom opportunities available through the EEC.

UNECE Anniversary Seminar, Bonn, Germany, (November 2011)

The JEU participated in a United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) seminar on the 25th anniversary of the Sandoz accident in Schweizerhalle, Switzerland, which caused significant damage to the Rhine River. The seminar focused on existing deficits and challenges in the prevention of water pollution by chemical substances and possible ways forward.

UNEP APELL Forum, Beijing, China (November 2011)

The JEU supported UNEP’s global forum on Awareness and Preparedness for chemical and industrial accidents (APELL). UNEP’s Executive Director opened the meeting and expressed his appreciation for collaboration with OCHA in this field. Closer cooperation on better response and preparedness for industrial accidents was high on the agenda.



Swiss High-Level Working Luncheon on Critical Issues to Sustainable Development, Brussels, Belgium (May 2012)

On 21 May, the JEU participated in a High-Level Working Luncheon hosted by the Swiss Government in Brussels, Belgium, “Critical Issues to Sustainable Development: Disaster Risk Reduction



and Response for Natural and Environmental Emergencies.” The event focused on challenges due to the increasing frequency of natural disasters and the growing number of populations vulnerable to these disasters. The objective was to address vulnerabilities and increase local resilience to environmental emergencies through a briefing on the state of humanitarian and environmental preparedness efforts, exchange views on how to position environmental emergencies into the wider policy framework of disaster risk reduction and response in light of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20) and to envisage concrete steps forward for tackling challenges in natural disaster and environmental emergency prevention, preparedness and response.

Seventy participants attended, including EU permanent representatives from the European Commission and members of European Parliament, Foreign Representatives, NGOs and organisations, Brussels Regional Representation, and representatives from the Swiss Federal Administration. Panelists included the Deputy Director General, of the Swiss Federal Office of the Environment and the Director-General for ECHO.

Environmental Emergencies: Building Capacity and Raising Awareness for Sustainable Development – Rio + 20 Side-Event, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (June 2012)

The JEU worked closely with the Swiss Government throughout the first half of 2012 to develop a side event on Environmental Emergencies, held on 19 June at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20) in Brazil.

The event encouraged discussions on mechanisms for enhancing coordination in humanitarian and environmental emergency preparedness, methods of bolstering capacity of national and local governments in disaster-prone and highly urbanized areas, and the



High Level Meeting on Nuclear Safety and Security, New York, USA, 2012
Credit: Cheong Wa Dae

prevention of and preparedness for environmental emergencies as an integral issue to sustainable development. The event raised awareness for the need to increase capacity of local and national governments. With better preparedness and response capacity, the damage caused by catastrophic events can be reduced. Fewer lives are placed at risk, and food supply and livelihoods are protected, thereby enhancing environmental sustainability and bolstering natural resource management.

High Level Meeting on Nuclear Safety and Security, New York, USA (September 2012)

The JEU provided support to the High Level Event on Nuclear Safety and Security held on 22 September in New York. Organized by the Secretary-General as part of the UN General Assembly, this event followed the Fukushima Nuclear Emergency.

The event focused on strengthening nuclear safety and security, with the intent of building political support and momentum at the highest level. The need to strengthen international nuclear response and coordination, as well as emergency preparedness on all levels was recommended.

The JEU provided inputs to the “UN System-Wide Study On The Implications Of The Accident At The Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant“ presented by the Secretary General during this event.

In particular, the JEU contributed to the section on 'Adequacy of disaster preparedness measures' giving an overview of the implications of the disasters on health, environment and agriculture. This study describes how the UN and other international organisations responded to the Fukushima nuclear emergency. It examines issues such as cost-benefit aspects of nuclear energy and its linkages to climate change. The recommendations emphasise improved preparedness, risk management and safety standards.

FFI Expert Working Group on Prevention and Preparedness for Chemical Accidents, Paris, France (October 2012)



The JEU presented the EEC and the training platform “Industrial Accidents: prevention, preparedness and response” at the 8th Meeting of the Expert Working Group (EWG) on the Flexible Framework Initiative (FFI) for Addressing Chemical Accident Prevention and Preparedness from 15-16 October in Paris. This meeting brought together FFI experts and implementing partners from the UN, NGOs, and government representatives from around the world, including Tanzania, France, China, Egypt, Senegal and Cambodia. The purpose of the meeting was to update the EWG on the latest FFI developments, and to develop synergies with other partners on related initiatives. Together with UNEP and UNECE, the JEU showcased successful working partnerships in the sessions: “Development of Synergies with Related Initiatives” and “Development of an Expert Support Network related to the FFI”. There was significant interest by participants in the Industrial Accidents eLearning module, along with requests for its translation into multiple languages - primarily Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic and Mandarin - for wider use in the participants home countries.

UNHCR West Africa Environmental Management Learning Workshop, Accra, Ghana (October 2012)

The West Africa Environmental Management Learning Workshop held in Ghana on 10-12 October was organized by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Environment Foundation for Africa. The JEU was invited to present on environmental assessments and to co-facilitate the workshop. About 25 participants, mainly UNHCR environmental focal points from 13 African countries (West, Central and East Africa) as well as representatives from NGOs were attending. The workshop covered the institutional framework for environmental considerations in refugee and Internally Displaced Person (IDP) operations. Environmental best practices with focus on domestic energy solutions and environmental actions plans were also discussed. As a result of the workshop, it is recommended the JEU and UNHCR continue to collaborate and share experiences. The partnership should specifically investigate how to support the field in mobilising resources to implement priority activities.

MSF - Humanitarian Medicine and Extractive Industries workshop, Geneva, Switzerland (October 2012)

The JEU delivered a presentation in a workshop organized in Geneva by Doctors Without Borders (MSF) on the topic “Humanitarian medicine and extractive industries. The workshop brought together senior managers of MSF operations and members of other international organisations or NGOs. The JEU made a presentation on preparedness to environmental emergencies.



NSCE Conference on Environment and Disasters, Washington D.C., USA (January 2013)

The JEU participated in the Conference on Environment and Disasters organized by the U.S. National Council for Science and the Environment (NSCE) in Washington D.C. from 15-17 January. The NSCE is dedicated to improving the scientific basis for environmental decision-making. NCSE specializes in programs that foster collaboration between the diverse institutions and individuals creating and using environmental knowledge, including research, education, environmental, and business organisations as well as governmental bodies at all levels. The conference was attended by over 1000 participants, mainly from US academic and research fields but also international NGOs, consultancy firms and civil protection agencies.

The JEU moderated a panel on 'International roles in environmental emergencies'. This session explored the different roles that governments agencies, the UN, the private sector, NGO's and research communities play, and moreover, can and should be playing at the international level to reduce the impacts of environmental emergencies on communities. Panellists from the US Environment Protection Agency (EPA), UNEP, the AGEE, ICF International and from Urgence-Rehabilitation-Developpement (Groupe URD) debated on their current and potential roles as well as their mutual expectations. Using practical examples, panelists explored the interactions between the different actors, the need for coordination, and ultimately identified areas for improved collaboration.

The JEU also moderated a panel "Tools to Identify Vulnerability to Disasters" that explored the different tools that have been developed to identify and map environmental hazards and risks, as well as the mechanisms that support the information sharing of these hazards and risks. Panelists discussed how tools can be better used or strengthened in order to save lives and reduce environmental impacts of disasters. Panelists from the Swedish Defense Research Agency, the European Commission's Joint Research Centre, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and MSB debated the differences

between the tools at their disposal, using practical examples of their application globally. In addition, the JEU participated as a panelist in a workshop on the megatrends of urbanization and climate change and its impact on environmental emergencies.



Plenary Session 7: Building Resilient Communities, Washington DC, January 2013
Credit: NSCE

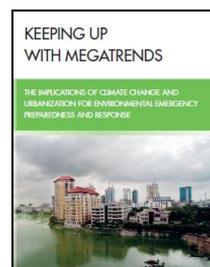
PUBLICATIONS

Keeping Up with Megatrends study (December 2012)

At its ninth meeting, the AGEE issued recommendations focusing on preparedness, national capacity and regional approaches. One recommendation was to investigate on the effects of two megatrends -urbanization and climate change- on environmental emergencies.

The Megatrends study is the result of these investigations and has been elaborated for OCHA and UNEP by the Environmental Law Institute. By exploring urbanization and climate change, the study highlights the major factors contributing to the increased vulnerability of countries and communities to environmental emergencies.

The study proposes practical solutions for enhancing the international response framework for environmental emergencies to assist vulnerable countries and communities in building resilience to future disasters and emergencies. The study was widely distributed to partners via hard copies and an e-version.



Thematic Area 2: Improving the International Governance System in Environmental Emergencies

Presentation of the DWM Guidelines at the IASC meeting, Geneva, Switzerland (June 2011)

The JEU and UNEP's Post Conflict and Disaster Management Branch (UNEP PCDMB) briefed on the need



to manage disaster waste as a consequence of natural disasters at the weekly Inter-Agency Standing Committee meeting. The presenters described how the guidelines can be used by humanitarian actors to mitigate negative impacts of disaster waste. It was proposed that the DWM Guidelines should be integrated into each organisation's operational response plans and become a part of their *modus operandi*. Examples from the mission to the disaster affected areas in the Tohoku region of Japan from 29-30 May were also presented.

IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety, Vienna, Austria (June 2011)

The JEU participated in the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety held in Vienna from 14-20 June. The overall objective of the Conference was to draw on the lessons learned from the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant in order to strengthen nuclear safety throughout the world. The Conference adopted a ministerial declaration which contains a number of relevant points, such as:



- The importance of ensuring adequate, prompt and continuous information sharing
- The need to improve national, regional and international emergency preparedness and response mechanisms to nuclear accidents, including the possible expansion of IAEA response and assistance capabilities.

The JEU provided the OCHA statement highlighting the need to strengthen the linkages between the nuclear response system, as developed under the auspices of the IAEA, and the overall humanitarian response system to natural disasters and other emergencies. OCHA also invited IAEA to engage the IASC to explore ways to better integrate the nuclear emergency response into the overall humanitarian response and preparedness system.

IACRNE meeting, Paris, France (December 2011)



IACRNE
Inter-Agency Committee on
Radiological and Nuclear Emergencies

As focal point for nuclear emergencies in OCHA and UNEP, **the JEU** participated in the

Inter-Agency Committee on Radiological and Nuclear Emergencies (IACRNE) on 8 and 9 December 2011, to discuss the lessons learned from emergency response to the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant accident. Input was provided regarding the need for improved interpretation of technical information that enables decision making by humanitarian actors, as well as improved messaging for public information.

Workshop on a Framework for Environmental Emergency Response and Preparedness, Geneva, Switzerland (May 2012)

The JEU co-organized the UNEP/OCHA two-day workshop held 30-31 May at the International Environment House in Geneva. The workshop, “Framework for Environmental Emergency Response and Preparedness”, sought to strengthen the international framework for environmental emergency response and preparedness, with particular reference to the recent UNEP Governing Council Decision (UNEP/GC.26/15), on Strengthening International Cooperation on the Environmental Aspects of Emergency Response and Preparedness.

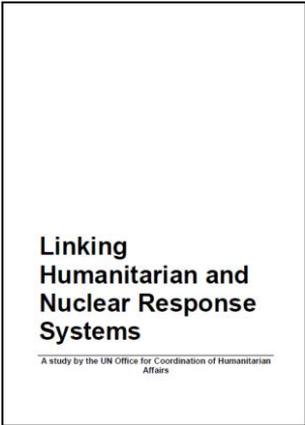
A select group of leading experts and organisations discussed the establishment of appropriate roles and responsibilities among international organisations involved in the response to environmental emergencies. Meeting outcomes included the decision not to develop a separate international platform, overarching centralized response mechanism, or joint-management plan framework. Instead, participants advised UNEP/OCHA that what was most needed to perform their work in a more coordinated manner was an information-sharing mechanism which allowed for a clear understanding of which organisations had a responding mandate in a different type of environmental emergency and/or geographical location.

Linking Humanitarian and Nuclear Response Systems study (February 2013)

At the request of the UN Secretary-General, the JEU undertook a study to strengthen the link between the international system of response to nuclear and radiological incidents and emergencies and the international humanitarian system. This study and its recommendations reflect a broader consensus amongst the members of the humanitarian and nuclear emergency response communities and acknowledges that many of the global level issues identified in the UN system-wide study on the implications of the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant have already been or are in the process of being addressed.

The study considers the human dimensions of nuclear emergencies, identifying areas of possible involvement for international actors as the dissemination of information for the communities, destigmatisation and the promotion of community-based approaches. In the last section, the study explores potential areas for capacity enhancement for humanitarian actors and nuclear emergency response organisations. The study includes recommendations to improve preparedness.

The study was presented by Rashid Khalikov, Director of OCHA Geneva, at the Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons (see below). The study was distributed through the IASC Working Group.



**Linking
Humanitarian and
Nuclear Response
Systems**

A study by the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

International Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, Oslo, Norway (March 2013)

The JEU attended the International Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, convened by the Norwegian Ministry for Foreign Affairs to begin a fact-based understanding of the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapon detonations and to facilitate an informed discussion of these effects. The Conference was attended by 127 states, representatives of the UN (FAO, IAEA, OCHA, UNEP, UNHCR, UN International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), WFP, WHO), ICRC and IFRC, independent experts and more than 150 civil society representatives under the umbrella of the International Coalition for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons. The JEU provided inputs to OCHA's opening statement. The study "Linking Humanitarian and Nuclear Response Systems" (see p31) was presented during the conference.



Working session III "Humanitarian preparedness and response",
Oslo, Norway, March 2013
Credit: Mari Nordmo, UD

UNEP GC Decision UNEP/GC.26/15 on Strengthening International Cooperation On The Environmental Aspects Of Emergency Response And Preparedness (February 2011)

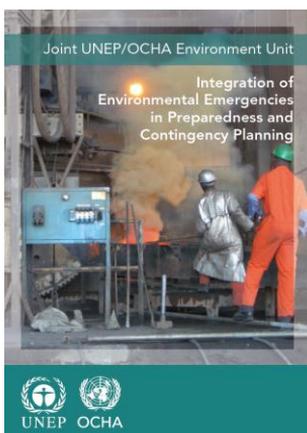
The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)'s Governing Council, during its 26th session in February 2011, adopted Decision UNEP/GC.26/15 on "Strengthening international cooperation on the environmental aspects of emergency response and preparedness". At the core of the Decision are two main requests for UNEP, in cooperation with OCHA, to:

- 1) Prepare a baseline document that describes the current roles, responsibilities and divisions of labour between international organisations involved in responding to environmental emergencies, identifying key gaps and opportunities;
- 2) Facilitate a process to ensure that key organisations involved in responding to environmental emergencies have a clear and mutually agreed understanding of their respective roles and responsibilities in various scenarios.

The Baseline Report responds to the Governing Council's request and is the culmination of a process that began in 2007 to take stock of the international experiences in environmental emergency response. As such, it builds on and incorporates the work of a number of organisations and authors. The Baseline Report provides an overview of the current situation and a foundation for future work to strengthen the UN response mechanism for the coordination and mobilisation of international assistance to countries facing environmental risks and disasters. The Baseline Report is currently being finalised.

As a follow-up to the UNEP GC Decision, the JEU organised the UNEP/OCHA Framework for Environmental Emergency Response and Preparedness workshop held in May 2012 (see p30).

Preparedness Study (April 2013)



In response to the growing need for improved preparedness for environmental emergency response, including contingency planning, participants at the ninth meeting of the Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies (AGEE) considered how to continue to improve the international framework for environmental emergency response and preparedness. To address this challenge, the AGEE, through the JEU, commissioned a Preparedness study to identify areas for improving linkages

between environmental emergency response, contingency planning and preparedness, and how to best integrate these within the overall disaster risk reduction agenda.

The study, finalised in April 2013, primarily highlights the need for better awareness of environmental emergencies to improve country-level emergency response and preparedness plans. There is a significant need for additional support and assistance to widen the scope of existing contingency plans for environmental emergencies, particularly with regards to establishing coordination mechanisms and strengthening capacity. The study provides a series of recommendations, the implementation of which would serve as the basis for the achievement of short-, mid- and long-term goals. Further, the report identifies key gaps at the national, regional and global levels, and provides suggestions of how organisations can support in bridging these gaps.

Thematic Area 3: Improving National and Regional Structures and Mechanisms

AGEE Steering Committee

Third meeting, Athens, Greece (December 2011)

The 3rd meeting of the Steering Committee on Environmental Emergencies (AGEE) was held in Greece in December 2011, hosted by Ms. Dionysia-Theodora Avgerinopoulou, Member of the Hellenic Parliament and Green Star Awardee. The Steering Committee considered a broad range of issues regarding strengthening response and preparedness for environmental emergencies, including the implementation of UNEP Governing Council Decision and the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20).

The Steering Committee recognised JEU's efforts in strengthening response and preparedness. Members of the Steering Committee agreed to actively seek adequate resources to implement its work plan.



Participants to the 3rd Steering Committee,
Athens, Greece, December 2011
Credit: OCHA

Fourth meeting , Geneva, Switzerland (November 2012)

A one-day meeting of the Steering Committee of the international AGEE was held in Geneva on 2 November 2012. Topics discussed included the presentation of the Environmental Emergency Center, a tool for preparedness, and renewal of priorities for the JEU, the AGEE and the Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee meeting discussed the progress made since the AGEE 2009, the Environmental Emergency Centre, mainstreaming environment into humanitarian action and early recovery, update on the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) regional work plan on Environmental Emergency and Global Fire Monitoring activities on Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR) among others.

The meeting supported the priorities of the JEU and the proposal for restructuring the Steering Committee and the AGEE, and reviewed progress since the last meeting.



Steering Committee in front of the UN Headquarters
Geneva, Switzerland
Credit: Dawit Yared/ OCHA

ASEAN Regional Workshop on Environmental Emergencies, Singapore (September 2012)

The ASEAN Regional Workshop on Environmental Emergencies, hosted by Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) was held in September 2012 with the support from the JEU.

The workshop brought together, for the first time, representatives of the ASEAN Senior Officials on Environment (ASEON) and the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Laos, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. OCHA sponsored the participation of 5 Regional Organisations: African Union (AU), *Centro de Coordinacion para la Prevencion de los Desastres Naturales en America Central* (CEPRENAC), League of Arab States (LAS), Organisation for Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Central Asia Regional Environment Centre (CAREC).

The outcomes include a two-year work plan to strengthen national and regional capacities in environmental emergency response; enhanced national level coordination between disaster management and environment authorities and a major role for the Environmental Emergency Centre. These outcomes will be an impetus for similar initiatives with other regional organisations and member states.



ASEAN Regional Workshop Participants, Singapore, September 2012
Credit: Singapore Civil Defense Academy

DWM Guidelines Revision and Translation into French (February/March 2013)

The DWM Guidelines, first published in January 2011, were revised and updated collaboratively by MSB and the JEU and a second edition was printed in February/March 2013. This revised version of the Guidelines was also translated into French.



Environmental Emergencies Center (www.eecentre.org)

The JEU and partners have developed the EEC, an online tool designed to strengthen the

capacity of national and international stakeholders to better prevent, prepare for and respond to environmental emergencies.

The EEC hosts tools, guidelines, mission reports and examples of good practice: many of which are available in multiple languages. The EEC hosts a series of self-taught online trainings and provides corresponding workshops.

Training platforms include:

- **Beyond Response: introduction to environmental emergencies**

Developed in partnership with the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB), in English, French and Arabic. It

provides an overview of and introduction to environmental emergency response, introducing tools for assessing environmental risks, contingency planning, and preparing for emergencies at the local level.



- Introduction to Industrial Accidents**
 Developed in partnership with UNEP and UNECE, and available in English, French and Russian, this programme aims to raise awareness about industrial accidents and to strengthen the capacity of government, industry and civil society to better prevent, prepare for and respond to industrial accidents.


- Introduction to the Flash Environmental Assessment Tool.**
 Developed by the JEU and available in English, translations to be undertaken in 2013. The aim of the training is to equip UNDAC members and environmental experts to identify and analyze acute hazard risks in the immediate aftermath of natural disasters.


- Disaster Waste Management: tools and guidelines.**
 Developed by the JEU, in consultation with a review panel including representatives from MSB, ISWA, Veolia, an Academic Institute, UNEP, Basel Convention and an NGO. The training is available in English, with translations planned for 2013. The objectives of the DWM eLearning course is to promote awareness and enhance knowledge to manage disaster waste.


- Mainstreaming Environment in Humanitarian Response.**
 Developed in consultation with WWF and Groupe URD. The objective of the eLearning module is to provide humanitarian actors with information on how to integrate environmental considerations into humanitarian action and early recovery.



3. Integrating Environment into Humanitarian Action

Since November 2011, the JEU's mandate has been expanded to work with UNEP to operationalize environment as a humanitarian cross-cutting issue. This new portfolio, "Integrating Environment into Humanitarian Action" was added following discussions between OCHA and UNEP management.

Environment, conflict and disasters interface in many complex ways. Proactively addressing environmental issues can slow or reverse trends that lead to deforestation, desertification, soil erosion and pollution, which impact significantly community resilience, biodiversity, food security and economic development.

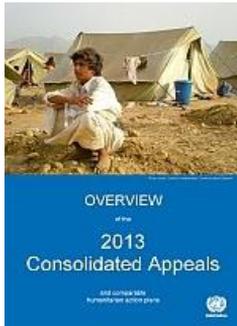
The JEU works on four priorities:

- improving existing humanitarian tools,
- conducting field assessments to support an evidence-based approach,
- building capacity of humanitarian actors,
- creating surge capacity.

From June to December 2012, a technical expert seconded from the Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI) through MSB worked for the JEU on these issues.

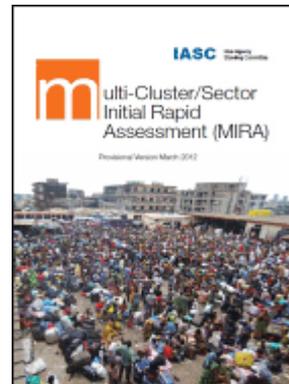
Improving existing humanitarian tools

Review of existing tools and documents (2011/2013)



Integrating environmental considerations into the humanitarian programme cycle: including planning, budgeting and financing, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation is key to principled and holistic humanitarian assistance. A wide number of tools exist to support the humanitarian community to coordinate and prioritise its activities.

In 2012/2013, the JEU conducted a systematic review of these tools, such as the Multi-Cluster Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) and the Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP). Through this review, the JEU integrated environmental provisions from the needs assessment and onwards, and identified opportunities to reduce environmental risks during humanitarian response.



Conduct field assessments to support an evidence-based approach

Environmental and Social Impact Assessment of Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement, Uganda (November/December 2012)

The JEU deployed (through the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation) two environmental experts to work with UNHCR and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in undertaking an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of the Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement in Uganda in November/December 2012.

The settlement, originally used for Rwandan refugees following the 1994 genocide, is now used to host refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo following the ongoing conflicts with the rebel group M23.

Initial findings include challenges between host and refugee population, risk of poaching in the adjacent National Katonga Game Reserve, the use of wood for fuel, cash (charcoal) and construction materials as well as uncertainty regarding ground water depletion. The ESIA is to be finalised in the second quarter of 2013.



Need for construction wood,
Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement, 2012
Credit: Urs Bloesch/SDC/OCHA

Joint JEU/ UNHCR Scoping Mission, Juba, South Sudan (November 2012)

The JEU participated in a joint mission to South Sudan with UNEP South Sudan, and UNHCR HQ (Headquarters) with the support of the OCHA Office in South Sudan. The objective of the mission was to collect and document experiences to formulate a strategy and framework for operationalization of environment as a cross-cutting issue. The mission team observed deforestation near the refugee camps and spoke with both host communities and the refugee groups.



Deforestation in Jammam, Maban Country, South Sudan, November 2012

Credit: UNEP/OCHA

Through the application of a landscape approach in managing land and natural resources, the mission concluded there is potential to resolve conflicts and improve harmony among the host communities and the refugee population, and also to reduce environmental degradation in the near future. The mission also concluded that humanitarian financing can be counterproductive to sustainable development (e.g. encourages temporary solutions and short term return on investment). Financing therefore needs to be more flexible and innovative. Human Security Trust Funds and potential sources of linked funding could be explored. Advocacy for more partners to engage in capacity building activities in areas of humanitarian interventions should also be performed.

Building Capacity of Humanitarian Actors

EEC Training module: “Environment in Humanitarian Action”



Women collecting firewood outside a refugee camp
in Upper Nile, South Sudan
Credit: Chado Tshering, UNEP South Sudan

Environment in Humanitarian Action is a module developed to better integrate environmental considerations into humanitarian action. Available in English, this 3-hour module aims to inform humanitarian actors how to integrate environmental considerations into humanitarian response and early recovery.

The eLearning course uses a series of case studies that allows the participant to apply the content directly into situations they usually encounter.

Creating Surge Capacity

Development of a dedicated environmental advisory surge capacity

Specialised expertise is often required to support Humanitarian Country Teams to identify pragmatic ways to integrate environmental issues in their activities.

Through the development of a dedicated environmental advisory surge capacity, environmental experts from stand-by partners can be deployed for up to six months to provide technical guidance on operationalizing environment as a cross-cutting issue.

In March 2013, the new profile of Environmental Field Advisor was added to the Stand-By Partnership Programme. Under the overall guidance of the Head of OCHA country/regional office and with the support from the JEU, Environmental Field Advisors will support in planning, developing and supporting implementation of activities aimed at minimizing the adverse impacts to the environment from the protracted crisis or escalating situation. The objective of deploying an Environmental Field Advisor will be to identify the environmental to lives, livelihoods and the environment - and to propose actions to address them. Having a dedicated advisor in country will ensure a cross-sectoral approach and go a long way towards ensuring links between humanitarian action and sustainable development.

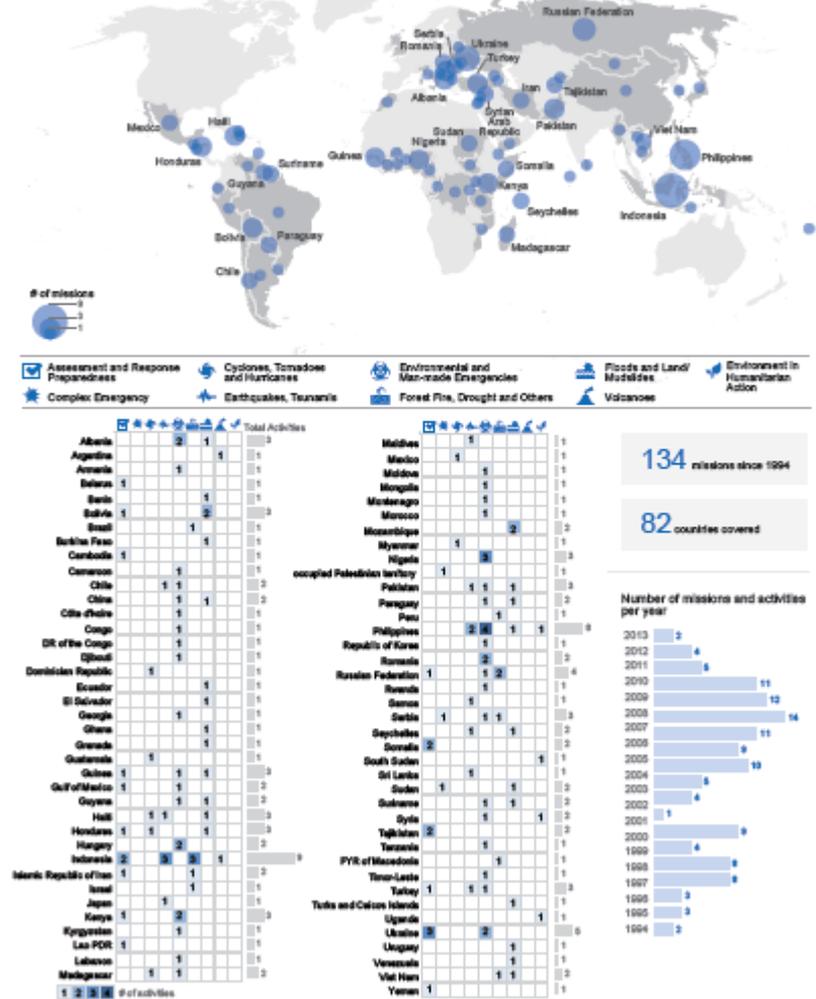
JEU's Activities Map

Environmental Emergency Response (as of 15 Mar 2013)

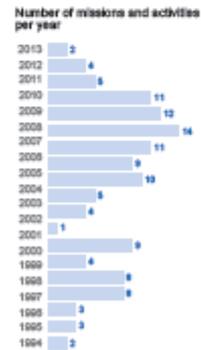


The Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit (JEU) is a collaborative arrangement between the United Nations Environment Programme and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. It responds to environmental emergencies by coordinating international efforts and mobilizing partners to support affected countries requesting assistance.

Missions since 1994



134 missions since 1994
82 countries covered



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
Creation date: 27 Mar 2013 Sources: UNEP, UNCG Feedback: ochaunep@un.org www.unocha.org/unep www.reliefweb.int

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www.unocha.org/unesp
www.eecentre.org



OCHA UNEP