



The overall objective of the programme, as written in the Medium Term Strategy and the Programme of Work, is that *“Countries increasingly prevent and reduce the environmental impacts of disasters and conflicts, while building resilience to future crises”*

In this presentation we’d like to discuss the overall rationale for our work on the environmental dimensions of natural disasters, industrial accidents and armed conflicts, and our vision for what we hope to achieve with the programme over the course of the Medium Term Strategy and to 2030.

We also would like to describe how the programme operates, we aim to give the Committee a sense of the sort of activities that keep our colleagues busy, and the results they have achieved in 2016. We want to be very open about some of the challenges we face in this work and look forward to your advice and guidance on how we can be more effective in future.



**environment**  
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**Rationale**



Environmental impact of natural disasters, industrial accidents and armed conflicts

Poor environmental management and environmental degradation amplify conflict and disaster risks

Better environmental management can reduce the risks

Natural resources and the environment can be a platform for peace, recovery and sustainable development

There are four main reasons why UN Environment has a dedicated results area to address the environmental dimensions of natural disasters, industrial accidents and armed conflicts.

### **1/. Impact of crises on the environment – direct, indirect and institutional**

> The first is that crises such as natural disasters, industrial accidents and armed conflicts can have extremely severe environmental impacts. These impacts can be direct, in terms of pollution (such as from Deep water Horizons), disaster waste (such as the 4 million tons of waste created by the April 2015 earthquake in Nepal), indirect in terms of the coping strategies people adopt in times of crisis (such as 95% deforestation in parts of Afghanistan as a partial result of decades of conflict) or institutional, if experts flee and institutions cease to function. These can combine to create concentrated environmental crises that exacerbate the human cost and complicate recovery.

### **2/. Natural resources and environmental degradation amplify conflicts and disasters**

> Environmental degradation such as deforestation makes landslides, avalanches and floods more likely to happen and more serious when they do. Poor environmental management in industrial or extractive sites can lead to serious pollution events. Resources such as diamonds, oil and timber can finance conflicts, buying weapons and altering the strategic objectives of combatants. Since 1990 at least 18 conflicts have been financed by the illegal exploitation of natural resources and over the past 70 or so years around 40% of civil wars have have a link to natural resources.

### **3/. Better environmental management can reduce the risks of industrial accidents, and the impact of natural disasters.**

> The converse is also true. Standing mangroves reduce the impact of storm surges and hurricanes. Better planning and chemical storage avoids dangerous spills, better tailings management in mines avoids the impact of tailings dams failures. Fair and transparent management of natural resources, with effective grievance mechanisms in place, can avoid tensions boiling over into violence.

### **4/. Natural resources and the environment can be a platform for peace, recovery and sustainable development**

> Countries coming out of crisis need to get their economies going again, often need to exploit their resources to do so, but need to do so in a sustainable way. Countries emerging from crisis need to urgently address toxic legacies to avoid compounding the human misery and begin a process of recovery and reconstruction.



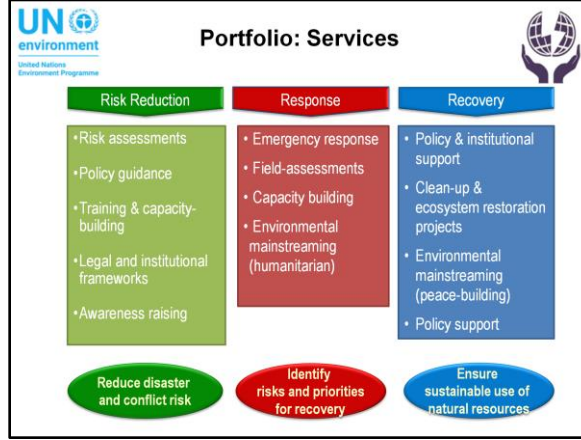
The ultimate aim by 2030 is to build the necessary resilience among communities vulnerable to natural disasters, industrial accidents and armed conflict in order to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular the goals on poverty, sustainable cities and communities, climate change, peaceful societies and partnerships.

The programme aligns closely with the SDGs –Goal 1 on poverty (in particular target 1.5 on building resilience to climate related extreme events), Goal 11 on sustainable cities and communities (in particular targets 11.5 on reducing the number of people killed and affected by natural disasters, and 11.c on resilient buildings), Goal 13 on climate change (target 13.1 on societies that are resilient to climate change), Goal 16 on Peaceful societies (in particular targets 16.1 on violence, 16.7 pm inclusive and representative decision making, and 16.a on national institutions).

The idea is that successive Medium Term Strategies build up over time to deliver more resilient societies that are able to respond to and bounce back from external shocks.

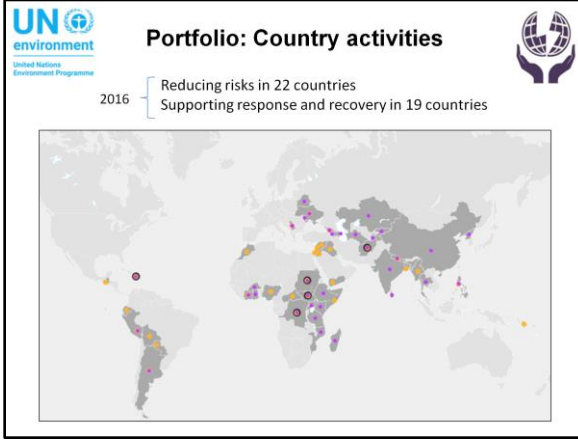
The overall vision of the work is three-fold. In essence we want to work with affected countries and international partners to ensure that:

- 1/. Countries use natural resource and environmental management to prevent and reduce the risks of disasters and conflicts.
- 2/. Countries and the international community respond to emergencies in a robust and environmentally sustainable way.
- 3/. Post-crisis countries have robust and effective environmental institutions and policies in place.



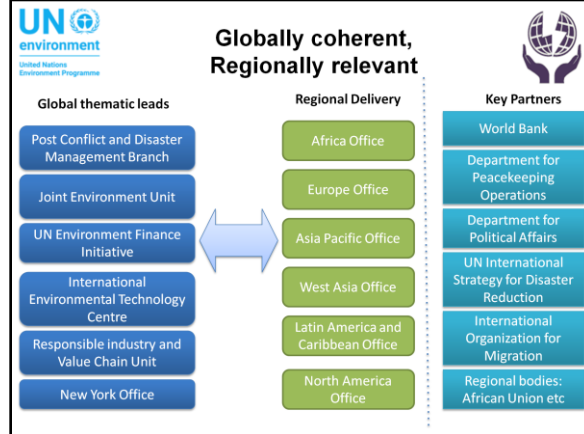
Our services in this area fall into three categories: Risk reduction, Response and Recovery. In the next Medium Term Strategy these will be set out as three distinct expected accomplishments – in this Medium Term Strategy response and recovery have been treated as a combined result/accomplishment.

Under each area we provide a range of services which are tailored to the specific request from the country or international partner. These services range from proactive interventions to build resilience and preparedness, through more reactive responses to environmental emergencies, to longer term but still time bound work on recovery from crisis.



The Disasters and Conflicts programme is active in areas vulnerable to, or recovering from, environmental emergencies across the world.

- In 2016 UN Environment supported risk reduction in 22 countries (Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Georgia, Haiti, India, Kazakhstan, Nepal, Peru, the Philippines, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand, Turkmenistan, Uganda and Ukraine).
- On this map (which shows all work from 2014-2016) risk reduction activities are shown with purple dots.
- In 2016 UN Environment supported response and recovery activities in 19 countries (Afghanistan, Bolivia, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Haiti, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Palestine, Paraguay, Peru, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Yemen).
- On this map response and recovery activities are shown with yellow dots and long-term recovery programmes are shown with black dots (please note that the Democratic Republic of Congo no longer hosts a country recovery programme, but is still shown here as the map collates work from 2014-2016).



The Disasters and Conflicts programme endeavours to be both globally coherent and regionally relevant by providing services that respond to national and regional needs, are aware of the specific context surrounding particular countries and events, but that still can draw lessons and expertise from experiences across the world.

There are thematic leads on particular issues that then work closely with regional offices to deliver locally appropriate services.

#### **Post Conflict and Disaster Management Branch**, based in Geneva

- Post Crisis Needs Assessment; Post Crisis Environmental Assessments; Environmental Cooperation for Peacebuilding; Natural resource management in situations of fragility (g7+ states); Threat financing (in collaboration with the Law Division and the work on environmental crime); Long term country recovery programmes (currently in Afghanistan, Haiti, South Sudan and Sudan)

**Joint Environment Unit**, is a joint unit shared with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, based in Geneva

- Emergency Response; Emergency Preparedness; Mainstreaming environmental issues within Humanitarian Affairs

#### **International Environmental Technology Centre**, based in Osaka

- Disaster Waste

#### **UNEP Finance Initiative**, based in Geneva

- Sustainable insurance initiative

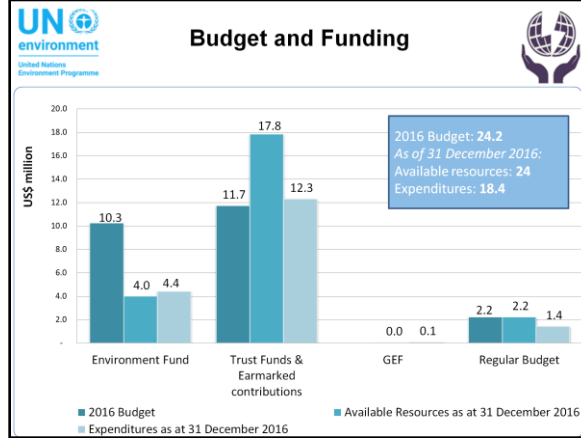
#### **Responsible industry and Value Chain Unit**, based in Paris

- Industrial and chemical accident prevention

#### **New York Office**

- On-going policy processes on disaster risk reduction and peace and security at UN headquarters

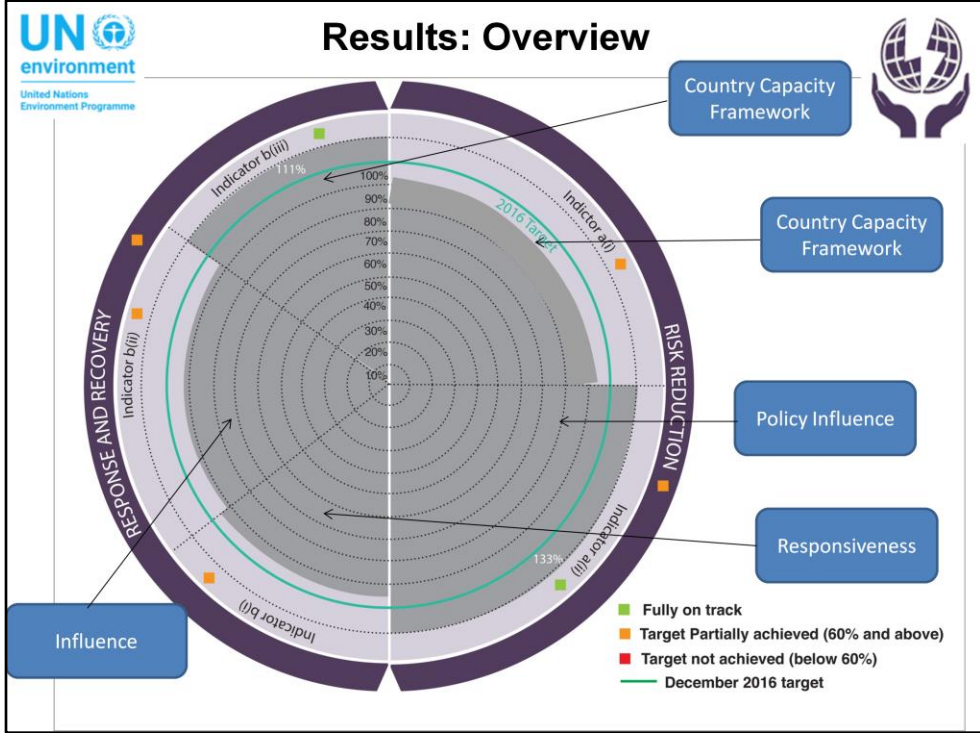
Collectively we work with a wide range of partners in the development, humanitarian, disaster risk reduction and security fields. Particularly important partners have been forged with the World Bank, the Department for Peacekeeping Operations and the Department for Field Support, the Department for Political Affairs, the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, the International Organization for Migration and a variety of regional bodies, in particular the African Union.



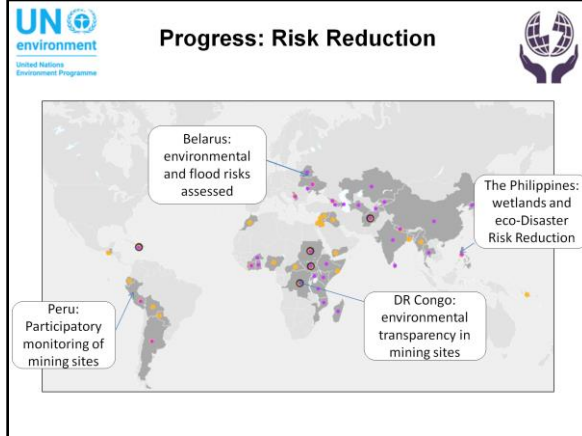
The programme is one of the smaller ones with a total annual budget of 24.2 million, available resources of just a little bit less than that and expenditures, as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016, of 18.4 million.

Historically the work has been very reliant on earmarked, extra budgetary funding, which can be a challenge given that the nature of the work is often very difficult to plan around – both unpredictable but also highly time sensitive.

In essence there is a ‘golden period’ in the aftermath of a crisis within which time interventions have the most value. After that initial period closes, whether it is one week or several months, early poor choices can be locked in and toxic legacies of crisis can be even harder to address.







The first of two expected accomplishments that we are working to is to ensure that better environmental management helps to reduce the risks of natural disasters, industrial accidents and armed conflicts. In 2016 we supported risk reduction in 22 countries on four continents.

This work involves building capacity for crisis preparedness, encouraging ecosystem approaches to Disaster Risk Reduction and influencing UN and other international partners to incorporate environmental approaches into their own work on risk reduction. This enables us to catalyze a wider and more profound impact than would be possible working alone.

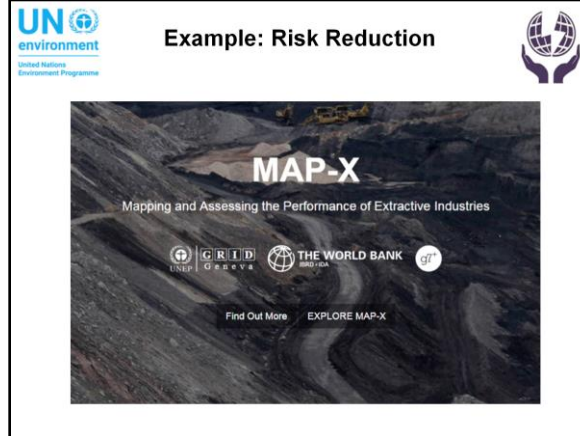
Some examples of this include:

**Belarus** - Environmental risks in the exclusion zone along the Ukrainian and Belarusian borders were identified; flood risks in the Yaselda river basin were assessed.

**The Philippines** - Support was provided for the government's first national workshop on linking wetlands and ecosystem based-Disaster Risk Reduction.

**Democratic Republic of Congo** – Environmental transparency in mining sites - training on spatial data, and capacity building for government and civil society

**Peru:** Participatory environmental monitoring of mining sites with regard to suspected mercury poisoning. Assessing current capacity and feasibility to provide support (with UNDP and the Canadian International Resources and Development Institute (CIRDI))



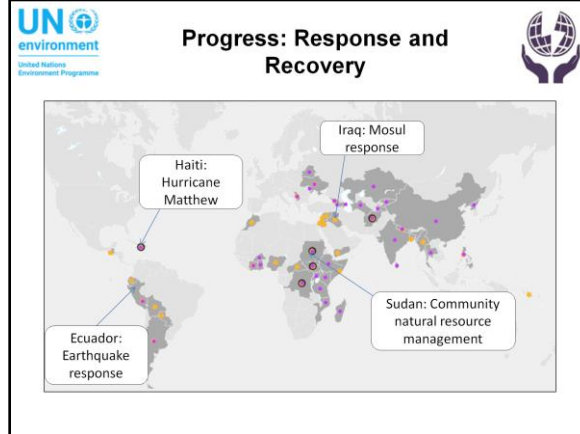
One of the metrics that we use to gauge the effectiveness in risk reduction is the extent to which we can influence other partners, in particular other United Nations entities, to integrate best practices in sustainable natural resource management into their policies, programmes and training courses. Our work on extractives in fragile states is an example of this work on risk reduction.

In partnership with the World Bank and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (primarily a government led entity) UN Environment has been developing a new mapping platform called Map-X (Mapping and Assessing the Performance of Extractive Industries) to improve environmental transparency in extractives management. In 2016 the new Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative policy on open data standards incorporated UN Environment's inputs drawn from its experience of working on extractive issues in fragile states.

At the request of the g7+ group of fragile states, UNEP and the World Bank have established a partnership to build an information management and stakeholder engagement platform for the extractives sector called MAP-X (Mapping and Assessing the Performance of Extractive Industries).

MAP-X aggregates and authenticates data on the socio-economic and environmental impacts of extractive projects at site, district or national level and publishes the geo-spatial data on an open platform. It provides stakeholders with impartial and authenticated data and an integrated perspective on existing baselines and expected development outcomes linked to the extractives sector. It can live stream or host information from government, companies, NGOs, academia and communities. MAP-X will run each data layer through a quality assurance process and score the data integrity on a standard framework. MAP-X will also provide users with the analysis and visualization tools that will help them to understand the data and monitor the sustainable development impact of the sector over time at the site level.

In addition to this information management side, MAP-X provides a stakeholder engagement process to support better dialogue, decision-making and performance monitoring. Extractive sector stakeholders themselves decide which data layers they want to include, what questions they want to ask, and what parameters they want to monitor. UN provides the platform and cloud architecture, but stakeholders govern and use it. MAP-X is being designed to build trust among stakeholders, reduce conflict and improve the contribution of the sector toward the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as compliance with the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI).



The second of two expected accomplishments is to help countries use natural resource management to support sustainable recovery from natural disasters, industrial accidents and conflicts. In 2016 UN Environment supported risk reduction in 19 countries on four continents (Afghanistan, Bolivia, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Haiti, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Palestine, Paraguay, Peru, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Yemen – those with a yellow dot on the slide).

Some examples of this work include:

**Ecuador** (Earthquake, April 2016) - providing technical advice through the Joint Environment Unit and the Latin America and Caribbean office on risks posed by industrial sites, waste water, impacts on protected areas and dealing with disaster waste.


**Haiti** (Hurricane Matthew, October 2016) – supporting the humanitarian response to Hurricane Matthew, particularly in the South Region, as part of the UN Disaster Assessment Coordination team.

**Iraq** (Mosul Dam and Sulphur fires) – Two separate missions to 1/. Assess the humanitarian implications of potential failure of Mosul Dam and 2/. Understand the environmental health implications of the Islamic state arson of oil wells and a sulphur factor around Mosul.


Our work involves responding to acute environmental emergencies as part of humanitarian response teams. One of the metrics for this work is the extent to which we can respond to formal requests for assistance in the event of environmental emergencies. In 2016 we were able to respond to all such requests.

It also includes conducting post-crisis assessments to assess more comprehensively the environmental damage and recovery needs, and providing guidance to those involved in recovery. Another important metric for the success of the programme is analysing the extent to which assessments generate concrete results in terms of changes to recovery and reconstruction programmes by the national government or UN partners.

This brings the number of post-crisis or rapid environmental assessments to 39 since 2011. These missions provide important opportunities to address both immediate and long-term environmental challenges. **In 77 per cent of the post-crisis or environmental emergency assessments between January 2011 and December 2015 where UN Environment identified serious risks, national governments or the UN took remedial action to mitigate those risks.**



### Example: Response and Recovery



4 October 2016 - Hurricane Matthew hits southern coast of Haiti



Only UN team based in the hardest hit southern part of Haiti

Team helped evacuation before hurricane and response after

UN Environment part of post-disaster assessment teams and supported humanitarian response

Deployed expert to advise on contaminated water

Revised workplan to support focus on recovery

Hurricane Matthew, which hit Haiti on the morning of 4<sup>th</sup> October 2016, was the strongest storm to hit the country in 60 years, a category 4 hurricane with torrential rains and sustained winds of 230 kph. The storm wreaked havoc across the Caribbean but hit Haiti particularly hard. It killed 500 people, causing nearly \$2 billion in damage and destroying more than 90% of the homes along the country's southern coast.

Since 2011, UN Environment's main Haiti office has been located in Port Salut, in the area directly affected by Hurricane Matthew. In the days leading up to the hurricane, our staff in Haiti assisted the Government the South, notably with the evacuation of people living in vulnerable zones near to the coast or small islands along the southern coast.

Prior to the hurricane, we had worked with fishermen on an emergency preparation protocol for disasters, during which they learnt how to act in the face of natural disasters. As hurricane Matthew approached, these fishermen helped each other move their boats and equipment to shelter, in accordance with the protocol. The eco-DRR early warning work with the fishermen before Matthew not only saved boats, which means the fishermen are now some of the few still able to fish and feed their families and communities, but also reinforced UN Environment's relationship with them, which is a cornerstone on which successful implementation of the Port Salut marine protected area management plan depends in the future, as the fishermen are key stakeholders.

At the request of the UN Resident Coordinator in Haiti, UN Environment joined the UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination Team (UNDAC) team in order to guide the multi-sectoral rapid assessments on the ground thanks to its intimate knowledge of the region. As part of this team, we helped the coordination of different rapid assessments taking place in the region by sharing information with different partners, including UNDAC [spell out], Red Cross, the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development, the National Centre for Geospatial information, the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development, as well as local partners.

UN Environment helped to connect international aid support to local partners, enabling the distribution of food, shelters and hygiene kits. Our staff also helped to address some of the drivers of humanitarian needs, deploying an environmental expert through the Joint Environment Unit to advise on issues around contaminated water in the aftermath of the hurricane. With the International Labour Organization, we promoted 'green recovery' through cash-for-work schemes such as the clean up of beaches.

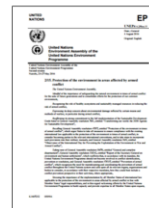
We then supported the Ministry of Environment and partners to undertake a Post Disaster Needs Assessment. This rapid assessment covered the direct environmental damage resulting from the Hurricane using aerial observations, field observations, and reports from technical experts. A further, more comprehensive, environmental assessment is currently underway using a combination of remote sensing and ground-truthing to assess damage.

**UNEA 2-15 Protection of the environment  
in areas affected by armed conflict**

Requests the Executive Director to:

 # 7. ...**continue providing enhanced assistance to countries affected by armed conflict and countries in post-conflict situations**[ ...];

 # 8. ...**continue providing enhanced assistance to countries within whose territory natural World Heritage Sites affected by armed conflict are located**, [...];

 # 9. ...**continue interaction with the International Law Commission**, [...];


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UNEA 2 passed one resolution that is particularly relevant for the work of the Disasters and Conflicts programme. Resolution 15 concerns the protection of the environment in times of armed conflict.

It contains a variety of provisions related to Member states:

# 4 Calls on all Member States **to implement applicable international law related to the protection of the environment in situations of armed conflict**, including in their domestic legislation as appropriate and in line with international obligations which they have signed on to, and to consider expressing consent to be bound by relevant international agreements to which they are not yet parties;

# 5. Invites Member States **to consider reflecting the Guidelines** for Military Manuals and Instructions on the Protection of the Environment in Times of Armed Conflict of the International Committee of the Red Cross;

# 6. Also invites all Member States to cooperate closely on preventing, minimizing and mitigating the negative impacts of armed conflicts on the environment;

And also for UN Environment:

# 7. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in partnership with Governments, scientific institutions, United Nations agencies, civil society and other relevant stakeholders, within available resources and in conformity with the mandate of the Programme, **to continue providing enhanced assistance to countries affected by armed conflict and countries in post-conflict situations**, including those affected by the unintended collateral impacts of related human displacement, at their request, for post-crisis environmental assessment and recovery;

8/. Also requests the Executive Director, in partnership with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Governments and relevant stakeholders, within available resources and in conformity with the mandate of the Programme, **to continue providing enhanced assistance to countries within whose territory natural World Heritage Sites affected by armed conflict are located, including those affected by the environmental impacts of the illegal exploitation of natural resources**, at those States' request;

9/. Requests the Executive Director **to continue interaction with the International Law Commission**, inter alia by providing relevant information to the Commission at its request in support of its work pertaining to the protection of the environment in relation to armed conflict;



Status: **On track**

**International Law Commission**

- Supported the Special Rapporteur – 3 x reports

**UN Education Scientific and Cultural Organisation**

- Participated in UNESCO consultations on the role of the United Nations in the promotion of peace: past, present and future perspectives" (to be published).
- The proposed ILC draft principles on protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts features two draft principles on the importance of protecting "areas of major environmental and cultural importance".

**On-going work**

- To address the environmental consequences of conflict and provide assistance to countries affected by armed conflict and human displacement (see next case study)

The resolution on "**Protection of the environment in areas affected by armed conflict**" (2/15) is an important sign of member state commitment to the issue. Of the SDGs, none specifically covers the need to better protect the environment before, during or after armed conflict. However, insecurity, and armed conflict and its aftermath, are key factors that influence the delivery of sustainable development targets.

UN Environment is encouraged to work with a range of stakeholders, including civil society, to continue providing enhanced assistance to countries affected by conflict, and in the post-conflict phase through post-crisis assessment and recovery. We are also called on to provide assistance to countries hosting United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Natural World Heritage Sites; and to continue to interact with the International Law Commission by, among other things, providing relevant information to the Commission at its request in support of its work pertaining to the protection of the environment in relation to armed conflict.

**Overall Assessment:** on track

**Update on progress**

- Supported the Special Rapporteur on the Protection of the Environment in the preparation and presentation of her third report, presented to the Commission in July 2016 (available here: <http://legal.un.org/docs/?symbol=A/CN.4/700>).
- Partnering with Environmental Law Institute, Columbia University and the University of California Irvine, and others to develop a Massive Open Online Course on environmental peace-building.
- Participated in UNESCO consultations over summer and fall 2016 and provided input on "Role of the United Nations in the promotion of peace: past, present and future perspectives" (to be published).
- On World Heritage Sites and the impacts of conflict specifically, the proposed International Law Commission draft principles on protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts features two draft principles on the importance of protecting "areas of major environmental and cultural importance"
- On-going work to address the environmental causes and consequences of conflict and providing assistance to countries affected by armed conflict and the unintended collateral impact of human displacement.
- Links to work on environmental crime.



Ongoing conflicts in Syria and Iraq have caused a devastating humanitarian and security crisis with a range of environmental impacts that threaten to compound the human misery and leave toxic legacies in both countries that may complicate eventual recovery.

In the case of the battle for Mosul, the link between conflict and the environment is relatively straightforward — Islamic State fighters are using environmental wreckage as part of their military strategy, through the torching of oilfields and the Mishraq sulphur factory.

As Erik Solheim said in an October 2016 press release, “This is sadly just the latest episode in what has been the wholesale destruction of Iraq’s environment over several decades – from the draining of the marshlands to the contamination of land and the collapse of environmental management systems.”

“This ongoing ecocide is a recipe for a prolonged disaster,” he continued. “It makes living conditions dangerous and miserable, if not impossible. It will push countless people to join the unprecedented global refugee population. That’s why the environment needs to be placed at the centre of crisis response, conflict prevention and conflict resolution.”

The refugee crisis triggered by the conflicts has also put increasing pressure on surrounding countries, in particular Jordan, Turkey, and Lebanon which are hosting 2.7 million, 2.5 million and 1.6 million refugees respectively (quoting Amnesty International - <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/10/ten-countries-host-world-refugees-report-161004042014076.htm>). This makes them the first, second and fourth countries in the list of those hosting the most number of refugees and put a significant burden on these countries, both in economic terms but also in terms of their ecosystems.

Meanwhile, a lack of maintenance as a result of the instability has raised fears about the integrity of the Mosul dam and the potential consequences of a breach in the dam on the population living downstream in Mosul city.



**UN environment**  
United Nations  
Environment Programme

**Case study: Protecting the environment in times of armed conflict in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq (cont.)**



- Assessments 1/. Mosul Dam, 2/. Environmental health impacts of Mosul oil and sulphur fires
- Environmental Field Advisers deployed in Jordan (6 months) and Iraq (6 weeks) to work with humanitarian agencies on environmental priorities .
- Facilitating donation of 100,000 usd of solar lighting to Rihaniya camp in Lebanon
- Formal request for a Post Conflict Environmental Assessment in areas liberated from Islamic State.
- New regional humanitarian affairs officer expected in West Asia office in March

Potential Future of the Mosul Dam







Although the challenges in the region are both numerous and daunting UN Environment has been trying to address some of them, in line with the UNEA-2 resolution and its work.

In collaboration with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, we have conducted two assessment missions: one in April 2016 to assess the Mosul Dam and the potential humanitarian response to any failure of the dam, and another in October 2016 to assess the environmental health implications of the oil and sulphur fires.

In collaboration with the respective UN Country Teams, UN Environment has been supporting and advising the development of the Jordan Response Plan and the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan to ensure that environmental issues are properly addressed. The Jordan Response Plan is the first nationally-led response of its kind, joining refugee and development responses in one comprehensive national plan (<http://www.jrpsc.org/>). The Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) is a joint Government of Lebanon, United Nations and NGO plan to ensure that the humanitarian response to the Syria crisis benefits Lebanon and helps to stabilize the country.

We also worked with a private sector company, the Al Sayer group (Kuwait), to provide 100,000usd worth of solar lighting equipment to benefit up to 1,100 people in the Rihaniya camp in Lebanon.

In addition, we deployed Environmental Field Advisers in both Jordan and Iraq for 6 months (November 2016-April 2017) and 6 weeks January-February 2017) respectively to work with humanitarian agencies on environmental priorities and to build the capacity of government on environmental issues as they relate to the humanitarian response.

In January 2017 we received a formal request from the Government of Iraq to conduct a post conflict environmental assessment of areas of the country liberated from the Islamic State group. Discussions on how best to conduct such an exercise are on-going.

Finally the new Regional Humanitarian Affairs Officer will arrive in Bahrain in March or April and we look forward to being able to increase our work in the region as a result.



- Staff safety and security
- Interventions are reactive and unpredictable
- Political and security challenges impede activities
- Reliance on extra-budgetary funding constrains flexibility
- Recruitment and retention of key staff
- Impact assessment hindered by lack of data and reporting tools



The nature of this work carries with it many challenges:

### **1/. Staff safety and security**

One of the main challenges for UN Environment is staff safety and security given that we have teams working in extremely difficult conditions.

### **2/. Interventions are inherently reactive**

Means that our work can be very hard to plan, staff or resource though we can deploy staff very fast through our joint environment unit with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

### **3/. Political and security challenges impede daily activities**

Increasing political and security challenges sometimes impede daily activities, interfering with staff movements, site visits and contacts with local stakeholders

### **4/. Reliance on extra-budgetary funding constrains flexibility**

Hard to fund and manage emergency responses given that reactive responses are essentially impossible to plan around.

### **5/. Recruitment and retention of key staff**

Lack of approved regular budget posts and delays in recruitment have hindered the build up of our capacity in some regional offices

### **6/. Impact assessment and target achievement hindered by lack of data and reporting tools**

It can be very difficult to prove the effectiveness of prevention, where nothing happens if success has been achieved. Additional resources should be allocated to data collection and indicator-based measurements to assess progress and impact.

- Demand for assistance
- Growing delivery
- Sendai framework
- Migration and displacement
- New partnerships
- Sustaining peace



Despite the challenges there are many opportunities for us to expand our work and impact

#### Demand for assistance

- There's a growing demand for UN Environment's work – request from Iraqi government for a post conflict environment assessment and a request from the Colombian President for assistance to the country.

#### Growing delivery of the programme across UN Environment

- One of the main opportunities is for the programme is to include more branches and units from across UN Environment to expand the capacity and expertise that we can deploy in situations of emergency. This enables us to be both more holistic and nimble in our provision of services to member states.

#### The Sendai Framework

- The 2015 framework and its roll-out enables us to talk about multi-hazard disasters, situate our work with other partners and align our reporting in line with the Sendai reporting structure.

Focus on migration and displacement provides an opportunity to make a case for better environmental management in vulnerable countries

- UN Environment has joined the Global Migration Group – very actively contributing to Global Compact on Safe Orderly and Regular Migration as well as the Partnership for Disaster Displacement
- The current focus on forced migration provides a way of framing a discussion about the importance of environmental resilience.

#### New partnerships

- We have developed some significant new partnerships, working with, inter alia, the World Bank on extractives transparency, with the Department for Peacekeeping Operations on greening peacekeeping operations

#### Focus on sustaining peace

- The renewed focus in UN New York on the importance of peacebuilding and sustaining peace, including environmental issues, provides a platform to integrate these issues in discussions at a high policy level.

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