



UNEP/OCHA Interoperability Workshop for Environmental Emergency Response Providers

*28-29 November, 2016
Geneva, Switzerland*

Workshop Report



UN Environment / OCHA Joint Unit
Prepare. Respond. Protect.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Interoperability Workshop for Environmental Emergency Response Providers was held on 28-29 November 2017 in Geneva, Switzerland. The workshop was organized by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Joint Environment Unit (JEU). At the workshop, representatives of the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States, UNEP and OCHA, came together to analyse the outcomes of JEU preparedness and response missions conducted over the past 22 years, and to identify ways to streamline and improve environmental emergency readiness and response. The following areas of work were discussed: a) sequencing of tools and expertise; b) leveraging additional actors; c) engaging local actors in response; d) administrative rules for deployment and e) strengthening preparedness.

The **key recommendations** stemming from the workshop are for organizations engaged in the area of environmental emergency preparedness and response to:

- 1) Facilitate integration of environmental considerations at the earliest stage of humanitarian response.
 - a. Environmental experts should be deployed as an integral part of any United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team, if possible drawing on UNDAC roster members with a specific environmental skillset to fulfil this role.
 - b. The role of the (associate) environmental expert in an UNDAC team is crucial, where he/she is expected to contribute with specific technical expertise but otherwise follow the overall UNDAC team reporting lines and mechanisms, regardless of deploying organization.
 - c. When specific environmental concerns are identified, especially during initial surge missions, the UNDAC Team Leader and/or UNDAC Environmental Expert should recommend deployment of an appropriate Environmental Field Advisor and/or technical expertise for necessary follow-up.
- 2) Enhance advocacy and awareness-raising efforts of available technical support.
 - a. Stand-By Partners urged OCHA country and regional offices to make more frequent use of Environmental Field Advisors (EFA) through OCHA's Stand-by Partnership Programme, highlighting that appropriate natural resource management, disaster waste and chemical threat experts have been identified, trained on humanitarian operations and now constitute a large roster ready to be deployed in support of operations. Opportunities for shorter back-to-back deployments (like the Iraq EFA) should be explored.
 - b. The outcomes and recommendations of environmental missions should be clearly communicated to relevant stakeholders, and even media when appropriate. To this end, Environmental Experts and Environmental Field Advisors should include an easy-to-read executive summary in the earliest stages of their reporting, which can be used for outreach purposes.
- 3) Increase involvement of regional, national and local actors in preparedness and/or response missions, in an effort to improve mission quality, build capacity, and ensure uptake of mission recommendations (which often will depend on the strong engagement of local actors).

- a. National/local authority focal points are to be identified and involved in missions and follow-up processes.
 - b. Undertake measures to facilitate involvement of local actors in missions, such as development of contact lists, obtaining information on local networks and services, and engaging non-governmental organizations and academia.
 - c. The opportunity for regional and south-south collaboration on deployments should be explored.
 - d. Increase efforts to identify and strengthen regional environmental emergencies expertise.
- 4) Enhance knowledge- and information-sharing in order to a) avoid duplication and loss of crucial information and b) strengthen interoperability between existing preparedness and response mechanisms.
- a. JEU and response partners to sustain strong collaboration on trainings and exercises, including on training methodologies.
 - b. Experiences and knowledge should be shared through existing knowledge hubs, including humanitarianresponse.info and the Environmental Emergencies Centre (www.eecentre.org).
 - c. The network of Environmental Experts and Environmental Field Advisors can be strengthened through the development of an informal community of practice. Such a community can be fostered e.g. through the organization of webinars for experts.
 - d. Environmental Experts and Environmental Field Advisors should receive a pre-deployment information package.
 - e. JEU and response partners to explore additional opportunities for backstopping support.

Next steps based on the immediate needs identified during the workshop:

As a follow-up to the workshop, the JEU will update its Standard Operating Procedures on response, develop guidance for partners on the functioning and sequencing of the alert process, compile information packages for experts, increase its efforts to identify regional environmental emergencies expertise and organize webinars for experts to exchange information on past missions. The complete list of recommendations and action points are given in the detailed meeting notes below.

The outcomes of the workshop will feed into discussions at the upcoming Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week (HNPW) in February 2017, the joint UNEP/OCHA/UNHCR/USAID project on coordinated environmental / humanitarian assessments, as well as the Environment and Emergencies Forum (EEF).

DETAILED MEETING NOTES

Welcome

Jesper Lund, acting Director of the OCHA Emergency Services Branch, welcomed the participants to the workshop, stressing the links between environment and disasters and underlining the need to find new innovative ways to operate in an environment of resource constraints. He pointed out how the outcomes of this workshop will feed into the work of the Consultative Group on Emergency Preparedness and Response and of the associated Focus Task Force on Environment in Response.

Emilia Wahlstrom of JEU presented the workshop agenda (Annex 1), after which participants introduced themselves (Annex 2) and their expected outcomes and objectives for the meeting. One of the objectives participants expressed was to see how requests could be better matched with what partners can offer as this would enable a more targeted deployment.

Introduction: 22 Years of Response to Environmental Emergencies

Emilia Wahlstrom, JEU, shared the history of the Joint Unit, presenting statistics of response and preparedness missions conducted over the past ten years (types of emergencies, type of expertise provided, mechanisms used, geographical distribution and success factors). The presentation also outlined the range of informal and formal partnerships the JEU has established at global, regional and national level. Participants asked about the outlook for the JEU's support given current financial constraints, where Emilia noted that assistance can still be provided as JEU acts as a broker of assistance, and does not necessarily itself deploy to all missions. JEU has also collaborated in trainings on Environmental Emergencies response, or EET, with a number of stand-by partners that holds rosters of environmental expertise and could be deployed as associate experts to rapid response teams. Indeed, over the past ten years, for each JEU staff member deployed, another ten experts have been deployed through response partners' organizations. Through its network model, JEU acts as broker of assistance enabling provision of expertise from a much wider audience than that of the humanitarian community alone.

Session one – Emergency response mechanisms and expertise – past and future

Christophe Schmachtel, OCHA Field Coordination Support Section, presented the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) mechanism. UNDAC is a rapid response mechanism managed by OCHA under the umbrella of the UN System. In addition to response missions taking place for 2-4 weeks in the immediate aftermath of an emergency, UNDAC can support preparedness missions. The UNDAC system relies on four main pillars: staff, comprising 250 experienced emergency managers; deployment within 12-48 hours; equipment, whereby teams are self-sufficient; the methodology, focusing on coordination, assessment and information management – as outlined in the UNDAC Handbook. The UNDAC approach has shown how important it is to have a government-to-government approach for more locally based and efficient disaster response. The UNDAC system endeavours to always include an environmental expert on the team, and alerts to the environmental emergency focal points are sent automatically whenever the UNDAC system is alerted. However, the inclusion of an environmental expert is often a challenge due to team size limits (4-5 experts). Ideally an environmental expert would also be able to fulfil other functions within the team, as need arises. JEU and MSB added that there currently are around 10 experts on the UNDAC roster who could act as

both generalist and environmental expert. Every environmental expert participating in UNDAC missions should be trained on the humanitarian system as s/he might otherwise become a burden to the team. This is part of the curriculum for the EET that has been carried four times between 2007 and 2012 targeting four stand-by partners to JEU.

Eleonora Del Balzo, OCHA Surge Capacity Section, gave an overview of the Stand-by Partnership Program, through which gratis personnel is provided for temporary and urgent assistance in response to an unforeseen emergency. The mechanism cannot be used for preparedness purposes. The Environment Field Advisor (EFA) is one of the available profiles, for which there have been four deployments in total. It is important that EFAs receive the information collected in the early phases of the emergency and that they deploy as early as possible. It was pointed out that awareness of the EFA profile should be raised within regional and country offices. Furthermore, the UNDAC team leader as well as the Environmental Expert of the UNDAC team could play a key role in requesting a subsequent EFA deployment. A handover to the EFA on the most pertinent environmental considerations identified during an UNDAC mission should be ensured to avoid loss of crucial information. Participants suggested that information on available follow-up mechanisms and support should be part of the pre-deployment package.

Session two – Establishing, maintaining and improving national and regional emergency deployment mechanisms: Examples, challenges and solutions

Urs Bloesch, Swiss Development Cooperation, gave an overview of SDC's capacities to provide environmental expertise for emergency response. SDC has a total of ten expert groups, of which one focuses on the issue of disaster risk reduction and environment. This group was established in 2010 and is composed of 90 members with different profiles of which many work in the private sector and are independent from SDC. Generally, the experts tend to participate in short-term missions (only about 20 members are available for missions longer than 6 months). It was pointed out that labelling and categorizing the environmental expertise available is important. To this end, SDC has elaborated factsheets on the available expertise.

Joshua Woodyard, United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Emergency Management, presented on EPA's Emergency Response and Removal Program, which was established in 1972 to deal with hazardous substance releases, oil discharges, and other natural and manmade disasters. The national response system is set up to support state/local efforts, providing an additional safety net for various emergency scenarios (e.g. releases of hazardous substances, natural disaster, terrorism, national security event). The EPA Emergency Response and Removal Program has 230 on-scene coordinators across the ten EPA Regions ready to respond. The presentation also covered the United States' National Response Team. Altogether, fifteen federal agencies are part of the national response team, which is the national-level planning, policy and coordination body. The National Response Team special teams include the Environmental Response Team, the Radiological Emergency Response Team, the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Team, the National Criminal Enforcement Team, the Coast Guard and others. Foreign governments can request assistance from the United States by sending a detailed request to the Department of State or to the US Embassy / Consulate in country. Assistance may be reimbursed through the Department of State. Remote support or consultative services may also be provided, where EPA can provide more information as relevant.

Spyros Afentoulidis, Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), presented the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM). The Mechanism currently includes all 28 EU Member States in addition to Iceland, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey. The Mechanism was set up to enable coordinated assistance from the participating states to victims of natural and man-made disasters in Europe and elsewhere. The Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) provides aid upon receipt of a request of assistance including operational teams, expertise and other support. The UCPM is active both in preparedness and response, and frequently deploys environmental experts. ECHO is working to train additional environmental experts, to refine the expert profiles and requests, and has developed the European Emergency Response Capacity (EERC, known as the Voluntary Pool) that can also include teams of environmental experts (e.g. environmental assessment unit). Through the Voluntary Pool, the UCPM will be able to assess the type of expertise available in advance and be able to deploy them more rapidly. Participants discussed training requirements of experts that are included in a pool. It was pointed out that it is difficult to maintain a pool of experts that are trained in both humanitarian and environmental issues.

Session three – Sequencing of response: Expertise and tools

Greg Grimsich, JEU, briefly presented the different tools used over the stages of an emergency. These include the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Emergency Response Preparedness guidance, the Flash Environmental Assessment Tool (FEAT), the Rapid Environmental Assessment (REA) tool and the Post-Disaster/Crisis Environmental Needs Assessment tools. Participants were briefed on the USAID/UNHCR/UNEP/OCHA initiative to strengthen the use of environmental assessments in humanitarian action. It was further noted that the application and outcomes of these tools and processes need to be better integrated into the Humanitarian Programme Cycle. Lastly some of the challenges experienced when mobilizing environmental experts were outlined:

- It's not always possible to mobilize quickly – environmental experts often deploy a couple of days after the arrival of the UNDAC team which they are member to.
- Updates are not received by experts in a timely manner (unclear how key issues are reported and shared on the ground).
- Reports are poorly written and/or late being shared with the JEU.

Participants then split into two groups to discuss the basic deliverables which could be integrated to the of the two main environmental expert profiles: 1) the Environmental Expert deployed in the first stages of an emergency, preferably as part of the UNDAC team; 2) the Environmental Field Advisor. Participants discussed the main tools these experts would use and the associated key outputs as well as how these link to Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) agreed humanitarian tools and processes.

The following issues were highlighted:

Environmental Expert activities

- ✓ The Environmental Expert should report on findings and ensure they are integrated into the UNDAC team reports lead by the UNDAC team leader (in particular the final UNDAC mission report).
- ✓ Environmental Expert to share findings with JEU at the end of missions.
- ✓ JEU/Emergency Response Providers to consider sending out survey shortly after mission completion with 3-5 questions on the main follow-up actions / issues identified.

- ✓ A main report to be developed by the expert following JEU standard report template, with easy-to-read executive summary that can be used for advocacy/media.
- ✓ Facilitate and advocate for environmental considerations to be integrated into the existing humanitarian processes and mechanisms.
- ✓ Advocate for the deployment of an EFA when necessary.
- ✓ The mission Terms of Reference and/or work plan with associated objectives should be discussed with the Team Leader / Head of Office / Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator upon arrival and updated on regular basis.

EFA activities

- ✓ The main tasks of an EFA should be to: 1) identify and liaise with key actors (national authorities, UN agencies, clusters, NGOs); 2) be a technical resource to the inter-sectoral working group (normally chaired by OCHA); 3) identify existing and/or set-up information-exchange platform (for example a task force including relevant environmental actors); 4) identify the key environmental issues, recommendations to address them, and redistribute the tasks to the clusters; 5) conduct training and capacity development; 6) as requested - advise the Humanitarian Country Team on environmental issues; and 7) report and share lessons learnt.
- ✓ The mission Terms of Reference and/or work plan with associated objectives should be discussed with the Team Leader / Head of Office / Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator upon arrival and updated on regular basis.
- ✓ The deliverables of an EFA will depend on the time of deployment and the Humanitarian Programme Cycle, a timeline for “typical EFA deployment” and entry points should be developed to guide future EFA missions.

Other

- ✓ JEU to always involve a liaison officer and/or national staff and/or local resource person in preparedness and response missions.
- ✓ Ensure, when possible, that local environmental expertise is fully utilised during the mission.
- ✓ The set-up of community of practices or mentoring arrangements should be explored (such as that of UNESCO-IHE).

The following action points were agreed:

1. Response Partners to review Annex 2 of the Environmental Emergencies Guidelines containing the standard types of environmental expertise and types of support, and indicate whether changes needed – by 30 December 2016
2. JEU to update standard OCHA/UNEP/Response Partner environmental emergency report template and share with response partners for agreement – by 17 February January 2017
3. JEU and response partners to further consider sending out a survey to feed into the report
4. JEU to update EFA and EE TORs and send out to response partners for agreement (note: only slight adjustments needed, the TORs are generally fine) – by 17 February January 2017
5. JEU to develop guidance for experts taking into consideration above recommendations and share with response partners for agreement – by 17 February January 2017
6. JEU to set up a standard dropbox / google docs folder for deploying environmental experts and EFAs, containing practical guidance and templates – by 28 February January 2017
7. JEU to develop “typical EFA and EE timeline” to accompany guidance for experts – by 17 February January 2017
8. JEU and Response Partners to explore options for organizing quarterly webinars for experts
9. JEU to revisit other back-office technical support to environmental experts such as that of WWF and explore how they may be utilised by JEU related deployments and/or strengthened with Response Partner roster members.

Session four: Leveraging the strengths of partners through work as a network organization

Emilia Wahlstrom, JEU, shared an example of how local actors and multiple partners were involved in the response to the Sundarbans oil spill in Bangladesh. Participants were then asked to identify additional networks that could be involved in environmental emergency preparedness and response, and to list how involvement of local actors could be strengthened.

The participants proposed engaging with the following actors / networks:

- World Bank
- Greenpeace
- Wetlands International (partners for resilience)
- Red Cross programmes, volunteers and the Federation
- Bilateral programmes (embassies, ministries of environment, water)
- European Commission Joint Research Centre
- European Maritime Safety Agency
- Research centres
- WWF
- Engineering communities, such as Engineers without Borders
- Technische Hilfswerke (German Civil Protection)
- International Union For Conservation of Nature
- Private sector
- Spiez Laboratory under the Federal Office for Civil Protection, Switzerland
- UN Environment headquarters and regional offices
- International Federation for Environmental Health
- Universities
- Lifeboat Institution
- Programmes conducting remote sensing, including UNOSAT

The following action points were agreed:

10. Response partners to explore options for further engaging above networks – ongoing; to be coordinated and followed up by the Strategic Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies
11. JEU to invite representatives of above networks to Environment and Emergencies Forum

The participants proposed the following ways for improving collaboration with local actors:

Identification of local contacts and networks

- JEU to ensure the presence of a liaison officer on all teams;
- OCHA and UNEP Country and Regional Offices to support EEs and EFAs by providing references or existing service providers of UNDP/other UN/Emergency Response Providers country offices/ local universities;

- JEU could, through the UNEP Regional Humanitarian Affairs Officers, establish contact list of local focal points/ experts that can be shared with EEs/EFAs pre-deployment to facilitate partnerships/cooperation;
- OCHA Country and Regional Offices to consider appointing National Programme Officers as a “buddy” for EFA during their deployment, to whom tasks can be handed over at EFA’s departure;
- JEU could identify potential partners (e.g. ACAPS and the Swedish Defence Research Agency - FOI) to jointly explore options for creating country profiles of environmental risk and actors for the most vulnerable countries;
- JEU could use existing networks in-country to identify local expertise and ensure translator join the mission (budget, intensification, technical vocabulary);
- JEU and Response Partners to link to existing NGO alumni networks;

Joint efforts to strengthen preparedness

- Conduct joint exercises and develop preparedness plans, which will also support building of relationships between national and international partners;
- Develop training to educate local actors through UN activities;
- UN local liaison officer to identify local actors and present the mission;

Strengthen partnerships

- Strengthen partnerships with global/regional networks of “local” responders, for example through the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week networks.
- Consider existing partnerships and networks, such as the UNISDR Campaign Resilient Cities, as a possible entry point to local environmental actors;

Session five - Rules and procedures for deployment: Administration, safety and security, insurances, and financial arrangements

Dawit Yared, JEU, provided an overview of the rules and procedures for deployment applicable to environmental experts (note below the specific procedures for EFAs through the SBPP). Emilia Wahlstrom, JEU, provided a visual explanation of the deployment mechanisms used for the various types of environmental emergencies. She also demonstrated the virtual-osocc (VOSOCC) and explained its use for deployment of UNDAC and JEU environmental emergency missions.

Environmental Field Advisors

The deployment of EFAs through the SBPP is triggered by an OCHA request for SBPP support, originated in the field, endorsed in New York and channelled through OCHA’s Surge Capacity Section to all of its SBP as per the standard SBPP procedures. The deployment of SBPP is governed by relevant General Assembly resolutions on the use of Type II Gratis Personnel. Are considered SBPs those organisations with whom OCHA has signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the use of Type II Gratis Personnel. Upon receipt of nominations from the SBPs and based on technical recommendations from JEU, the OCHA Head of Office selects the most suitable candidate. In collaboration with the SBP and with the receiving Country Office, SCS facilitates and expedites the deployment of the EFA. Among other things, SCS collects important information, including passport, security certificates, medical certificate and SBPP assignment undertaking. SCS also collects required information for the creation of a profile for the EFA into UMOJA. SCS also provides guidance on how to request a security clearance prior to deploying to the field and liaises with the County Office for initial arrangements such as airport pick-up and accommodation. When and as needed, SCS also supports

with facilitating granting of the visa and requests issuance of a UN Certificate. For more information on the SBPP: please see the OCHA Users' Guide on the SBPP.

Environmental Experts

For environmental experts, JEU will provide experts with a travel attestation and will also prepare a UN no-cost travel request for all deploying experts. This will mean that the experts are registered in the UN travel system. JEU will also inform the local UN liaison officer of the experts' scheduled time of arrival. The UN liaison officer is then to organize a security briefing with UN DSS for the experts. As experts fall under the UN security management system when travelling on mission, they are expected to abide by the UNDSS rules (informing UNDSS of movements, staying in approved hotels, abiding by curfews, including security measures in mission plan, and more). The UN liaison officer will support experts with airport pickups, accommodation, in-country transport, liaison with national officials and other matters. Experts are expected to have their own medical insurance should it not be provided by response partners. Experts will need their own petty cash and/or agree with JEU / OCHA / Response Partners on how to organize these issues in advance.

The following issues were highlighted:

- VOSOCC is to be used as the alert system for preparedness and response missions – except for Environmental Field Advisors deployed through the SBPP:
 - ✓ For sudden-onset disasters to which an environmental expert is to be mobilized as part of the UNDAC team: JEU to endeavour to find an environmental expert through the UNDAC experts – if not possible, JEU to send out a follow-on request to JEU Response Partners
 - ✓ For environmental emergency alerts: It would be useful, if response partners could respond to alerts even if no support can be offered. In case there is a need for further information, response partners can reach the JEU 24/7 to further discuss options
 - ✓ For EFAs: Response Partners to indicate to OCHA Surge Capacity Section, with copy to JEU, availability to support a deployment

The following action points were agreed:

12. JEU to develop factsheet/flow-chart on rapid response alert and deployment procedures, and share with Response Partners – by 17 February January 2017

Session six - Strengthening preparedness: Developing experts' capacities, organizing joint trainings and simulations, modalities and options for development of national and local capacities

Emilia Wahlstrom, JEU, introduced the session, where participants were asked to fill in forms with suggestions on how to strengthen preparedness in various domains.

The following issues were highlighted:

- System readiness can be strengthened by
 - ✓ improving monitoring and evaluation (collecting and disseminating evidence-based cases studies)
 - ✓ strengthening accountability

- ✓ talking about livelihoods / energy / natural resources rather than environment
 - ✓ raising awareness (among generalists), including by dissemination of case studies
 - ✓ strengthening global partnerships
 - ✓ developing common guidance
 - ✓ conducting advocacy
 - ✓ applying the Emergency Response Preparedness approach
 - ✓ exploring available mechanism for evaluation (inclusion of environment into real-time evaluations) and by giving positive examples
 - ✓ developing standard operating procedures and sharing lessons learnt.
 - ✓ Build on lessons learned in preparedness stage
- Institutional readiness can be strengthened by:
- ✓ improving the use of regional expertise
 - ✓ enhancing the predictability of expertise
 - ✓ making specific information available, thereby enhancing the situational awareness (making sure information from country and field offices reach headquarters)
 - ✓ making it clear what types of expertise is available (through awareness-raising, communication and trainings)
 - ✓ providing backstopping support
 - ✓ developing better links with the WWF helpdesk on environment and humanitarian action
 - ✓ developing informal networks/contacts; advocacy
 - ✓ sharing information with desk officers
 - ✓ formalizing accountability
 - ✓ tapping into private sector networks
- Individual readiness can be strengthened by:
- ✓ providing more information before experts are deployed (guidance for experts)
 - ✓ making sure experts are well equipped
 - ✓ developing an online EFA “package”
 - ✓ establishing EFA networks and link up experts with each other
 - ✓ establishing an EE Community of Practice
 - ✓ improving the knowledge of international response context
 - ✓ assigning mandatory training/ e-learning
 - ✓ creating “just-in-time” recap-briefings (5 minutes YouTube)
 - ✓ improving or creating new environment exchange-forum (VOSOCC, fb, skype?)
- National preparedness can be strengthened through:
- ✓ improving exercises
 - ✓ strengthening policy (DRR - environment)
 - ✓ working through national focal points (UNDAC, INSARAG, Basel, IMO)
 - ✓ creating links with UNEP RHAOs to identify environmental emergencies focal points and for them to be involved in networks, exchange experience – strengthening a peer learning / regional approach.

The following action points were agreed:

13. JEU to integrate the most relevant of above recommendations into the guidance for experts – by 17 February 2017

At the concluding session, the workshop participants were asked to identify priority areas for 2017-18. The answers received can inform the work of the Focus Task Force on Environment in Response.

The participants' suggested the following:

- Presentation and discussion on the JEU's services at the Response Partner's headquarters;
- Increased advocacy within Response Partner's organization and strengthened links with Desk Officers;
- Share information on most frequently used expertise and channel experts with these profiles into upcoming joint trainings;
- Response Partners to support the establishment of informal alumni network of Environmental Experts / Responders;
- Response Partners to contribute to the development of just-in-time (or "pre-deployment") trainings;
- Implementation of joint training on environmental emergency response (Response Partners to set up, JEU to contribute to);
- Implement Webex trainings on FEAT for UNDAC members;
- Work on joint advocacy efforts to raise awareness for environmental issues with senior leadership.

The following action points were agreed:

14. SDC to organize JEU-SDC briefing in Bern
15. MSB to host a "Beyond Response" training of trainers targeting environmental preparedness in National Emergency Management Agencies during 2017 open for other response partners

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1. MEETING AGENDA

Objective

The objective of the Interoperability Workshop for Environmental Emergency Response Providers is for response organizations to come together, learn from each other and to agree on ways forward for strengthening interoperability for international environmental emergency response.

Expected outcomes

At the end of the workshop environmental emergency response providers will:

- Have strengthened their awareness of the types of environmental expertise typically required for preparedness and response;
- Be better informed of available resources, tools and support within other partners' networks, and thereby better placed to operate jointly and in sequence in emergency settings;
- Have jointly identified gaps and challenges in the environmental emergency response system, and identified ways for (amongst others):
 - o better sequencing of environmental emergency response support, including expertise and tools
 - o providing diversified response support
 - o strengthening experts' capacity
 - o strengthening the preparedness of response systems and institutions
 - o engaging local institutions in preparedness and response

MONDAY, 28 NOVEMBER

10:00-10:15 **Welcome and presentation of participants**

Jesper Lund, acting Director OCHA Emergency Services Branch

10:15-10:45 **Introduction: 22 Years of Response to Environmental Emergencies**

Emilia Wahlström, Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit (JEU)

Overview of environmental emergency preparedness and response missions – types of emergencies, requested expertise, mechanisms used, mission duration and outcomes

Expected Outcome: Participants will have a better understanding of the range of environmental emergency context in which the JEU facilitates technical assistance, the breadth of expertise requested, and the range of informal and formal partnerships at global, regional and national level.

10:45-11.15 **Emergency response mechanisms and expertise – past and future**

- o Christophe Schmachtel, OCHA Field Coordination Support Section (10 min)
- o Eleonora del Balzo, OCHA Surge Capacity Section (10 min)
- o Group discussion / exchange

Overview of existing mechanisms for environmental emergency expertise (UNDAC and Stand-By Partnership Programme) – how do these mechanisms function and incorporate environmental expertise. What is the role of the UNDAC Environmental

Expert and Environmental Field Advisor?

Expected Outcome: Based on an understanding of the opportunities and limits of the UNDAC and SPB Surge mechanisms, participants will identify and propose priority actions or initiatives that can address gaps and/or augment these response mechanisms.

11:15-12:45

Establishing, maintaining and improving national and regional emergency deployment mechanisms: Examples, challenges and solutions

- Urs Bloesch, Swiss Development Cooperation (15 min)
- Joshua Woodyard, US Environment Protection Agency (15 min)
- Spyros Afentoulidis, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (15 min)
- Group discussions / exchange (30 min) – focusing on the Alert and Request sections (p. 23-24) of the *Environmental Emergencies Guidelines* and the *infographic on available international support*
- Wrap-up by JEU (15 min)

Expected outcomes: Agreement on use of VOSOCC as alert and response system; list of challenges and solutions from presentations and plenaries and agreement on way forward for “priority solutions”

12:45-14:15

Lunch break

14:15-15:45

Sequencing of response: Expertise and tools, facilitated by Greg Grimsich, OCHA EPES

- 20-minute presentation by JEU on types of expertise required and available tools (Flash Environmental Assessment Tool, Disaster Waste Management Assessments, others) including presentation on USAID/UN initiative to strengthen use of environmental assessments in humanitarian response
- 60-minute brainstorming on roles and responsibilities of environmental experts during missions and associated tools (first days / weeks / recovery)
- 10-minute wrap-up

Refer to the standard Terms of Reference for Environmental Emergency Experts, the outline for “Draft Guidance for Deploying Experts”, and the Terms of Reference for the USAID/UN Initiative Team Leader

Expected outcomes: Participants will have shared understanding of the sequence of environmental emergency related Tools for assessment of environment in emergencies (and for environmental emergencies), the Mechanisms used for deployment of expertise, and the integration/ harmonization of these tools and mechanisms with elements of the humanitarian programme cycle; Decision on whether Environmental Emergency Expert standard TOR needs to be elaborated with “minimum deliverables”; Inputs received on draft guidance for deploying experts

15:45 -16:15

Coffee break

16:15-17:30

Leveraging the strengths of partners through work as a network organization, led by Leif Jönsson, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency

- Case study by JEU: the 2014 Bangladesh Sundarbans oil spill (10 min)
- Work in groups around diversification of support, the engagement of local

actors, academia/research institutes, the private sector and other key actors
(50 min)

- Summary and wrap-up (15 min)
- Background document: *UNEP project document on response*

Expected outcomes: Follow-up actions for tapping into networks defined; “Best practice” of including local actors into response defined

17:30-17:45

Summary of overall outcomes of day 1

18:30

Dinner at Café du Soleil (walking distance from Palais des Nations)

Tuesday, 29 November

09:00-9:15

Welcome and overview of Tuesday workshop

09:15-10:15

Rules and procedures for deployment: Administration, safety and security, insurances, and financial arrangements, led by OCHA Administrative Services Branch and JEU

- Introduction by OCHA/JEU (15 min)
- Questions and answers (30 min)
- Summary and wrap-up (15 min)

Expected outcomes: Administrative procedures and requirements defined and incorporated into guidance for environmental experts being deployed.

10:15-12:00

Strengthening preparedness: Developing experts’ capacities, organizing joint trainings and simulations, modalities and options for development of national and local capacities

- Introduction of topic by JEU (15 min)
- Work in groups (30 min)
- Wrap-up (15 min)

Expected outcomes: Prioritized list of preparedness actions for: JEU and key partners to facilitate “system level” readiness to respond; Key partners to ensure “institutional” readiness to respond; Roster members to ensure their individual “technical expertise” is ready to respond; and High risk member states to strengthen “national/local” readiness to respond.

12.00-12.30

AOB

12:30-13:00

Summary of overall outcomes and conclusion of workshop

- Workshop outcomes to be presented at Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week in Geneva in February 2017, and at the Environment and Emergencies Forum in Nairobi in June 2017

ANNEX 2. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

	NAME	Position	EMAIL	ORGANISATION
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