

# COORDINATION OF ASSESSMENTS FOR ENVIRONMENT IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION : A JOINT INITIATIVE UPDATE #1 (06/01/2017)

Dear colleagues,

Welcome to the first update from the Coordination of Assessments for Environment in Humanitarian Action. This is a joint initiative working with environmental and humanitarian professionals to support efficient consideration of environment and climate risk knowledge in humanitarian assistance. Specifically, the initiative will update the Rapid Environmental Assessment (REA) tool. This will entail enhancing the REA online accessibility, strengthening the interconnectivity of available tools and clarifying which ones are used at a particular stage of humanitarian programming or type of emergency context.

The initiative is a collaborative effort between the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the UN Environment/Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Joint Environment Unit (JEU), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and WWF.



Since the Initiative was launched in February 2017 at the [Humanitarian Network and Partnerships Week](#) in Geneva, the project has focussed on engaging a range of humanitarian and environmental stakeholders. This has included meetings held in Geneva with several UN agencies, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, relevant Clusters and humanitarian International NGOs.

The Joint Initiative team has consulted with global environmental NGOs, the Environmental Law Institute and the International Union for Conservation of Nature as well as with various initiatives with specific links to environment in humanitarian work including Disaster Waste Recovery and the Moving Energy Initiative.

Given the assessment focus of the project, humanitarian programme monitoring and evaluation experts have also been consulted, as have a selection of major donors to explore the role that they play in the consideration of environment and climate risk knowledge both before and after disasters.

## UPDATING ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK: stakeholder consultation

A large focus of this initiative is around the updating of key environmental assessment methodologies, enhancing their connectivity and online accessibility, with the aim of overcoming confusion around which particular stage of humanitarian programming or type of emergency context they are best suited for.

The initiative will bring together a group of stakeholders for a 2-day workshop to discuss the outputs of a recent consultancy scoping the content, approach, and structure of various environment assessment methodologies, with a particular focus on the Rapid Environmental Assessment (REA). This was originally planned for June 19-20 but has been reorganised given a series of clashing events. It will now take place on August 29 and 30 in Geneva. Please contact [Mandy George](#) if you are interested in participating.

## EVENT

In celebration of World Environment Day, we are holding an [Inter Agency Standing Committee \(IASC\)](#) event on **Environmental Assessments in Humanitarian Action** next **Wednesday 7 June, from 15:00 - 16:30** at the **Palais des Nations, Room S4, Geneva**. This event will give participants the opportunity to learn about the project and will provide examples of environmental integration in disaster management programming and operations from a range of humanitarian stakeholders.

After an introduction from Mr Jesper Lund, Chief of OCHA's Emergency Services Branch, speakers for the IASC Event are:

- Mandy George, Team Leader, Coordination of Assessments for Environment in Humanitarian Action
- Georgina Stickels, Environmental Sustainability Manager, World Food Programme
- Tessa Kelly, Senior Officer for Climate Change Coordination, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- Erika Clesceri, Bureau Environmental Officer, USAID Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance

You can join in person either in Geneva, at the UN Secretariat in New York (S-2728BR Board Room), or dial in remotely: **+41 22 917 0900, code 71438**.

## FURTHER QUESTIONS

Our website is coming soon! We will be in touch once it is live. In the meantime for any questions about the project, or if you would like to know more about how you can get involved, please contact:

- Joint Assessment Initiative: Team Leader, Mandy George ([george14@un.org](mailto:george14@un.org))
- USAID's Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance, Bureau Environmental Officer Erika Clesceri ([eclesceri@usaid.gov](mailto:eclesceri@usaid.gov))
- United Nations Joint Environment Unit, Emilia Wahlstrom ([wahlstrom@un.org](mailto:wahlstrom@un.org))
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Senior Environmental Coordinator Amare Gebre Egziabher ([gebreega@unhcr.org](mailto:gebreega@unhcr.org))
- WWF, Senior Director, Environment and Disaster Management, Anita van Breda ([anita.vanbreda@wwfus.org](mailto:anita.vanbreda@wwfus.org))

Best wishes,

The Coordination of Assessments for Environment in Humanitarian Action team