

WEBSITE, WORKSHOP AND CALL FOR STUDIES: THE LATEST FROM THE COORDINATION OF ASSESSMENTS FOR ENVIRONMENT IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Welcome to the second news bulletin from the Coordination of Assessments for Environment in Humanitarian Action. Our website is now live, so please visit us at <http://www.eecentre.org/assessments> and share with your networks.

COORDINATION WITH ENVIRONMENT AND HUMANITARIAN ACTORS

It has been a busy couple of months since our last update, with the total number of people consulted on the project surpassing the 100 mark. Dialogue with humanitarian and conservation actors has centred around the update of the Rapid Environmental Assessment (REA) tool, one of the main outputs of the project, as well as how to improve coordination and data sharing between the humanitarian and environment/conservation communities.

As part of the latter, we have been working with the project's partners, most notably the UN Environment / OCHA Joint Unit, to identify opportunities for enhanced integration into humanitarian systems, tools and processes for assessments and data sharing. This includes looking at humanitarian data sharing platforms such as [HDX](#) and [humanitarianresponse.info](#); humanitarian data sharing systems and processes, such as OCHA's Information Management systems and [Common Operational Datasets](#); and other assessments tools, such as Cluster assessments. The project is also working on designing guidance for environmental actors who are interested in sharing data with humanitarian partners and vice versa, for humanitarians who would like to increase access to and use of environmental data. This work will continue with the Joint Initiative partners throughout the course of the project.



INTER AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE EVENT

To promote the project and encourage dialogue around environment in humanitarian action, the Initiative held an [Inter Agency Standing Committee](#) event in Geneva on June 7. The event was opened by **Jesper Lund**, Chief of OCHA's Emergency Services Branch, with presentations by **Mandy George**, team leader of the Coordination of Assessments for Environment in Humanitarian Action; **Tessa Kelly**, Senior Officer for Climate Change Coordination, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; **Georgina Stickels**, Environmental Sustainability Manager, World Food Programme; and **Erika Clesceri**, Bureau Environmental Officer, USAID Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance.

Participants heard about environmental integration in disaster management programming and operations from a range of humanitarian stakeholders. A summary of the event can be found on our [website](#). Bios of the presenters can be found on the [IASC event website](#).



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **August:** The Initiative will bring together a group of stakeholders for a workshop in Geneva on August 29 and 30 to discuss the findings 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) and the update of the tool. Options for updates and enhancements will be discussed, which will reflect sectoral developments and ultimately support the use, integration and uptake of the REA and other environmental assessment tools in humanitarian programme planning and implementation. The project team will present workshop stakeholders with options for updating both the content and structure of the REA. Additionally, recommendations for harmonizing the tool within broader humanitarian response and recovery assessment settings will be put forward. Stakeholders will have the opportunity to influence the direction of the work to ensure relevance, before the updating process begins. Please contact Mandy George by August 11 if you are interested in participating. [More information](#), including the agenda, is available on our website.
- **September:** The Initiative will hold a session on September 27 at the [2017 Environment and Emergencies Forum](#) in Nairobi where participants will be able to take part in the REA updating process and share their experience of using environmental assessments in order to cross-check the relevancy of the update. Participants will also be asked to outline the most important issues they would want to see reflected in a quality humanitarian response. Participants will also be given more information on how to submit proposals for technical support to implement sections of the updated REA methodology.
- **October:** In late October the Initiative will bring together stakeholders for a workshop in Washington DC to discuss the updated REA and best practices for data sharing and coordination between environmental and humanitarian actors. More information to follow in the next news bulletin. Please keep an eye on the website for updates on the workshop and get in touch with [Mandy George](#) if you are interested in participating.

PARTNERS NEWS

The Environment and Humanitarian Action webpage, upheld by the **UN Environment / OCHA Joint Unit**, has migrated to [reliefweb](#) and can be found at: <http://reliefweb.int/topics/environment-humanitarian-action>.

Anita van Breda, Senior Director, Environment and Disaster Management, WWF, recently took part in America Adapts, a podcast exploring the challenges presented by adapting to climate change. Anita appeared on an [episode](#) about climate change adaptation and the 11th International Conference on Community-Based Adaptation (CBA11), and spoke of [disaster management planning](#) and risk reduction at WWF and their unique approaches in engaging developing countries in these efforts, referencing the Joint Initiative in the podcast and on the website.

CALL FOR CASE STUDIES

One of the project's aims is to help to contribute to the evidence-base around environmental assessments in humanitarian action. As such, the project is putting out a call for environmental assessment case studies, or ideas for case studies, that can contribute to the learning process and the REA update and that we could share on our website or develop together.

Best wishes,

The Coordination of Assessments for Environment in Humanitarian Action team



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