

NEWS BULLETIN - OCTOBER 2017

THE LATEST FROM THE COORDINATION OF ASSESSMENTS FOR ENVIRONMENT IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Welcome to the third news bulletin from the Coordination of Assessments for Environment in Humanitarian Action. For more updates, presentations and other resources, please visit us at <http://www.eecentre.org/assessments> and share with your networks.

GENEVA ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP

We held a dynamic stakeholder [workshop](#) in Geneva on August 29 and 30, which brought together more than 40 experts from a range of humanitarian and environmental UN organisations, NGOs and Clusters as well as donors, monitoring and evaluation, and development specialists to discuss the humanitarian environmental assessment landscape and the most impactful way for updating the Rapid Environmental Assessment (REA) approach.

One of the key actions planned by the Joint Initiative following the debate is to develop a broader “Framework for Environment in Humanitarian Action” to map out entry points for environment and environmental assessments at various levels identified by workshop participants. The group agreed this was an important step, given the range of users, aims and functionalities of environmental assessments. The Framework will map environmental information, data, and assessments at different levels with a focus on preparedness, disaster-wide data, national level coordination and direct programme implementation. To maximise momentum from the workshop and begin to work on addressing some of the challenges identified, small working groups will be established to focus on the EHA Framework; information management; and technical content of an updated assessment approach. For a full report on the workshop and its outcomes and all presentations, please visit our [website](#). If you are interested in joining one of these working groups please contact [Mandy George](#).



ENVIRONMENT AND EMERGENCIES FORUM

The 2017 [Environment and Emergencies Forum](#) (EEF) in Nairobi, Kenya, brought together more than 160 participants representing over 50 countries and over 100 organisations to discuss the nexus of environmental risk and humanitarian crisis. The main focus of the conference from September 26 to 28 were: Readiness for Environmental Emergency Response; Integrating Environment in Humanitarian Response, and Environment in Conflict Settings.

To promote the project and encourage the coordination of environmental assessments in humanitarian response, the Initiative held a session at the EEF on September 27. Participants were asked to feed into the EHA Framework by recommending where most efforts should be focussed on in preparedness; immediate post disaster/ disaster-wide; national level coordination (including Clusters); and project or programme level. Identified issues will be captured in the Framework and update of rapid environmental assessment tool and methodology, both to be launched in 2018.

A summary of the [event](#) is available on the EEF website and the forum outcome report will be available by the end of October on the EEF [website](#).



UPCOMING EVENTS IN OCTOBER

- On October 25 and 26 the Initiative will bring together stakeholders for a [workshop in Washington DC](#) to discuss challenges and opportunities around integration of environment in the humanitarian system, with a particular focus on assessments and environmental data and information sharing. The workshop will include a feedback and input request on a draft of the Framework for Environment in Humanitarian Action and an invitation to explore options for environmental information and data sharing in the humanitarian system. Please keep an eye on the website for a more detailed agenda and get in touch with [Janine Berger](#) if you are interested in participating.
- On October 19 the United Nations Environmental Management Group (EMG) will hold a one-day event in Geneva focussing on strengthening partnerships between environmental and humanitarian sectors in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Joint Initiative will be presented as an example of environment / humanitarian collaboration. The EMG is also hosting an [online debate on the environment-humanitarian nexus](#) until October 17 to discuss a range of questions including how to strengthen partnerships between the environment and humanitarian sectors to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in an effective way. The e-debate is expected to feed into the [Third EMG Nexus Dialogue event](#) on October 19. The event will also be available via livestream on the [EMG website](#). The background document to the event is available [here](#).

TECHNICAL SCOPING OF RAPID ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT UPDATE

The Initiative is preparing a report detailing the findings and primary recommendations about how best to focus efforts for a technical update to the REA approach. This was based on a scoping exercise which reviewed and considered 12 environmental assessment methodologies as well as consultations with a wide range of humanitarian and environmental actors with experience in humanitarian response.

The paper explores issues around linking tools to the disaster timeline, adopting an environmental impact assessment process, the need for community engagement and links to the programme management cycle.

The full report will be available on the website in the coming weeks. Contact [Mandy George](#) if you would like to receive a copy when finalised.

FIRST JOINT INITIATIVE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

We are pleased to welcome the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) on board as a new partner and member of our Steering Committee. The project's first Steering Committee meeting was held on September 17, giving all partners the opportunity to provide feedback on the work done so far and comment on the way forward.

PARTNER NEWS

The UN Environment / OCHA Joint Unit (JEU) has created an online survey on the usefulness of the Disaster Waste Management guidelines. The survey will be used to review the guidelines, which were devised in partnership with the [Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency \(MSB\)](#), with the aim of relaunching the guidelines in 2018. To take part in the survey, click [here](#).

The [JEU](#) also facilitated an [Environment and Emergencies Training](#) course in Slovenia from September 16 to 21. In total 23 participants were provided with the knowledge and skills to deploy as environmental experts on disaster response missions during the six-day course.

As always, if you are interested in getting involved in the project, please get in touch.

Best wishes,

The Coordination of Assessments for Environment in Humanitarian Action team

