

Welcome to the fourth 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.

### WASHINGTON ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP

We held a productive and stimulating stakeholder workshop in Washington DC on October 25 and 26, which gathered together more than 40 experts from humanitarian and environmental NGOs, UN organisations, academic institutions, donor institutions and development agencies to brainstorm ways of strengthening coordination between the humanitarian and conservation communities.

Building on contributions from the Geneva stakeholder workshop in August, participants explored opportunities for working together to improve the use of environmental data and knowledge in humanitarian programming. They also offered extensive feedback on the content and structure of the Joint Initiative's Framework for environment in humanitarian action, which is currently under development and sets out entry points for environmental assessments, existing data sharing tools as well as gaps and opportunities.

So what next? The priorities include updating the Framework to incorporate recovery and DRR more robustly, signposting entry points for environmental actors within the humanitarian programme cycle, capturing existing learning from organizations working in the cross section of environment in humanitarian action, and the continued collaboration with stakeholders.

We will also be updating the Rapid Environmental Assessment tool and a project level assessment tool that will allow humanitarian organisations to quickly and easily screen their programmes for potential issues of risk to people and the environment. This will be in a format that can be tailored to organisations' individual priorities, with a series of sector specific modules. Working groups will be established to harness the momentum behind the Initiative and will focus initially on the Environment in Humanitarian Action Framework (EHA Framework), Information Management and the technical content of an updated assessment approach.

We would welcome your contribution to, and participation in, any of the working groups, as well as any further ideas, resources, tools and content that would be pertinent to the EHA Framework. We would also like to consult a selection of partners in more depth on the proposed environmental assessment methodology update to ensure we are meeting the needs of our stakeholders to the greatest extent possible. If you are interested in this or anything else related to the Joint Initiative, please contact Team Lead, [Mandy George](#) or [Erika Clesceri](#), USAID. For a full report on the workshop and its outcomes and all presentations, please visit our [website](#).

### CHAIR'S SUMMARY OF THE 2017 ENVIRONMENT AND EMERGENCIES FORUM

The Initiative was prominently featured in the summary report of the 2017 Environment and Emergencies Forum (EEF) in Nairobi which focussed on the nexus of environmental risk and humanitarian crisis. The event explored the thematic of readiness for environmental emergency response, integrating environment in humanitarian response and environment in conflict settings.

To promote the work of the project, the Initiative held a session at the EEF in which 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.

The [Chair's Summary](#) noted that participants provided ideas for new additions such as: national level contingency plans; national adaptation plans; national crisis management centres; environmental diplomacy initiatives; remote data collection tools and techniques; and community risk mapping and assessment tools.



Credit: UN Environment

## PARTNERS NEWS

An [opinion piece on environment and disasters](#) by Anita van Breda, Senior Director, Environment and Disaster Management, World Wildlife Fund, was published by Enisa, a magazine that aims to present new perspectives on environmental challenges and solutions. As well as citing examples of environmental damage in the wake of disasters such as Hurricane Irma, Anita's piece also suggests ways disaster response can protect nature. Top of the list are post-disaster impact assessments that factor in the impact on the environment of disasters and the rebuilding process.

The Natural and Nature-based Flood Management: A Green Guide (Flood Green Guide) developed by World Wildlife Fund in partnership with the US Agency for International Development (USAID) Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) is now available [online](#). The guide is designed for those responsible for flood risk management including municipal governments, community groups and NGOs. Individual chapters and new case studies can be downloaded and used to support flood management projects. For more information about the Flood Green Guide training program, contact [envirodm@wwfus.org](mailto:envirodm@wwfus.org).

The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) is strengthening the roster for international operations with [Environmental Field Advisors](#). MSB is looking for technical advisors to assist in project implementation through various phases of the mission cycle and strategic cross-sectoral advisors to support humanitarian actors to take the environment into consideration in programming. This will allow opportunities to build back better and safer to be captured, risk will be reduced and resilience will be increased. If you have specific knowledge of disaster waste management, particularly in a humanitarian context and are interested in being part of the MSB roster, please get in touch with Anna Erixon: [anna.erixon@msb.se](mailto:anna.erixon@msb.se)

To mark the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict on November 6, more than 46 organizations and experts issued a [statement](#) calling on the international community to increase the protection of civilians by ensuring that the environment is fully integrated into humanitarian response. The statement also called for the improved environmental data collection, analysis and sharing between and beyond humanitarian networks.

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN OCTOBER

- Paired symposia on the Joint Initiative's "Coordination of Environmental Assessments in Humanitarian Action: What have we learned from a recent joint initiative?" and "Ecosystem-Based Adaptation: Building Community Resilience with Nature" will be held at the [National Council for Science and the Environment \(NCSE\) 18th National Conference and Global Forum on Science, Policy and the Environment: The Science, Business, and Education of Sustainable Infrastructure: Building Resilience in a Changing World](#). The conference will be held January 23-24, 2018, at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in the Washington DC national airport.
- The [2018 Humanitarian Networks and Partnership Week](#), a space for humanitarians to get together and find ways to solve common problems, will be held from February 5 to 9 in Geneva. The Joint Initiative will be present at the event and the Environment in Humanitarian Action Network will hold a face-to-face meeting. If you plan to attend the event, please fill in our [survey](#) which will help us with our own planning around the meeting.

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**

