

# 2017 Environment and Emergencies Forum, 26-28 September 2017 (Nairobi, Kenya)

*From crisis to opportunity: building resilience by managing  
environmental risk in emergencies*

Credit: Rene Dubois

The Environment and Emergencies Forum (EEF) is a unique global event organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The EEF has been organized every two years since 1995, as requested by Member States through a 1993 UN Environment Governing Council Decision. This biennial forum brings together stakeholders from around the world to showcase innovations in environmental emergency preparedness and response, and to highlight current efforts on integrating environmental risk in humanitarian action.

The 2017 Environment and Emergencies Forum, hosted by UN Environment and held in Nairobi, Kenya, will explore the nexus of environmental risk and humanitarian crisis against global trends. It will provide a platform for taking action to strengthen environmental resilience through an increased focus on the readiness of member states, regional and national organizations, civil society and academia, to address the environmental dimensions of emergencies.



## Objectives

- Generate partnerships for strengthened environmental emergency preparedness and response
- Promote commitment and actions to integrate environment in humanitarian action
- Serve as a platform for discussion and exchange of ideas and best practices
- Agree on key actions to mitigate risk and strengthen resilience

## Expected outcomes

- Increased understanding of the role of current and emerging environmental risks in crisis and disasters
- Identification of concrete actions to develop national and regional capacities to manage environmental emergencies and to integrate environment in humanitarian action

## Participants

The Forum will welcome approximately 100 practitioners working on environmental emergency preparedness and response, environmental management, disaster risk reduction and humanitarian action. Participants will include representatives from Governments, United Nations agencies and programmes, international, non-governmental and regional organizations, academia and research facilities, the private sector, industry groups, civil society and individual experts. Participants will have the opportunity to contribute to the programme. Participation in the Forum is free of charge, where developing country representatives can apply for a limited number of available sponsorships to cover their travel cost. Registration for the EEF opens in March 2017.



Register on [www.eecentre.org/eef](http://www.eecentre.org/eef)

## Themes and Topics



### Readiness for Environmental Emergency Response

An environmental emergency can arise in the wake of a natural disaster or conflict or occur as a stand-alone industrial/technological accident - when lives and livelihoods are threatened by the release of hazardous substances, or because of significant damage to the ecosystem. This theme will explore lessons learnt from recent environmental emergencies, examining best practices in preparedness and response. Possible topics include:

- Technological innovation in environmental emergency preparedness and response
- Mobilizing the private sector for emergency preparedness and response
- Sendai Framework in action: addressing technological hazards in disaster risk management
- Sharing good practices: country experiences and results
- Preparing for the unexpected: addressing new environmental emergency threats



### Integrating Environment in Humanitarian Response

Notwithstanding the immediate humanitarian priorities to save lives, reduce human suffering, and jump-starting recovery, environment has a role in humanitarian programmes and operations. Humanitarian actors can minimize environmental harm, support long-term recovery and build resilience. This theme will share countries' and organizations' experience on how to improve humanitarian action by addressing environmental risk. Possible topics include:

- Sharing good practices: country experiences of reducing environmental damage through humanitarian action
- Greening humanitarian response operations: environment management systems and operational safeguards
- Coordinating environmental assessments in humanitarian response
- Managing disaster waste
- Opportunities for environmental management through humanitarian cash programming



### Environment in Conflict Settings

In situations of war and armed conflict, the environment and natural resources can be used as weapons of war, suffer as collateral damage, or act as livelihood lifelines for affected populations. Direct and indirect environmental impacts can be as diverse as air pollution, deforestation, a lack of waste management, degradation of protected areas and biodiversity, and a collapse of environmental governance structures. This theme will examine the complex linkages between environment and armed conflicts, drawing on lessons learned from some of the past and ongoing conflicts. Possible topics include:

- Environment along the conflict cycle: examples and opportunities for humanitarian action
- Conflict, displacement and the environment
- Setting the scene for post-conflict assessments: Collecting environmental data and monitoring risks during conflicts
- Conflict-sensitive natural resource management in displacement settings

## 2017 Green Star Awards

The 2017 Green Star Awards (GSA) ceremony will be organised during the EEF (26 September).

### Key dates

**March 2017: Online registration opens**

**May 2017: Draft EEF programme available**

**26-28 September 2017: Environment and Emergencies Forum**