



UNEP  
Progress Report for 2006

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. **Lebanon:** During the recent conflict, the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit (JU), UNEP PCoB and UNEP-ROWA have been cooperating closely both during and after the conflict to monitor, identify and address the environmental impacts. The JU took the lead assessing the acute environmental risks during the conflict, in particular the oil spill, but already by mid-September a handover to PCoB took place for a broader post-conflict environmental assessment. Field work was conducted from 30 September to 21 October with a final report scheduled for publication in December 2006. Lebanese national counterparts from the MOE participated in the post-conflict environmental assessment mission.

2. **Palestine:** UNEP conducted an independent assessment of the environmental status of the disengaged Israeli settlements in Gaza from 9-18 December 2005 based on a request received from the Palestinian Environment Quality Authority. All 21 disengaged settlements in the Gaza strip were covered. The findings of the assessment mission were released at a press conference in Jerusalem on 30th March 2006. The assessment concluded insignificant environmental impacts were caused. The Palestinian side expressed reservation on the findings.

Following the release of UNEP's environmental assessment report on disengaged areas in the Gaza Strip, an asbestos training workshop for Palestinians was held in Cairo in March/April to prepare participants for clean-up work. Certain proposed UNEP follow-up activities, focusing on the clean-up of localized pollution in Erez Industrial Estate, have been included in Organization for OCHA's revised emergency appeal of 31 May.

3. **Iraq:** UNEP's project titled "*Support for Environmental Management of the Iraqi Marshlands*" was carried out. Six pilot sites were selected for the implementation of projects to supply potable water. Four field evaluations and questionnaires of the six pilot sites were carried out during the months of February-July of 2006. The observations and information collected with regard to the present state of works has been presented in four individual reports.

As a follow-up to the report "Assessment of Environmental 'Hot Spots' in Iraq" (launched during Q4 2005) UNEP was awarded a US\$ 900,000 project from the Iraq Trust Fund to conduct a pilot clean-up activities at one of the worst contaminated sites (Al Qadissiya). The tendering process for the clean-up project was pursued in Q1-2006 and based on the request of the Iraqi Ministry of Environment; Iraqi companies rather than foreign ones were pursued to the extent possible. The pilot clean-up project commenced at two of the worst contaminated sites (Al Qadissiya and Al Suwaira). Clean-up work at two industrial contaminated sites was completed by end of 2006.

An environmental information center and monitoring laboratory are in the process of being established, with a training workshop in database and information management are being held in collaboration with DCPI. Separately equipment was delivered to the



Environmental Information Center and Environmental Monitoring Laboratory in Baghdad, together with appropriate training of Ministry of Environment staff.

Field sampling by Iraqi experts for the assessment of Depleted Uranium in Iraq has been completed and laboratory analyses of the final batch of samples is in progress by UNEP and Spietz Laboratory.

4. **Sudan:** The Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment (PCEA) is underway. Two assessment missions were conducted to the Red Sea State and Central Sudan-Nuba Mountains from 4-12 February and 6-23 March 2006 respectively. The objective of the missions was to compile primary data about the key environmental issues and threats facing the aforementioned regions to feed into the PCEA report. Both missions were planned and coordinated with the Ministry of Environment and Physical Development whose staff participated throughout the missions and facilitated access and liaison with the relevant government department. Field missions were conducted during April to South Sudan, Central/East Sudan and Khartoum to gather technical information and conduct an institutional assessment. A three-week field mission to Darfur commenced on 31 May. The draft UNEP environmental assessment report was distributed for stakeholder comment in September.

The field work component of the post-conflict environmental assessment of Sudan, consisting of 10 separate field missions in 2005-2006, has been completed in September and the drafting of the report is being finalized. Consultations are in progress with both northern and southern partners, as well as other interested parties to ensure national ownership and implementation of the report recommendations. The final report is scheduled for release in January 2007.

5. **Somalia:** The Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) for Somalia was co-lead by the World Bank and UNDG with UNEP acting as the focal point for the environment. UNEP conducted a field mission to Somalia from 28 March to 2 April 2006. The purpose of the mission is to hold consultations with governmental, administrative and non-governmental stakeholders from Somaliland and Puntland regarding the contents of the draft environment sub-cluster report.

A Joint PCoB/ROA mission to Basaso and Hargeisa was conducted between 27 March and 3 April 2006 to collect additional field information and to present the draft sub-cluster report on the environment to key environmental stakeholders for their review and comment. Comments were collected from national environmental umbrella organizations through questionnaires. The environment sub-cluster report and costing of interventions are currently being finalized and results are being incorporated in the cluster report on "Productive sectors and the environment".

## Lebanon

1. **Environmental impact of conflict:** Since the start of the conflict on 12 July, the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit (JU) monitored key environmental issues and potential sites of impact. During this process, technical support was provided by PCoB and UNEP-MAP, political support was provided by ROWA and external communications support, including a website, was provided by DCPI. Following the ceasefire agreement on 19 August, the JU deployed experts to the region to rapidly assess acute environmental risks and to conduct initial coordination of the response to the oil spill. The post-conflict response was then gradually handed over to PCoB to conduct a more detailed post-conflict environmental assessment (see below). The cooperation achieved between the JU, PCoB, DCPI and ROWA during the Lebanon response is considered to be a model of best practice.
2. **Post-conflict environmental assessment:** Following a request from the Lebanese Minister of Environment, UNEP conducted a post-conflict environmental assessment of Lebanon to assess and mitigate environmental damage resulting from the conflict. The work was funded by the Governments of Norway and Switzerland and is included within the national Lebanon Early Recovery Plan. Field work took place between 30 September to 21 October and the post-conflict assessment report is scheduled for release during December. PCoB conducted the assessment in close cooperation with ROWA, the JU, UNDP-Beirut, IUCN and local counterparts such as the American University of Beirut, National Council for Scientific Research and Lebanese Ministry of Environment. The assessment team was led by PCoB, and include two experts from ROWA and one expert from the JU. The assessment covered the following thematic areas:
  - i) Solid waste
  - ii) Industrial contamination
  - iii) Coastal / marine contamination
  - iv) Water resources
  - v) Asbestos and air pollution
  - vi) Issues relating to weapons used
3. **Oil spill:** The most visible environmental impact from the conflict to date has been the oil spill (~ 10 to 30 thousand tones of heavy fuel oil) resulting from the bombing of the Jiyeh power plant between 13 and 15 July. The oil spill potentially contaminated about 150 Km of the Lebanese & the Syrian eastern-Mediterranean coastal areas. The JU played a central coordinating role in relation to the oil spill response during the conflict, while post-conflict coordination is handled by the IMO & UNEP Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC). Clean-up is ongoing currently.

## Palestine

1. **Post-disengagement environmental assessment in Gaza:** UNEP conducted an independent assessment of the environmental status of the disengaged Israeli settlements in Gaza from 9-18 December 2005 based on a request received from the Palestinian Environment Quality Authority. The assessment mission commenced with the training of Palestinian counterparts in Gaza, followed by field work from 11-17 December 2005. All 21 disengaged settlements in the Gaza strip were covered, as well as the Erez Industrial Estate. Upon completion of the field

work, the Palestinian counterparts received one third of the samples collected, the Israeli Ministry of Environment received an identical third and UNEP sent the remaining, identical third to the United Kingdom for independent laboratory testing. The findings of the assessment mission were released at a press conference in Jerusalem on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2006. Other than contaminated soil and asbestos, the assessment did not identify major sources of hazardous wastes in the region. It did, however, locate a number of unlined dumpsites, mostly receiving household and agricultural wastes, sometimes in old quarries. The report recommends that these areas are delineated on the land-use map restricting their use and further site specific investigation and risk assessment undertaken to decide upon the final plan for each of the identified dumpsites. The UNEP report also provides preliminary recommendations for local solutions to tackle some of the identified environmental problems such as the clean-up of oil spillages. The Palestinian side expressed some reservations over the assessment report.

The removal and disposal of rubble remains a major activity to be undertaken prior to large-scale resettlement in the areas concerned. During this period, issues associated with asbestos need to be handled carefully so as not to expose workers to unnecessary harm. UNEP is working closely with the United Nations Development Programme / Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (UNDP/PAPP), which has been entrusted by the Government of Israel, the Palestinian Authority and the Office of the Special Envoy for the Quartet, Mr James Wolfensohn, to carry out the task of clearing and recycling the more than 1.2 million tons of rubble produced by the destruction of the settlements in the Gaza strip. It is hoped that the information generated by the assessment will be used for longer-term planning of various resource uses, including land use planning, agricultural use and solid waste management systems.

2. **Environmental information system (EIS):** In March 2006 a MoU was established between UNEP and the Applied Research Institute Jerusalem to develop an environmental information system for Gaza and to train approximately 20 members of the Palestinian Authorities in its up-keep and use. Training will take place in two sessions, one in West Bank and one in Gaza.
3. **Training workshop:** Following the release of UNEP's report "*Environmental Assessment of the Areas Disengaged by Israel in the Gaza Strip*" in March, UNEP hosted a workshop in Cairo from 30 April - 2 May to train participants in asbestos related aspects of clean-up work. The workshop was attended by representatives from the Palestinian Environment Quality Authority and UNDP (Jerusalem).
4. **Follow-up work and OCHA flash appeal:** Some of UNEP's proposed follow-up activities in the Gaza Strip have been included in OCHA's emergency appeal, which was launched in Jerusalem on 31 May. The UNEP activities included are clean-up measures and risk reduction at Erez Industrial Estate. In the absence of existing facilities to store contaminated oil and soil, the remediation approach proposed is to use methods whereby spilled oil is absorbed onto specialized pads and stored locally until suitable storage space is available. The aim would be to remove severe localized pollution and to alleviate the risk of ground water contamination and risks to public health and environmental quality. Indirectly the work would increase environmental awareness and capacity, and allow economic re-use of the Industrial Estate, potentially creating employment opportunities.

- 1. Environmental Management of the Iraqi Marshlands:** UNEP's project titled "*Support for Environmental Management of the Iraqi Marshlands*" was carried out. Six pilot sites were selected for the implementation of projects to supply potable water by introducing environmentally sound technologies (ESTs) for drinking water provision. Field assessments, facility design and construction supervision were conducted for the treatment plant supply and installation.

The six sites for which pilot projects have been implemented and have been visited are:

1. Al-Kirmashiya , Thi-Qar Governorate
2. Badir Al-Rumaidh , Thi-Qar Governorate
3. Al-Jeweber , Thi-Qar Governorate
4. Al-Mashab , Basrah Governorate
5. Al-Hadam , Missan Governorate
6. Al-Sewelmat , Missan Governorate

Four field evaluations of the six pilot sites were carried out during the months of February, March, May and July of 2006; the observations and information collected with regard to the present state of works has been presented in four individual reports. Also, field evaluation team visited the communities and through a questionnaire survey collected basic information of the beneficiaries views and feelings on the outcome and impact of the project. The results of the survey have helped the field evaluation team arrive at the conclusions as listed at the end.

- 2. Contaminated Site Assessment report:** The launch of the report "Assessment of Environmental Hot Spots in Iraq" took place in Geneva on 10 November 2005, in the presence of UNEP's former Executive Director, Dr. Klaus Toepfer, the Iraqi Minister of Environment, H.E. Ms. Narmin Othman, and the Japanese deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Shigeru Endo. As a follow-up to this report, UNEP was awarded a US\$ 900,000 project from the Iraq Trust Fund to conduct a pilot clean-up project at one of the worst contaminated sites (Al Qadissiya). The tendering process for the clean-up project was pursued in Q1 and based on the request of the Iraqi Ministry of Environment; to go to the extent possible through Iraqi (or Arab) companies, rather than foreign companies, leading to more cost effectiveness.
- 3. Hazardous Waste collection and clean-up:** A US\$ 900,000 project, funded by the Iraq Trust Fund, to conduct pilot clean-up activities was actually utilized at two contaminated sites (Al Qadissiya and Al Suwaira) after the completion of a successful tender process. The tender process was coordinated and implemented by UNOPS. After a competitive bidding process, a Lebanese firm was selected and contracted to conduct clean-up work at Al Qadissiya and Al Suwaira, two industrial contaminated sites identified by UNEP in the hotspot report on Iraq. Training was provided to employees and government staff on the methodologies and health safety protocols for hazardous waste collection and storage. Work at Al Suwaira included the collection and storage of pesticides was completed on 3 August. A total of 149 drums have been stored inside a warehouse and enclosed by warning tape. Work at the Al Qadissiya site was completed by the end of September.
- 4. Environmental Information Center:** UNEP PCoB together with DCPI are in an advanced stage on the establishment of an environmental information center at the Ministry of Environment in Iraq. The ministry has allocated relevant space, Publications have already been

delivered and library equipment has been provided to the Ministry of Environment. Computers have been procured and delivered during June 2006.

A training workshop on database and information management was held during May 2006. Following training provided to Iraqi Ministry of Environment staff on environmental information management in Nairobi by DCPI during October 2005 and May 2006, the Ministry was during Q3-2006 provided with computer equipment configured with library software, furniture, 1500 publications and subscriptions to international online research databases. A video conferencing facility has been set up part of the environmental information center to facilitate remote training. The Minister of Environment has requested UNEP to assist with the procurement of Arabic resources, which are available in Iraq, Lebanon and Jordan. With this assistance UNEP's support to the environmental information center is expected to be completed by Q4 2006.

5. **Environmental Monitoring Laboratory:** The procurement of equipment for the establishment of an environmental monitoring laboratory was completed in the Q1-2006. During Q3-2006 UNEP delivered the first shipment of equipment for the establishment of an environmental monitoring laboratory, while the remaining equipment is in transit. This project component will be completed during Q4 with the installation of the equipment and class room and occupational training to Ministry staff on environmental monitoring and analyses. A training programme in respect of maintenance and operations will be conducted in Baghdad. Specialized training sessions on chemicals will be organized for ten government staff members in Dubai or Amman.
6. **Institutional Capacity Assessment:** During 4-6 January 2006 a workshop was held with the members of the institutional capacity assessment taskforce. UNEP facilitated a SWOT analyses (Strengths-Weaknesses-Opportunities-Threats) of the current institutional structure. The results of a questionnaire, which results were compiled by the Ministry of Environment, were also discussed. A final report on the Institutional Capacity Assessment was expected in 2006. A final report on the Institutional Capacity Assessment has been drafted and was discussed with the Ministry of Environment end June/early July 2006.

On 2 September UNEP (ROWA and PCoB) met with the Iraqi Minister of Environment in Amman to discuss progress of UNEP's capacity building programme. UNEP's Regional Office for West Asia presented two concept proposals on hazardous waste management and multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) to the Minister. H.E. the Minister endorsed the 2 proposals. In addition, the results of the Institutional Capacity Assessment were presented and discussed.

7. **Consultative meeting on Depleted Uranium:** A 2<sup>nd</sup> consultative meeting was conducted from 28 March – 31 March between UNEP and the Radiation Prevention/Protection Center of the Iraqi Ministry of Environment (RPC) in Geneva. The purpose of the meeting was to review and discuss the Local Expert DU Site Assessment Package-I and deliver Mission Package-II. During the meeting preliminary results of the analysis of the shared samples between RPC and UNEP from Package-I were presented from the SWISS SPIEZ LABORATORY. The meeting provided an opportunity for UNEP to provide the PRC with suggestions for the second round of DU site assessment package-II. UNEP updated a DU database with information available internationally on the subject. PCoB assisted the RPC on preparing a report on DU in Iraq.

The Field work on sampling for depleted uranium by Iraqi experts of the Radiation Prevention Centre (RPC) of the Iraqi Ministry of Environment has been completed. All samples from Package-I & Package-II have been analyzed. The Capacity Building/DU report will be ready in

late autumn 2006. In parallel, UNEP is continuously updating a DU database with available international information.

8. **Technical support to Environmental law:** During the month of January-2006 UNEP sent an Iraqi legal consultant to assist the Ministry of Environment's taskforce on Environmental Law. This taskforce is in the process of drafting an environmental framework law. The consultant assisted with highlighting the potential gaps in the law, facilitating some of the debates around the articles, and providing technical advice on a variety of environmental management concepts and topics for discussion in context of the framework law. The Ministry is nearing the finalization of a draft law, which will then be submitted to an inter-ministerial review process before being submitted to the Ministry of Justice and Cabinet for approval.
9. **UNEP's EIA Manual translation into Arabic:** UNEP's EIA Manual has been translated into Arabic and the first printed versions was available in April 2006. The Arabic version was distributed to the Iraqi Environment Ministry. The project is a joint effort between ETB and PCoB.
10. **Mainstreaming environment in Iraq Trust Fund:** UNEP has conducted an environmental review of the projects submitted under the Iraq Trust Fund from October – December 2005. The review found that though all UN agencies are committed to the principle of sustainable development, 53% of the UN projects documents reviewed (representing nearly US\$ 231 million) were found to have the potential for moderate to significant environmental impacts (25 out of 47). The three most common potential environmental impacts in the reviewed projects (>50%) involve the protection of water quality and quantity, the safe disposal of solid waste and the sustainable use of biodiversity. Potential impacts in the areas of air quality and groundwater quality were also identified in more than 30% of the projects. The environmental review method developed by UNEP for the ITF could be an effective tool in the future to identify potential environmental impacts and to recommend options for mitigation if the approval criteria are clarified and agencies are held accountable for potential impacts.
11. **Transfer to UNEP-ROWA:** Following the successful implementation of the activities by PCoB, UNEP ED has decided that follow-up phases will be implemented by the Regional Office for West Asia (ROWA). UNEP has entered into discussions on this handover and is assisting ROWA with the formulation of proposals for potential funding by the Iraq Trust Fund. PCoB and ROWA have jointly attended International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq donor briefings, organized by UNAMI in Amman in May. Discussions are being conducted with ROWA on its involvement with hazardous waste management, environmental awareness raising and education, and Iraq's reconnection to the Multilateral Environmental Agreements. ROWA is pursuing funding for the 2 aforementioned proposals in addition to a 3<sup>rd</sup> one on Renewable Energy Application in Southern Iraq with the Japanese government (among others).

## Sudan

1. **Technical Missions:** Two assessment missions were conducted to the Red Sea State and Central Sudan-Nuba Mountains from 4-12 February and 6-23 March 2006, respectively. The objective of the missions was to conduct a fact finding evaluation and compile primary data about the key environmental issues and threats facing the aforementioned regions to feed into the Post Conflict Environment Assessment (PCEA) report. Both missions were planned and coordinated with the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and Physical Development whose staff participated throughout the missions and facilitated access and liaison with the relevant

government departments. Agreement was reached with DEPI to prepare a film documentary about the environmental situation in the Sudan and the film maker was able to participate in the second mission. Rapid reconnaissance visits have also been conducted to multiple sites in the Khartoum urban area.

- 2. Darfur Joint Assessment Mission:** The Darfur Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) formally launched at a high-level meeting in Norway on 21 June. The JAM proceeded in two phases, the first focusing on early recovery needs and the second on longer term development needs according to the MDGs. The JAM was led by the UN Resident Coordinator. Environment has been flagged as a significant issue. The JAM is project-based, including costed details over a 24 month period.

UNEP participated in the UNDG Darfur JAM with strategic attendance, sponsorship of consultants to the process and provision of technical guidance material. There was a high level of awareness depicted of environmental issues, with key areas being the impact of drought, land degradation and climate change, management of scarce water resources and the severe deforestation process. Any escalation in the conflict may, however, delay the JAM process and change many JAM findings, with environmental issues expected to worsen significantly.

- 3. PCEA Report:** The scoping study and work plan for the Post Conflict Environment Assessment (PCEA) report was finalised following consultations with government authorities, donors and international organisations. The document outlined the objectives and scope of the PCEA report as well as established the workplan and timetable for key outputs. MoUs have been signed with the Sudan Remote Sensing Authority (RSA) and DEWA/GRID-Europe to provide remote sensing and cartographic support to the PCEA report.

The post-conflict environmental assessment, currently in progress, is designed to provide a comprehensive analysis of the current status of the environment for all of Sudan, with an emphasis on issues associated with the current conflicts, peace building and post conflict recovery. The assessment entails 10 field missions covering over 60 locations, remote sensing and desk based research. Since April a field mission was conducted to South Sudan and an institutional assessment mission took place in Khartoum from 17-29 April. A three-week mission to Darfur commenced on 31 May. Fieldwork is now complete. The drafting of the report is being finalized in parallel with local consultations to ensure national ownership of report recommendations. A draft environmental assessment report was made available to stakeholders for consultation in September. The public launch of the report will take place in January 2007.

- 4. Government/Donor consultations:** In collaboration with a consortium of donors and international agencies (EC, NBI, World Bank), UNEP assisted the Government of National Unity organize the National Plan Environmental Management process (NPEM). The NPEM workshop was held in May 2006 and agreement has been reached to integrate the UNEP programme and schedule for 2006 in this planning process. As part of its efforts to support dialogue between GONU and GOSS on environment issues, UNEP attended and actively participated in several meetings between the two parties in Juba from 13-15 February.
- 5. Capacity building:** An initial capacity building workshop was conducted 18-20 July in Khartoum, sponsored by the European Commission, Nile Basin Initiative and UNEP. This 3 day event, attended by 300 people including high-level national representatives, was the first event of its kind after the peace process to bring both Northern and Southern stakeholders together in a technical forum on the environment.

In South Sudan capacity building started with high level advice and budget compilation in March. From 23 April - 7 May IT / GIS training was provided in Juba and laptop computers and GPS devices delivered to representatives of the Ministry of Environment and other line ministries of South Sudan. From 15-18 May multi-party agreements were developed between the Government of South Sudan, UNEP, USAID and the EC to work jointly to implement a major capacity building package. A second workshop will take place in Juba, South Sudan, on 31.10 - 2.11. 2006. In South Sudan capacity building by UNEP continued and significantly expanded with the installation of an environmental library in the Ministry of Environment and the appointment of a consultant providing technical assistance to public service administration.

6. **Environmental mainstreaming:** UNEP proposed to formalize the screening of all proposed sector plans and projects and to allocate full time resources to provide advice to project sponsors and implementers with the objective of modifying project plans to better mitigate impact and capture opportunities for environmental improvements.
7. **Project offices:** An officer has been hired to help administer the UNEP office in Juba in March 2006 and who will assist in liaison with GOSS and in the preparation of the South Sudan technical component of the PCEA report.
8. **Sudan Environmental Information Center:** In July 2006 UNEP donated more than 400 books for the establishment of an environmental information centre at the Ministry of Environment of the Government of South Sudan (GOSS). An equal number of books were also donated to the Khartoum headquarters of the Sudanese Environment Conservation Society (SECS). UNEP established a partnership with SECS to provide an environmental information facility to promote informed decision-making within the Government of National Unity of Sudan and national and relevant international organizations.
9. **Film making:** A documentary film maker accompanied field missions to North and South Sudan and filming has been completed. Production of a first short documentary film is planned on North/Sudan in conjunction with the release of the report. BBC will be approached for television distribution. Footage & production for a documentary film and video news release (VNR) is ongoing and is planned for completion in conjunction with the release of the assessment report. Development of the full documentary requires additional funding.

## Somalia

1. **Joint Needs Assessment:** The Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) for Somalia, co-lead by the World Bank and UNDG, was undertaken by the Transitional Federal Government, UNDG and the World Bank during the period November 2005 to July 2006. Reports by the six different clusters were prepared, with a view to finalizing the JNA report (encompassing all clusters) during May 2006. UNEP has prepared a draft report on the environment for the “Productive Sectors and Environment” cluster.

The JNA seeks to provide assistance to Somalia to achieve sustained reconstruction and development and deepen the peace process over the period 2006-2010. Environmental needs fall within the “productive sectors and environment” cluster managed by the World Bank, while at the same time environmental issues are to be mainstreamed into all of the other sectors as necessary. UNEP acts as focal point for the environment within the JNA process.

UNEP-PCoB and ROA prepared a “sub-cluster” report on the environment in Somalia, as well as a results matrix. In addition, in order to help mainstream the environmental needs across the JNA, a series of sector-specific environmental checklists were developed. In order to verify the

findings of the report, UNEP conducted a field mission to Basaso and Hargeisa between 27 March and 3 April 2006. The purpose of the mission was to present the draft sub-cluster report to key environmental stakeholders for their review and comment and to collect additional information on environmental conditions and needs. A questionnaire was also sent to environmental umbrella organizations, whose members are active across Somalia, to extend the coverage of information collection to the national level, in particular the south where security conditions prevented mission access. A total of 33 environmental organizations were consulted in the review process, including government bodies and national/sub-national NGOs.

UNEP, in collaboration with the World Bank, is currently in the process of finalizing the environment sub-cluster report and costing the interventions contained in the results matrix.

2. **Environmental field mission:** UNEP has conducted a field mission to Somalia from 28 March to 2 April 2006. The purpose of the mission was to hold consultations with governmental, administrative and non-governmental stakeholders from Somaliland and Puntland regarding the contents of the draft environment sub-cluster report. In this regard, the mission sought to identify the priority environmental issues having a direct impact on the livelihood of Somalis and needing urgent action. UNEP's Post-Conflict Branch and Regional Office for Africa are working closely with the World Bank and UNDG on the preparation of the environment sub-cluster report, as well as the mission to Somalia, while UNEP's Department of Policy Development and Law (DPDL), New York, is responsible for inter-agency liaison.