



# Environmental Considerations in UN Peacekeeping Operations



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# Today's Presentation

- **Rio+20 outcomes**
- **Environment in Peacekeeping - Why? What?**  
Footprint – Environmental policy/guidelines
- **DFS/UNEP cooperation**
- **Existing Tools**
- **Take away**





## Rio+20 outcomes

- <http://www.uncsd2012.org/thefuturewewant.html>
- **SDGs - Sustainable Development Goals** (paras 245-251)
- **UNEP enhancement** (para 88)
- **Sustainable Development Financing Strategy** (para 255)
- **GDP+** (para 38)
- **Concept of Green economy** (para 58)
- **Disaster risk reduction** (paras 186-189)
- **Food security / Watsan / Waste / Gender / SCP 10YFP**
- **UN Sustainability management** (para 96)
- **Registry of commitments**

# UN PEACEKEEPING — WE ARE A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP



## PEACEKEEPING IS SUPPORTED BY

**193** member states



### WHO CONTRIBUTE

PERSONNEL, EQUIPMENT & FUNDS

## WORKING WITH OUR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

**AU**  
African Union

**EU**  
European Union

### AND OUR UN PARTNERS INCLUDING

**The World Bank**

**UNDP**  
United Nations Development Programme

**UN WOMEN**

## PEACEKEEPING INCLUDES



**17** MISSIONS  
ACROSS **4** CONTINENTS

## THE LARGEST MISSION IS IN

**Darfur**  
**27,892** personnel  
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH **AU** African Union



## PEACEKEEPING HAS A GLOBAL LOGISTICS OPERATION

	<b>46</b>	AIRPLANES
	<b>12</b>	SHIPS
	<b>147</b>	HELICOPTERS
	<b>33,437</b>	VEHICLES
	<b>22</b>	HOSPITALS
	<b>252</b>	MEDICAL CLINICS

**\$** \*BUDGET **7.41** BILLION  
LESS THAN **0.5%** OF WORLD MILITARY EXPENDITURES



**121,562** TOTAL FIELD PERSONNEL  
**117** COUNTRIES CONTRIBUTING TROOPS, POLICE & MILITARY PERSONNEL

## WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE HOST COUNTRIES WE HELP PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD

**4 M** TOTAL AREA OF COUNTRIES WE OPERATE IN (sq km) | **154 M** LOCAL POPULATION OF COUNTRIES WE OPERATE IN

[un.org/peacekeeping](http://un.org/peacekeeping)

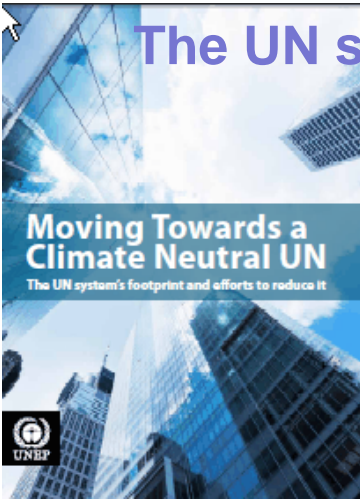
Data used from 2010-2012  
\*Proposed 2012-2013 budget



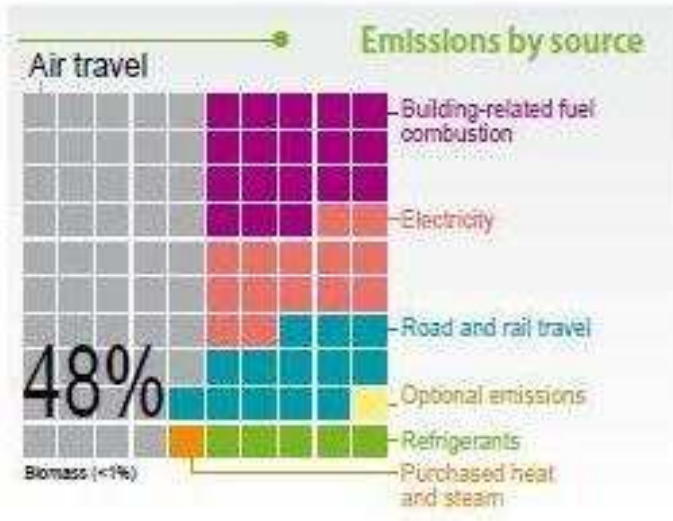
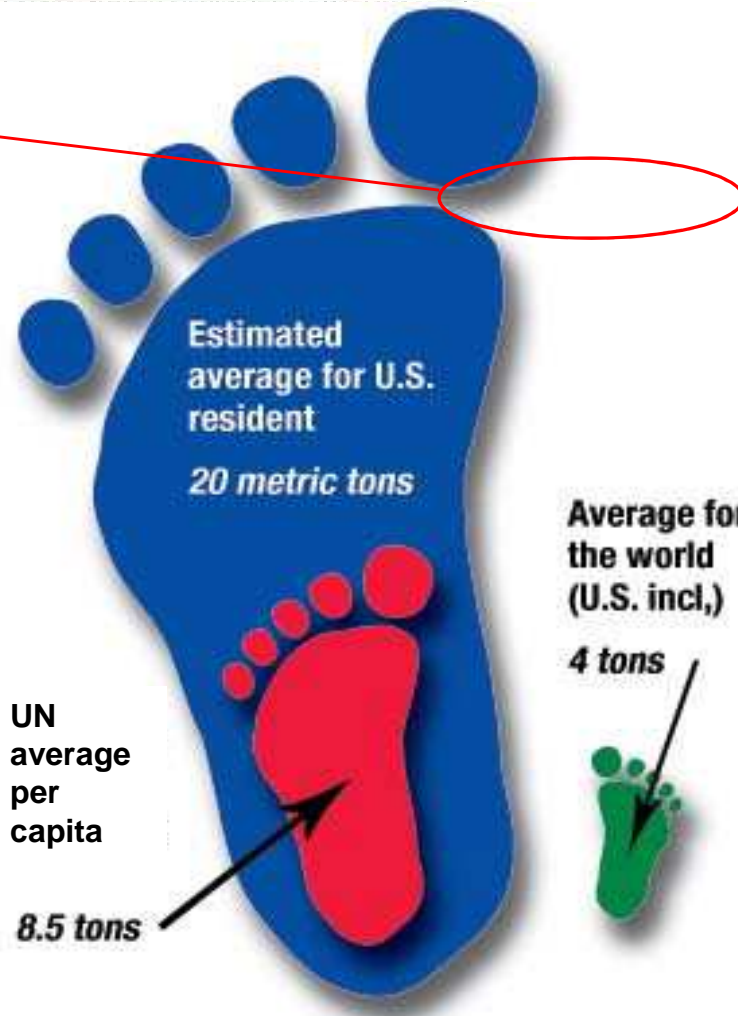
# 2008 UN footprint

“Moving towards a climate neutral UN:

The UN system’s footprint and efforts to reduce it” (Dec 2009)



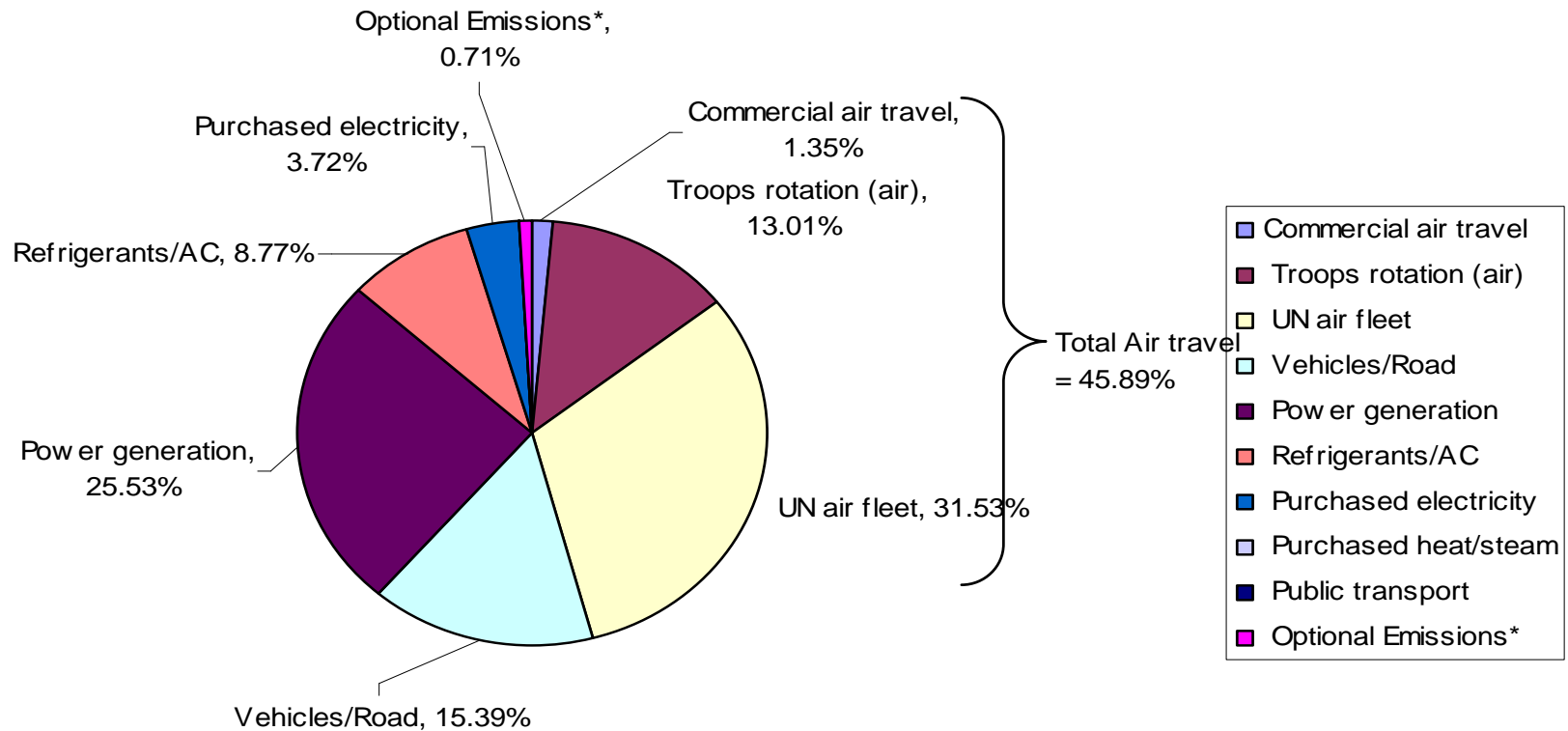
**Peacekeeping missions**  
= 1 M t CO<sub>2</sub>e  
= 56% of total UN





# 2008 GHG inventory (DPKO)

2008 Greenhouse gases emissions inventory for DPKO field missions (20 missions)



*\*Optional emissions are mostly refrigerants which are not calculated in the Refrigerants calculator*



## Some challenges



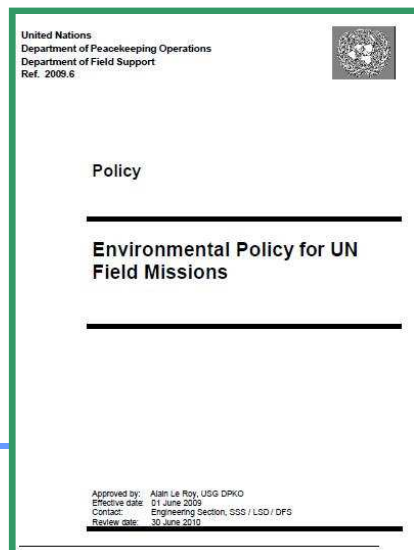


## DPKO/DFS Environmental Policy (1/2)

Signed by DPKO Under-Secretary-General  
Effective since 1 June 2009

- *"each field mission" to "establish its environmental policy and objectives and control measures." → ALL PHASES*
- *"ALL personnel shall conduct themselves in accordance with the document as well as with the Env. guidelines"*

→ Improving the environmental impacts of the missions as well as **protecting the health, safety and security** of UN staff and local community, ensuring **legal compliance** and **leading by example**.







## DPKO/DFS Environmental Policy (2/2)

### *Issues covered*

- Waste (including hazardous waste)
- Water
- Wastewater
- Energy
- Wild plants and animals
- Cultural and historical sites

### *Other requirements*

- Environmental baseline study
- Environmental action plan
- Emergency preparedness



Solar water heaters are mounted on the roofs of sanitary units at a UN peacekeeping base in Kinshasa, DRC



## Current field missions initiatives





# Global Field Support Strategy

## → Modularisation Pillar

200-man camp – 19 modules including waste/water/wastewater/energy modules being designed to be more self-sustained

UNEP included in the SOW working group to ensure it is compliant with the DPKO/DFS Environmental Policy.



## Reporting mechanisms

- **Environmental performance objective** added in **Compacts** of all Heads of field missions.
- Environmental Page in '**Roadmap**' **Mission Information Management System** to be completed for the **monthly Mission Support report** – qualitative and quantitative (e.g. number of accidents/incidents etc ...)
- General Assembly requests (C34, ACABQ, 5<sup>th</sup> committee)



# DPKO/DFS Environmental Guidelines

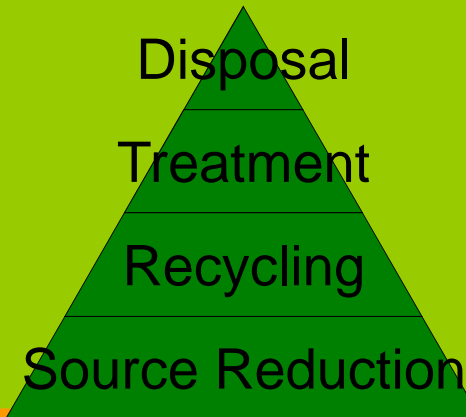
## Waste

### What do the guidelines cover?

- Waste segregation
- Solid waste
- Wastewater & sewage
- Industrial & hazardous waste
- Waste engine/gear oils, lubricants
- Batteries & battery acid
- Used tires
- Scrap metals
- Old office & clinic equipment
- Clinical waste
- Construction waste
- Obsolete stocks of chemicals

### Recommended Action:

✓ Subscribe to hierarchy of activities for waste management:



*Re-using tires for construction*





## DPKO/DFS draft Environmental Guidelines

### Hazardous Substances

#### What do the guidelines cover?

- Pesticides for vector control
- Fuels, oils, other lubricants & industrial chemicals
- Lead, mercury, other heavy metals
- Gases & ozone-depleting substances
- Radioactive substances
- E-waste



#### Recommended Actions:

- ✓ Dispose of pesticides in one of the following manners (depending upon the type of product & local circumstances):
  - high-temperature incineration
  - chemical treatment
  - specially engineered landfill for immobilized materials such as incinerator ash & slag
  - long-term controlled storage
- ✓ Specify use of unleaded paint





## DPKO/DFS draft Environmental Guidelines

### Pollution

What do the guidelines cover?

- Air
- Noise
- Water
- Soil



### Recommended Actions:

#### Power generation:

- ✓ Include efficiency & smoke emissions factors in requirements for the purchase of power generators
- ✓ Regularly adjust generator engines & submit to emission test

#### Spill Prevention:

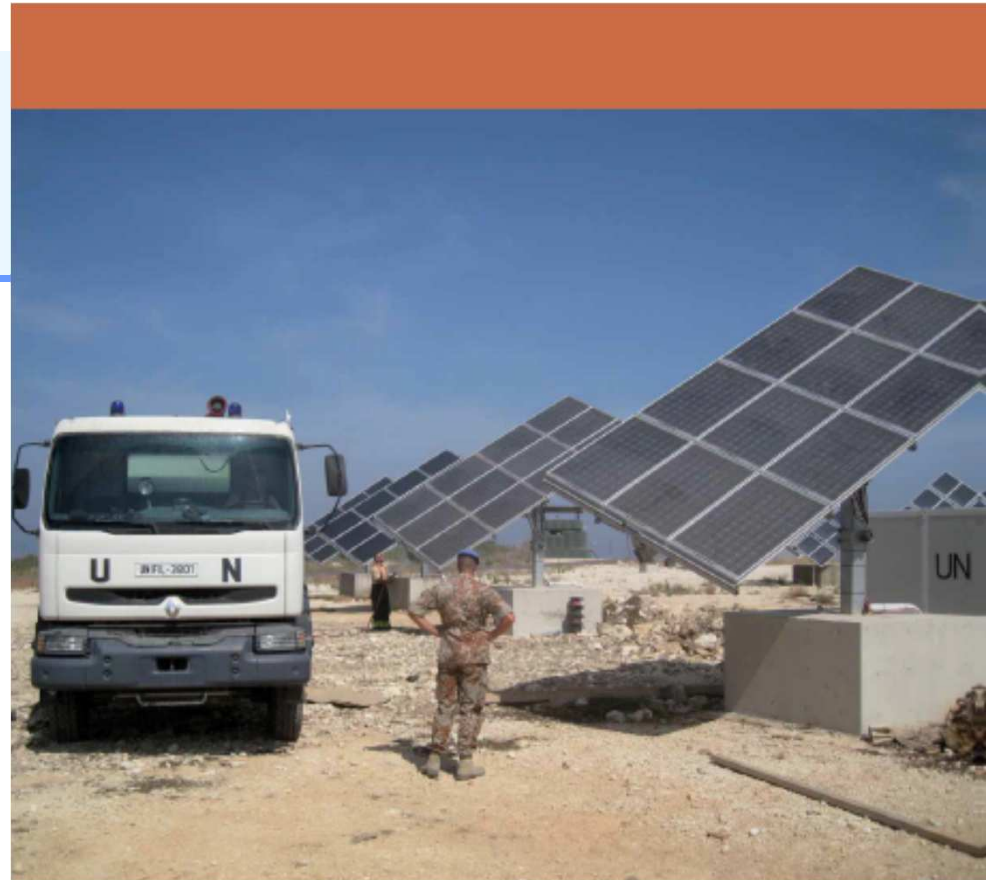
- ✓ Receptacles, drums & storage tanks of chemical products or fuels - place on impermeable surfaces surrounded by a wall; ensure drainage has closure valve to retain leaks



Launched in May 2012  
Findings of a two-year analysis

**Part 1:** review of the environmental management of peacekeeping operations, good practices, main constraints

**Part 2:** role of peacekeeping operations in stabilizing countries where conflicts have been financed by natural resources or driven by grievances over their use.



## Greening the Blue Helmets

Environment, Natural Resources  
and UN Peacekeeping Operations

United Nations Environment Programme





## Greening the Blue Helmets report Part 1 findings

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- Resource-efficient practices, technologies and behaviours **offer multiple benefits** to peacekeeping missions
  - Examples of good practices have emerged, but **currently ad hoc, need harmonization** across all missions
  - Need **appropriate staffing and training** resources
  - Need an **adequate universal system for compliance monitoring** of the Policy
-



## DFS-UNEP 5-Year Cooperation Plan

DFS & UNEP are working on a 5-year concept framework to fully implement the Environmental Policy:

- **Development of tools and operational guidelines**
- **Field implementation of the policy**
- **Development and implementation of training programmes:** In-mission and pre-deployment training/briefing to all military, police and civilian personnel,
- **Monitoring, evaluation and reporting:** cooperation subject to regular monitoring/ evaluation against agreed objectives and KPIs.
- **Communication and advocacy**



## Internet/Intranet/Training

- UN peacekeeping website has an **Environment & Sustainability webpage**  
<http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/issues/environment/>
- Intranet 'POINT' <https://point.un.org/SitePages/envsus.aspx>
- Online Community of Practice
- UNITAR/UNEP/IISD online **training** – *Introduction to Environment, Natural Resources and UN Peacekeeping Operations*  
<http://stream.unitar.org/ptp/StartCourse/player.html>



[www.GREENINGtheBLUE.org](http://www.GREENINGtheBLUE.org)

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# GREENING THE BLUE.



YOU ARE HERE: [HOME](#) > [CASE STUDIES](#) > BLUE HELMETS PREPARE TO GO GREEN

## BLUE HELMETS PREPARE TO GO GREEN

Related Organisation/Agency: [Department of Field Support \(DFS\)](#)  
[Department of Peacekeeping Operations \(DPKO\)](#)

Environmental issues such as competition for dwindling or lucrative resources often lie at the heart of conflict. Conflict in turn can devastate habitats, making recovery to sustainable peace a hard road. Recently, peacekeeping mandates have begun to address these issues. And work is under way at UN Headquarters on ways to deploy large peacekeeping operations with a reduced impact on the environment.



As green consciousness grows among peace operation planners, new ways are being

UN-wide campaign



@UNGtB

Case studies from  
WFP



## Resource centre

# Mainstreaming the environment into humanitarian action

[HOME](#)[BACKGROUND](#)[PURPOSE](#)[METHODOLOGY](#)[ACRONYMS](#)[NEWS](#)[CONTACT](#)[VERSION FRANÇAISE](#)

### General information

[Humanitarian action & environment](#)

### Sectors / Clusters

[Agriculture](#)[Camp coordination & management](#)[Early recovery](#)[Education](#)[Emergency shelter](#)[Emergency telecommunications](#)[Health](#)[Logistics](#)[Nutrition](#)[Protection](#)

## Humanitarian action and environment

### Guidelines

[Back to top](#)

#### Humanitarian Action and the Environment (UNEP)

Leaflet explains the linkages between each humanitarian sector on the environment and the direct and indirect impacts of emergencies on environment using examples from previous disasters.

[Read more](#)

#### Key Things to Know About Environment as a “Cross-Cutting” Issue in Early Recovery (UNEP)

Article explains in detail sectors that need specific environmental attention: hazardous substances, emergency waste management, water use, sanitation, energy consumption, refugee/IDP camps, transport and green procurement, p. 2 – 4. Includes general and sector-specific checklists of environment-related questions to ask when leading an assessment, p. 4 – 6.



[http://postconflict.unep.ch/humanitarianaction/o1\\_o1.html](http://postconflict.unep.ch/humanitarianaction/o1_o1.html)



## Some takeaways – what's needed

- Scrutiny from civil society, media, Member States
- Senior Management buy-in
- Mandate by governing body and/or donor request
- Integrate environmental considerations from planning phase
- Adapt your message to your audience
- Adequate resources (human and financial)
- Accountability and reporting
- Sharing practices
- **In mission:**
  - Training for all personnel
  - Enough level of authority of the Environmental unit (where in the organigramme?)
  - Get Focal points in all areas/Environmental committee
  - Manage your waste/wastewater before outsourcing



*Thank you!*



Questions?

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