



DUTIES OF PEACEKEEPERS

Reducing the Environmental Footprint of Field Missions



GENERAL DUTIES

- ☐ Uphold the commitments in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between UN and your TCC/PCC on environmental compliance and waste management*:
- ☐ Endeavor to achieve full compliance with United Nations environmental and waste management policies and procedures for field missions as outlined in your pre-deployment or induction training.
- ☐ Undertake to “do no harm” to the local environment (including indigenous plants and animals).
- ☐ Upon departure, to leave the premises and physical environment in the condition in which it was provided.
- ☐ Observe a policy of no littering around the bases or on patrols.
- ☐ Take concrete steps to conserve water and energy, and to reduce and segregate waste.
- ☐ Properly manage hazardous waste and wastewater for which you are responsible.
- ☐ Where possible, prioritize the use of renewable energy.

Report any environmental incidents to the environment unit or mission support environmental focal points when it occurs:
Email: _____
Tel: _____

*under Article 7

WATER AND WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT



- ☐ Test regularly drinking water quality to ensure health and safety to staff.
- ☐ Systematically treat all wastewater and sludge prior to being discharged to the environment.
- ☐ Regularly check and maintain wastewater treatment infrastructure (septic tank, grease trap, manhole) to ensure proper function and avoid overflow.
- ☐ Avoid storm water penetration into the wastewater treatment network to avoid overflow.
- ☐ Introduce technologies to improve water efficiency in camps, e.g. install low flow fixtures, tap/shower aerators, dual flush toilets.
- ☐ Establish alternate water sources to supplement conventional sources and reduce water consumption, e.g. rainwater harvesting, re-use of treated wastewater for car washing, toilet flushing, dust control, ...

DO YOU USE WATER WISELY?

- ☐ Always turn off taps
- ☐ Report any leaks - no matter how small
- ☐ Use recycled water for car washing and gardening
- ☐ Use the half-flush on dual flush toilets
- ☐ Take short showers

PROHIBITED

- ☐ To discharge or spill untreated blackwater / greywater into the environment.
- ☐ To discharge untreated oil water or greasy water into the environment.
- ☐ To discharge used oil or diesel in a drainage channel, a water body or a septic tank to control mosquito breeding or odor.
- ☐ To throw any items (utensils, fabrics, ...) in the wastewater system.



ENERGY MANAGEMENT



- ☐ Know how much you consume and strive to reduce your energy impact.
- ☐ Close doors/windows when AC units are on.
- ☐ Avoid using/replace ACs units running with ozone depleting substances
- ☐ Optimise power production:
 - Rightsize and synchronise generators, and connect to renewable grids where possible
- ☐ Improve the energy efficiency of where you live/work:
 - increase shading, add insulation, install double-roofing, plant trees, etc.

ARE YOU ENERGY SMART?

- ☐ Switch off lights, ACs, and appliances
- ☐ Turn off vehicles, don't let engines idle
- ☐ Set your thermostat to minimum 23°C in hot climates
- ☐ Report spills and leaks - no matter how small
- ☐ Drive less - car pool, cycle or walk when possible

PETROLEUM, OIL AND LUBRICANTS POLLUTION PREVENTION

- ☐ Handle POL with care to avoid spills.
- ☐ Install containment basins / platforms with berms and sufficient capacity under all fuel tanks and drums, fuel collection points and generators. (Including in the design an oil-water separator and a roof, if possible.)
- ☐ Ensure that the workshops and car washing areas are paved and the water collected is diverted toward an oil-water separator, if discharged to the environment.
- ☐ Ensure a proper storage of collected used fuel / oil from the existing collection facilities.
- ☐ Ensure there is no discharge of used oil or diesel in a drainage channel, water body, septic tank or WWTP.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT



- ☐ Ensure all waste material and equipment is disposed of properly and in line with the environmental management framework.

(For example, bring empty (plastic) water bottles used during patrols back to camps for proper disposal).
- ☐ Avoid using single use plastic products (plastic bags, plastic cutlery) or containers (plastic bottles and cups).
- ☐ Undertake segregation and storage of waste (including hazardous waste) for recycling and/or proper disposal. Think and act according to the 4R's (reduce, reuse, recycle, recover/composting).
- ☐ Maintain an inventory of hazardous substances kept in camps.
- ☐ Practice proper medical waste segregation at source (clinics, hospitals, medical services) before disposal.
- ☐ Practice smart printing when applicable.

LEAVE NO WASTE BEHIND

- ☐ Keep your camp tidy
- ☐ Always dispose of hazardous waste correctly
- ☐ Use the right bin
- ☐ Use refillable bottles and reusable bags
- ☐ Try composting

PROHIBITED

- ☐ To throw away bottle packaging / wraps / bags directly into the local environment.
- ☐ Open burning of any waste, whether solid, hazardous, chemical or biomedical.
- ☐ Burying solid waste, hazardous waste and chemicals in the ground.
- ☐ Burning of used tyres.
- ☐ Dumping hazardous waste, chemicals, biomedical waste or expired medicine at the landfill or dumping site.



WIDER IMPACT



- Be aware of the cultural, religious and historical sites and behave according to local practices.
- Promote compliance with international environmental treaties and provide capacity development support to Host-State counterparts (including when undertaking community outreach programmes and community-oriented policing)
- Leave a positive legacy whenever possible.

PROHIBITED



- To bring any plant / seeds from country of origin which is not endemic to country of deployment, and vice versa.
- To acquire wild plants and animals, live or dead.
- To use charcoal. Do not use fire wood for cooking purpose. Do not take part in deforestation and biodiversity loss.
- To foster stray dogs and cats in camps by feeding them or improperly storing food waste.
- To cut down existing trees without authorization.



ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AND TRAINING



- Apply what you learned in the Environment and Natural Resources module of your Pre-Deployment Training.
- Pay attention during your in-mission induction briefing on environmental management and ask questions to the trainers.
- Actively participate in your on-site camp briefings and environmental site inspections conducted by your mission's Environment Team.
- Do your part in implementing the recommendations of the environmental site inspections at your camp.
- Learn about your Mission-wide Environmental Action Plan (MEAP) and the Environmental Management Scorecard.
- Support your Environmental Focal Points at camp, sector/region, and mission level, and collaborate with your mission's Environment Team in Mission Support.
- Join environmental events and awareness campaigns.
- Where requested, help with data collection for measuring environmental performance and risk management.



LEAVE A POSITIVE LEGACY



BE MINDFUL OF YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT



STOP

- Stop - before you start a new task/operation.
- Think - does the task involve issues (e.g. fuels, water, waste) that could affect the environment?
- Observe - the environment around you (e.g. drains, streams, trees).
- Plan - the task to avoid any damage to the environment.



WATER, ENERGY AND WASTE MANAGEMENT IN UN FIELD MISSIONS

Note: The figures below are based on data reported by missions for the 2018/19 period. They reflect the current situation and are not targets. In order to reduce our environmental footprint, everyone – military, police, civilian – need to uphold the duties of peacekeepers and lead by example.

SOLID WASTE



DOS is committed to improve waste management, and reduce the level of risk to personnel, local communities and ecosystems from waste.



Reduction in energy use means fewer fuel deliveries and convoys meaning lower risk to personnel.



Generator fuel use ranged from 2 to 6 L per person per day across missions.



Where feasible, sourcing energy from solar PV panels can be both economical and efficient.



Well-maintained wastewater treatment plants are critical to ensuring proper treatment before any discharge or reuse.



Composting organic/food waste is a low-cost way to reduce the volume of waste going to landfill.



Segregation of waste by type is essential to good waste management.



Adjust thermostats to no less than 23 C and keep doors and windows closed when in use.



Water consumption ranged from 50 to 200 L per person per day across missions.



Waste generation ranged from 0.6 to 2.4 kg per person per day across missions.

ENERGY



DOS is committed to reduce overall demand for energy through efficiencies, increase the proportion of energy used that is produced from renewables, and reduce the level of pollution created by peace operations.

WATER + WASTEWATER



DOS is committed to conserve water and reduce the level of risk to personnel, local communities and ecosystems from wastewater management practices.

The Environment Strategy for Peace Operations (2017-2023) sets out objectives and actions to realise the vision to deploy responsible missions that achieve maximum efficiency in their use of natural resources and operate at minimum risk to people, societies and ecosystems; contributing to a positive impact on these wherever possible.

