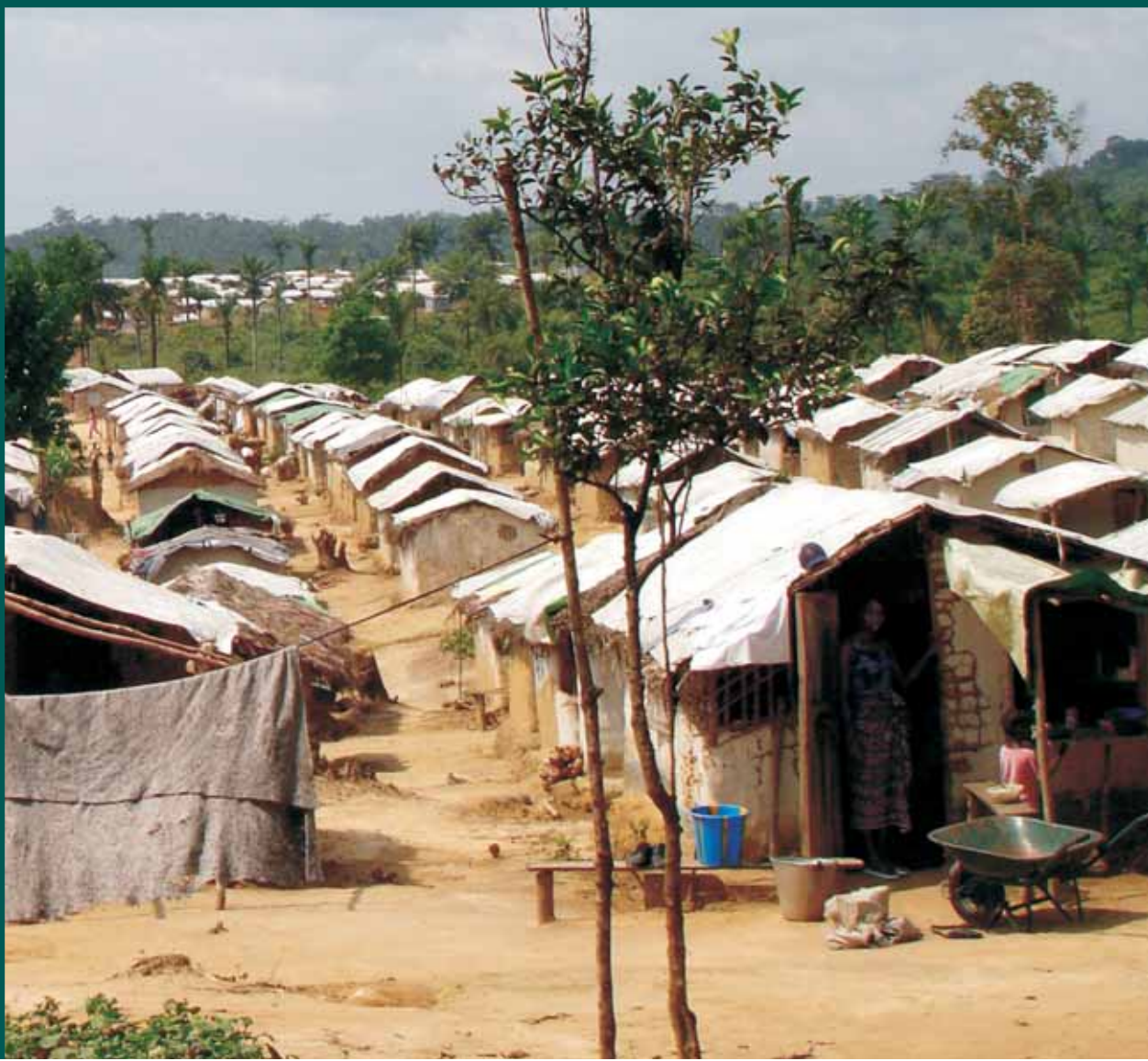




# Environmental considerations of human displacement in Liberia

A guide for decision-makers and practitioners



## ABOUT THIS GUIDE

The environmental impacts of human displacement are not always fully appreciated. Some, like the loss of vegetation cover, are immediate and lasting while others, such as water pollution or depletion of groundwater reservoirs, may take longer to become apparent.

This *Guide* illustrates the importance of taking environmental considerations into account when dealing with displaced people such as refugees or IDPs, as well as when preparing for resettlement and reintegration. Although the circumstances of planning and managing a refugee or IDP camp may be quite different, some of the environmental issues may well be the same. This *Guide* therefore provides decision-makers and practitioners with a generic overview of the key environmental issues and concerns relevant to displacement, and directs readers to additional technical information. Extracting useful learning from one situation and demonstrating how such knowledge could be applied to others is indeed one of the main purposes of this document.

The environmental impacts of refugee operations, in particular, have been highlighted in the past decade through work by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other agencies. UNEP recognizes that a considerable wealth of information already exists on the basic aspects of environmental management and displaced populations. The purpose of this *Guide* is not to duplicate such information but rather to make it more readily available in Liberia and other post-conflict situations. For this reason, some of the most relevant technical guidance published by other organizations has been reproduced on a compact disc included with this *Guide*.

This *Guide*, however, goes beyond merely restating facts and figures which may already be known to some of its intended users. Following a request from the Government of Liberia and other UN agencies, UNEP has tailored information relating to camp management and environmental rehabilitation to the specific needs of Liberia, as it emerges from almost 15 years of conflict. With the advent of peace, hundreds of thousands of people – both those who remained within the country as IDPs and those who fled to neighbouring countries – are on the move. The *Guide* includes a series of specific case studies which not only describe how and when environmental considerations were taken into account, and the marked improvement that followed in certain situations, but also illustrate problems that arose with regard to natural resource use and management on account of ill-informed decisions or decisions not being taken at all.

The main focus of this *Guide* is on planned camp situations. Some of the principles and techniques, however, are equally applicable in other settings, such as dispersed settlements. Core issues such as proper sanitation and hygiene, as well as access to safe drinking water and security remain the same, regardless of the circumstances. These and a range of other issues should also be borne in mind when planning for the resettlement and reintegration of displaced populations.

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## OW TO USE THIS GUIDE

The underlying challenge addressed in this *Guide* is how to deal with environmental matters at times of mass human displacement. This *Guide*, which is arranged in five main sections, distils best practices from a range of humanitarian operations and referenced sources. Direct reference, however, is given to the situation in Liberia through a series of Case Studies. In addition to having hosted close to 500 000 internally displaced persons for almost 15 years, Liberia is now faced with the new challenge of resettling and reintegrating nearly 800 000 people. The issue of conflict-induced human displacement and its impact on the environment is discussed in the **Introduction** to this *Guide*.

Issues and impacts relating to the **Environment and the Camp Management Cycle** are examined in Section 2, from the initial identification of a potential site for a camp (2.2), through its planning (2.3), establishment (2.4) and management (2.5), to eventual closure (2.6) and rehabilitation of the environment (2.7). Although written with a focus on the entire camp management process, many of the lessons learned are equally applicable to resettlement and reintegration.

Section 3 (**Environmental Concerns in the Resettlement and Reintegration Process**) looks in more detail at some of the main environmental issues in relation to the return process. This is aimed mainly at decision-makers, since it is they who have the authority to ensure that environmental considerations are adequately taken into account at such times.

Given the many links between the different stages and activities of an operation and the physical environment, particular attention is given in Section 4 (**Environmental Considerations Relating to other Sectors**) to some of the main options for dealing with issues such as domestic energy (4.1), water and sanitation (4.2), construction (4.3) and agriculture (4.4). This section illustrates that the “environment” is not only about planting trees and promoting fuel-efficient stoves, but encompasses a whole range of inter-related issues which are essential to build and re-establish people’s livelihoods and their security, for example income-generating activities (4.7).

To help field practitioners, in particular, apply some of the principles and best practices described above, some additional guidance is provided in Section 5 (**Tools and Approaches for Improved Environmental Planning and Management**) on a range of helpful tools and approaches. Contingency planning is outlined in Section 5.1. Also included in this section are some of the proven means of conducting an environmental assessment (5.2), of establishing a monitoring system (5.3) and of organizing an evaluation (5.4).

This *Guide* draws on a vast array of experience documented by many agencies (UN agencies, government departments and national and international organizations) and individuals. Detailed **References and Additional Reading** materials are listed in Section 6. The full text of many key references is included on a compact disc housed on the inside back cover of this *Guide*. Certain tools are also found on the CD: others are likely to be added to this resource in future and can be accessed on:

**<http://postconflict.unep.ch/liberia/displacement/>**





DAVID STONE



GRANT WROE-STREET



UNEP LIBERIA

As part of UNEP's awareness-raising and capacity-building support to Liberia, practitioners from a range of government agencies and national and international non-governmental organizations attended a series of training workshops focussing on the environmental considerations of human displacement, which included on-site visits and assessments (top left). Guided tuition was provided by UNEP staff and technical advisors (top right). Consultation was also held with local community stakeholders to, for example, determine some of their needs following closure of former IDP camps with regard to possible rehabilitation of the environment (bottom). Information gathered in Liberia has been incorporated into this *Guide*.



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This report of the United Nations Environment Programme  
was made possible by the generous contributions of the  
Governments of Norway and Sweden

*First published in Switzerland in 2006 by the United Nations Environment Programme.*

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*ISBN 92-807-2695-1*

*Job No. DEW/0805/GE*

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*Printer: SRO-Kundig, Genève*

*Printed on recycled paper*

*Cover image: David Stone*

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预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

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