



# DOS ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY FOR PEACE OPERATIONS

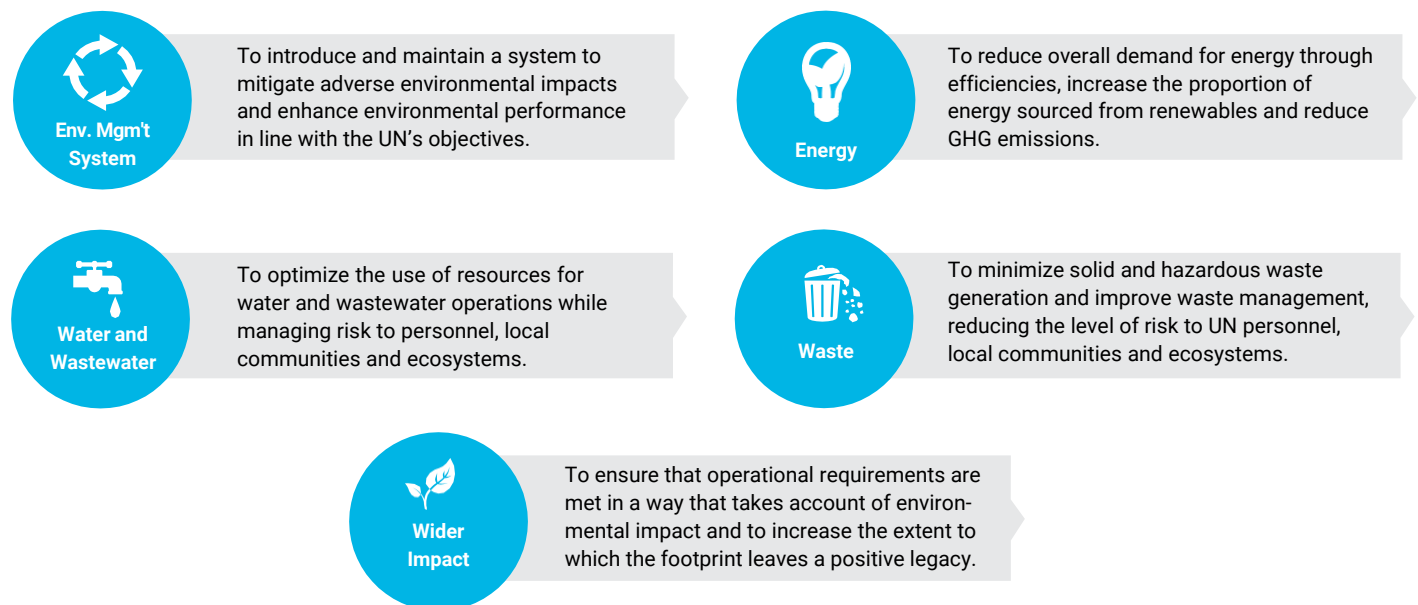
## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Phase Two: July 2020 – June 2023

The Environment Strategy for Peace Operations is a six-year strategy (2017 to 2023) to achieve a vision for the deployment of “**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.**” It responds to existing – and accompanies evolving – mandates from the membership of the United Nations that stress the importance of environmental management, and it embodies part of the shared commitment to this issue set out under paragraph 23 of Action for Peacekeeping.

## OBJECTIVES

The strategy is built on five priority pillars, in pursuit of the following objectives (updated for Phase 2):



## ACHIEVEMENTS OF PHASE ONE

Phase 1 of the strategy ran from January 2017 to June 2020. It saw the introduction of global systems to support planning, performance and risk management, as well as a concerted effort within individual missions to address or integrate environmental considerations on the ground.

- An extensive data collection and verification system was established, providing – for the first time – a reliable picture of the environmental footprint of UN peace operations down to the site level, with issuance of an annual ‘scorecard’ for each mission that increases visibility as well as identifies priorities and gaps.
- Capacity was strengthened both in missions and at HQ to support progress on environmental management, including both civilian and uniformed components. Strong communities of practice have been established with regular exchange of information and good practice across missions.
- A risk assessment methodology was developed and applied for both wastewater and solid and hazardous waste management, resulting in the elimination of almost all significant risk in these areas within the three-year period.
- Missions developed multi-year plans in the areas of energy infrastructure management, waste management and environmental impact assessment, following promulgation of

SOPs that provide a more coherent and holistic approach to these core operational requirements while taking environmental considerations into account.

- Technical guidance, training and awareness raising was rolled out on a wide array of topics, ranging from the role of individual uniformed peacekeepers in environmental management to how missions can safely dispose of hazardous waste, and from how to commission waste-water treatment plants to how to calculate costs savings on energy projects. On-ground and remote technical assistance was provided on request to 19 missions, constituting some 900 days, and resulting in more than 340 follow-up actions, with dedicated specific assistance provided to missions drawing down.
- Tangible progress was achieved across all pillars, with mission scores steadily increasing across the board and many examples of concrete steps taken to improve performance. For instance: synchronization of generators increased from 22% to 55%, installation of LED lighting from 37% to 63%, use of alternate water sources (e.g., harvested rainwater) from 8% to 23%, and installation of oil/water separators from 42% to 67%, as well as many other examples. Meanwhile, new approaches on waste, wastewater, renewables have been tested to inform strategic directions for the second phase of strategy implementation.



## KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Strategy KPI	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Range of mission environmental management scores	N/A-80	N/A-87	N/A-88	N/A-89
Proportion of data measured (not estimated) (percentage)	46%	30%	65%	75%
Proportion of sites where environmental assessments were conducted	50%	67%	91%	88%
Generators fuel consumption (UNOE and COE) (L/cap/day)	4.51	4.88	4.46	3.95
Proportion of renewable energy	3%	3%	3%	5%
GHG emissions (TCO <sub>2</sub> eq/cap/year)	7.8	8.3	7.8	7.4
Freshwater use (L/cap/day)	121	127	146	124
Sites where wastewater assessed to pose a minimum risk (%)	33%	47%	64%	70%
Sites that use some alternative water sources (e.g., treated wastewater, collected rainwater) (%)	8%	18%	27%	25%
Generation of solid waste (kg/cap/day)	1.70	1.60	1.64	1.70
Sites where waste assessed to pose a minimum risk (%)	9%	20%	23%	16%
Share of waste with preferred disposal methods	20%	32%	40%	43%

## STRATEGIC APPROACHES AND PRIORITIES FOR PHASE TWO

Phase 2 of the strategy, running to June 2023, is building on the foundations and structures put in place during Phase One, in order to advance progress on the ground. There is a particular focus the introduction of renewable energy and on exploring opportunities to leave a positive legacy through the physical footprint of peace operations.

- Environmental performance and risk data and reporting continue to be strengthened – including through increased use of remote monitoring methods that facilitate verification. The link between data analysis, planning and budgeting is being strengthened through better software and processes.
- An updated environment policy will be promulgated that includes clear expectations and standards for compliance, based on lessons learned and expertise gathered during the implementation of Phase 1.
- Category management strategies are being implemented in relation to energy, waste and water and wastewater to provide to missions with a suite of solutions that can be tailored to their specific needs while taking into consideration opportunities to leave a positive legacy for host communities.
- Efforts are being made to minimize waste through analyses of sourcing to identify the potential for reduced packaging, improved material use for recycling, reuse or disposal, and upgraded standards to improve quality of supplied goods for improved longevity. Takeback solutions for specific products are evaluated on a case-by-case basis with the aim to relieve missions of future waste stockpiles.

Missions are being supported to budget for, and implement, ambitious, well-argued and achievable multi-year plans in accordance with SOPs on waste, energy infrastructure and water and wastewater management plans. Missions will also be assisted to ensure Environmental Impact Assessments are routinely implemented.

- Approaches based on the development of waste management yards and on built-in-place infrastructure for wastewater management will be prioritized, as proven and pragmatic solutions appropriate to the contexts in which peace operations are deployed.
- Emphasis on efficiencies in the use and consumption of energy will continue, covering both UNOE and COE, while innovative solutions to increase the use of renewables are being pursued through outsourcing, leasing, partnership and other options.
- Ongoing needs for capacity development among both civilian and uniformed components are being met through scoping and delivery of tailored guidance and training, while advances in building community and culture around strong environmental performance in peace operations is maintained through working groups, communications, and regular exchange of good practice.
- Centralized technical assistance will continue to be made available to missions, ensuring that they are able to access specialized expertise when required. Long term solutions are being explored to ensure these needs are met beyond the implementation period of the strategy.

## TIMELINE

