



# DOS ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY FOR PEACE OPERATIONS

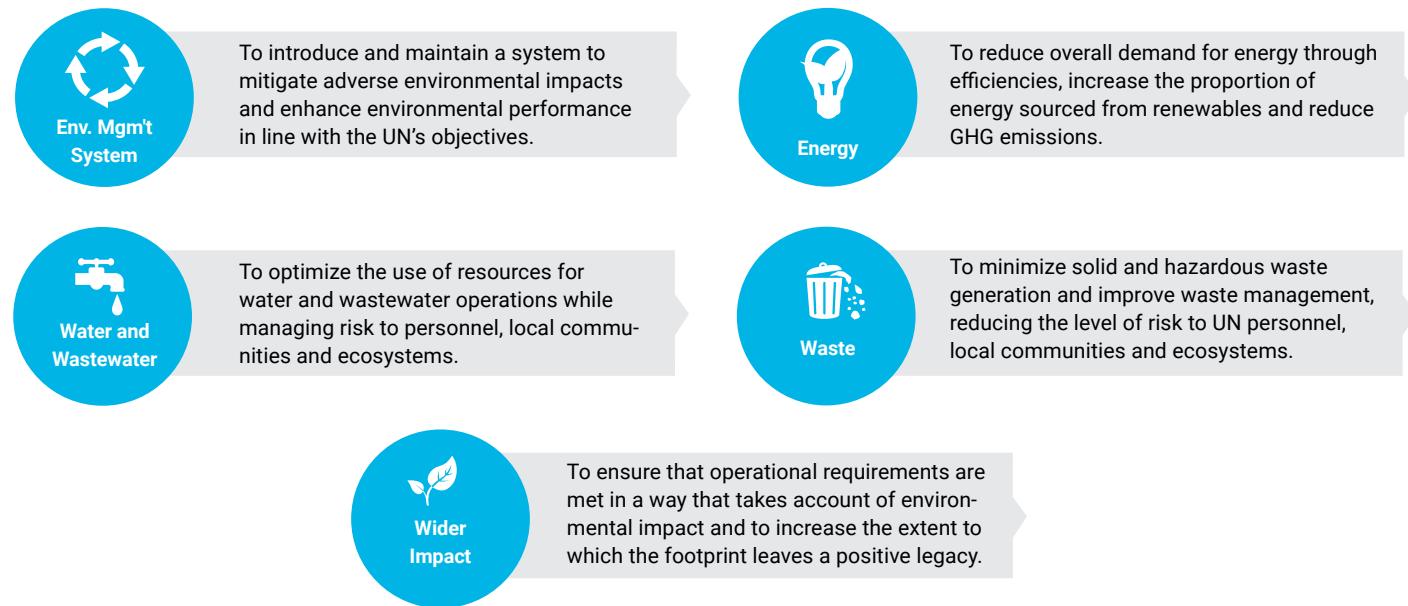
## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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 has been rolled out to provide – 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 has been 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 has been 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 have largely completed the development of 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 has been 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 wastewater treatment plants to how to calculate costs savings on energy projects. On-ground and remote technical assistance has been 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 has been 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 has 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

At the start of Phase 2, following three years of gradually improving data collection, baseline strategy-level key performance indicators are provided – against which it is anticipated that steady progress can be measured going forward.

Strategy KPI	2017–2018	2018–2019	2019–2020
Range of mission environmental management scores	43-80	51-87	58-88
Proportion of data directly measured vs estimated	48%	55%	65%
Proportion of sites where environmental assessments were conducted	52%	70%	81%
Generators fuel consumption (UNOE and COE) (L/cap/day)	4.4	4.4	4.0
Proportion of renewable energy	3%	3%	4%
GHG emissions (TCO2eq/cap/year)	7.83	8.46	7.77
Freshwater use (L/cap/day)	147	135	139
Sites where wastewater assessed to pose a minimum risk (%)	33%	53%	69%
Sites that use some alternative water sources (e.g. treated wastewater, collected rainwater) (%)	8%	15%	23%
Generation of solid waste (kg/cap/day)	1.73	1.56	1.64
Sites where waste assessed to pose a minimum risk (%)	9%	19%	20%
Share of waste with preferred disposal methods	20%	36%	37%

## STRATEGIC APPROACHES AND PRIORITIES FOR PHASE TWO

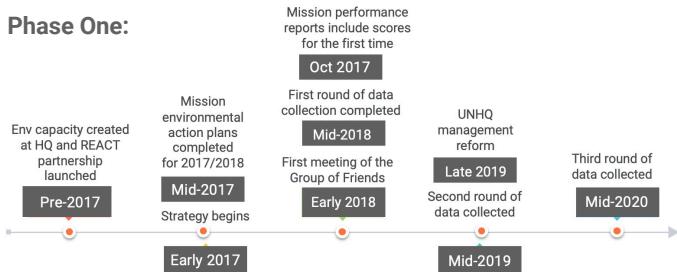
Phase 2 of the strategy, running to June 2023, will build on the foundations and structures now in place to advance progress on the ground. A focus will be placed on integration of environmental considerations in overall systems and procedures for planning, resourcing, implementing and reporting, with implementation activities spanning the Department of Operational Support.

- Environmental performance and risk data and reporting will continue to be strengthened – including through increased use of remote monitoring methods that facilitate verification. The link between data analysis, planning and budgeting will be 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 will be 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 will be 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 will be evaluated on a case by case basis with the aim to relieve missions of future waste stockpiles.

- Missions will be 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 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 will be pursued through outsourcing, leasing, partnership and other options.
- Ongoing needs for capacity development among both civilian and uniformed components will be met through the delivery of tailored guidance and training, while advances in building community and culture around strong environmental performance in peace operations will be 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 will be explored to ensure these needs are met beyond the implementation period of the strategy.

## TIMELINE

### Phase One:



### Phase Two:

