Environmental Dimensions
of Sustainable Recovery:

Learning from Post-conflict and Disaster Response Experience

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Expect the Unexpected

The environmental stakes in recovery

Photo credits: UNEP
Disasters & Conflicts

Project origins

- Recognized parallels in work on…

  … disaster risk reduction and recovery (*WWF/van Breda*)

  … post-conflict environmental peacebuilding (*UNEP/Conca*)

- Perceived value of dialogue across communities:

  – Humanitarian action

  – Conservation and ecosystem protection

  – Conflict transformation and peacebuilding

Photo credits: UNEP
Disasters & Conflicts

Project goals

- Bring together individuals willing to share experiences

- Identify lessons learned that have relevance "across the stovepipes"

- Lay a foundation for improved training

- In the process, create a network for learning and improvement

Project overview: activities and outputs

- "Scoping" workshop, December 2012
- "Stakeholder" workshop, June 2013
- "Tools" workshop, April 2014

- White Paper on project themes
- Chapter-length contributions by lead organizations
- Web-based searchable database of existing tools and trainings
- "conflict-smart" GRRT"
- Groundwork for training program: concept, curriculum, partners
- Network of engaged individuals in lead organizations

Project web site:
http://edspace.american.edu/greentools/

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Learning from post-conflict and disaster-response experience

Crises, including complex emergencies, war, and natural disaster, create high-stakes choices for environmental governance and natural resource management. If managed properly, natural resources and environmental protection are key elements for disaster risk reduction and recovery of sustainable livelihoods. But if managed poorly, the result can be greater vulnerability to both conflict and disaster. Prospects for sustainable recovery depend on the choices made by governments, impacted communities, and those seeking to help them—starting in the earliest days of response, and continuing as recovery, reconstruction, and redevelopment proceed.

To better understand these choices and help key actors prepare for them, American University and World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

Some core themes

Barriers to incorporating sustainability considerations:

- *distraction:* The "don't mess with the mission" problem

- *salience*: The "fuzzy bunnies " problem

- *empowerment*: The "what can I do" problem

- *accountability*: The "that's not my job" problem

Some core themes

The importance of evidence—but what evidence matters?

- – Lives saved; dollars saved; livelihoods sustained

- – Ecosystem benefits, peacebuilding benefits?

- – Role of both positive and negative examples

- – Beyond examples: systematic, rigorous assessment

Some core themes

Trade-offs to be managed:

- Where expertise and responsibility are located—how far 'outside the fence' of core competencies
- Balancing the obvious need for better, earlier, and more integrated assessments with the equally obvious need to act rapidly
- Balancing organizational expertise and local participation
- Learning from experience while recognizing elements of the "new normal" (urbanization, protracted crises, climate change)

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Keyword-searchable 'tools' database

| project information | partner information | project publications | keyword tool search | browse all tools |

Photo Credit: United Nations Environment Programme Disasters & Conflicts (https://www.flickr.com/photos/unep_dc/sets/)

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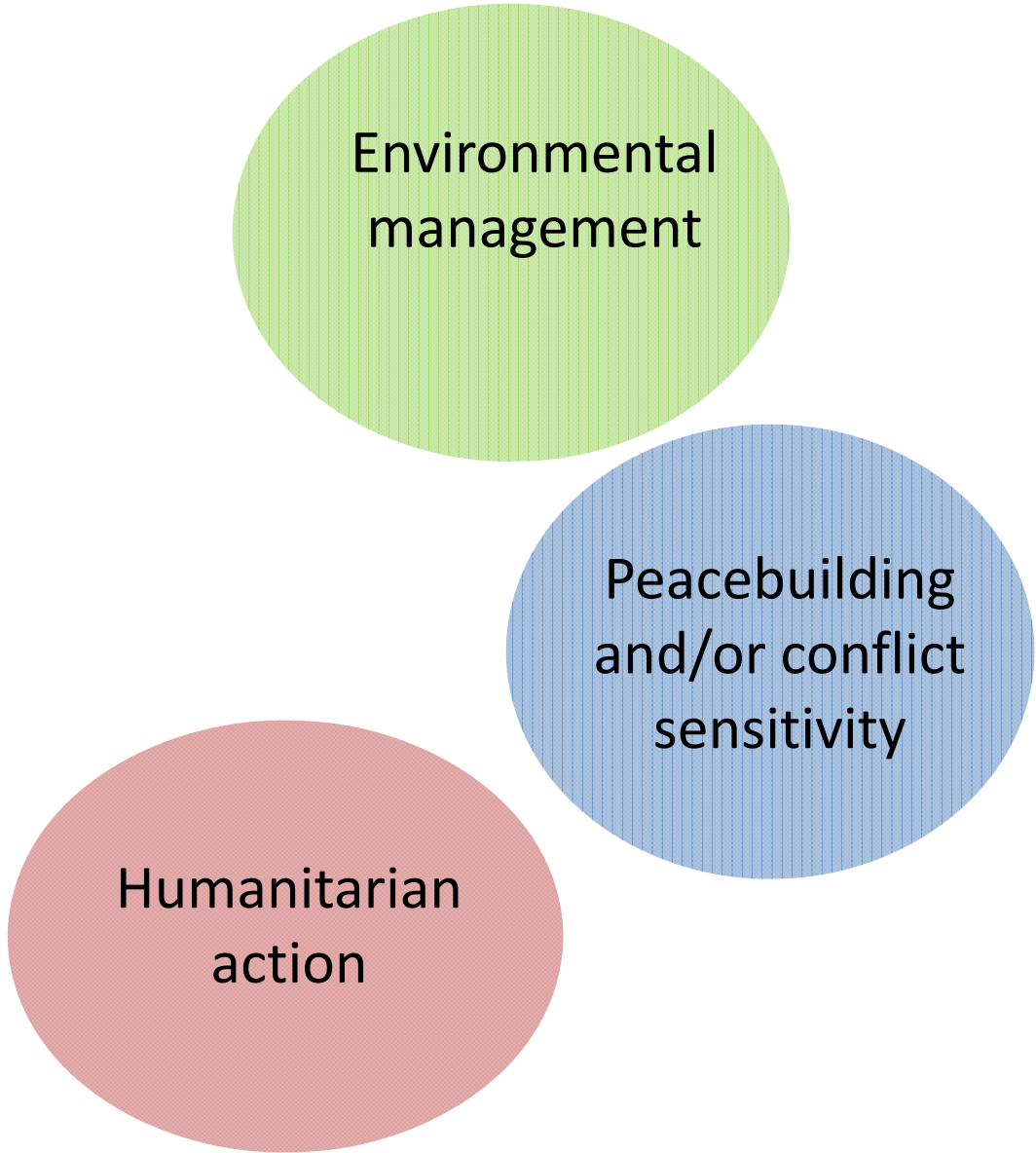keyword tool search

browse all tools

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Our database: 73 toolkits

--handbooks

--reference guides

--guidance notes

--checklists

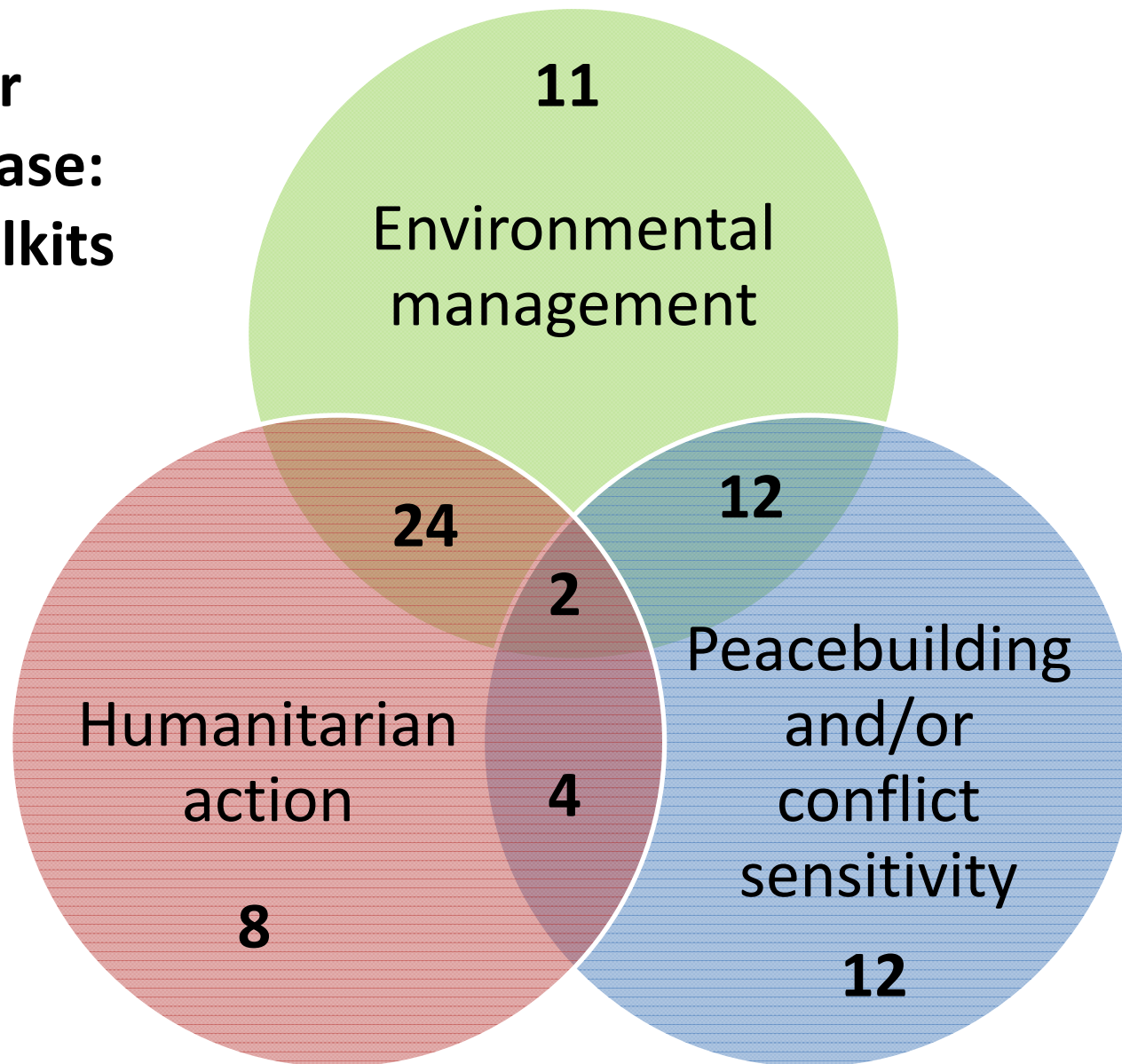--better practices

--self-training courses

--facilitated trainings

Environmental management

Peacebuilding and/or conflict sensitivity

Humanitarian action

Our database: 73 toolkits

11
Environmental management

24

12

2

Humanitarian action

Peacebuilding and/or conflict sensitivity

4

8

12

THANK YOU