

DOS: Environmental Mandate & Activities
Department of Operational Support

Environmental Mandate

The overall objective is to mainstream the environment in all operational activities during the life-cycle of a peacekeeping operation. Representing 56% of the 2008 total UN-wide greenhouse gas emissions footprint, planning and mission staff involvement is key. This will be slowly integrated into practise over several years, which will seek to reduce emissions and reduce the direct impact on the ground by improving water and waste management.

Environmental Activities

DOS are active members of the UN-wide working group on sustainability management, and promote 'Greening the Blue' which is the official UN campaign to make a more sustainable United Nations. Partnering the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to take advantage of their long-time expertise in to the field, DFS introduced a dedicated Environmental Policy for UN Field Missions in June 2009. It covers key areas such as waste, energy, water, hazardous substances, wild animals and plants and cultural and historical resources management.

To support this, DOS has also integrated environmental considerations into their new Global Field Support Strategy [A/64/633] , which aims to improve:

- The health, safety and security of both UN staff and surrounding local communities;
- The cost-effectiveness of their operations, through inter alia, prevention of costly remediation works.

However, environmental sustainability, unlike other crosscutting issues managed by field missions (such as gender or HIV/AIDS), does not have a specific Security Council resolution.