



Office of Internal Oversight Services

INTERNAL AUDIT DIVISION

AUDIT REPORT

Audit of Environment and Natural Resources Unit in UNMIL

UNMIL did not fully discharge its responsibilities to minimize the Mission's environmental impact

5 August 2009

Assignment No. AP2009/626/06

United Nations  Nations Unies

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

MEMORANDUM INTERIEUR

OFFICE OF INTERNAL OVERSIGHT SERVICES - BUREAU DES SERVICES DE CONTRÔLE INTERNE
INTERNAL AUDIT DIVISION - DIVISION DE L'AUDIT INTERNE

TO: Ms. Ellen Margrethe Løj
A: Special Representative of the Secretary-General
United Nations Mission in Liberia

DATE: 5 August 2009

FROM: Fatoumata Ndiaye, Acting Director
DE: Internal Audit Division, OIOS

REFERENCE: IAD: 09- 02774

SUBJECT: **Assignment No. AP2009/626/06 – Audit of Environment and Natural Resources Unit in UNMIL**
OBJET:

1. I am pleased to present the report on the above-mentioned audit.
2. In order for us to close the recommendations in the OIOS recommendations database as indicated in Annex 1, we request that you provide us with the additional information as discussed in the text of the report and also summarized in Annex 1.
3. Please note that OIOS will report on the progress made to implement its recommendations, particularly those designated as high risk (i.e., recommendations 1, 2, 4, 9 and 12) in its annual report to the General Assembly and semi-annual report to the Secretary-General.

cc: Mr. Stephen Lieberman, Director of Mission Support, UNMIL
Ms. Stephani Scheer, Chief of Administrative Services, UNMIL
Ms. Melva Crouch, Chief of Integrated Support Services, UNMIL
Mr. Charles Rwandekeye, Chief of Environment Unit, UNMIL
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INTERNAL AUDIT DIVISION

FUNCTION

“The Office shall, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations examine, review and appraise the use of financial resources of the United Nations in order to guarantee the implementation of programmes and legislative mandates, ascertain compliance of programme managers with the financial and administrative regulations and rules, as well as with the approved recommendations of external oversight bodies, undertake management audits, reviews and surveys to improve the structure of the Organization and its responsiveness to the requirements of programmes and legislative mandates, and monitor the effectiveness of the systems of internal control of the Organization” (General Assembly Resolution 48/218 B).

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Environment and Natural Resources Unit in UNMIL

OIOS conducted an audit of the Environment and Natural Resources Unit (ENRU) in the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). The overall objective of the audit was to assess compliance with relevant United Nations policies and the adequacy and effectiveness of the Mission's environmental management system. The audit was conducted in accordance with the International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing.

The Mission did not conduct its environmental activities in full compliance with the provisions of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations Environmental Policy and the environment management system was neither fully adequate nor effective. For example:

- The involvement of multiple players in environmental issues and the considered transfer of ENRU to the Engineering Section limits the efficiency and effectiveness of ENRU's conservation efforts due to lack of synergy and a possible loss of operational independence;
- UNMIL has no documented environmental baseline studies, *environment action plans* or *environment log* to facilitate monitoring of environmental issues;
- Sewage extracts, waste water and industrial waste including toxic substances were not properly disposed of, creating the potential for health hazards and pollution of the air, soil, surface and ground water;
- ENRU is not involved in the vetting of potential waste disposal contractors to assess the contractors' capabilities and verify that waste disposal conforms to the relevant environmental standards; and
- UNMIL has no environmental contingency plan to ensure a correct and timely response to environmental incidents and accidents.

OIOS made a number of recommendations that if addressed would minimize the Mission's environmental impact.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) conducted an audit of the Environment and Natural Resources Unit (ENRU) in the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). The audit was conducted in accordance with the International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing.

2. UNMIL is the first mission that has a mandate, under support for implementation of the peace process, to assist a host government of a peacekeeping mission in restoring proper administration of natural resources. UNMIL established the ENRU to support the Government of Liberia (GoL) and to oversee the application of the DPKO Environmental Policy for UN Field Missions¹ and the handling of environmental/conservation issues to mitigate environmental consequences of the Mission's operations.

3. Environment is a crosscutting issue involving various players including members of the UN system and non-UN actors such as international financial institutions, regional organizations and the GoL. The organizational units of the Mission that are involved in environmental activities are listed in the table below.

Table 1: Organizations involved in environmental activities

Component/Section	Activities
Military contingents and Formed Police Units	Deployment campsite activities
Procurement Section	Procurement and contracting vendors/service providers
Facilities Management Unit	Solid waste management
Water and Sanitation Unit	Waste water management
Engineering	Implementation of construction projects and camp closures
Asset Disposal Unit	Management of asset disposal contracts for industrial waste e.g. old office equipment, written off vehicles and generators, used tyres, engine oil, batteries and toner cartridges
Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reintegration	Implementation of Quick Impact Projects targeting ex-combatants and displaced persons

4. Comments made by UNMIL are shown in *italics*.

II. AUDIT OBJECTIVES

5. The main objectives of the audit were to assess:

- (a) The adequacy and effectiveness of the mission's environmental management system; and

¹ The Environmental Policy for UN Field Missions is effective 1 June 2009 and does not differ significantly from the draft policy which UNMIL ENRU previously relied on for operational guidance.

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- (b) Compliance with the environmental policy for UN field missions and local environmental laws and regulations.

III. AUDIT SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

6. The audit focused on ENRU's activities aimed at controlling the impact of UNMIL operations on the environment for the year ended 31 December 2008.
7. The audit comprised field visits, review of policies, procedures and other pertinent records and interviews of key Mission personnel.
8. The audit did not cover UNMIL's support to the GoL which will be the subject of another future audit, and the disposal of clinical waste which was covered during the audit of provision of medical services in UNMIL (AP 2008/626/08).

IV. AUDIT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Arrangements for environmental support in UNMIL

9. As indicated above, UNMIL established the ENRU to support the GoL and to oversee the application of the Environmental Policy for Field Missions and the handling of environmental issues to mitigate environmental consequences of the Mission's operations. OIOS observed, however, that the Mission's activities aimed at assisting the GoL in restoring proper administration of natural resources are performed by the Civil Affairs (CA) Section and the Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (RRR) Section. The CA handles the commercial and community aspects of diamond mining, forestry and agriculture while the RRR supports the GoL in regularizing the situation in the country's rubber plantations. The ENRU handles environmental/conservation aspects of the Mission's operations including oversight of the application of the Environmental Policy for Field Missions.
10. OIOS discussions with RRR, CA, and ENRU and review of the work plans indicated that ENRU provides support to RRR and CA on environmental matters. However, OIOS observed a general lack of coordination in the application of the environmental management system between various Mission sections/components whose activities have a direct impact on the environment. This lack of synergy denies UNMIL the advantages of combined and mutually supportive environmental action plans, apart from increasing the risk of Mission failure to provide effective and efficient support to the GoL.
11. As at the time of the audit, UNMIL Administration was considering the transfer of the ENRU to the Engineering Section which is responsible for the implementation of most environment related solutions. There was thus the risk that ENRU may lose operational independence, which is necessary for the effective implementation of its mandate.

Recommendation 1

(1) The UNMIL Office of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Recovery and Governance and the Office of Mission Support should conduct a comprehensive review of the activities performed by the Civil Affairs Section; Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reintegration Section; Environment and Natural Resources Unit; and the Engineering Section regarding environmental protection. This would enhance coordination on environmental matters that would also assist the Government of Liberia in restoring proper administration of its natural resources.

12. *The UNMIL Office of Mission Support accepted recommendation 1 and stated that the roles of CA, ENRU, and RRR are clear and the sections now have enhanced collaboration. An Environmental Advisor has been recruited to enhance support to the GoL, and the Environment Unit has moved to the Engineering Section to work directly with various units whose activities have an impact on the environment. This will enable increased focus on the Mission's environmental foot print as well as ensure efficiency and better coordination while reducing significantly the burden of final environmental clean-up. Recommendation 1 remains open pending receipt by OIOS of evidence of collaboration by sections dealing with natural resources and coordination by the Mission's units whose activities have an environmental impact.*

B. Environmental assessment of UNMIL operations

13. *The Environmental Policy for UN Field Missions requires environment officers to establish mission-specific baseline studies through the conduct of environmental assessments of the Mission's operations. The assessments form the basis for preparation of environmental action plans and maintenance of an environmental log.*

14. *As at the date of the audit, the ENRU had not conducted the relevant environmental assessments to establish UNMIL-specific baseline data. As a result there was no environmental action plan, inhibiting the Mission's ability to effectively monitor environmental issues and mitigate their impact. The Mission attributed the failure to conduct the necessary environmental assessment to the ENRU's focus, initially, on supporting the GoL's conservation efforts over its natural resources. OIOS notes that ENRU was established not only to support the GoL's conservation efforts but also to oversee the application of the DPKO Environmental Policy for UN Field Missions and the handling of environmental issues to mitigate environmental consequences of the Mission's operations. Therefore, the ENRU needs to rationalize the use of its resources in order to achieve its objectives.*

15. *The ENRU informed OIOS that the Environmental Policy was approved on 11 May 2009, and that the unit was developing a comprehensive environment database and preparing the required records.*

Recommendation 2

(2) The UNMIL Office of Mission Support should expedite the completion of environmental assessments to establish UNMIL-specific baseline data, an environmental plan, and an environmental log in compliance with the DPKO Environmental Policy for UN Field Missions.

16. *The UNMIL Office of Mission Support accepted recommendation 2 and stated that the assessments have been completed in Monrovia and similar exercises will be carried out in other areas. Two consultants will be recruited by July 2009 to conduct a detailed study of the environmental clean-up and information gathered will contribute towards establishment of the environmental baseline, plan, standard operating procedures, and log for the Mission. Recommendation 2 remains open pending completion of mission-wide environmental assessments by the ENRU and the receipt by OIOS of copies of the Mission's environmental plan, standard operating procedures and environmental log.*

C. Restoration activities on closed locations

17. The DPKO Environmental Guidelines for UN Field Missions advocate as good management practice the regular disposal of waste from individual sites during the Mission's lifetime, as opposed to final clean-up during the liquidation phase. UNMIL is in the drawdown phase, but it has no consolidated record of closed camps and decommissioned installations. The Chief of Construction Unit, Engineering Section, informed OIOS that no restoration activities had commenced on closed locations. Expedited environment restoration activities can facilitate early certification by the public authorities as recommended by the DPKO Environmental guidelines to avoid subsequent claims by the host country and eliminate a last minute rush during Mission liquidation.

Recommendation 3

(3) The UNMIL Environment and Natural Resources Unit should obtain a record of closed camps/decommissioned locations and proposed site withdrawal schedules and initiate early restoration activities.

18. *The UNMIL Office of Mission Support accepted recommendation 3 and stated that a restoration plan is being developed by the ENRU. Recommendation 3 remains open pending receipt by OIOS of the Mission's restoration plan and verification of commencement of restoration activities.*

D. Waste management

Waste water

19. The DPKO Environmental Policy for UN Field Missions prohibits the discharge of waste water directly into streams, rivers and other water bodies without treatment. Sewage will be either treated on-site or connected to a local communal treatment system, if available. This Policy was not complied with as indicated below.

20. The Water and Sanitation Unit (WATSAN) informed OIOS that the Mission had 292 septic tanks at 80 locations from which cesspool-emptying trucks regularly extract sewage for onward disposal. UNMIL Headquarters is connected to a communal sewer line which, according to a representative of Facilities Management Unit, terminates at a sewage treatment plant in Fiama, Monrovia. However, the ENRU informed OIOS that the plant had not been functional since the period prior to the establishment of UNMIL in 2003.

21. OIOS found that the Fiama dumpsite used by UNMIL to discharge sewage slopes towards a lagoon and is located in a residential area. During a visit to the dumpsite, OIOS observed the Mission's cesspool-emptying trucks discharging sewage on open grounds, adjacent to the dysfunctional sewage treatment plant. UNMIL sewage trucks discharged approximately 31.7 million liters of sewage at various sites during the six months ended December 2008.

22. Also, contrary to the DPKO Environmental Policy, wastewater from Camp Clara Pakistani contingent kitchen, containing food waste, is discharged directly into the ocean. UNMIL headquarters car wash runoff, including plastic sachets and other rubbish, drains just beyond the perimeter wall creating ponds. The ENRU informed OIOS that the Engineering Section has commenced construction of a septic tank for the kitchen waste water at Camp Clara.

23. The improper disposal of waste water can contaminate surface and ground water while compromising the health of nearby inhabitants. UNMIL Director of Mission Support (DMS) reiterated, however, that the dumpsites in use are the Government-approved facilities. The DMS emphasized that the absence of appropriate infrastructure in Liberia and the prohibitive cost of establishing a waste treatment plant or refurbishing the Government-owned facility precluded the Mission from properly disposing of its waste. The DMS added that rebuilding infrastructure was not within the mandate of UNMIL and it was up to United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the lead agency in Liberia, to undertake such actions. OIOS questions the assertion that the cost of establishing a waste treatment plant or refurbishing the Government-owned facility would be prohibitive since the Mission had not conducted a cost-benefit analysis.

24. According to the DPKO Environmental Policy, the Mission is required to integrate environmental measures into its planning and operations in order to avoid and minimize the impact of its activities on the environment and protect human health from such environmental impact. OIOS is of the opinion that the

United Nations may be held liable under the "Polluter Pays" principle, a generally accepted environmental management principle governing the administration of environmental laws, including the Environment Protection Law of Liberia.

Recommendation 4

(4) The UNMIL Office of Mission Support should investigate the statement of the Facilities Management Unit officials that UNMIL Headquarters is connected to a communal sewer line which is not functional and, in the event that the statement is validated, take appropriate measures that ensure a more environmentally responsible disposal of sewage in compliance with the DPKO Environmental Policy for UN Field Missions.

25. *The UNMIL Office of Mission Support accepted recommendation 4 and stated that the Chief of Water and Sanitation Unit has contacted the Liberia Water and Sewage Company in order to carry out a joint inspection of the sewage lines. Recommendation 4 remains open pending confirmation by OIOS of the outcome of the joint inspection and the establishment of an environmentally responsible sewage disposal system by UNMIL where required.*

Solid and hazardous waste

26. The DPKO Environmental Policy requires the separation of solid waste into recyclable components e.g. plastic, glass, metal and unrecyclable landfill waste. The unrecyclable waste should further be separated into biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste. There was, however, no segregation of solid waste prior to disposal, except in the cafeterias where segregated waste is bagged separately but ends up in the same garbage skip and ultimately in the authorized landfill. Non-segregation of solid waste can result in soil, water and air pollution, vermin infestation and other health issues.

Recommendation 5

(5) The UNMIL Environment and Natural Resources Unit should promote proper segregation, disposal and recycling or recovery of solid waste to ensure that the Mission leads by example in demonstrating environmental awareness.

27. *The UNMIL Office of Mission Support accepted recommendation 5 and stated that ENRU will ensure that proper labeled waste bins are put in place in addition to exploring venues for recycling and recovery of waste in the country. Recommendation 5 remains open pending verification by OIOS of the installation of appropriately labeled waste bins and receipt of feedback on recycling and waste recovery options.*

Used oil spillages and storage of used tyres

28. The Asset Disposal Unit (ADU) storage yard for used oil showed signs of leakage/spillage, a situation OIOS observed around the Star Base generator refueling point, generator workshop, and the Camp Clara generator house. Used spill clean-up materials and oil soaked silt from drains around the Fuel Unit were discarded on open ground behind the Star Base fuel station.
29. The Fuel Unit drainage is directed to oil-water separating interceptor tanks which are not functioning properly. A design fault results in the outlet pipes in the last chamber discharging water with residual oil/fuel onto open ground.
30. OIOS noted significant used oil pooling just beyond the perimeter wall in Star Base near the Nigeria Battalion Signals Unit and the Chinese Transport Company contingent camps as one heads towards Camp Abuja. The foregoing increase the risk of soil and surface water contamination.
31. Used tyres in the ADU yard and those in Transport Section bucket trailers were not properly stored, presenting potential breeding grounds for pests while constituting a fire hazard. According to the DMS there is a lack of local recovery process for used tyres.

Recommendations 6 and 7

(6) The UNMIL Asset Disposal, Fuel and Facilities Management Units should initiate clean-up and soil remediation activities in the affected areas, and request the Engineering Section to construct dykes around the used oil holding areas to contain spills and leaks.

(7) The UNMIL Asset Disposal Unit should ensure proper storage of used tyres, and the Environment and Natural Resources Unit should coordinate with the Procurement Section to explore regional or international opportunities for removal of old tyres.

32. *The UNMIL Office of Mission Support accepted recommendation 6 and stated that the Engineering Section has budgeted for a clean-up project in 2009/2010 and procured the required materials. Recommendation 6 remains open pending OIOS confirmation that the affected areas have been cleaned up and dykes constructed around the used oil holding area.*

33. *The UNMIL Office of Mission Support accepted recommendation 7 and stated that storage of used tyres will remain problematic due to space restrictions. The ADU and the Procurement Section continue to seek appropriate disposal contractors to reduce the need for extended storage. Recommendation 7 remains open pending the identification of an appropriate contractor for the disposal of used tyres.*

Damaged vehicles

34. As at 30 April 2009, UNMIL had 173 written off vehicles awaiting disposal and 47 damaged vehicles awaiting write off action, and scrap vehicle parts stored in various locations around Star Base. ADU is responsible for the disposal of vehicles that have been identified for write-off and the Transport Section is responsible for recommending vehicles for write-off and disposal. However neither ADU nor the Transport Section accepted responsibility for some of the damaged vehicles within Star Base. OIOS noted that some of the vehicles had rusted, creating potential for contaminated runoff and loss of commercial value. The DMS assured OIOS that there will be enhanced coordination between ADU and the Transport Section.

Recommendation 8

(8) The UNMIL Office of Mission Support should ensure that all damaged vehicles at the Star Base are assessed and disposed of in accordance with the UN Financial rules without further delay.

35. *The UNMIL Office of Mission Support accepted recommendation 8 and stated that the Integrated Support Services has implemented a major project to execute outstanding write-off of vehicles, with particular emphasis on clearing unserviceable vehicles currently parked around Star Base. Recommendation 8 remains open pending OIOS verification that unserviceable vehicles are being written off and disposed of in a timely manner.*

Waste disposal contracts

36. Industrial waste including used tyres, oil, batteries, toner cartridges, and scrap metal is sold to local contractors at a fee, earning the Mission \$67,514 since inception.

37. OIOS reviewed all five major waste disposal contracts as provided by the Procurement Section. These specify contractors' responsibilities to ensure disposal of waste in accordance with international standards and all relevant local and international laws and regulations. The contracts also contain a clause granting United Nations, through ENRU, the right to routinely inspect contractors' premises and operations.

38. According to the Environment Protection Law of Liberia, waste treatment and disposal projects and activities require environmental impact assessment by the local Environment Protection Agency (EPA). However, none of the five contract files reviewed by OIOS contained copies of the environmental impact assessment licenses/environmental permits, environment management plans or evidence of ENRU's involvement in the contract award process. UNMIL's selection of unauthorized waste disposal contractors points to lack of due diligence.

39. Representatives of ENRU, the Procurement Section and the ADU conducted joint inspections of three waste disposal contractors' premises and reported a low degree of environmental performance and non-compliance with acceptable environmental standards. They found that, in contravention of DPKO Environmental Guidelines, lead from used batteries, other scrap metal and electronic waste from crushed written-off equipment was stored on the ground in and around the contractors' premises, fully exposed to weather elements. Toxic substances contained in used batteries and electronic waste can leak into the ground water causing pollution.

40. The DMS acknowledged the pollution potential of industrial waste in general. However, he underscored the lack of adequate storage capacity in the Mission and the difficulty in identifying regional recyclers. The DMS also stated that the waste disposal contractors are accredited by the EPA but OIOS communications with the EPA revealed that only one of the five contractors, Agri-Industrial & Construction Company (AICCO), was licensed by the EPA. AICCO deals in the disposal of used batteries and toner cartridges. Conducting business with unauthorized waste disposal contractors could affect the reputation of the UN and render the Mission liable for pollution on grounds of negligence.

Recommendation 9

(9) The UNMIL Office of Mission Support should rescind existing waste disposal contracts which do not comply with the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia accreditation requirements and re-tender the services without further delay.

41. *The UNMIL Office of Mission Support accepted recommendation 9 and stated that accreditation requirements would be one of the pre-requisites of contract award therefore failure to comply would be considered a breach of the contract resulting in termination of the contract. Recommendation 9 remains open pending OIOS confirmation that selected waste disposal contractors are properly accredited by the Environment Protection Agency.*

Gases and ozone depleting substances

42. UNMIL uses equipment such as refrigerators, fire extinguishers and air conditioners that use ozone depleting substances. However, the Engineering Section had not maintained any inventory of such equipment and had not provided copies of records concerning the use of ozone depleting substances to the ENRU as required under the Environmental Policy.

Recommendation 10

(10) The UNMIL Engineering Section should list equipment which use ozone depleting substances and liaise with the Environment and Natural Resources Unit to develop plans for the safe and environmentally sound handling of ozone depleting substances.

43. *The UNMIL Office of Mission Support accepted recommendation 10 and stated that this is not entirely a responsibility of Engineering Section. Integrated Support Services has reviewed UN Owned Equipment which uses ozone depleting substances for disposal and replacement by the proposed implementation date. However the mission Contingent-Owned Equipment (COE) is a much larger issue, and was referred to the COE Unit LSD/DFS by fax on 11 June 2009. Recommendation 10 remains open pending confirmation by OIOS that UNMIL has phased out or suitably modified all Mission components' equipment using ozone depleting substances.*

E. Monitoring equipment

44. ENRU has no field equipment or instruments to monitor physical, chemical and biological parameters, including those relating to air and noise pollution as recommended by the DPKO Environmental Guidelines. UNMIL budget does not specifically include resources for supporting the Mission's environmental activities and ENRU proposed budget for 2009/2010, which included some basic equipment, was not fully approved. Lack of resources hampers the Unit's ability to effectively monitor environmental risks. DMS informed ENRU to submit their requirements and these would be provided through the Office of Mission Support. As a result of the action taken, OIOS does not make a recommendation in this regard.

45. UNMIL had a combined vehicle fleet of 1,427 as at 30 April 2009 but Transport Section workshops have no devices to monitor vehicle exhaust emissions, and cannot therefore determine whether or not and to what extent Mission vehicles contribute to air pollution.

Recommendation 11

(11) The UNMIL Transport Section should obtain the necessary tools and equipment to enable them to measure vehicle exhaust emissions and where necessary take corrective action to reduce air pollution.

46. *The UNMIL Office of Mission Support accepted recommendation 11 and stated that since this requirement was not anticipated in the acquisition plan, the Transport Section would need to find a way to procure tools and equipment. Recommendation 11 remains open pending verification by OIOS of the vehicle exhaust emission monitoring equipment.*

F. Cross cutting issues

Emergency preparedness

47. UNMIL does not have an environmental contingency plan, as required by the DPKO Environmental Policy, to deal with emergencies such as trucks overturning resulting in the spillage or leakage of fuel, gases, chemicals or other substances with the potential to contaminate the air, soil or water. The absence of

a contingency plan could delay timely and effective response to environmental incidents or accidents.

48. The general deficiency of firefighting equipment was addressed during a previous audit of Occupational Safety and Health (AP2006/626/15). UNMIL management is in the process of implementing the recommendations.

Recommendation 12

(12) The UNMIL Environment and Natural Resources Unit should identify all operations and equipment that can cause environmental accidents and prepare an appropriate and comprehensive emergency response plan.

49. *The UNMIL Office of Mission Support accepted recommendation 12 and stated that the Environment Unit has initiated the preparation of an emergency response plan by tasking respective units to provide information on operations and equipment that can cause environmental accidents. Recommendation 12 remains open pending receipt by OIOS of an up to date environmental contingency plan.*

Awareness raising

50. DPKO Environmental Policy recommends training and awareness raising to reduce environmental impacts. ENRU does not routinely conduct environment awareness training. Inadequate awareness increases the risk of adverse environmental impact. The Officer-in-Charge of ENRU informed OIOS that the Unit has developed some awareness raising training material and a training programme agreed with UNMIL Integrated Mission Training Centre is scheduled to commence in July 2009. As a result, OIOS makes no recommendation in this regard.

V. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

51. We wish to express our appreciation to the Management and staff of UNMIL for the assistance and cooperation extended to the auditors during this assignment.

STATUS OF AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

Recom. no.	Recommendation	Risk category	Risk rating	C/O	Actions needed to close recommendation	Implementation date ²
1	The UNMIL Office of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Recovery and Governance and the Office of Mission Support should conduct a comprehensive review of the activities performed by the Civil Affairs Section; Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reintegration Section; Environment and Natural Resources Unit; and the Engineering Section regarding environmental protection. This would enhance coordination on environmental matters that would also assist the Government of Liberia in restoring proper administration of its natural resources.	Governance	High	O	Receipt of evidence of collaboration by the sections dealing with natural resources and coordination of units whose activities have an environmental impact.	December 2009
2	The UNMIL Office of Mission Support should expedite the completion of environmental assessments to establish UNMIL-specific baseline data, an environmental plan, and an environmental log in compliance with the DPKO Environmental Policy for UN Field Missions.	Compliance	High	O	Receipt of copies of Mission-wide environmental assessment reports, environmental plan, standard operating procedures and environmental log.	December 2009
3	The UNMIL Environment and Natural Resources Unit should obtain a record of closed camps/decommissioned locations and proposed site withdrawal schedules and initiate early restoration activities.	Operational	Medium	O	OIOS receipt of restoration plan and verification of commencement of restoration activities.	August 2009
4	The UNMIL Office of Mission Support should investigate the statement of the Facilities Management Unit officials that UNMIL Headquarters is connected to a	Compliance	High	O	Results of the joint inspection and the confirmation or establishment of an environmentally responsible sewage disposal system.	December 2009

Recom. no.	Recommendation	Risk category	Risk rating	C/O ¹	Actions needed to close recommendation	Implementation date ²
	communal sewer line which is not functional and, in the event that the statement is validated, take appropriate measures that ensure a more environmentally responsible disposal of sewage in compliance with the Environmental Policy for UN Field Missions.					
5	The UNMIL Environment and Natural Resources Unit should promote proper segregation, disposal and recycling or recovery of solid waste to ensure that the Mission leads by example in demonstrating environmental awareness.	Compliance	Medium	O	Installation of appropriately labeled waste bins and receipt of feedback on recycling and waste recovery options.	August 2009
6	The UNMIL Asset Disposal, Fuel and Facilities Management Units should initiate clean-up and soil remediation activities in the affected areas, and request the Engineering Section to construct dykes around the used oil holding areas to contain spills and leaks.	Operational	Medium	O	OIOS confirmation that the affected areas have been cleaned up and dykes constructed around the used oil holding area.	December 2009
7	The UNMIL Asset Disposal Unit should ensure proper storage of used tyres, and the Environment and Natural Resources Unit should coordinate with the Procurement Section to explore regional or international opportunities for removal of old tyres.	Operational	Medium	O	Identification of an appropriate contractor for the disposal of used tyres.	31 December 2009
8	The UNMIL Office of Mission Support should ensure that all damaged vehicles at the Star-Base are assessed and disposed of in accordance with the UN Financial rules without further delay.	Operational	Medium	O	OIOS verification of the timely write-off and disposal of unserviceable vehicles.	June 2010
9	The UNMIL Office of Mission Support should rescind existing waste disposal contracts which do not comply with the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia accreditation requirements and re-	Compliance	High	O	Evidence that waste disposal contractors engaged are properly accredited by the Environment Protection Agency.	31 December 2009

Recom. no.	Recommendation	Risk category	Risk rating	C/O ¹	Actions needed to close recommendation	Implementation date ²
10	tender the services without further delay. The UNMIL Engineering Section should list equipment which use ozone depleting substances and liaise with the Environment and Natural Resources Unit to develop plans for the safe and environmentally sound handling of ozone depleting substances.	Compliance	Medium	O	Modification or phasing out of all mission components' equipment using ozone depleting substances.	June 2010
11	The UNMIL Transport Section should obtain the necessary tools and equipment to enable them to measure vehicle exhaust emissions and where necessary take corrective action to reduce air pollution.	Operational	Medium	O	OIOS verification of the vehicle exhaust emission monitoring equipment.	June 2010
12	The UNMIL Environment and Natural Resources Unit should identify all operations and equipment that can cause environmental accidents and prepare an appropriate and comprehensive emergency response plan.	Compliance	High	O	Receipt by OIOS of an up to date environmental contingency plan.	December 2009

1. C = closed, O = open
2. Date provided by UNMIL in response to recommendations.

ANNEX 2

*Use this page if the orientation of Annex 2 is portrait. If the orientation is landscape, insert a section break at the end of Annex 1 and continue on the new page. (On the **Insert** menu, point to **Break**, select **Next page** under **Section break types**.) Leave the page blank if not required; do not delete it.*