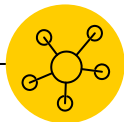


NEAT +

Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool

*Webinar
March 2021*

<https://www.eecentre.org/resources/neat/>



UN Environment / OCHA Joint Unit
Prepare. Respond. Protect.






Nexus Environmental
Assessment Tool

UN Secretary-General's Award
finalist, 2019

Winner of IAIA Institutional
Award 2020

A high-angle photograph showing a group of people, including children and adults, gathered around a wooden table. They are looking at and writing on papers, suggesting a collaborative activity or a community meeting. The image is partially covered by a semi-transparent blue rectangle on the right side, which contains the title text.

The Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool (NEAT+)

What is the NEAT+?

✓ A simple environmental project-level
screening tool for humanitarian contexts

✓ Combines environmental data with site-
specific and activity-based questions to
automatically analyze and flag priority
environmental risks

Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool (NEAT+)



Why NEAT+?

- A simple, user-friendly way for non-environmentalists to identify environmental concerns
- Flags key issues for subsequent mitigation and advocacy
- Open-source, based on Kobo toolbox, adaptable to individual or organizational needs



Who?

Humanitarian actors, e.g. field staff, community members and team leaders working in camp, peri-urban or rural non-camp or informal camp settings



When?

After life-saving needs have been met; immediately following a crisis and prior to project design, or during a change in humanitarian setting, such as an expansion of a camp or development of new livelihood support programmes



How does the NEAT+ work?

NEAT+ combines Kobo toolbox questionnaires available on mobile phones, tablets and computers, with an automated Microsoft Excel analysis in three steps:

STEP
1

Select the data collection method.

STEP
2

Complete the Environmental Sensitivity Module (20-30 minutes) to receive an automated summary of key environmental concerns.

STEP
3

Complete Activity Modules on WASH, shelter or livelihoods and food security (around 45 minutes per module) to automatically establish the environmental impacts of the chosen activity.

An updated version of NEAT in **English, French and Spanish** was launched in January 2021

Environmental Sensitivity Analysis

NEAT +

Nexus Environmental
Assessment Tool

Assessment of: Test project
Assessment completed by: Vathanya
Organisation completing assessment: OCHA

Date of Assessment: 21-Dec-20
Location: Kabul
Country: Afghanistan

Issues of High Concern	Issues of Medium Concern	Issues of Lower Concern
There is a high concentration and/or number of people. The potential environmental impact is greater.	There may be a weakened or poor governance system. There may be low capacity for environmental management.	The community may have low self-sufficiency. There may be a greater demand (and impact) on the local environment.
The community may not be socially cohesive. This can prevent collective action and lead to social conflict.	This area may be at risk of soil erosion from water.	The environment has fragile ecosystems. Further assessment is required to determine if loss of biodiversity is accelerating.
The environment has high biodiversity value. Vulnerable and/or rare flora and fauna may be at risk.	This area may be at risk of flooding.	Indoor air pollution, caused by poor ventilation and cooking/heating, may be an issue.
The community may be close to a protected/conservation area. There may be legal/social implications.	The area may be affected by (previous) conflict-related hazards or pollution.	The area may have poor slope stability. Landslides or mudslides may be a risk.
There are areas of high cultural significance. This can threaten social cohesion.	There may be high and/or unsustainable rates of extraction of resources from the local environment.	This area may be at risk of soil erosion from wind.
The community is close to an international border. Transboundary resource management and/or pollution may be a concern.		Natural resource availability/accessibility may be affected by changing climatic conditions.

Mitigation Statements

Affected Community

Communities interact with the environment on multiple levels, with these interactions having environmental, as well as social and economic implications. Environmental impacts therefore also have socio-economic consequences. Vulnerable segments of society and the community are often disproportionately dependent and affected by the environment, and have unequal capacity for adaptation.

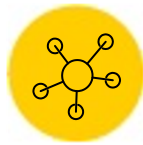
The following has been identified as a potential concern:

Large concentration and/or number of people.

Additional Information	Mitigation Tips
A large and/or concentrated population can exceed the capacity of the local environment to absorb impact coming from the populations. This can lead to unsustainable pressure and potential permanent or long-term degradation of the surrounding environment and overconsumption of natural resources. Social issues are also created when there are high populations competing over limited resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore alternative settlements and/or consider relocation of part of the camp/settlement occupants to another location • Plan for sustainable use of resources before setting up any temporary settlement, especially regarding shelter construction materials, water management and waste disposal • Plan for introduction and dissemination of fuel-efficient stoves • As soon as practical, establish resource user groups to promote sustainable and fair use of available natural resources • Plan for community green spaces such as tree covered areas or gardens that provide shade and a sense of community • Plan land use to reduce exposure to wild animals (e.g. designate buffer zones or protected areas) • If possible, keep camp populations below 20,000 and locate sites at least 15km from ecologically sensitive areas and neighboring camps • Consult https://www.eccentre.org/covid-19/ for more information about COVID-19 and zoonotic diseases

Social conflict and uncooperative behavior

Additional Information	Mitigation Tips
An absence of a sense of community can encourage people to act in their self interest, at the detriment of the wider population and contrary to the common good. The shock of a crisis often disintegrates social structures and established trust relationships that formally or informally govern environmental behavior. Addressing those issues and resolving them would help foster better cooperation and eventually lead to more effective projects (where participants become owners), increasing trust and credibility. High social cohesion will bring more volunteers and wider technical competence, improving cost effectiveness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create mixed community level structures that are involved in decision making • Promote "integrated" livelihood activities (persons of concern + host communities) to encourage social cohesion • Discuss issues of concern with community leaders • Set up social projects and consider involving host communities as volunteers



Current Uses

- **NRC:** Field pilots in Uganda and Myanmar
- **UNHCR:** Piloted in Zambia, Algeria, Zambia, Sudan, Niger and Angola, etc., and use as baseline for operations. Urban NEAT+ under development with the first pilot carried out in Brazil and Colombia, November 2020
- **IFRC & ICRC:** piloted in several locations, Arabic tool under development
- **IOM:** tested in Nigeria
- **Save the Children:** Pilot under discussion
- **Solidarites:** tested in Myanmar
- **ACF:** tested in Middle East
- **ACTED:** piloted in several locations
- **USAID:** Pilot in 2021



NEAT+ future updates

- Move of NEAT tool to online platform
 - More user-friendly and flexible for future development and upgrades of the tool
- Urban NEAT
 - Content developed by UNHCR, OCHA and UNEP, piloted in Colombia and Brazil, November 2020, move to online platform in 2021
- Development of NEAT additional modules: Health module, waste, CVA
 - Brainstorming with WHO and NGO partners to form outline and content



Urban NEAT

- Adapts “rural” NEAT to urban realities
- Introduces an urban context module
- UNHCR Brazil, in collaboration with UNHCR, UNEP, NRC, UN-Habitat and Swedish Red Cross
- Piloted in Brazil and Colombia, November 2020, Sensitivity module available online in Summer 2021



Find all NEAT+ materials (Excel files and Guidance Note in all languages) here:

<https://www.eecentre.org/neat/>

How to use NEAT+ video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vRzjh9eQUTA>

- 01 Guidance Note_What is the NEAT.pdf
- 02 Guidance Note_How to use the NEAT with Excel.pdf
- 03 Guidance Note_How to use the NEAT with KoBo.pdf
- 03.01 Guidance Note_Collecting data mobile devices tablets.pdf
- 04 Guidance Note_Considerations when using the NEAT.pdf
- 05 Guidance Note_Adapting the NEAT.pdf
- 06.01 NEAT_GeospatialGuidance1_MapX.pdf
- 06.02 NEAT_GeospatialGuidance1i_Google Earth.pdf
- 07.01 NEAT Sensitivity KoBoXLS EN.xlsx
- 07.02 NEAT Activity KoboXLS EN.xlsx
- 07.03 Neat+ 08-12-v6 (KoBo Data Entry) English.xlsm
- 07.04 Neat+ 08-12-v6 (Excel Data Entry) English.xlsm
- NEAT Images



ENVIRONMENTAL
EMERGENCIES
CENTRE

RESOURCESINSIGHTSNETWORKTRAININGABOUT

TOOL

- DOWNLOAD THE TOOL IN ENGLISH HERE.
- TÉLÉCHARGEZ L'OUTIL EN FRANÇAIS ICI.
- DESCARGUE LA HERRAMIENTA EN ESPAÑOL AQUÍ.

Overview

The **Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool (NEAT+)** is a rapid and simple project-level environmental screening tool developed by the **UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit**, USAID, UNHCR, NRC, IUCN, WWF and other partners that allows humanitarian actors to **quickly identify issues of environmental concern** before designing longer-term emergency or recovery interventions.

Data is gathered on the **KoBo platform** (on phone, tablet or computer) and produces an automatically generated report in Excel, providing organizations with a snapshot of environmental vulnerabilities in their operations and highlighting environmental risks associated with specific humanitarian activities.



NEAT +
Nexus Environmental
Assessment Tool

How to use the
Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool (NEAT+)



environment
programme



OCHA



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency



WWF



MSB
Swedish Civil
Contingencies
Agency



IUCN



NRC

0:01 / 8:51



How to use the Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool (NEAT+)

Thank you!

Download the NEAT+ from:

<https://www.eecentre.org/neat/>

- Guidance notes
- Excel and Kobo files



theresa.dearden@un.org
Environmental Analyst
UNEP

