



# Municipal Solid Waste Open Dump Site Juba, South Sudan

Preliminary Environmental Assessment

April 2013





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## SUMMARY

Project	Site Investigation and Preliminary Evaluation of Environmental Impacts of the Municipal Solid Waste Open Dump Site
Location	Open Solid Waste Dump Site near Jebel Kujur, southwest of Juba, South Sudan
Field study and sampling	11.10.-19.10.2012
Purpose of study	To assess the environmental impact of the practice of dumping municipal solid waste at the site near Jebel Kujur, so as to better inform decisions regarding remedial action.
Preliminary evaluation of <b>socio-cultural-economic</b> impacts of dump site operation	<p>Despite significant operational improvement at the dump site, the health impact on the waste-pickers remains severe. There are a variety of direct threats to the waste-pickers: the heavy vehicles that move around the site while people are picking over the waste; the hospital waste dumped at the site; and toxic fumes from burning waste. There are also indirect threats posed by the preparation and consumption of food – some of which is discarded and rotten - at the site.</p> <p>There are only a few small scale farmers in the vicinity of the dump site. The nearest structure is 300 m away and the nearest community is 1.5 km from the site. So the general health and economic impact is low.</p> <p>The dump site is situated on a moderately-sloping hill, so leachate flows downhill when it rains and pools of contaminated water form as a result. This situation poses a significant risk to the waste-pickers or grazing animals that come into contact with that water. A small ephemeral water body on the north side of the hill is used as a source of drinking water by some waste-pickers: the hygienic conditions there are appalling. The dump site certainly has a negative impact on water quality. The impact of on-site dust, odour and noise on the waste-pickers is severe, but few other people are impacted by those hazards because the population around the site is so sparse.</p>

Preliminary evaluation of <b>environmental impacts</b> of dump site operation	Impact is low as there is no groundwater body of any importance, due to the geologic and hydrogeological conditions of the site area (shallow gneiss bed rock/ generally non water bearing).
Suitability of the site	If operated as a controlled dump site, the general location of the site is regarded as suitable.
Recommendations	<p>The on-going <b>conversion of open waste dumping to controlled waste dumping</b> activities has already shown some major improvements and should be continued and supported by all stakeholders.</p> <p>Health and safety measures for the <b>waste-pickers</b> are of great concern and need to be addressed immediately.</p> <p>A plan for the handling of <b>hazardous wastes</b> needs to be established as there is currently no alternative to the uncontrolled dumping at the site.</p> <p><b>Future land use planning</b> in the vicinity of the dump site (on-going or closed) should be given high priority to minimise impacts to an acceptable level. Waste management plans should be integrated into a spatial plan for the city and its region.</p> <p>Plans for further <b>expansion of the current dump site</b> and scoping for new sites are seen as critical issues given the short operational timeframe of the current dump site.</p>
Organisation	<p>UNEP United Nations Environment Programme</p> <p>SIEP (Sudan Integrated Environment Project) in South Sudan</p>

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>METHODOLOGY AND RESULTS.....</b>	<b>8</b>
2.1	Field visits / Interviews .....	8
2.2	Collection of soil samples .....	8
2.3	Collection of a leachate sample .....	9
2.4	Collection of a water sample.....	9
2.5	Analysis of environmental samples .....	10
2.6	Results of environmental samples .....	10
2.6.1	Soil samples.....	10
2.6.2	Leachate sample.....	14
2.6.3	Drinking water sample .....	17
<b>3</b>	<b>OPEN DUMP SITE NEAR JEBEL KUJUR.....</b>	<b>19</b>
3.1	Site Description .....	19
3.2	Description of Dump Site .....	20
<b>4</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING .....</b>	<b>23</b>
4.1	Climatic Conditions .....	23
4.2	Site Topography of Site and surroundings .....	23
4.3	Geology, Hydrogeology .....	24
4.4	Socio-Cultural Environment .....	25
4.4.1	Population and Neighbouring Communities .....	25
4.4.2	Land Use Pattern .....	25
4.4.3	Waste Picking .....	26
<b>5</b>	<b>SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES .....</b>	<b>28</b>
5.1	Identification and assessment of environmental effects from existing open wastes dumping practices in situ and on surrounding water, land and air. ....	28
5.2	Identification and assessment of environmental and socio-economic effects on waste- pickers and neighbouring communities .....	29
<b>6</b>	<b>CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....</b>	<b>31</b>
6.1	Recommendations for Mitigation Measures and Monitoring .....	31
6.1.1	Short and mid-term mitigation measures.....	31
<b>7</b>	<b>REFERENCES .....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>APPENDICES .....</b>	<b>35</b>

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Soil Sample results (dried solids) .....	12
Table 2: Soil Sample results (leachate) .....	13
Table 3: Leachate results (Part 1) .....	15
Table 4: Leachate results (Part 2) .....	16
Table 5: Dump Site location.....	19
Table 6: General information of dump site.....	20
Table 7: Operational Data of dump site .....	21
Table 8: Waste description and volumes .....	22
Table 9: Climatic conditions.....	23
Table 10: Hydrogeological Conditions .....	24
Table 11: Significant Impacts/Issues .....	29

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Project Location (Source: Google maps).....	19
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## LIST OF PHOTOS

Photo 4: Sampling the dump site surface, Sample No. 4 .....	11
Photo 5: Sampling the dump site surface, Sample No. 4 .....	11
Photo 9: Highest section of the dump site area, facing West, background: Jebel Kujur ...	22
Photo 10: Initial dumping area, facing SE.....	22
Photo 13: Water Specialists (Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation) .....	26
Photo 14: Dump Site during heavy rainfall, 12.10.2012 .....	42
Photo 15: Signboard indicating the Dump Site .....	42
Photo 16: Access road, 16.10.2012.....	42
Photo 17: Dumping along the access road.....	43
Photo 18: Access road, bags with plastic bottles for recycling .....	43
Photo 19: Small maize field along the access road .....	43
Photo 20: Construction of a control building at the dump site entry .....	44
Photo 21: Initial dumping area, facing SW.....	44
Photo 22: Dumping activities .....	44

Photo 23: Water ponding .....	45
Photo 24: The wastes have not been covered with soil and occasional burning can be seen .	45
Photo 25: Waste-pickers.....	45
Photo 26: Safety risk of waste-pickers (see woman with child) from nearby heavy machinery (Photo: Jada Albert) .....	46
Photo 27: Hospital waste (Syringe with needle) posing a health risk .....	46
Photo 28: Dumped expired food.....	46
Photo 29:Gathered metal cans .....	47
Photo 30:Plastic bottles being collected for sale .....	47

## ABBREVIATIONS

JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
km	Kilometre
m	Meter
SIEP	Sudan Integrated Environment Project
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNMISS	United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan
JCC	Juba City Council

## APPENDIX

APPENDIX A1: SOUTH SUDAN - REFERENCE MAP .....	35
APPENDIX A2: REGIONAL AREA MAP .....	36
APPENDIX A3: SITE MAP .....	37
APPENDIX A4:TOPOGRAPHY AREA MAPSHOWING EPHEMERAL STREAMS .....	38
APPENDIX A5: GEOLOGICAL MAP .....	39
APPENDIX A6:HYDROGEOLOGICAL MAP .....	40
APPENDIX A7:AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS OF DUMP SITE .....	41
APPENDIX A8:SITE PHOTOGRAPHS .....	42
APPENDIX A9: CHEMICAL ANALYSIS REPORT .....	48

# 1 INTRODUCTION

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the United Nations focal point for addressing environmental issues at the global and regional level. Its mandate is to coordinate the development of environmental policy consensus by keeping the global environment under review and bringing emerging issues to the attention of governments and the international community for action.

UNEP's Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI) works with international and national partners, providing technical assistance and advisory services for the implementation of environmental law and policy, and strengthening the environmental management capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

The Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch (PCDMB) within DEPI provides cutting edge environmental science and expertise to countries affected by or vulnerable to conflicts and disasters. The objective of the branch is to minimize threats to human well-being from the environmental causes and consequences of conflicts and disasters.

The UNEP programme in South Sudan is rooted in addressing the environmental drivers of poverty and conflict, recognising that natural resources (trees, groundwater, soil etc.) provide for the most basic needs for energy, shelter, water and food. The programme has the following over-arching goal: "To assist the people of South Sudan to achieve peace, recovery and development on an environmentally sustainable basis". The purpose of the programme is: "To improve sustainable and equitable governance, management and use of environmental resources".

Waste management is one of the three main pillars of Sudan Integrated Environment Project (SIEP) in South Sudan. To date the programme has focused on solid waste management in Juba city.

Situated on the White Nile, Juba is the capital and largest city of the Republic of South Sudan. Since the Peace Agreement between the South and North Sudan, the city has developed very rapidly and is now considered one of the fastest-growing cities in the region. The already remarkable rate of growth increased after the country became independent on 9 July, 2011. The 2008 Census held the population of Juba to be 375,000, however, several organisations estimate the current population of Juba to be in

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