

Rapid Environmental Assessment, UNDAC mission on the Floods in Tabasco and Chiapas, Mexico, November 2007

Due to heavy rains that began since October 28 and affected the Mexican States of Tabasco and Chiapas, the Mexican Government requested the assistance of an UNDAC team to assist with the incoming international assistance.

The s/m participated as member of the deployed UNDAC team to undertake a rapid environmental assessment of the affected areas. The main objective of this assessment is to identify any (potential) secondary life threatening environmental issues that need to be addressed, and in coordination with all the relevant authorities and other UN agencies to identify if there is any urgent need for further specialized assistance. There was no evidence of an imminent risk of major environmental damage in the affected areas (mainly the City of Villahermosa).

Some of the potential activities and/or projects that could be developed after the emergency phase in coordination with the Mexican environmental authorities and other UN agencies are related to:

- Support the implementation of environment management and land use plans for Tabasco and Chiapas
- Reforestation projects for Tabasco and Chiapas
- Assessment on possible affectation to Centla Wetlands Biosphere Reserve in Tabasco
- Development and implementation of rain water catchment projects
- Assessment of the hydraulic plans for Tabasco and Chiapas
- Contingency plan for solid waste disposal of Villahermosa City
- An economic evaluation of the environmental damage caused by the floods in coordination with ECLAC¹

¹ *Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean*