

CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES
IN THE REGION
HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS SESSIONS

*CUESTIONES MEDIOAMBIENTALES
CRÍTICAS EN LA REGIÓN
SESIONES DE PREPARACIÓN PARA
HURACANES*

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Why consider the environmental dimensions of hurricane response and preparedness?



Build back
safer and
better



Strengthen
adaptation to
climate change



Reduce disaster
risk and avoid
future disasters



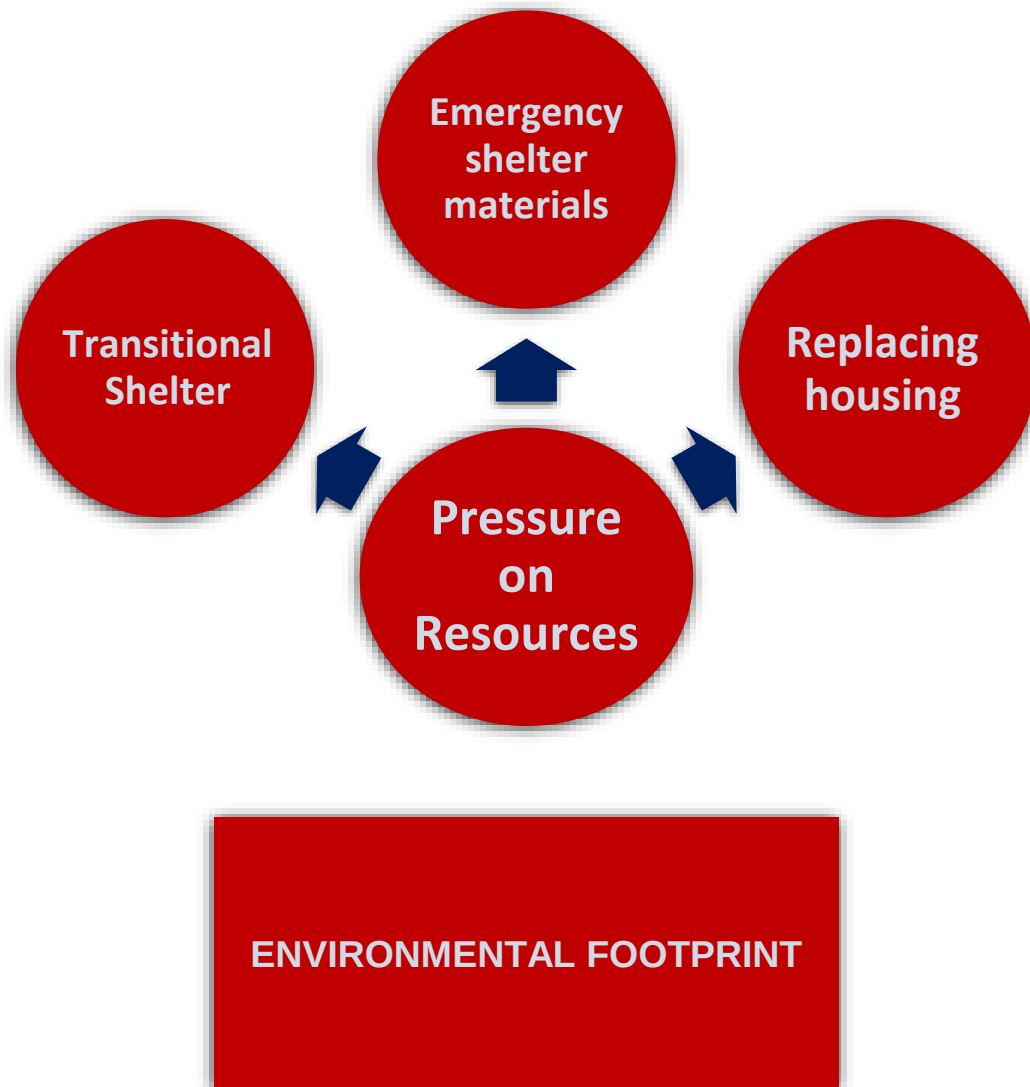
Accountability to
affected populations
and improved
response quality

Environmental impacts of hurricanes



- **Debris:** buildings, contents, trees, vegetation. Recycle, reuse and repurpose. Livelihoods opportunities.
- **Hazardous waste:** e.g. chemicals + asbestos ; liquid waste; pesticides
- **WASH:** damage to water supplies and sanitation; drinking water contamination
- **Vector increase:** increase in the number of disease vectors & pests in urban areas + rural areas w/ long standing pools of water.
- **Damage to natural resources:** Supply (e.g. of timber for construction) may be damaged by the disaster and response will place increased pressure. Less accessibility.
- **Biodiversity/habitat loss:** destruction of natural habitats; deforestation; increased disaster risk

Environmental impact of **response**



- **Pressures on natural resources:** Damaged houses or livelihoods → increase pressure on natural resources to meet basic needs inc. construction materials → increased hazard risk (e.g. deforestation → flooding)
- **Emergency shelter materials:** Waste from plastic sheeting; pressure on resources for poles etc.
- **Replacing / repairing housing:** requires resource extraction at higher than normal levels
- **Transitional shelter:** Resources pressure; site planning incorporating risk management
- **Environmental footprint:** waste. energy, CO2 emissions

Key Regional Resources

*Recursos regionales **clave***



Hurricane Response 2024 Environmental Issues Overview



Parks and Protected Areas



Honduras Environmental Country Profile for Shelter Response

Global Resources & Technical Support



Recursos globales y asistencia técnica

- **Global Shelter Cluster Environment Community of Practice and Green Team:** EnvironmentOperations@sheltercluster.org
- **The WWF Environment and Disaster Management Help Desk:** available to respond to requests for information or guidance on the environment and the response to disasters: enviromdm@wwfus.org

TOOLS

- **Disaster waste management guidelines:**
<https://eecentre.org/resources/dwm/>
- **Virtual Environmental and Humanitarian Adviser (VEHA) tool:** supports planning for the environmental dimensions of response:
<https://ehaconnect.org/veha-tool/>
- **Sphere Environmental Thematic Sheet:**
<https://www.spherestandards.org/resources/thematic-sheet-environmental-impact/>



**¡GRACIAS!
THANK YOU!**

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