Choosing an environmental screening tool

Environmental screening is key to making humanitarian projects more sustainable. It helps to identify project inputs, outputs, and environmental risks while highlighting mitigation measures. This helps reduce harm, enhance sustainability, and ensure compliance with donor and humanitarian standards. Choosing the right ES tool is essential, as different tools suit different crises and project stages. The table below summarises the main tools relevant for humanitarian projects.

A full comparative table with additional tools and criteria is available.

Tool name	Developer	Description
NEAT+ (Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool)	Joint Environment Unit of UNEP/OCHA	- Project level, questionnaire-based - Offline (Excel, Kobo) & online - English (offline, online), French and Spanish (offline) - Few hours to half a day depending on activities - Automatically analyses activities and provides mitigation measures to be analysed - FSL, WASH, Shelter
EST (Environmental Stewardship Tool)	Catholic Relief Services	- Project level - Offline (Excel) - Few hours to half a day depending on activities - English, French and Spanish - List of environmental risks and mitigation measures - Food Security and Livelihoods, DRR, Education, Health, Shelter/Settlements and WASH
CEDRIG (Climate, Environment, and Disaster Risk Reduction Integration Guidance)	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)	- Area level, more for development projects - Offline (app) - English, French, Spanish and Russian - Based around a workshop → few days to complete
VEHA (Virtual Environmental and Humanitarian Adviser)	Joint Environment Unit of UNEP/OCHA	- Not a tool, but an interactive list to help choose mitigation measures - English - WASH, Food Security, Health, Livelihoods, Logistics, Nutrition, Shelter
MERA (Multi-Sectoral Environmental Risks Analysis)	Réseau Environnment Humanitaire (REH)	- Not a tool, but a list to help choose mitigation measures - English, French and Spanish - FSL, WASH, Shelter, MHPSS (health to come)

The process of conducting an environmental screening does not stop at filling in a tool, but rather that the real value lies in the results analysis —turning data into actionable insights that improve response effectiveness dond environmental resilience. **The REH has developped an SOP on how to conduct an envriontional screening.**