SESSION 5 – FLASH ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT TOOL

SCENARIO 2 – FIELD HOSPITAL

You receive a direct email from the Director of the Environmental Ministry asking for your assistance concerning the siting of one of the field hospitals that has been set up. There have been reports that an agricultural production area with chemical storage has been flooded. This facility is downstream from Atma but approximately 2km upstream from one of the temporary field hospitals that has been established. About 500m downstream of the field hospital is Itak, a small village. The surrounding area near the field hospital is forest with logging and forestry products being the main economic activity in the area. Several villages are also in the area. Some areas in the valley have been deforested.

The Director states that he contacted the DDRC and the head of the field hospital with his concerns of potential pollution near the site before it was set up, but was told the risk is minimal and the delivery of medical aid takes precedence over environmental concerns.

Given your environmental expertise, the Director requests your assistance in determining the risk posed to the hospital. The end of the email stated that while the local population is also concerned about pollution from a paper mill 1km upstream from the site, the Director had not received reports of damage to that facility so she believes it to be safe.

You prepare to assess the potential environmental impacts in this area.

* Who do you provide your report to?
* What do you include?
* Who do you coordinate with? How?
* What are your findings and recommendations?