

Institute for Environmental Security *IES News Archives 2010*

Following the launch of the renewed IES website in April 2020, we find it important to also preserve the record of the original IES News articles dating from our founding in 2002 through 2010 – in addition to the archives from 2011 and beyond which are already accessible on the new site.

Readers should find it useful to find back coverage of our earlier activities and important stories from others sources during the landmark decade when environmental security emerged as a global concern – and in which so many committed individuals and organisations pioneered and developed this discipline.

*Please note, however, that **the older IES News articles below may contain small errors and broken internal and external links** which we are working to fix.*

The Arctic Calling: Workshop “Europe’s Arctic Course - The Future of Space Cooperation in the Arctic Region” - 8 December 2010, European Space Agency, Paris

14 December 2010



On 8 December 2010 the Institute for Environmental Security, in collaboration with the European Space Agency, organised a workshop on “Europe’s Arctic Course - The Future of Space Cooperation in the Arctic Region” at the European Space Agency headquarters in Paris.

With more than 45 experts from 12 countries attending the workshop, the event aimed to promote the dialogue on environmental security in the Arctic region. Challenges and opportunities were chosen to be approached from two perspectives: the environment and climate change issues on one hand, the support for increased human activity in the Arctic region on the other hand.

Experts highlighted the global significance of the Arctic region. With temperature increases twice as large as the global average, the high Arctic is an early warning region for climate change. Economically, the Arctic is a gold mine. It is believed to hold between 20-30% of the world’s undiscovered oil and gas resources and it contains high quantities of minerals and marine resources.

The workshop also brought out EU’s interests in the Arctic. Arctic challenges and opportunities will have significant repercussions on the life of European citizens for generations to come. Stewart Arnold, policy officer in the office of Diana Wallis, MEP explained that the European Parliament report on “A Sustainable EU Policy for the High North” will likely be submitted to a vote in plenary at the beginning of 2011. Interest from MEPs for the Arctic has grown over the months, Arnold said, and some of their views reflected in the report relate to issues such as oil drilling, governance structures, demilitarisation, access to information and the needs for safety for European shipping and tourist industries.

While speaking about the ecological implications of human activities in the Arctic, Sandra Cavalieri, Fellow at the Ecologic Institute presented the conclusions of the report “EU Arctic Footprint and Policy Assessment”. The report finds that the European continent is responsible for 59% of black carbon emissions and that the EU itself emits 30% of heavy metals and 40% of acidifying gases found in the Arctic.

In terms of commercial exploitation of the Arctic, The EU itself currently imports 39% of its fish from

Arctic countries and owns 60% of the Arctic infrastructure-intensive industries. Huge economic interests are at stake and the impact of climate change on the melting of ice will enhance the opportunities for the exploitation of Arctic natural resources. Therefore, the important question arises: is it possible to achieve a sustainable development of the region?

Finally, It was recognised that the recourse to space systems combining earth observation, navigation and positioning and telecommunications capabilities can contribute to prevent and mitigate several hazards and areas of concern including: sea ice conditions, icebergs movements, hurricanes, permafrost melting, chemical pollution and oil spills and ocean productivity variations. The keywords in this respect are: monitor, report, guide and remedy as enumerated by a participant.

As for the way forward, Professor Paul Arthur Berkman of the Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge noted that promoting cooperation and preventing the outbreak of conflicts would necessarily require the establishment of the right balance between national and common interests in the Arctic. The workshop brought to light the need to bridge the existing gaps regarding information and communications in the Arctic. The deployment of space missions above the Arctic for climate change monitoring, communications and safety requirements was strongly advocated by users attending the meeting.

[Workshop Webpage](#) | [Workshop Summary Report](#)

Global Megatrends and Environmental Security

8 December 2010

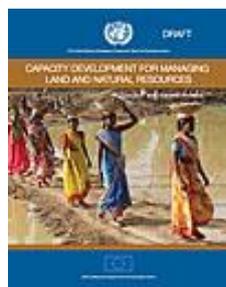


IES Vice-Chair, Tom Spencer took part in the European Environment Agency workshop on “**Global megatrends analysis and regional security implications of climate change**” in Copenhagen, on 7-8 December 2010. The event was built on the work undertaken for the “[European Environment - State and Outlook 2010](#)” ([SOER 2010](#)) and it is expected to be part of the ongoing process for the EEA input into Rio+20 and other international undertakings. The EEA initiative on global megatrends is an attempt to close the gap in understanding the links between environment and security. The meeting also provided for the possibility to communicate and discuss these issues between different organisations/networks related to security and environment. Many participants saw opportunities for better awareness on environment and security and policy impact in communication, especially targeted towards the politicians and policy designers.

[X More on this event](#)

UN-EU Partnership on Natural Resources, Conflict and Peacebuilding

22 November 2010



Together with the European Union and five other UN partners (UNDP, DPA, PBSO, HABITAT and DESA), UNEP is working to support countries improve natural resource management for conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Through a joint programme coordinated by the UN Framework Team for Preventive Action and financed by the EU's Instrument for Stability, technical assistance will be provided to help national stakeholders, as well as UN and EU staff in conflict-affected countries, to better understand and prevent tensions over environmental issues and the management of natural resources. The partnership is also designed to enhance policy development and programme coordination between key actors at the field level.

Related Publications

- [The United Nations \(UN\) Interagency Framework Team for Preventive Action \(the Framework Team\)](#)
- [Capacity development for managing land and natural resources - Guidance Note for Practitioners](#)
- [Environmental Scarcity and Conflict - Guidance Note for Practitioners](#)
- [Extractive Industries and Conflict - Guidance Note for Practitioners](#)
- [Land and Conflict - Guidance Note for Practitioners](#)

Experts on Environmental Security in a tête-a-tête ENVSEC-IES Workshop on Environmental Security Assessments

22 November 2010



On 21-22 November 2010 the Institute for Environmental Security, in collaboration with UNEP and ENVSEC, organised a workshop on 'Environmental Security Assessments: Methodologies and Practices' at Chateau de Bois-Seigneur-Isaac near Brussels.

The meeting brought together experts who design and carry out Environmental Security Assessments (ESAs) and policy makers and practitioners with a demonstrated interest in using such assessments. The overall aim was to exchange information and experiences on the various approaches to conducting ESAs and explore ways to improve the use of them in the future.

The first theme addressed was: What are ESAs? How are they done? And who uses them? Speakers highlighted purposes of different kinds of ESAs and how they are used by policy makers, by companies, by development agencies and by the defence and security communities. Referring to NATO's approach to Environmental Security, Jamie Patrick Shea, Deputy Assistant Secretary General, Emerging Security Challenges Division of the NATO said, "Environmental protection in military operations is a young discipline and it still needs tender parent-ship to mature".

A second theme focused upon the key elements of Environmental Security Assessments. For instance, how do ESAs deal with climate change issues, involve local stakeholders, take into account geopolitical aspects, engage different international and national actors and use earth observation, GIS and remote sensing. Laura Rio of UNEP spoke about "the added value of ENVSEC that lays ultimately in its ability to bring interconnected environment and security benefits". Other speakers in the session also emphasised the security angle and stressed the importance of conflict prevention. During the third session, speakers shared experience and approaches which could help strengthen the quality and effectiveness of ESAs. Experts in this session unanimously agreed upon the importance of field work, that the assessments should meet the needs of the local context, that capacity-building of stakeholders was crucial, that the political context of key decision makers had to be taken into consideration and that cooperation and collaboration was imperative.

The final session focused on how ESAs can be made more useful to end users and dealt with ideas for follow-up and future cooperation. The participants agreed to continue to work together to exchange information on forthcoming ESAs and to help develop guidelines on how to carry out ESAs or how to use them.

[More about the workshop](#)

Good deal bad deal: Report of the Conference 'Illegal Trade in Natural Resources - What can Brussels do?'

17 November 2010



After the success of the conference 'Illegal Trade in Natural Resources - What can Brussels do?' which was held on 30 September 2010, the Institute for Environmental Security (IES) is pleased to announce the release of the conference report titled "Good deal bad deal".

Starting from an attempt to define the concept of illegality and the analysis of the politics and economics of illegal trade, the report confronts various existing remedies - legal and voluntary initiatives - and tries to identify their strengths and weaknesses. The report also seeks to understand what earth observation technologies can offer to improve the global monitoring of natural resources extraction. Lastly, the report proposes a compilation of recommendations formulated by the speakers as possible answers to the question "What can Brussels do?"

The report tries to reflect the day-long conference in the manner in which it unfolded, compiling the presentations and discussions of a wide panel of eminent speakers from the UN and EU institutions, the academic community, international NGOs and the private sector.

The IES hopes that the report, together with the establishment of the online Facebook Community Page - Resource Trade Network (RTN) - will help inspire future debate and policy action in this area which is crucial to the prospects for environmental security, sustainable development and peace.

[Download the report](#) | [Conference webpage](#)

Clean the Niger Delta: "Standing before history" - Ken Saro-Wiwa 1995

10 November 2010



On 10 November 2010 the Clean the Niger Delta Coalition organised a public event in The Hague, to help find sustainable solutions to the situation in this region. The Niger Delta is one of the world's most important wetland and coastal marine ecosystems and oil pollution poses an enormous threat to environmental security in the region.

The event was held at the Plein in The Hague. Here some important stakeholders spoke about their ideas and commitments on the Niger Delta.

The meeting was part of a larger initiative aimed at commemorating the Nigerian writer and environmental activist Ken Saro-Wiwa exactly 15 years after his execution by the military government. His death and those of 8 other activists that day has served to spur what is an ongoing campaign to diffuse the tension in the region and return the land to a state that can provide secure livelihoods for all who live there.

To pay tribute to the life and campaigns of Ken Saro-Wiwa, a photo exhibition and a superb concert "Standing Before History" took place in the evening of 10 November, featuring Nigerian singer-songwriter Nneka.

The Clean the Niger Delta Coalition is formed of 8 environmental, human rights and African diaspora organizations based in The Netherlands. Apart from the Institute for Environmental Security the coalition consists of Amnesty International, Cordaid, Friends of the Earth Netherlands, Oxfam Novib, the Hope for the Niger Delta Campaign, Afro-Euro, Global Human Rights Defence, and the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organisation (UNPO).

[X Visit the Clean the Niger Delta website](#) | [X Poster](#) | [X Video](#)

EU urged to focus in-depth on Illegal Trade in Natural Resources

11 October 2010



Competition for access to natural resources is recognised as a contributing factor of instability in many countries. This is true where resources are scarce, but the same can also be true where resources are abundant. Diamonds, timber, minerals and cocoa have been exploited by armed groups from Liberia and Sierra Leone, Angola, Cambodia and more recently Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (EDRC) to sustain their illegal activities. In fact, a 2009 UNEP study has found that in the last twenty years, at least eighteen civil wars have been fuelled by natural resources.

Exploring how the European Union could help mitigate illegal trade in natural resources was the subject of a conference organised by the Institute for Environmental Security and a coalition of six other civil society organisations on 30 September 2010. The meeting, attended by representatives from the United Nations, the European Union, permanent representations to the EU, the corporate sector and civil society offered a forum for specialists to share experiences and learn from other sectors (diamond, timber, bush-meat,...) and try to find an answer to the question ‘What can Brussels do’?

“It’s a global problem with concrete local effects,” said Alain Déléroz, Vice-President Europe of International Crisis Group.

The dramatic humanitarian situation in EDRC, the deep presence of warring factions and their involvement in the trade of minerals (cassiterite, coltan, wolframite, gold) fostered much of the initial discussions. Responses tend to be too general, there is a “big difference between illegitimate violent actions and informal activities by artisanal miners who are struggling to survive,” clarified Harrison Mitchell, Director at Resource Consulting Services. Participants generally recognised that a policy providing simultaneous responses to armed groups, traders and communities was needed in order to restore stability in the region.

Speaking about the complex chain stake-holders involved, Nokia representative Pekka Isosomppi, argued that “if you have one drop of contaminated water in the tank, then the whole tank is contaminated”.

“Campaigning from NGOs has played an important role” explained MEP Satu Hassi, talking about the EU’s efforts to increase transparency in the timber sector. Recently voted by the European Parliament, the regulation aims at banning illegally extracted timber from entering the EU. However, the regulatory approach needs support from the corporate and civil society sectors, this was echoed by MEP Judith Sargentini.

To conclude, MEP Catherine Bearder insisted on the need to “build civil society as well as fight illegal resources” as good governance in the exporting regions is key to maintain stability. It was suggested that illegal trade in natural resources needs its own, comprehensive, European policy. It could be part of the mandate of the new European External Action Service (EEAS) and have a strong development approach. Additionally, efforts will need to be deployed to convince other major international actors to take their responsibilities and decide on similar actions. There is really no reason to postpone it further, “the cost of remedial action is two to three times more important than the cost of preventive action” argued Ian Smillie, Chairman, Diamond Development Initiative.

[Conference Webpage](#)

The Africa, Climate Change, Environment and Security (ACCES) Dialogue Process and Forum - The negative impacts of climate change on security in Africa as focus of an international forum

11 October 2010



Yesterday, 11 October 2010 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the Madariaga-College of Europe Foundation, in partnership with the Institute for Environmental Security, organised the "Dialogue Forum on Climate Change and Security in Africa", pre-event to the 7th African Development Forum arranged by the UN Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank on from 11 to 15 October.

The Forum is part of a larger Dialogue Process, the Africa, Climate Change, Environment and Security (ACCES), which is aimed to address the security risks of climate change and facilitate the building up of resilience capacities and preventive mechanisms in Africa.

The Dialogue Process will promote the setting up of multilateral and multi-level collaborative platforms aimed at working out "fundable" projects through combining both "top-down" and "bottom-up" approaches.

A Steering Committee to be established after the Dialogue Forum will ensure the integrated/coordinated follow up and the horizontal coherence and make efforts to set up a solid framework and mechanism for a sustainable, long-term Dialogue Process.

Other participant organisations to this initiative include the Folke Bernadotte Academy, the European Union Institutions and Member States, UNEP, FAO, the International Organization for Migration, the European Investment Bank, the Global Water Institute and the Parliamentarians Network for Conflict Prevention and Human Security.

[Read More information about the event](#)

'Can do' rather than 'Cancun' - IES shares with MEPs new ideas on the contribution European Union can make ahead of Cancun

23 September 2010



Nobody expects the Climate Change COP in Cancun in December to be a success. Faced by the prospect of paralysis, pessimism and stale thinking the IES convened a distinguished panel of speakers at a seminar with Members of the European Parliament on 1st September.

The seminar looked first at re-defining climate change issues as development issues, given the examples of abrupt climate change that had characterised 2010 so far. The shift in the jet stream triggered by melting sea ice in the Arctic had brought forest fires to Russia, mud slides to China and devastating floods to Pakistan.

In his keynote address Tom Spencer argued that we should break free from the tyranny of CO2 and greenhouse gasses, as negotiated at the Climate COPs and concentrate instead on the other 50% of factors driving climate change. Jo Leinen, MEP, Chairman of the European Parliament's Environment Committee, endorsed this approach and expressed his determination to explore new ideas. He announced in particular that his committee would be looking at sending a Parliamentary Delegation

to the Montreal Protocol Conference of the Parties in November. Tony Long of WWF Brussels gave a thoughtful intervention on development and climate change. The ensuing debate focused on the challenge of changing perceptions and mind-sets and recognised the need to explore carbon negative technologies, such as Biochar and Calera cement.

In the second session, the seminar turned to the relationship between development and security. Air Marshal AK Singh (Rtd), from the Centre for Air Power Studies in New Delhi, drew on his great experience of disaster management in South Asia. He underlined some of the ongoing consequences of the flooding of the Indus for the future of Pakistan and for geo-politics in the region. He drew attention to way in which deforestation in the Pakistani section of Kashmir had intensified the effect of the heavy Monsoon rains. He recognised that similar disasters could strike elsewhere in South Asia. The Air Marshal, who chairs the IES Military Advisory Committee, undertook to continue to carry the message about environment, development and security to the global military. Edward Robinson, from the office of Nirj Deva, MEP, outlined the Own Initiative Report that would be looking at the threat of glacial melt and consequent flooding and droughts across the developing world, focusing particularly on the Himalayas and the Andes. Michael Stopford, the Deputy Assistant Secretary General of NATO, spoke of the work which NATO was already doing in this field and called for an intensification of effort. Rafael Jiménez-Aybar from GLOBE EU outlined the work programme being pursued internationally by the GLOBE family of parliamentarians. The debate which followed laid emphasis on the urgent need to secure the full-hearted involvement of the military and the deployment of their intellectual, organisational and budget resources.

In summing up the seminar, IES President Wouter Veening stressed the urgency and excitement of pursuing new ideas and breaking the deadlock in climate change negotiations. "There is much that we can do. This is no time for pessimism or paralysis".

[Read more about the event](#)

'Illegal Trade in Natural Resources - What can Brussels do?'

A two-day event in Brussels to debate on this issue and on the role played by the European Union

21 July 2010



On 29-30 September 2010 the issue of illegal trade in natural resources will be discussed by IES and its partners during a two-day event in Brussels.

The event, organised in the framework of IES Pathfinder project and in collaboration with BICC, GLOBE EU and Europe, International Alert, IISD, Madariaga - College of Europe Foundation, SIPRI, Transparency International and Worldwatch Institute, will be kick-started by an opening dinner on the evening of 29 and will be followed by the conference on Thursday 30 September.

Hosted at the European Economic and Social Committee, the conference will be developed around four main sessions with the aim to provide a global overview on the issue at stake through various perspectives, and to define what the EU can do to contribute to this struggle.

Starting with an assessment of the problems created by illegal trade in commodities and its implications for the environment, development, peace & security and international trade, the debate will then focus on the politics and economics that allow such commodities to be sold as legally-owned assets to importing countries. The afternoon sessions will feature an analysis of the governmental & legal actions and the Public & Corporate Initiatives undertaken to curb the import of illegally extracted commodities, with an attempt to identify the gaps. Finally, a panel of speakers will explore what the European Union could do to contribute to the fight against illegal trade in natural

resources involving EU Member States and whether a general legal mechanism can be set up to efficiently address this issue.

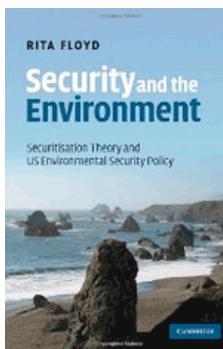
The conference will represent an important opportunity for policy makers, researchers, and representatives of NGOs, IGOs and the private sector to participate and exchange ideas on how to improve the fight against the import of illegally extracted natural resources in the European Union. For queries and additional information please contact the Pathfinder Secretariat.

[Pathfinder Programme](#) | [Conference Webpage](#)

Security and the Environment

New publication by IES Fellow Rita Floyd reflects on US environmental security policy

21 July 2010



IES Fellow Rita Floyd publishes a new book on environmental security with Cambridge University Press. *Security and the Environment: Securitisation Theory and US Environmental Security Policy* traces United States' environmental security policy over time from its early beginnings in 1993 when the first Clinton administration declared environmental security a national security issue, to the end of the Bush administrations in 2009, when environmental security had vanished from the US government's agenda.

Floyd uses this changing US environmental security policy to revise the Copenhagen school's influential "securitisation theory", so that this theory allows the analyst to gain insights into the intentions of securitising actors. This revision reveals surprising findings regarding the intentions of key actors behind the Clinton day US environmental security policy; findings that are relevant especially also in the context of today's push for "climate security".

Floyd concludes her analysis with a moral evaluation of different types of environmental security (national, human and ecological) offering a useful guide to theorists and practitioners alike.

Drawing on original interviews with former key players in United States environmental security, "Security and the Environment" is a significant and original contribution to environmental security studies and security studies more generally. The book will be of interest to international relations scholars and political practitioners concerned with security, as well as students of international environmental politics and US policy-making.

[Publication Page](#)

Water and Human Security in Central-South Asia - IES fellow Michael Renner speaks about the issue of access to water in south Asia

20 July 2010



The quantity and quality of available water play a crucial role in the politics of central-south Asia, and more specifically the Indus and Amu Darya water basins. Access to clean drinking water is a major, though largely unmet, objective and poor management lies at the heart of many problems.

Many areas in the region are already experiencing physical water shortages - recent studies estimate per capita water availability in the densely-populated Indus basin at around 1,000 cubic metres per year - and climate change will only exacerbate this.

The region's water challenges do not inevitably lead to armed conflict. Unalleviated, however, they threaten to undermine human security and bring different communities into dispute. Cooperative approaches have been sparse and institutional structures in the region remain fragmented. Yet cooperation will be critical for the region to meet its water challenges in the years and decades ahead.

In Afghanistan, three decades of armed conflict have displaced a large portion of the population, impeded access to farmland, and destroyed irrigation systems. The livelihoods of at least 80% of the population are agriculture-related, but poorly constructed canals translate into water losses as high as 70%.

Recurring drought and floods have led to the loss of rural livelihoods and food insecurity. These desperate conditions have triggered local conflicts and migration to cities. Water contamination has become a severe public health threat, owing to poor waste management practices and a pervasive lack of modern sanitation.

The nations sharing the Amu Darya are locked into seemingly irreconcilable sets of interests. Tajikistan and Afghanistan look to the river for hydropower as well as irrigation while Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan depend heavily on the river to irrigate their cotton, rice, and wheat fields.

Upstream, Tajikistan releases reservoir water in the winter months to generate hydropower for heating, frequently causing downstream flooding and damage to infrastructure. In the summer months, it builds up its reservoirs - at precisely the time when the irrigation needs of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan are most acute. All these countries plan to increase water extraction, which may exacerbate tensions.

In Pakistan and India, extensive irrigation is also placing Indus basin water resources under heavy stress, with about 90% of the available flow utilised. Over pumping and inefficient irrigation has caused sharply declining groundwater levels and salinization of agricultural lands. Pakistan's per capita water availability is forecast to fall to a critically low level of just 800 cubic metres annually by 2020. Although millions of Pakistanis do not have access to safe drinking water, the government spends 47 times as much on the military budget as on water and sanitation.

Rising water demand in the region is causing trans-border issues as well as internal conflicts. Although the 1960 Indus Water Treaty offers an important dispute arbitration mechanism, India and Pakistan need to increase their collaboration on watershed stewardship.

Climate change will dramatically raise the challenges in central and south Asia -including reduced rainfall and runoff, increased heat stress, drought and desertification. Glacier melt will have serious consequences for the drinking water supplies of hundreds of millions of people, as well as for hydropower generation. Significant changes to monsoon patterns are also expected.

The governance systems for much of the region's water are challenged by conflicting interests, mutual suspicions and a reluctance to cooperate, as well as the lack of an overarching institutional structure. One of the most pressing needs is greater efficiency in water use. Better watershed management, rainwater harvesting, urban water conservation, investments in sanitation, and more integrated planning are vitally important.

Michael Renner is a senior researcher at the Worldwatch Institute in Washington, D.C. and senior advisor to the Institute for Environmental Security in Brussels.

A full version of the report ["Water challenges in Central-South Asia"](#) was first published in December 2009 by the Norwegian Peacebuilding Centre, Oslo.

Experts Debate on Illegal E-Waste Trade around the Globe IES takes part in debate on e-waste exports and dumping

7 June 2010



On 25-27 May, IES Fellow Chad Briggs, participated in a meeting hosted by INTERPOL, the US EPA and Swedish government in Alexandria, Virginia on the topic of e-waste exports and dumping. Over 100 experts from police, environment, customs and trade agencies, including several NGOs, met at the largest-yet gathering to address the environmental and health problems of dumped electronic waste. E-waste is often generated when electronic goods are discarded rather than recycled, often ending in unregulated dumps in West Africa or Asia. Nearly 50 million tons of personal computers alone are disposed of each year, the E-Waste Crime Group estimates, a number which will grow significantly in the future.

E-waste contains numerous heavy metals, with a standard CRT-monitor containing up to several kilograms of lead. The assembled group was interested in how to prevent exports of such waste from North America and Europe, and force proper recycling of the materials. US EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson flew back to Washington from the Gulf Coast oil spill to address the meeting, calling on countries to enforce stricter toxic waste regulations, many of which are covered under the Basel Convention (which the US has not ratified).

IES was represented by Fellow Chad Briggs, who spoke on the first day about joint monitoring programmes of IES, University College London, and The Hague Environmental Law Facility. Dr. Briggs explained the possible use of satellite monitoring and GPS tracking to assist police agencies in identifying potential waste sites, and tracking movement of e-waste. With most shipping containers passing without inspection, the use of better data to identify and track potential e-waste shipments frees resources and allows targeted inspections of exports. Briggs also emphasized the importance of integrating non-security experts in information networks, drawing upon his previous experience as a senior advisor for the US Department of Energy. "We can't just rely upon established methods of information gathering," Briggs explained, "as environmental issues are too complex to understand without support from the wider community."

IES will soon release a final report and the related proposal for the Hague Environmental Law Facility for the compliance and enforcement of international environmental law. At various previous conferences the application of earth observation technologies for better enforcement was stated and IES conducted a workshop with attendance from the legal and technical community on satellite monitoring for the enforcement of environmental law in The Hague in April 2010. The next step is a case study which practically shows the importance on using the tools of GPS and satellite imagery in investigations and legal proceedings.

[Download presentation](#) | [X INTERPOL Press Release](#)

Climate Change and Social Order - Evolution or Revolution Students and personalities define specific action lines addressing sustainable solutions for global challenge

7 June 2010



On 17 May some outstanding personalities and forty selected students from all over Europe gathered at the St Gallen University for an internationally unique event to exchange their experience and ideas on the shift in social order in response to climate change.

IES research assistant Jonathan Solomon joined the event and actively

dealt with the latest research from social, economic and political perspective. They were introduced by Prof. Dirk Lehmkuhl and Dr. Andreas Koestler who presented his work for the UN Disaster Assessment Coordination at the forefront of climate change impacts. Among the theoretical inputs Mrs Koko Warner from the United Nations University Bonn presented the latest results of their study on climate change and migration. Mrs Lindene Patton explained the strong influence of insurances on economic transactions, which are related to societal and natural risks. Finally Prof. Pattberg from the VU University Amsterdam gave an update about the changing architecture in climate change governance towards different agents from the private sector and civil society determining regulation.

Professor Sir Brian Hoskins of the Grantham Institute for Climate Change, member of the IPCC fourth assessment report and advisor to the Stern report, showed the impacts water, ecosystems, food security and coastal regions by mapping surface temperature and precipitation projections. The problems and solutions to Climate Change and food systems were elaborated by Dr. Herren, president of the Millennium Institute, by presenting necessary shifts to reconnect farming and the environment, producers and consumers and policies and their consequences.

An impressive keynote from economic Nobel Prize laureate Eric Maskin explained how a climate change treaty has to be designed to be self-enforcing. He assured the realistic possibility of creating a treaty that includes the incentives for every country to sign by delivering their economic mitigation costs to certain international reduction goals.

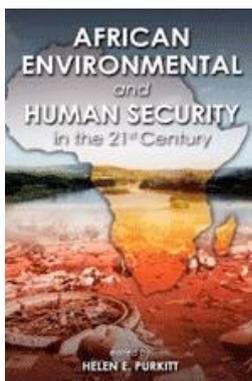
Challenge the Best was an outstanding event for intergenerational communication and learning in an excellent organised environment to build the necessary bridges between people who are committed to take the societal challenges ahead.

[X Event Website](#)

Environmental Security and Neglected Tropical Diseases in Africa

IES Fellow Chad Briggs co-author of a report on environmental security

7 June 2010



IES Fellow Chad Briggs has co-authored a report with disease expert Jennifer Bath (Concordia College, USA), "Environmental Security and Neglected Tropical Diseases in Africa". It was published recently as part of the book African Environmental and Human Security in the 21st Century (Cambria Press), edited by US Naval Academy Professor Helen Purkitt.

Briggs and Bath argue that traditional approaches to disease and security focused too narrowly on state stability and economic indicators, and ignored the complex systems within which diseases spread. Rather than claiming that diseases lead to instability, they use the case of cholera in Zimbabwe to illustrate that prior instability more often leads to disease, which then becomes a positive feedback and worsens conditions. But Briggs and Bath also show that in places such as Sudan, tackling neglected diseases such as helminths (worm-related infections) can offer low-cost and effective ways of bolstering local resilience even when conflict is present.

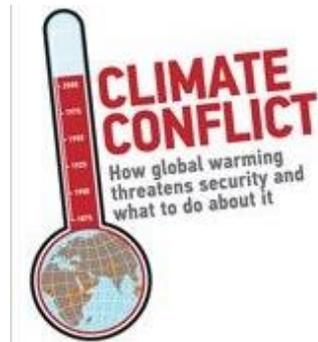
Other chapters in the book - mostly authored by current or former military officers - address issues such as the link between environment and terrorism in Africa, resource scarcity, and food security.

[Publication website](#)

The Global Security Implications of Climate Change

70 specialists meet at the European Commission to discuss the threats associated with climate change

31 May 2010



On 28 May 2010, the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) organised a meeting on “The Global Security Implications of Climate Change” within the framework of its “Transatlantic Dialogue on Climate Change and Security” at the European Commission in Brussels. The meeting, attended by around 70 people, also featured several IES representatives including Wouter Veening, Bernard Snoy and G raud de Ville.

The opening session featured Ms Laurence Graff from DG Climate Action who shared her observations on the UNFCCC negotiations. Responding to the many concerns following the failure of Copenhagen to effectively address climate change, she insisted that Europe should continue to push for an international agreement but that in any case “at the end of the day, we need domestic policies”. Ms Graff ended her talk saying she that was slightly more optimistic than some of her colleagues since many countries are now working hard on domestic policies.

The meeting then focused on energy security (First Session), water security and food security (Second Session). Andrew Holland proposed an overview of the conclusions of a 16 March IISS Workshop on Climate Change & Energy Security. The meeting illustrated a number of systemic threats associated with oil dependence. Among the proposed solutions, participants of the 16 March 2010 meeting highlighted the need for diversification of energy sources and the development of renewable energy. His presentation was followed by an analysis of Dr Cho Khong from Shell International who raised some interesting figures on the future of energy demand and supply. The Second Session, with presentations from Rachel Posner (Center for Strategic and International Studies), Anton Earle (Stockholm International Water Institute) and Sir Gordon Conway (Imperial College London) highlighted the interdependencies of food, water and energy security and the need to recognise this link in any proposed solution.

The afternoon sessions focused on the link between climate change and conflict with presentations from Lt Col Ian Astley (UK Ministry of Defence), Jeffrey Mazo (IISS), Cleo Paskal (Chatham House) and Jamie Shea (NATO). The speakers reiterated the fact that climate change will amplify existing causes of tensions and might trigger “tipping points” that will make conflict more likely. Paskal proposed some geopolitical observations of climate-induced changes with specific foci on China, the Pacific States and the Arctic. In the last session, Jamie Shea explained that although NATO’s new Strategic Concept does not give prominent place to climate change as a threat, some people are trying to advocate it within NATO. Shea concluded that the climate change response needs a comprehensive approach and that NATO can be part of a wider solution.

To wrap up the meeting, IISS Director on Transnational Threats and Political Risk Nigel Inkster thanked the participants and explained that IISS will keep working on these issues in the future.

[IISS website](#) | [IES Climate Change and International Security Programme](#)

IES Interactive Map on DRC now on-line

10 May 2010

Ed: The 'Vison' Interactive Map Viewer service has been discontinued. Readers can still find several ESPA Programme Maps on the IES website in the section on [Eco-Regions](#).



The Institute for Environmental Security, in collaboration with MARIS, is pleased to announce the launch of its new Interactive Map Viewer 'Vision' on the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). 'Vision' aims to inform decision makers on the state of play in specific areas in an interactive way. Fourth in a series of webGIS interfaces, the DRC interactive map viewer allows internet users to select any combination of data layers and satellite images in order to run a visual analysis without having any special GIS expertise or software.

The interface is produced in the framework of the IES Environmental Security Assessment (ESA) of the Ngiri - Tumba - Mai Ndombe wetland landscape. One of the assessment's main objectives is to investigate threats to environmental security and formulate recommendations for preventing conflicts and alleviating poverty. Some of the main threats the Congo Basin is facing today include temporal and spatial expansion of forest concessions, poaching mainly associated with logging operations, overfishing, and illegal trafficking of natural resources.

The Environmental Security Assessment study carried out in the Ngiri -Tumba - Mai Ndombe area by IES highlighted some key security issues, which may explain recent clashes and raise the potential risk for violent conflict: - Land tenure, exploitation rights, control and access to wetland resources are not guaranteed; - Pervasive poverty; - Weak state capacity, including impunity and lack of government authority; - Absence or inefficiency of controls in economic sector; - Political disorder and disputes at provincial level; - Presence of local and uncontrolled armed groups, including former soldiers of Mobutu and of the Congolese Liberation Movement (MLC), and also poachers.

The Ngiri - Tumba - Mai Ndombe wetland has become the world's largest wetland site of international importance, officially recognized by the Ramsar Convention in July 2008. Through the realisation of this interface, IES wants to keep a high level of attention on the situation in the DRC and encourage policy makers to respect their obligations regarding the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other international environmental agreements on poverty alleviation and conservation of vulnerable areas in the DRC.

[ESAs](#) | [Ramsar](#) | [MDGs](#) | [MARIS](#) | [IES DRC Maps](#)

Emergency Aid and Ecosystems

28 April 2010



On 27 April, the IES and the IUCN National Committee of the Netherlands organised a meeting on ecosystem management after natural disasters and violent conflicts. This event took place in Artis Zoo, Amsterdam, as part of a larger conference called "The Great Escape", designed for a broader audience of policy makers from governments, business and NGOs.

The meeting brought together various international experts, including representatives from humanitarian aid organisations (Red Cross, UNHCR, Cordaid, ZOA Refugee Care), the government

of Sierra Leone and various African and European NGOs. They discussed ways of integrating environmental considerations into (the planning of) emergency aid and recovery operations in the earliest possible stages, in order to prevent long term environmental damage, such as deforestation, pollution, and erosion.

After some brief presentations of some of the experts, participants worked on various group assignments. Based on case studies in different regions of the world, the groups discussed the role of environmental aspects in emergency response operations. Many participants expressed the importance of involving both host communities and affected communities in protecting and restoring ecosystems. Another important recommendation for aid organisations was to strengthen coordination of environment-related activities.

X [More information on The Great Escape](#) | [Report Emergency Aid and Ecosystems](#)

The Hague Environmental Law Facility

Experts debate on Satellite Monitoring for Environmental Law Enforcement

21 April 2010



On April 20th the Institute for Environmental Security and the T.M.C. Asser Institute organised a meeting on The Hague Environmental Law Facility (HELFF) to discuss the application of satellite monitoring for environmental law enforcement. Around 40 experts took part in the event, including practitioners from the “remote sensing community”, the legal sphere and enforcement agencies.

The meeting started with a thorough introduction by Prof. Dr. Frans von der Dunk on the legal aspects of satellite monitoring for environmental law highlighting the challenges and opportunities.

The first expert panel focused on the regulation of hazardous waste shipment. Representatives from the European Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL), NEO Earth Observation and Asser Institute, provided an interesting overview of the international legal framework, focusing specifically on the development of the “EU Waste Shipments Regulation”. Examples of remote sensing in criminal investigations were further discussed, as well as the question of open source data.

During the second expert panel, participants discussed the regime of monitoring-reporting-verification (MRV) related to the non-compliance mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol. The panel presented concrete examples of carbon storage and sequestration monitoring, including in Indonesia, where law enforcement on illegal logging is effectively supported in certain areas.

The event proved a useful setting for participants from the worlds of geospatial technology and environmental law to meet each other and share their views on the benefits of applying remote sensing technology for monitoring environmental law. Many participants also emphasized the added value of setting up a facility (HELFF) that will propose educational activities and facilitate access to justice for victims of international environmental crimes. One of the main outcomes of the meeting was the agreement between the Institute for Environmental Security and other attending organisations to further collaborate and share skills and know-how with the aim to develop one or more pilot projects on hazardous wastes, climate change, deforestation and illegal trade in natural resources.

[Read more information about the HELFF Programme](#)

Climate Change & Development in South-East Asia

IES participates in roundtable at the European Parliament

16 April 2010



On 15 April, IES Vice-Chairman Tom Spencer took part in a roundtable on “Climate Change and Development in South-East Asia”. Second in a series of seminars organised by MEP Deva Njri in the European Parliament, the round table aimed to promote the inherent link between changing weather patterns and development issues, in an area where both challenges are huge.

Participants to these events included the Ambassadors of the Asian countries of China, Bangladesh and Bhutan and representatives of the European Investment Bank, the European Commission, IPBO and others.

One of the main topics of discussion was the water issue, which is already affected by climate change in South East Asia. The speakers underlined the importance of protecting the Himalayas as a main source of fresh water for the region from glacial melt. They further stressed the necessity to set up a cross-regional cooperation to manage fresh water resources during periods of droughts and of elaborating actions to manage episodes of floods.

During his intervention, Tom Spencer emphasised the need for a regional security policy in South East Asia and gave a detailed presentation of the case of Bangladesh, one of the countries that will be most affected by the effects of glacial melt and sea level rise and where thousands of people will be forced to leave their villages to join the growing crowd of “climate refugees”.

The problem of climate change has to be handled globally and quickly. There is a need to take concrete actions and solutions aimed to create regional cooperation structures and to share scientific and technical knowledge.

Participants agreed to meet again soon to continue the dialogue and further elaborate on the climate change and development nexus in South-East Asia.

IES takes part in the debate on current legal issues for satellite earth observation - European Space Policy Institute, 8-9 April 2010, Vienna

9 April 2010



On 8 and 9 April, IES Chairman Wouter Veening and Project Assistant Jonathan Solomon, attended a conference on Current Legal Issues for Satellite Earth Observation. The event, hosted by The European Space Policy Institute in Vienna and organised in collaboration with ISPRS, IAA and IISL, was aimed to draw the attention of experts and practitioners from the legal and scientific community on this important issue.

Eminent speakers from Europe, the U.S., Canada, Japan and Australia joined the debate articulated around two main points: treaty monitoring and law enforcement through satellite earth observation and privacy conflicts from high resolution imaging.

Starting with the investigation into the interface between technical potentials, key drivers of increased data exploitation and the conducted case studies for the practical transfer to the jurisdiction, speakers then continued with a detailed description of the GMES programme of the European Commission and the programmes related to treaty monitoring and security in crisis situations. The audience’s attention was then brought to the GMOSS network supporting the Kimberly process on illegal extraction of natural resources for conflict prevention, supporting i.e. the

UN Security Council, and related EU-policy framework that describes remote sensing from the perspective of the political agenda.

The issue of privacy was further analysed in the light of the relevance of EC Law and the European Convention of Human Rights as a baseline for privacy conflicts with high-resolution imaging.

In concluding, the conference developed recommendations with regard to the use of satellite data in a wide range of juridical aspects. As Wouter Veening underlined, “the unique setting of bringing together the technical and legal community at the fore front of research and application of satellite imaging provided great opportunities for future cooperation”. The gained experience and connections had its impact on the proceedings of the Hague Environmental Law Faculty workshop on remote sensing for legal compliance that takes place on the 20th of April in the capital of peace and justice.¹

New trade measures present challenges for timber markets in the UNECE region - UNECE/FAO and WTO Workshop, 23 March 2010, Geneva

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“Regulations affecting the trade of timber products are evolving quickly, and this evolution should be closely monitored because of the impacts on the entire forest sector”. So concluded the workshop on “Emerging Trade Measures in Timber Markets”, organised by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) jointly with the Economic Research and Statistics Division of the World Trade Organization (WTO), on 23 March 2010 in Geneva.

World trade of wood and paper products, including value-added products, has doubled over the last 10 years. This has occurred notwithstanding various policies and measures affecting the timber trade. China is the motor of the global timber trade, having become the major importer of roundwood and the major exporter of value-added wood products such as wooden furniture. China’s wood products exports expanded 5-fold from 2000 to 2008.

Among other measures, participants discussed the emergence of non-tariff measures aimed at curbing illegal logging and the trade of illegally produced forest products and other trade measures, favouring the use of timber harvested from sustainably managed forests, e.g. certification systems and public procurement policies. Such measures are desirable as the issue of illegal logging and trade of illegal timber products remains critical for the global forest sector.

The approaches to this question vary from one country to the other and the regulatory framework is still evolving. For example, under the European action plan for forest law enforcement governance and trade, Voluntary Partnership Agreements are in the process of being negotiated with partner countries. Internally, discussions on the draft due diligence European Union regulation continue between the EU institutions.

However, some participants cautioned against the possible negative impacts on trade and undesired collateral effects on some forest resources, notably in some developing countries. They discussed the respective roles of measures designed to fight against illegal logging and certification schemes.

IES Pathfinder Project Coordinator Géraud de Ville attended the workshop with more than 100 stakeholders from government, industry, trade associations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations and academia. There is currently considerable concern and debate about the entire range of trade and trade-related measures impacting on the timber markets.

Stakeholders agreed that these measures must be recognised and coordinated internationally to promote fair competition and efficiencies in forest products production and trade.

Subsidies, notably those that encourage renewable energy consumption based on woody biomass, are an important issue having either positive or negative impacts on different stakeholders within the forest sector. There are many different ways to subsidise an industry, e.g. upstream subsidies, support to intermediate consumption or support to final consumption. There are also difficulties linked with the measurement of subsidies and the subsequent analysis of their market effects taking into account externalities and possible market failures.

Finally, participants noted that the economic and trade impact of measures like subsidies, export taxes or non-tariff measures merits more attention and research in the future.

[More information and download presentations](#) | [Pathfinder Programme](#)

Climate and Conflict: a Double Disaster for the Poorest People

A special approach for fragile states

15 January 2010



While world leaders have left Copenhagen with a totally inadequate “climate agreement”, many glaciers in the Himalayas are melting, and many Africans face rising temperatures and increasing droughts. There is often insufficient knowledge and capacity to tackle these major problems. For countries involved in a civil war or those slowly recovering from a conflict situation, a double disaster is looming.

In the Dutch newspaper Trouw (January 6th, 2010) Mark van Dorp and Eric van de Giessen plead for a special approach for such fragile states like Sudan and Afghanistan, offering people in those countries more protection to climate change. This will prevent them from being hit by a double disaster.

At the climate summit in Copenhagen, rich countries have pledged 30 billion dollar - amounting to 100 billion per year in 2020 - to help developing countries adapt to the negative effects of climate change. Governments of developing countries can use these funds for building dams or for training farmers in growing more drought-resistant crops, for instance.

However, in countries involved in civil war these funds will probably not be spent well and wisely. Democratic principles, as adopted in many other countries in the world, do not function in fragile states as these governments are often not capable, nor willing, to protect the most vulnerable people. Other, more innovative ways have to be found, therefore, to tackle climate change in fragile states.

The billions of dollars that have been pledged in Copenhagen for adaptation to climate change should be spent efficiently, flexibly and transparently benefiting as much as possible from local organizations, knowledge and experiences.

A large part of it should be spent through humanitarian organizations, grassroots organizations as well as through churches or religious groups. These are often the only functioning institutional channels in these fragile states. Only by applying unusual and innovative approaches, people can avoid being hit by a double disaster of climate and conflict.

Mark van Dorp is a free-lance environmental economist and founder of consultancy firm DUVILLA. Eric van de Giessen is a human geographer, working at the Institute for Environmental Security. Photograph: Piet Wit, CIMIC Operation (Civil-Military Cooperation), Uruzgan, Afghanistan 2007.

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