New Directions in Demographic Security

- Security Implications of Global Population Changes
- Youth Bulges and the Chances of Democracy
- Population and U.S. Defense Policy
- Climate Change, Environmental Degradation, and Armed Conflict
- Migration and Civil Conflict in Small Island States
- Youth and Conflict in Africa and the Middle East

UN Environment Programme: Building Peace After Conflict

An Ethical Approach to Population and Climate Change

Navigating Peace: Water, Conflict, and Cooperation

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Reviews: New Publications
Virunga National Park, 1976 and 2006

The Virunga Park area in Uganda, Rwanda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is home to over half of the world’s 700 surviving mountain gorillas. Surrounding the protected areas, however, are some of the densest human populations in Africa. In addition to population pressure, armed conflict in the region has made habitat and species protection very difficult.

In the 1978 image (left), a line between the protected areas and the populated agricultural areas surrounding the parks is already apparent. While the boundary of the parks has remained largely intact since the mid-1970s, during the 1990s and early 2000s, large numbers of people moved into the area surrounding the parks, many of them refugees from armed conflicts in Rwanda, Uganda, and the DRC. The decline in areas of green outside the protected areas in the 2006 image (right) suggests that few fallow fields and little natural vegetation remain.

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