

# **Environmental Security and Military Implications**

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***“Environmental Change and Human Impact”***

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# NATO Strategic Concept



Risks to Allied security are less likely to result from calculated aggression . . . but rather from the **adverse consequences of instabilities** . . . faced by many countries. . . . security and stability have **political, economic, social, and environmental** elements as well as the indispensable defense dimension. Managing the diversity of challenges facing the Alliance requires a broad approach to security.

“The Alliance’s New Strategic Concept,” *NATO Press Service*



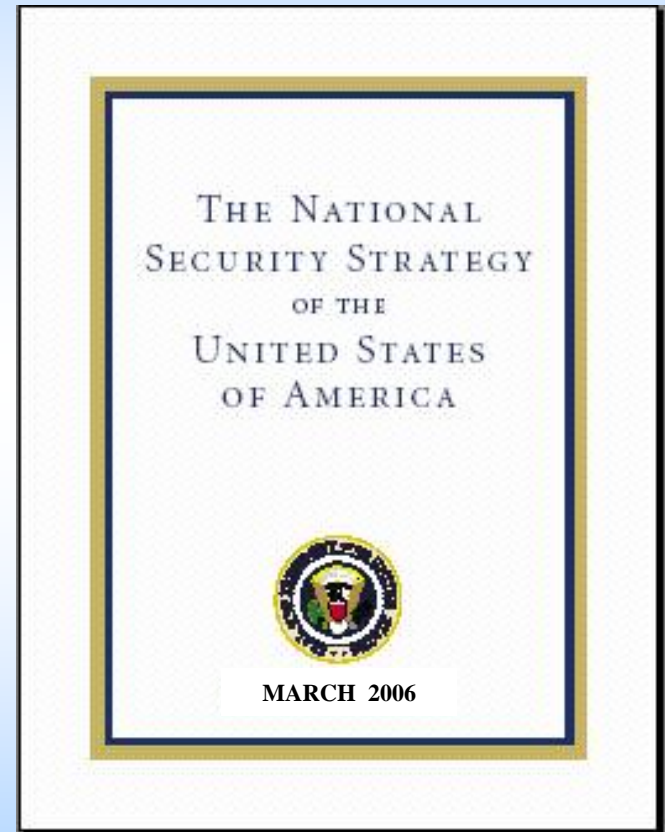
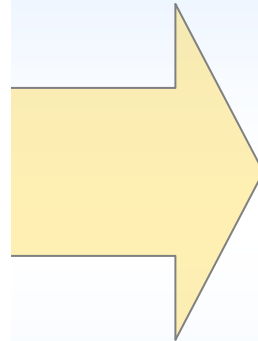
# Constituent parts of “Human Security”

(UNDP 1994 Human Development Report)

- Economic security
- Food security
- Health security
- **Environmental security**
- Personal security
- Community security
- Political security



- Defense
- Diplomacy
- **Development**



**“The dangerous depletion or contamination of natural endowments of some nation’s—soil, forest, water, and air—will create potential threats to the peace and prosperity that are in our national interests as well as the interests of the affected nations.”**



**Ronald Reagan**

**National Security Strategy 1988**



# Elements of National Power

✧ **Economic**

✧ **Diplomatic**

✧ **Informational**

✧ **Military**



National Security Strategy  
(NSS)

White House

National Military Strategy  
(NMS)

DOD

Theater Security Cooperation  
Plan (TSCP)

Combatant Commands



# Environmental Security Issues

**... are those environmental issues that affect U. S. National Security Interests;**

**“The stress from Environmental Challenges is already contributing to political conflict ...”**

**Shape the international environment in ways favorable to global security.**

**National Security Strategy**





# Preventive Defense Strategy

**Promote trust, stability, and democratic reform, and so help to prevent the conditions for conflict and build the conditions for peace.**

*Secretary of Defense Perry*

*Shape – Prepare – Respond*



# *Environmental Security Issues*

- **Resource conflict**
  - Water resources, fisheries, energy
- **Natural disasters**
  - Seismic, droughts, floods, monsoons
- **Technological disasters**
  - Chemical plant accidents, nuclear
- **Public health/pollution problems**
  - Air, water, pandemics



# *Environmental Security Issues*

- **Climate Change**
- **Developmental Projects**
  - **Diversion of rivers and dams**
- **Environmental degradation**
  - **Soil erosion, deforestation, subsidence**
- **Environmental agreements**
  - **Illegal markets in endangered species/ozone**



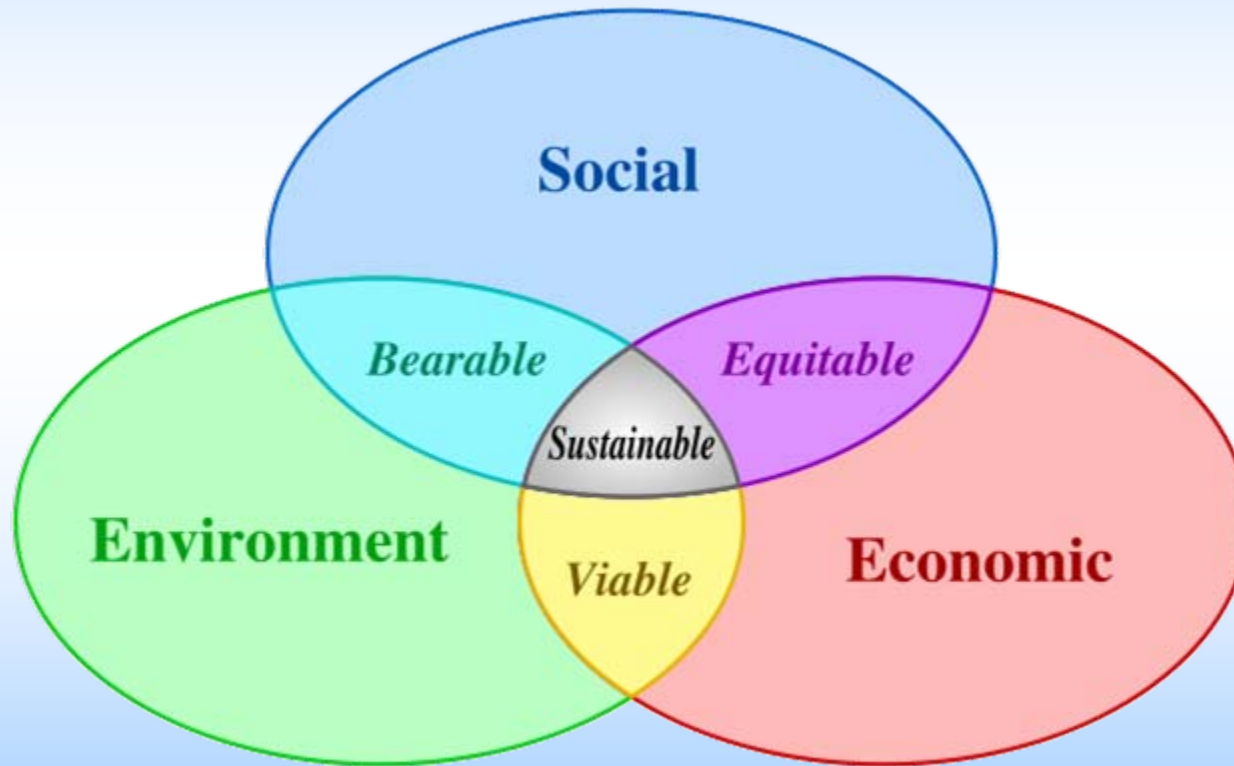
# Importance of the Environment



# Importance of the Environment



# Sustainable Development



# Military Advantages

- **Good Communications**
- **Presence on frontier / border areas**
- **Best transportation assets**
- **Technical expertise**
- **Security mission**
- **Prepared for crises**

*Shape – Prepare – Respond*



# DOD Biodiversity & Conservation Projects

## Guinea

Fisheries management

## Sierra Leone

Fisheries protection

## Cote D' Ivoire

Fisheries management

## Equatorial Guinea

Forest & Wildlife protection

## Gabon

Game park construction projects

## Namibia

Fisheries protection

## Botswana

Wildlife protection

## Djibouti

Flood control & Irrigation

## Burkina Faso

Wildlife preservation activities

## Burundi

Game park construction project

## Seychelles

Oil spill equipment

## Malawi

Wildlife management equipment

## Madagascar

Restoring game park

## Zimbabwe

Endangered species protection

## Mauritius

Marine life protection





# Military Support to Civil Authority on Environmental Terrorism

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- Non Governmental Organizations
- Multilateral Organizations
- Other Countries

Military

Civilian Government

*Ministries*

- Energy & Environment
- Health and Services
- Justice (National Police)
- Emergency Management
- Interior
- Agriculture



# Military Environmental Stewardship in the Philippines



## Green Panay Program





MEXICO

## **Defense: Environment Protection**

- **Production of plants in forest nurseries**
- **Reforestation**
- **Maintenance to plantations**
- **Support in the combat of forest fires**





MEXICO

# Defense: Production

- **46 military forest nurseries**
- **Species according to the region**
- **84 million plants/104.7 millions of trees**





MEXICO

# Defense: Reforestation

- **Recent efforts include: 61,465 hectares reforested in 960 different locations**
- **9,600 soldiers fully involved in this task, mainly in the months of June to September**



# Environmental Security

United States Interests turn on *regional stability*. Environmental issues, such as resource access and quality, are now recognized as a major variable in regional instability and conflict, exacerbating tensions resulting from religious, ethnic, and other local differences such as socio-economic disparities between rural and urban areas, rapid economic development, and border disputes. However, environmental issues may also promote regional stability as confidence building measures, creating opportunities for communication and cooperation between regional states that might in other ways be antagonists.

**They offer a viable new option for U.S. preventive diplomacy and Combatant Commander engagement strategies.**

