

Environment and Peacebuilding



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October 7, 2008

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Introduction

- According to the Human Security Report (2005): Since 1990 a 40% decline in interstate conflict and 50% decline in civil conflict
- Paul Collier argues that about 46% of civil conflicts recur within ten years of a peace agreement
- PRIO (forthcoming): about 1/3 of conflicts have an environmental dimension and these are the most persistent ones

Introduction

- ❑ 1. Environmental factors contribute to violent conflict:
- ❑ 2. Environmental factors pose a risk to peacebuilding
- ❑ 3. Conflict damages the environment: directly, indirectly and by weakening resource management
- ❑ 4. Environmental factors can support peacebuilding: economic recovery; livelihoods; confidence-building

Environment

□ Environment:

- Natural resources (water, energy, forest, cropland, fisheries, minerals, metals)
- Ecosystem services (sequester, purify, transform)
- Climate change (drought, heat waves, floods, hurricanes)

Environment

- A lot of human history has been written around the environment as the basis of health, livelihoods and development:
- “Throughout human history, people and countries have fought over natural resources. From livestock, watering holes and fertile land, to trade routes, fish stocks and spices, sugar, oil, gold and other precious commodities, war has too often been the means to secure possession of scarce resources. Even today, the uninterrupted supply of fuel and minerals is a key element of geopolitical considerations. Things are easier at times of plenty, when all can share in the abundance, even if to different degrees. But when resources are scarce -- whether energy, water or arable land -- our fragile ecosystems become strained, as do the coping mechanisms of groups and individuals. This can lead to a breakdown of established codes of conduct, and even outright conflict.”
- -UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Statement at the Security Council debate on energy, security and climate, April 2007

Peacebuilding

- ❑ In broad terms, peacebuilding involves a number of assessment and programming activities that lay the foundations for a transition from conflict through humanitarian response and peace stabilization to development including very concrete actions such as:
 - Encouraging disarmament and repatriation;
 - Supporting elections in an effort to establish a government that all can believe in, even while recognizing that it is hard to establish legitimacy for democratic processes quickly;
 - Promoting rule of law and training police forces to establish and maintain internal order and public safety – this is especially important where adversaries are intermingled in space, and it creates conditions that might be acceptable to outside investors and to repatriation processes;
 - Establishing reconciliation processes; and
 - Opening the economy to attract foreign investment.

Peacebuilding

- ❑ In this process the integration of environment has been fragmented and irregular
- ❑ But there are compelling reasons for a more comprehensive integration based on considerable research conducted over the past two decades

Integrating Environment into Peacebuilding

- ❑ restoring the functioning and legitimacy of the political system
- ❑ kickstarting and restructuring the economy
- ❑ demobilizing and disarming combatants
- ❑ establishing basic safety and rule of law
- ❑ initiating processes of reconciliation

Integrating Environment into Peacebuilding

- Post-conflict assessment
- Identify priorities
 - Contribution to conflict
 - Impacts
 - Peace spoilers
 - Immediate needs
 - Transition to sustainable development
- Develop action plans for integrating priorities