POVERTY & ENVIRONMENT LINKS: EXAMPLES FROM AFRICA

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UNSUSTAINABLE USE OF ENVIRONMENT
COSTS:

- HEALTH
- LIVES
- PRODUCTION
- INCOME
- INSTABILITY
- INSECURITY
ENVIRONMENTAL UNSUSTAINABILITY KILLS MILLIONS & COSTS BILLIONS

- About 2.2 million people in developing countries, mainly children, die every year from water borne diseases.

- At any one time it is estimated that half of the total number of hospital beds in developing countries are occupied by people suffering from water borne diseases.

- Respiratory diseases caused by indoor smoke from solid fuels kill an estimated 1.6 million people annually.

- Urban air pollution kills about 800,000 people annually.
LINKS BETWEEN ENVIRONMENTALLY UNSUSTAINABLE LAND & WATER USE & POVERTY:

- **Overgrazing** =
  - Reduced grass growth, more soil degradation & erosion =
    - Decreased livestock numbers, decreased production =
      - Decreased incomes

- **Water pollution** =
  - Reduced water usability, increase in water borne diseases =
    - Increased cost of obtaining clean water, increased water treatment costs, reduced farm production due to decreasing water usability, increased medical costs =
      - Decreased incomes
LINKS BETWEEN ENVIRONMENTALLY UNSUSTAINABLE LAND & WATER USE & POVERTY:

- Depletion of water resources through excess use for agriculture =
  - Decreasing water availability, soil salinization =
    - Increased costs of obtaining water & decreased production = Decreased incomes

- Deforestation =
  - Erosion, increased sedimentation, decreased water resource retention due to increased run-off, soil degradation, timber resources exhausted, increased vulnerability to flooding =
    - Decreased production, increased flooding damage = Decreased incomes
LINKS BETWEEN ENVIRONMENTALLY UNSUSTAINABLE LAND & WATER USE & POVERTY:

- Depletion of fisheries through excess fishing =
  - Decreased fish catches waste of investment in fishing boats & equipment = Decreased incomes
POVERTY-ENVIRONMENT LINKAGES: SUMMARY

- Unsustainable use of the environment reduces the social & economic benefits produced

- E.G. People get sick & die, farmers grow less & earn less

- Development is hindered by environmental damage

- The contribution of environment to social & economic development is often poorly understood

- Environmental sustainability not operationally integrated into national development processes (e.g. PRSPs): Words but not action.
Supporting governments to:

- Integrate Environmental Sustainability into National Development Processes (e.g. PRSPs)

- Build National Capacity to:
  - Identify links between poverty & environment
  - Integrate environmental sustainability into national development processes
Homer-Dixon Core Model of Causal Links
Environmental, Scarcity, and Violence

Precursor Ideational and Physical Factors
- Supply-Induced Scarcity [depletion or degradation of resource]
- Demand-Induced Scarcity [increased consumption]
- Structural Scarcity [unequal distribution]

Environmental Scarcity
- Environmental Scarcity

First-Stage Interventions
- Genesis of Scarcity

Second-Stage Interventions [social & technical ingenuity]
- Socio-Economic and Political
- Social Effects

Third-Stage Interventions
- Third-Stage Interventions

Environmetal Socio-Economic and Political
- Second-Stage Interventions
- Migration, Expulsion
- Constrained Economic Productivity, Elite Rent Seeking

Social Effects
- Social Effects

Violent Conflict
- Group-Identity Conflicts
- Coups d'etat
- Insurgency

Socio-Economic and Political
- Socio-Economic and Political

Genesis of Scarcity
- Genesis of Scarcity

Environmental Scarcity
- Environmental Scarcity

Constrained Economic Productivity, Elite Rent Seeking
- Constrained Economic Productivity, Elite Rent Seeking

Migration, Expulsion
- Migration, Expulsion

Usage of Ingenuity
- Usage of Ingenuity

Socio-Economic and Political
- Socio-Economic and Political

Group-Identity Conflicts
- Group-Identity Conflicts

Social Effects
- Social Effects

Violent Conflict
- Violent Conflict

Courtesy Pell Center: Source: Adapted from Homer-Dixon, *Environment, Scarcity, and Violence*, 1999
POVERTY-ENVIRONMENT-SECURITY LINKAGES

- Competition of land in Kenya
- Armed clashes over scarce water & pasture - Darfur
- Transboundary waters: Central Asia, Africa.
- Climate change
- Competition over increasingly scarce natural resources
- Negative impacts on one party by other(s)
- Lack of alternatives
- Inability to purchase alternatives
UNDP-UNEP-PELL CENTRE CO-OPERATION

- UNEP & PELL CENTRE COLLABORATING PARTNERS
- NEED TO HIGHLIGHT THE LINKS BETWEEN POVERTY-ENVIRONMENT & SECURITY
- NEED TO DEVELOP & PROMOTE MULTILATERAL SOLUTIONS
- SUPPORT FROM KEY GOVERNMENTS VITAL - USA KEY
- EXAMPLE OF SENATOR PELL- NOT UNCRITICAL SUPPORTER OF THE UN MULTILATERAL SYSTEM
- CONTINUING REFORM & INTEGRATION OF ENVIRONMENT-ECONOMIC-SECURITY LINKAGES
Environmentally unsustainable resource use is a threat to economic development as it reduces the social & economic benefits generated.

Environmentally unsustainable use of natural resources (e.g. land & water) reduces incomes, increases costs and worsens poverty.

Security issues can arise as people compete for resources.

Conflict can cause environmental & economic unsustainability.

Poverty, worsening environmental degradation, a lack of alternatives & a trigger can combine to lethal effect.

Environmentally sustainable resource use can reduce the potential for conflict by reducing competition over scarce resources.