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PECS News

A Population, Environmental Change, and Security Newsletter

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Burning the Bridge to the 21st Century: The End of the Era of Integrated Conferences?

By Frederick A.B. Meyerson

Frederick A.B. Meyerson, Ph.D, JD, is an ecologist and demographer at Brown University and a 2001-2003 AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow at the National Science Foundation and U.S. EPA. His research focuses on the interactions among population, environment, climate change, biodiversity, and related policy. The views expressed herein are solely his own.

At an exciting time when science may be on the verge of merging diverse disciplines and data-sets towards an understanding of the complex interactions among population, development, and the environment, we appear to be moving backwards in terms of integrated international conferences that lead to action on these issues. Prior to the recent Johannesburg World Summit in Sustainable Development (WSSD), its chairman Emil Salim remarked that the Summit would likely be the last of its kind. Others in the U.S. government and the NGO community made similar assessments after the close of the conference. While global environmental challenges are clearer and more pressing than ever, the international community seems less capable of constructive agreement and action.

On the climate front, there is finally nearly universal agreement among scientists that the earth's surface temperature is warming significantly, that the warming is likely due to human activity, and that the consequences of surface warming will have a substantial negative impact on humans and other species. Yet the poorly conceived Kyoto

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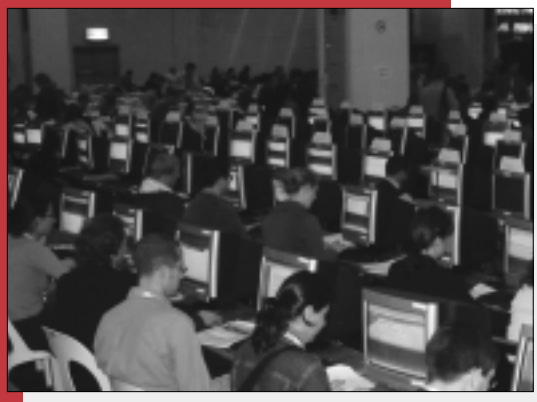

The media room at the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development. (PHOTO: GEOFFREY D. DABELKO)

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Report From Johannesburg: Wither Population, Environmental Change, and Security?

By Geoffrey D. Dabelko

Along with over 100 heads of state and government and tens of thousands of others, I attended the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa in late August and early September. The conference was about numerous things: its ground-up approach to agenda-setting guaranteed that many—perhaps too many—topics were up for discussion. Delegates agreed to courses of action on everything from poverty and water resources to energy, governance, and ecosystems.

But Johannesburg also neglected a number of key topics. It only glancingly addressed contentious yet critical challenges such as population dynamics or the deeper linkages among the environment, develop-

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> *"Is it not shortsighted and counterproductive for the United States to forego even just the political benefits… that would accrue from addressing these day-to-day survival challenges for literally billions worldwide?"*
>
> —Geoffrey D. Dabelko

HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS in the Ranks: Responding to AIDS in African Militaries

Stephen Talugende

Featuring **Nancy Mock,** *Associate Professor, Tulane University School of Public Health, and* **Stephen Talugende,** *Hospital Administrator, Uganda People's Defense Forces*

June 4, 2002

By Jennifer Wisnewski Kaczor

With some sub-Saharan African countries estimated to have up to 60 percent of their populations infected with HIV, security policymakers and researchers are increasingly regarding AIDS as a security issue. But one aspect of AIDS that has received less attention is the infection crisis within sub-Saharan African militaries. Even during peacetime, military personnel have higher rates of sexually transmitted infections then surrounding populations—and infection rates for both groups often increase during conflict.

These high HIV rates raise troubling questions for the readiness of these militaries, the health of non-combatants in conflict and peacekeeping zones, and ultimately the political stability of many countries. In this Wilson Center meeting, **Dr. Nancy Mock** provided an overview of current research on HIV and security, and **Captain Stephen Talugende** of the Uganda People's Defense Forces related the Ugandan military's experience with HIV prevention programs.

Conventional Wisdom and the Data Dearth

Mock presented what she called the conventional wisdom on HIV prevalence in African militaries, which theorizes that military populations are particularly vulnerable to HIV infection because (a) they are in the most sexually active age group, (b) the culture of the military promotes risk-taking behavior, (c) military members are highly mobile and live away from their families, and (d) military members have cash available to purchase sex.

Mock also related UNAIDS estimates that HIV rates are two to five times higher among soldiers in some African countries than for non-military populations, with these rates rising for both groups during times of conflict and war. Uniformed service members of less-developed countries, said Mock, are especially vulnerable to HIV infection.

Mock then turned to the impact of HIV on military forces in sub-Saharan Africa, citing some shocking statistics:

- AIDS is the number one cause of death in the Congolese Armed Forces;
- The rate of HIV/AIDS infection in the South African National Defense Force may be as high as 60-70 percent;
- According to U.S. Defense Intelligence estimates, 40 to 60 percent of soldiers in Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo are infected with HIV. For the Zimbabwean and Malawian armed forces, estimates are as high as 70 to 75 percent.

Mock cautioned, however, that few African militaries have the capacity to collect and analyze the data required to generate estimates of HIV infections; most extant statistics are based on small-scale studies and non-probability sampling techniques. For others, such information is classified as a matter of national security. The reality, Mock said, is that very little reliable data exist for prevalence rates within African uniformed services, and data for rebel troops and paramilitary groups are even more difficult to get. In addition data on knowledge/behavior/practices do not exist. Mock said this data dearth leads some analysts to conclude that prevalence differentials between African civilian and military populations may not be as high as conventional wisdom purports.

The Relationship Between HIV and Security

Mock also noted that, contrary to conventional wisdom, HIV-prevalence data among general African populations suggest that countries with less conflict tend to have higher rates of infection. She hypothesized that peace and stability bring improved transportation infrastructure and increased trade and movement of economic goods within and among countries. This ease of

movement and increased economic activity then provide a vector of transmission for the disease.

But Mock suggested that current analyses do not provide a clear picture of the complexity of the relationship. Though overall prevalence rates suggest that infection rates rise during peacetime, she cautioned that very little comparative data is collected in countries during and after conflict. Mock suggested that societies during and after conflict are particularly vulnerable to HIV infection because: (a) conflict displaces people from their homes; (b) militaries are on the move; (c) during transitions, peacekeepers are deployed across borders; and (d) during transitions, military members with HIV may be reintegrated without testing, counseling, or treatment.

"The Post Test Club builds confidence and hope, maintains the military's professionalism, and is cost-effective."

—Captain Stephen Talugende

Recommendations

Mock suggested a number of recommendations to address HIV prevalence in the military:

- Establish a culture of evidence-based management strategies within the military and civilian sectors as well as mechanisms for data sharing;
- Plot and disseminate results to enhance military participation in community HIV prevention, especially in the context of demobilization;
- Look to other regional models of civil-military collaboration for "disaster management" such as collaborations in Latin America and the Caribbean region;
- Support multi-sector approaches that build partnerships and networks among military and civilian government and non-governmental institutions—efforts that will survive well beyond the funding cycles of donor agencies.

Uganda: A Program for Success

Next, Talugende related his experience administering the Post Test Club in the Ugandan People's Defense Forces. The Post Test Club was formed in 1990 to: (a) lobby for better care and support of AIDS patients by the Ugandan military authorities; (b) create partnerships with other support organizations; (c) take active involvement in HIV prevention through public speaking, community education, and peer health education; (d) implement childcare and orphan care; and (e) provide treatment for members. Talugende attributed the drop in the Ugandan military's HIV prevalence rate—from over 10 percent in 1990 to less than 7 percent today—to the efforts of the Club. He said that over 7,000 service members and families now participate in the Club's voluntary programs.

According to Talugende, the program has strengthened and encouraged openness about HIV/AIDS in the Ugandan military as well as reduced the stigma and discrimination suffered by infected service members. "The Club," he said, "builds confidence and hope, maintains the military's professionalism, and is cost-effective."

Challenges Remain

But Talugende also noted continuing challenges facing the project—particularly, a lack of drugs and medications as well as limited administrative support and training for volunteer educators in public speaking and communication. Talugende also said that the death and ill-health of committed Club members made continuity of leadership and participation in the organization a particular challenge.

Open discussion focused on the data questions raised by Mock, who reasserted that an evidence-based management strategy was absolutely critical to the success of treating HIV in Africa. Some attendees argued that not enough reliable data existed to justify to the U.S. military that HIV is a security issue. Others questioned whether the secrecy of military culture would ever allow implementation of an evidence-based approach to HIV infection. But both Mock and Talugende felt that these norms were changing and that a strong data-based case would prompt the United States to fund HIV prevention programs among developing country (but especially African) uniformed services.

Will the epidemic prevent African nations from fielding military forces? Talugende felt that, because a person can live for some time with the virus without showing symptoms of AIDS, African nations would still be able to field armies and participate in peacekeeping missions—a concern raised by some groups studying this issue. ■

For more on this meeting, visit www.wilsoncenter.org/ecsp.

The World's Water: Crisis and Opportunity in the New Century

Featuring **Peter Gleick,** *President and Co-Founder, Pacific Institute for Studies in Development, Environment and Security*

July 23, 2002

By Robert Lalasz

Water is central to basic human dynamics: ecosystem and human health; energy, food, and economic activity; even potential conflict. Yet inadequate freshwater resources cause a host of acute problems for billions.

The new Island Press book *The World's Water: The 2002-2003 Biennial Report on Freshwater Resources* proposes new solutions for these challenges as well as a surprisingly optimistic prognosis for global capacity to provide enough water for everyone. The book's editor, **Peter Gleick**, detailed its findings for a capacity Wilson Center audience.

Pressing Global Water Issues

Gleick said that the world needs to shift to new methods and paradigms that deal with water as a global and a local issue simultaneously. He first outlined the issues this new approach must address:

Meeting basic human and ecologically needs for water. While 1.3 billion people lack access to adequate drinking water, 2.4 billion are without adequate sanitation services—"in other words, anything adequate to remove human wastes from the local environment, something that the Ancient Romans had," said Gleick.

In addition, there are between two to five million deaths annually—mostly children—from preventable water-borne diseases such as cholera, dysentery, and malaria. "These are problems we know how to solve," said Gleick. But without action, he added, these diseases will kill 50 to 120 million people between now and 2020. Even achieving the Millennium Development Goal of a 50 percent reduction in the number of people without safe drinking water would leave up to 700 million people with unsafe supplies by 2015.

The problem is one of scope, Gleick said. "We tend not to focus on basic human needs but on large international projects [such as dams]," he argued. "The goal should be 100 percent coverage [of adequate water and sanitation] as fast as possible…There is no region of the world that's so water-scarce that [it] can't meet basic human needs with local supplies."

Community-scale efforts towards water sustainability have proven highly effective, he said—when communities are given the resources and a voice in how these efforts are deployed. But Gleick said that international organizations such as the World Bank find it much more institutionally difficult to fund 10,000 small-scale community projects instead of a few megaprojects. "We need new thinking," he said.

And such new thinking, Gleick added, should extend to meeting basic ecological needs for water. He noted that most 20th century projects were designed to remove water from ecological situations to meet human demands—resulting in major ecological degradation. More than 20 percent of all freshwater species are now threatened or endangered because of human activity, and major water systems from the Colorado River Delta to the Aral Sea are dying.

> *"All our systems—aqueducts, dams, water-control systems for agriculture—have been built assuming that tomorrow's climate will look like yesterday's."*
>
> —PETER GLEICK

Understanding the risks of climate change. Gleick said that some of the worst impacts of climate change will be on water resources and systems. Higher temperatures, more surface evaporation, more pre-

cipitation, and changes in runoff all will significantly alter hydrological cycles. Floods and droughts will be more common and intense. The freshwater supply for island nations will be threatened.

And Gleick argued that traditional water management is not prepared for these changes. "All our systems—aqueducts, dams, water-control systems for agriculture—have been built assuming that tomorrow's climate will look like yesterday's," he said. "But climate change has obviated this assumption."

Understanding conflicts over water. Half the earth's river basins are shared by two or more countries, which Gleick argued sets the stage for conflicts among users—conflicts for which national and international law and policy is inadequate. Disputes over water are growing worldwide, he said, spurred particularly by competing demands from agriculture, an exploding number of urban users, and the environment. "The United States is not interested in this issue," Gleick said, "but everyone else is."

Understanding the new economy of water. "The one thing people were yelling about at Bonn [International Conference on Freshwater] was the economics of water and water use," said Gleick. Because of the failure of 20th century public efforts to meet water needs, he said, corporations and some international aid organizations have been pushing to let markets address allocation and management problems.

But while the many forms of water privatization have potential benefits, he said, they also pose some very significant risks to the public good—including concentration of water supplies in just a few hands. Privatization of water supplies from Atlanta to Bolivia has been met with protests and legal action. *The World's Water 2002-2003* argues for strong government oversight of water privatization so that equity, quality, and conservation remain fundamental priorities.

Rethinking Water Policy

Gleick said that population dynamics, agricultural demand, and economic development are the major drivers to world water demand. *Population growth* directly impacts demand and use as well as ecosystem degradation. "If we don't get the population issue under control," said Gleick, "it makes the water and the environmental issue that much more difficult to control." Similarly, he added, the enormous growth in land devoted to *agricultural use* (up over 500 percent from 1950) is directly related to growth in irrigation.

But current projections of water use for 2025 and beyond are now well below dire predictions of the past, with some even below present use levels. Developed countries, Gleick said, have broken the connection between economic growth and ever-increasing water use through such measures as more efficient toilets, shower heads, and manufacturing processes.

And more improvement is possible, Gleick said—but it will require new tools, knowledge, and skills as well as thinking of demand for water "not as a function of population and economic growth, but [of] what we want to achieve." He proposed a "soft path" to water sustainability through several conceptual challenges to traditional supply-side management:

- ***The measure of water withdrawn for a task doesn't tell us how much water is actually delivered to the user.*** For example, water delivered to irrigation canals may evaporate or seep away and never reach its destination. Gleick also said that "unaccounted-for water" levels are far too high on average for municipal water agencies, with many losing up to 40 percent of their water supplies to leaks and stealing.
- ***The amount of water used to provide goods and services tells us nothing about how much water is actually required to produce those things.*** Gleick said that very little research has been done to determine the minimum amount of water needed for specific tasks. One exception is steel manufacturing: over the last century, there has been a 90 percent drop in the water required to make a ton of steel.
- ***The amount of water required to perform a task or service tells us nothing about whether the thing was worth doing.*** "Is making [water-intensive crops such as] cotton and alfalfa in the arid U.S. Southwest appropriate?" asked Gleick rhetorically.

"Rethinking what we do and how we do it," said Gleick, "is more productive than pegging water policy to population and economics. All the good reservoirs and dams have been built." Instead, Gleick said, we should aim to reap productivity gains from the "enormous slack in the system."

He also pointed to South Africa's new constitutional "reserve" (which first sets aside enough water for basic human needs and then apportions the rest) as an example of how to make water a top policy priority. "Overcoming old thinking, training, and entrenched interests will be difficult," he said, "but I'm somewhat optimistic we'll move in this direction." ■

For more on this meeting, visit www.wilsoncenter.org/ecsp. *To hear an interview with Peter Gleick broadcast by the Wilson Center's* dialogue *radio program, go to* http://wwics.si.edu/dialogue/index.htm# *and look for the program of 30 September 2002.*

From the Field

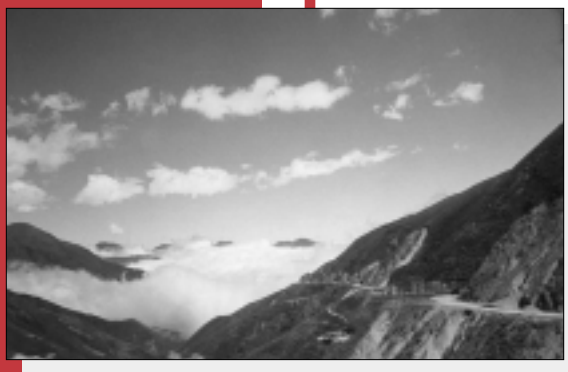
An Integral Approach to Implementing Population-Environment Programs in the Andes Region of Peru

Besem Obenson is a University of Michigan Population Fellow working with Pathfinder International in Lima, Peru. Her primary responsibility has been to provide technical assistance in management, project development, capacity building, and technology to eight local family planning/environmental NGOs as they work towards sustainability. She has an MBA from San Francisco State University and a MPH from University of Texas-Houston School of Public Health.

By Besem Obenson

The number of people living in communities surrounding the Rio Abiseo Park—located in the only Andes Mountains' cloud forests in northern Peru—has steadily increased in the past fifteen years. This increase, attributable in large part to in-migration and the advent of mining companies to the area, has led to extreme pollution of water sources, soil erosion, and an alarmingly increased dependence on the park by residents for food, wood, and other natural resources.

A local environmental NGO (APECO) has been working for ten years with Rio Abiseo community members to address and prevent any further environmental degradation in and around the park. Given that the area has total fertility rates considerably higher than those of the Peruvian population at large (5.7 versus 2.1) as well as high incidences of unplanned pregnancies, APECO's ten-year intervention has included an integrated population-environment project (in conjunction with Pathfinder International) in addition to training in organic farming techniques and a latrine project.



Entrance into Pias showing cloud forest regions. (PHOTO: BESEM OBENSON)

To date, APECO's efforts have increased contraceptive prevalence in the area, gender equity in community and civil projects, and a sense of empowerment among residents that has enabled them to negotiate for environmental, economic, and quality-of-life concessions from mining concerns.

The Rio Abiseo Park and Surrounding Communities

The Rio Abiseo National Park is one of the most important protected areas in Peru. Located in the Andes Mountains at altitudes between 350 and 4,000 meters, it was created in 1983 to protect the fauna and flora of the humid forests characteristic of its area.

There is a high level of endemism (nativity to a particular geographic area or continent) among the fauna and flora species of the park. One of the main goals of the Rio Abiseo Park is to protect these species (such as the yellow-tailed wooly monkey) as well as the area's cloud forests. The park also contains archaeological sites—including the renowned Gran Pajaten ruins—that give a unique and comprehensive picture of pre-Inca society.

The communities surrounding the Rio Abiseo Park have a population density of 13.35 hab/km^2 and include a population of approximately 22,700 inhabitants, covering the districts of Parcoy, Pataz and Buldibuyo, Pias, and Condomarca. The population is predominantly rural: only 12 percent lives in semi-urban areas. In-migration has increased recently, spurred by potential income opportunities from mining industry development in the area.

These communities are considered the poorest of the poor in Peru, and NGOs and certain government entities now have great concern over how the population's very presence and growing dependence on the Rio Abiseo Park could affect its future. It is already quite common for residents to go into the park to trap animals and birds for consumption. Such exploitation is driven by the extreme poverty of these communities—poverty that is attributable in large part to their geographical distances from urban populations as well as their sheer lack of infrastructure. For example, get-

ting to Pias, one of the larger of these communities, takes over 24 hours by bus over treacherous terrain from the nearest town of Trujillo.

Educational levels in these communities are also low; most of the population has only a 6th grade education. The health infrastructure consists of seven basic health posts in each district.

Environmental Issues

Increasing runoff from the nearby mining industries is severely contaminating the water supplies of the Rio Abiseo communities as well as the park itself, becoming a major environmental issue. In Buldibuyo, the contamination of watercourses with cyanide (a by-product from the artesinal extraction of gold) has caused a few cases of human poisoning and death of aquatic plants.

Mine tailings have contaminated the lakes surrounding Pias. The consumption of fish from these waters, once an important source of protein, now constitutes a health risk due to the accumulation of heavy metals and other toxic substances.

Poor sanitation services and practices in these communities have also resulted in health problems such as high incidences of diarrhea and parasites, especially in children. Sanitation problems are among the principal environmental problems in the principal villages of Pias and Buldibuyo and the surrounding rural communities. Water quality is generally poor; watercourses are exposed to contamination by domestic animals and inappropriate practices of neighbors (such as the dumping of liquid and solid wastes along watercourse banks).

Similarly, water reservoirs in the area are not well maintained or protected. Although the number of in-home latrines in the area is increasing, few families have such facilities, and it remains necessary to encourage their proper maintenance. The recently-developed garbage-disposal system for the Rio Abiseo communities also needs improvements and public education.

Other regional environmental problems include soil degradation, the use of agrochemicals on food crops, and deforestation and the resulting soil erosion on deforested or cultivated slopes. Such problems also influence the quality of human health in the region.

Community members from Pias showing off a large guinea pig—a product of APECO's alternative income-generating project. (PHOTO: APECO)

APECO's Approach and Interventions

The NGO APECO (*Asociación Peruana para la Conservación de la Naturaleza*, or The Peruvian Association for Nature Conservation) has worked with communities surrounding the Rio Abiseo Park for over 10 years. It is still one of the few NGOs with exceptional knowledge of the area and its people.

After an extensive site survey and analysis, APECO's workers discovered that the area's vegetation for feeding animals, fisheries, and drinking water were severely affected by lake pollution. They also noted alarmingly high levels of teen pregnancies and low prevalence of contraceptive use. However, in order to gain the trust of the communities, APECO addressed its intervention's initial entry point directly at the needs of the local farmers, including soil conservation and improved farming techniques.

Over time, APECO extended its activities to organic gardening and alternate income-generating activities (such as raising guinea pigs), which may eventually involve private-sector partnerships. As official stewards for the Rio Abieseo Park, APECO is also charged with preserving the park and promoting sustainable development in the surrounding communities.

Reproductive Health and Environmental Education in Peru

In 2001, APECO and Pathfinder International (a reproductive health and family planning NGO) began implementing in Pias a project whose main focus was to introduce family planning by piggy-backing it onto existing environmental programs. The project—entitled Reproductive Health and

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"The project taught specific skills—such as environmental awareness and how to conduct community-needs analyses—that made an evolution in local leadership possible."

—Besem Obenson

FROM THE FIELD

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Environmental Education in Peru—aimed to improve the lives of the people of Pias by both providing vital RH services as well as the awareness and tools needed for environmental protection.

To increase awareness about RH and environmental preservation among adolescents and youth, the project conducted training workshops with teachers, encouraging them to incorporate environmental topics like ecology into the school curriculum and to motivate their students to engage in environmental protection. Students planted a sustainable organic garden and started their own recycling and composting programs at the school. These students (referred to as "promoters") were trained to educate their peers about sexual and reproductive health topics and to encourage involvement in environmental activities.

Reproductive Health and Environmental Education in Peru also worked with mother's clubs in the area to teach women about RH/FP, diet and nutrition, agriculture, health, and environmental protection. The project held a series of workshops and training sessions that were tailored specifically to this semi-literate population and were designed to give participants (a) an increased awareness of health and the environment, (b) tools to increase their economic contributions to their families, and (c) a sense of their own growing empowerment. My contribution to this project as a population fellow was primarily focused in this sub-area. In coordination with the project manager from Pathfinder, we made trips to the area to get first-hand knowledge of the obstacles and barriers faced by the target population, provide technical assistance, and observe program advances.

Although funding for the Reproductive Health and Environmental Education project has come to an end, the local team continues to carry out IEC activities. The project has also increased the interest of local authorities in improving basic sanitation in the community by constructing a latrine for every household.

Organic Farming and Latrine Projects

The widespread pollution of park-area water supplies affected the productivity and soil fertility of local subsistence farmers. Working predominantly with mothers' groups and school children, APECO trained several groups on organic farming techniques as well as providing viable seeds and marketing techniques. Initially, these groups were growing crops solely for their personal consumption. But after two years, these communities are now able to export excess vegetables to neighboring towns, thereby increasing their incomes.

School children from the community of Pias showing off their first harvest under the APECO organic farming program. (PHOTO: APECO)

The idea of organic farming has also extended beyond the initial groups to individual families and schools. Since project funding ended over a year ago, APECO continues to provide seeds and technical assistance from its own funds—no small feat considering costs, time, and distance.

To encourage better hygiene practices as well as to discourage dumping in already polluted lakes, APECO also implemented a short-term project in basic sanitation. Under this project, families attended a workshop on hygiene and latrine construction and maintenance; then, working in groups of three, the families constructed latrines for each member of their group. To date, over 90 percent of all the families who participated and 50 percent of the general population have well-maintained latrines. However, new mining incursions and in-migration may mean that additional resources will be needed to protect an already fragile ecosystem.

Lasting Effects

The local authorities of Pias have been empowered by APECO's overall project to negotiate with the managers of a local mining company intent on initiating mining activities in the area. The authorities, one of whose previous major activities was offering to "sponsor" existing local football games by providing the alcohol, are now bargaining with the company for increased wages, reduced environmental impact, the allocation of mining zones, road-building, and the financing of health clinics. APECO's project taught specific skills—such as environmental awareness and how to conduct community-needs analyses—that made this evolution in leadership possible. The impact of this project can be measured in the enormous change of attitudes observed in school children and teenagers.

To promote sustainability of this project after funding ended, Pathfinder facilitated the creation of a relationship between APECO and AGROVIDA,

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NEW ECSP INITIATIVE

NAVIGATING PEACE: GENERATING NEW THINKING ABOUT WATER

Over one billion people lack access to adequate water. Almost two-and-a-half billion are without adequate sanitation. And two to five million people—mostly children—die every year from preventable waterborne diseases.

Water touches on everything—the health of humans and ecosystems; the way we use energy and raw materials and grow food; global climate change; population and economic dynamics; even potential conflict and political stability. Yet as Peter Gleick of the Pacific Institute remarked at a July ECSP Wilson Center meeting, analysis of water issues remains stuck in outmoded, 20th century paradigms.

To respond to this challenge, ECSP launches its new initiative *Navigating Peace: Forging New Water Partnerships.*

Funded by a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, *Navigating Peace* will bring together diverse sets of individuals to generate policy alternatives in three areas:

- The balance between water as an **economic and social good**, so that it can be provided equitably, efficiently, and universally;
- **Conflict, conflict potential, and cooperative models** over shared water resources; and
- How lessons from water-conflict resolution could **build dialogue and cooperation between the U.S. and China**—their governments as well as nongovernmental organizations.

The Working Groups

Navigating Peace will consist of three concurrent Water Working Groups (WWG), each consisting of eight to ten water and non-water experts with diverse professional backgrounds.

Water Working Group I (WWG I) will seek to approach the social and economic issues of water management from new perspectives. Its members will address the movement towards private-sector solutions for meeting the global need for adequate water supplies. Complex issues of financing, competition, water quality, infrastructure development, regulation, international trade, and globalization all play a role in defining this decisive debate.

WWG II will identify current and emerging trends in water conflict and cooperation, with the aim of developing a broader range of paradigms, methods, and tools for analyzing water's role in human security. Given the negative trends in many areas of cooperative water management, WWG II will also seek to anticipate future possibilities for conflict and formulate proactive steps for heading off conflict and encouraging cooperation.

WWG III will bring together U.S. and Chinese policymakers, researchers, activists, and experts to explore the environmental, social, political, and economic consequences of China's growing water crisis and the potential development of institutions for resolving domestic water conflicts. Using peacemaking strategies that will promote information-sharing, facilitate debate, introduce policy options, and most importantly build networks on common water conflict problems, this group will help lay the foundation for increased cooperation between the United States and China.

The activities of each WWG will include:

- Meeting at least four times, including meetings with additional policy experts from Washington-area institutions; meetings held abroad; site visits to Washington-area institutions; and a Washington plenary meeting with all WWG members;
- Issuing a Policy Report in 40-, 12-, and 2-page formats, targeted to research, practitioner, and policy audiences;
- Commissioning five papers on topics identified by WWG members, ECSP staff members, and the Advisory Committee. At the conclusion of the grant period, the commissioned papers and the Policy Articles will be submitted to the Woodrow Wilson Center Press for publication as an edited volume;
- Dialoguing and exchanging information through dedicated on-line listservs.

Advisory Committee

ECSP has constituted an advisory committee to provide ongoing direction and evaluation of *Navigating Peace* efforts in order to maximize the initiative's effectiveness and impact. The committee includes **Peter Gleick** of the Pacific Institute, **Eliza-**

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JOHANNESBURG

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ment, and foreign and security policy. And despite all the discussion since September 11 of the underlying causes of terrorism, few at the conference even mentioned the attacks. Johannesburg showed both the productiveness of policy mega-conferences as well as their limitations in dealing with politically sensitive or multi-causal issues.

New Prominence: Trade, Health, and Water

All parties to the negotiations agreed this Summit needed to be about "action" and "implementation"—action on the ground. Delegates focused on partnerships, many of them between the public and private sectors, as a critical and neglected mechanism for working towards sustainable development. While the emergence of such partnerships drew substantial criticism before and during the conference, they should be applauded: they represent the kinds of integration and cooperation on sustainable-development issues that are often hailed but rarely achieved. But we should remain vigilant that partnerships do not merely become a means for national governments to shirk financial obligations while increasing the influence of narrow private-sector interests.

Trade enjoyed a higher profile than it did ten years ago at the Rio Earth Summit, as Johannesburg followed on the heels of world summits for a new round of trade negotiations (Doha) and financing for development (Monterrey). Health also continued its recent momentum in galvanizing the attention of national governments. For example, the new Global Fund on HIV/AIDS, TB, and Malaria was widely praised in Johannesburg as an innovative funding mechanism for action. Most dramatically, fresh water and sanitation sat atop the Summit agenda. Delegates expended considerable negotiating energy agreeing to what amounts to a new UN Millennium Goal of cutting the number of people without access to sanitation in half by 2015.

Still Missing in Action

But population and reproductive health once again were left off the explicit agenda at Johannesburg, a conference originally intended to mark the anniversaries of the 1972 Stockholm and 1992 Rio environment and development summits. Population and reproductive health did become points of contention late in the second week of Summit negotiations, as women's rights to make reproductive-health decisions became one of the final obstacles to an agreement. In the end, the compromise language in the Summit's final Plan of Implementation draft allowed both sides to claim victory—but diluted the human-rights-based consensus on women's reproductive health achieved eight years ago at Cairo's International Conference on Population and Development.

> *"Policymakers need to consider…how the lack of sustainable development contributes to deprivation and grievance and may at times underlie instability and conflict."*
>
> —GEOFFREY D. DABELKO

Climate change was formally left off the agenda in an attempt to entice U.S. President George Bush to attend the Summit—an all-consuming goal of the organizers in the months prior to the meeting. But despite its official absence, climate kept popping up in the hallways and at the press briefings, with NGOs and governments making political announcements on ratifying the Kyoto Protocol. The pronouncements often highlighted the United States' dual "no-shows": the absence of U.S. engagement on climate change, and President Bush's decision to vacation at his ranch in Crawford, Texas rather than appear in Johannesburg. The perceived American "go it alone" unilateralism on both climate and Iraq contributed to the generally critical reception given the U.S. delegation on a broad range of issues.

Silence on Terrorism

As for terrorism, the Summit clearly could not have been framed as a response to the attacks on New York and Washington. To do so would have overshadowed efforts to address the critical economic, social, and environmental issues that make up the sustainable-development challenge. Such a framing could also have generated more "us versus them" responses rather than the cooperation required to address these interlocking problems. Yet recent statements by senior international and U.S. officials would seem to argue that some foundational discussion of the 9/11 context was warranted at Johannesburg.

For example, before March's UN Financing for Development conference in Monterrey, World Bank President James Wolfensohn said that addressing poverty increases security and should represent part of a multi-pronged response to 9/11. Secretary of State Colin Powell wrote in an article

just before the Summit that "[S]ustainable development is also a security imperative. Poverty, environmental degradation and despair are destroyers—of people, of societies, of nations. This unholy trinity can destabilize countries, even entire regions." Even President George Bush, in his pre-Monterrey announcement of a $5 billion annual increase of U.S. foreign assistance by 2006, also couched the investment in security terms.

As we have found time and time again, rhetorical commitment to linking environment and security issues is far easier to produce than practical plans of action for population, environment, and security programs. And of course, one cannot draw a direct line back from specific terrorist acts to poverty, inequity, poor health, corrupt governance, and degraded environments. But as the world continues to respond to the September 11 attacks, is it not shortsighted and counterproductive for the United States to forego even just the political benefits—let alone the humanitarian and development benefits—that would accrue from addressing these day-to-day survival challenges for literally billions worldwide?

The silence at Johannesburg may indicate that the U.S. response to terrorism will be largely unidimensional—force. Yet the past year and the rhetoric of many at the Summit reveal that many outside the United States who deplore the terrorists' methods also see underlying grievances as part of terrorism's causes. For example, Summit delegates almost universally focused on poverty as a primary issue. Yet the Europeans and G77/China representatives rarely cast these efforts within a human or military security context. German Deputy Minister for Environment Gila Altmann was an exception. In a prepared speech delivered at the Summit, Altmann cited the conflict potential of environmental degradation and unsustainable consumption of resources while also suggesting that "cross-border or regional environment and development projects are particularly suited for developing 'confidence-building processes' between neighboring states and within regions marked by tensions and conflicts."

The Summit's final Plan of Implementation did include mention of terrorism as an inhibitor to sustainable development. But policymakers need to consider the reverse—how the lack of sustainable development contributes to deprivation and grievance and may at times underlie instability and conflict. Such a sentiment was included in the Summit's short Political Statement, in which delegates agreed that "[t]he deep fault line that divides human society between the rich and the poor and the ever-increasing gap between the developed and developing worlds pose a major threat to global prosperity, security and stability."

Water and Peacemaking

The Summit's heavy stress on water offers an example of how addressing environment issues can support peace. Vibrant and appropriate water management institutions have offered real success stories of cooperation over potentially conflictual water-resource situations. The Nile River, commonly cited as a primary "water war" candidate, is currently the subject of on-going and relatively successful negotiations among all Nile Basin governments.

The European Union's new Water for Life Initiative, announced at Johannesburg, explicitly cites human security goals into its evolving plan of action in developing countries. However, unlike resource or sectoral issues, these conservation-peace efforts did not have a unifying theme, specific actions, or a clear patron to integrate them into the implementation of Summit agreements. The segregated sectoral approach to the Johannesburg agenda (water, energy, biodiversity, agriculture, and health) did not lend itself to cross-cutting programs with multiple goals (environmental, economic, political, and security).

The breadth of the agenda, the sheer number of delegates, the scattered venues, and the unrealistic expectations made the Johannesburg Summit a commonly frustrating experience for attendees and observers. One can legitimately raise questions about the opportunity costs of the energy and resources expended on such United Nations mega-conferences, consensus documents, and agreed targets and timetables for action.

But for anyone interested in environment, population, and security linkages, the Summit afforded tremendous learning and networking opportunities—such as the Environment, Development, and Sustainable Peace Initiative's roundtable on bridging Northern and Southern perspectives on human

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WORLD SUMMIT

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Protocol has been watered down, burdened with fuzzy math, and rejected by the United States—to the point where it "does not do much of anything for the atmosphere," according to Eileen Clausen, President of the Pew Center on Global Climate Change.[1]

Only a handful of countries are on track to meet their Kyoto obligations. After more than a decade and hundreds of climate conferences and meetings involving long-term investments by thousands of academics and policymakers, the result appears to be capitulation. A recent Worldwatch paper concluded that "the gap between climate science and policy has widened, rather than narrowed, since Rio." The most recent round of climate talks in October 2002 shifted the emphasis away from preventing climate change to ways to adapt to it.

The same acceptance and malaise may now be affecting international population policy. The 1994 Cairo agreement set forth bold goals for universal access to reproductive health by 2015. Cairo +10, scheduled for early 2004, was to be a re-affirmation of those goals and assessment of progress to date. However, it now appears that the 2004 conference will be only a low-key event with minimal expectations for new actions or pronouncements. Instead of resembling the ministerial level conferences of the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s, it is more likely to hearken back to the meetings of the 1950s and 1960s, in which population experts met to review the demographic data and trends rather than to change the future.

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—FREDERICK A.B. MEYERSON

With little more than a year to go before Cairo +10 opens in early 2004, UN Web sites are devoid of any information concerning preparations for the meeting. Because successful international conferences require long lead times and multiple preparatory events to create new agreements, this lack of public preparation is an indication that the 2004 conference will be descriptive rather than prescriptive, reporting progress since Cairo rather than creating new mechanisms for action. The role of NGOs at Cairo +10 could well be limited to separate press conferences and side events of the sort that garner little press and have no significant effect on the official proceedings. More surprisingly, the NGO community—particularly population-environment organizations—thus far seems to be accepting this diminished role without putting up a fight.

If the international community were on track to fulfill the Cairo goals, a subdued 2004 conference would not be of great concern and perhaps even appropriate. In reality, however, almost all donor countries have fallen far short of their Cairo commitments. For instance, U.S. international family planning contributions have fallen by about 35 percent in constant dollar terms since 1995, so that the United States is providing less than half of its estimated share as agreed to in Cairo. The international donor community actually supplied fewer condoms in 2000 than it did in 1990 (950 million vs. 970 million), at a time when the current need of 8 billion condoms is expected to rise to 18.6 billion by 2015. An estimated 14,000 people become infected with HIV every day, many of them for want of a condom that can be produced for three cents.

Some have suggested that the UN is taking a low-profile approach to Cairo +10 because it is now focused on the Millennium Development Goals. Yet those goals—which include maternal health and child mortality reductions—do not include reproductive health. Another theory is that conference fatigue has overcome the UN system and the international community after so many huge circus-like events and ambitious ideas that have not reached fruition.

Others suggest that the international political climate has soured to the point that it would be too risky to re-open the Cairo goals for broad discussion, out of concern that the result would be another Mexico City and a step backward rather than forward. This "Pandora's box" fear may be well-founded. The American delegation to an October 2002 Bangkok population conference suddenly announced that the United States would not reaffirm its support for Cairo unless the terms "reproductive health services" and "reproductive rights," which can be construed to include abortion, were removed from the text.[2]

Rio and Cairo both held out the promise that the links between population and environment

[1] Quoted in *The New York Times,* October 23, 2002, p. A8

[2] "U.S. May Abandon Support of U.N. Population Accord" (2002, November 2). *New York Times,* p. A8

could be explored scientifically, and that these relationships might be prominent enough at the 2002 and 2004 conferences to shape policy on both fronts. Instead, population and reproductive health were almost absent at Johannesburg, and environment may be completely omitted from consideration at Cairo +10. Moreover, the population-environment community seems to be oddly complacent about this turn of events.

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>
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Perhaps we will look back at the last three decades of the 20th century as a brief golden era of international cooperation on environment, population, and development. The environmental conference in Stockholm in 1972 and population conference in Bucharest in 1974 ushered in an era of constructive, high-level engagement between governments and the scientific and NGO communities. It could be that the stalemate of the Cold War and the lull afterwards produced a calm that permitted the extraordinary results of Rio, Cairo, and their predecessors. Whatever the cause of this success, now that we have crossed the bridge to the 21st century, we may wish that we could go back. We should at least try to keep the bridge from burning.

Three recommendations come to mind. First, the Cairo goals—particularly the reproductive health goals—should be specifically referenced and reaffirmed in the UN Millennium Development Goals process. Second, Cairo +10 should be more than just an experts' meeting. It should offer the opportunity and responsibility for governments, scientists, and the NGO community to jointly explore national and international successes and failures since 1994, and to revise the strategy for reaching the Cairo goals as appropriate.

Finally, Cairo +10 should be used as an opportunity to integrate the Rio, Cairo, and Johannesburg nexus between population and environmental goals, and to harmonize and coordinate those goals. This will require specifically including the environmental science and policy community at Cairo +10, as well as creating a true two-way street between population and environment research and action. In an era when science is being fully integrated, we should not allow another critical policy decade to slip by. ■

FROM THE FIELD

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a local RH NGO. Funded by USAID through Pathfinders' ALCANCE Project, AGROVIDA has been able to transmit its expertise in sexual and reproductive health services to the service providers of the health post in Pias.

Future APECO projects will include extending this success story to other protected areas surrounding the park, creating more strategic partnerships between local RH and environmental NGOs, and presenting lessons learned at international conferences. By encouraging women (especially rural and semi-rural women) to participate in community decisions, APECO hopes these women will become empowered—more effective at managing the spacing of their pregnancies as well as better equipped to manage other critical areas of their lives, including natural resources and family incomes. ■

JOHANNESBURG

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security. Ultimately, it will be the quality of action after Johannesburg—its oft-cited implementation—that will be the Summit's measure of success. ■

Geoffrey D. Dabelko is the director of ECSP. For more information on Johannesburg discussions of environment, development, and security issues, go to:

Environment, Development, and Sustainable Peace Initiative Roundtable
http://www.sustainable-peace.org

IUCN/IISD Environmental Security Programming
http://www.iucn.org/wssd/summit/sofar/index_sofar.htm

Project News

UPDATE

➨ ECSP is pleased to announce the addition of **Dina Abbas** as project assistant. Ms. Abbas is a 2002 graduate of Knox College, where she received a B.A. in International Relations with a minor in economics and sociology. Her responsibilities will include planning meetings, coordinating one of the new ECSP *Navigating Peace* working groups, and developing and implementing an external communications strategy for the Project.

➨ Johannesburg's World Summit on Sustainable Development offered a unique opportunity to bridge Northern and Southern perspectives on the linkages among environment, development, population, poverty, conflict, and peace. **A Summit roundtable** organized by the Environment, Development, and Sustainable Peace Initiative (EDSP) and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety explored ongoing Southern efforts in these areas.

ECSP is a partner in the EDSP Initiative, whose primary goal is to facilitate constructive dialogue among Northern and Southern policymakers, practitioners, journalists, and scholars on: (a) mitigating environmental contributions to conflict; and (b) developing a constructive environment, development, and sustainable peace agenda. Roundtable presentations by international experts from five countries raised two dominant themes:

- The environment and security debate focuses mainly on the environmental causes of conflict and **needs to shift towards mechanisms to promote peace**. Policymakers and researchers need to give more attention to **environmental cooperation as a tool for confidence building.**
- Most policy initiatives on conflict prevention and mitigation address environmental conflicts in the South. To bridge this gap requires **a sustained integration of Southern perspectives.**

For more on this roundtable, go to www.wilsoncenter.org/ecsp.

➨ In a 26 September ECSP meeting, **Clare Ginger** of the University of Vermont discussed her case-study research on integrated population-environment (P-E) projects in conservation organizations. Ginger said that groups incorporating P-E projects need to link these efforts to their missions as well as making them understandable and appealing to all organizational levels—from field offices to boards of directors. Defining success in organizational terms is also important to sustaining a P-E initiative. "What are your expectations?" she asked. "Is P-E a tool for your organization with some application, or is P-E part of a broad-scale institutional change?"

Conservation International's **John Williams** followed by detailing CI's P-E projects in four developing countries. CI works, he said, in biodiversity "hotspots"—areas that have a great diversity of endemic species and that have also been significantly impacted and altered by human activities (which are accelerated by in-migration and high fertility rates).

CI's approach, said Williams, includes a participatory approach with the community and all stakeholders; alternative economics activities (such as microenterprise and ecotourism), and integrated programs that not only lower environmental impact but increase access to primary education and comprehensive health care. "We're interested not just in reproductive health," said Williams, "but also vaccines and diarrheal disease. You want to generate the perception that you're concerned about [clients'] overall welfare."

For more on this meeting, visit www.wilsoncenter.org/ecsp.

➨ **Jean-François Rischard**, World Bank vice-president for Europe and author of the new book *High Noon: Twenty Global Problems, Twenty Years to Solve Them*, told an 18 June ECSP meeting that the world faces a crucial window of opportunity to solve its most serious challenges. He argued that population growth and the new world economy are creating problems (such as greenhouse gas emissions and water shortages) that international governance mechanisms are inadequate to address. Rischard called for problem-solving alternatives such as Global Issues Networks—experts and directly-affected parties that could set up voluntary global norms of behavior for each issue. Go to www.wilsoncenter.org/ecsp to read more about this meeting.

➨ **The Minority-Serving Institutions (MSI) Initiatives**, a component of the University of Michigan Population Fellows Programs, offers internships to qualified students from historically black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving

institutions, and tribal colleges and universities. These internships introduce students to the fields of international development and family planning with the goal of increasing the number of MSI graduates pursuing careers in these fields.

Fourteen students gathered at the Wilson Center on 20 September to relate their recently concluded summer internship experiences—experiences that included everything from traveling health fairs to leading discussions on Islam and family planning. "It gave me an appreciation for the work that can be done in developing countries,"said Javier Martínez Villanueva, a University of New Mexico senior who supported Project Concern International's (PCI) work in rural Bolivia. "I saw that a little bit of money can go a long way."

➨ **ECSP has a new Web site!** Go to www.wilsoncenter.org/ecsp to see ECSP's new pages on the new Wilson Center Web site. The site provides a fully searchable archive of ECSP publications and meeting summaries as well as links to video and audio of selected meetings.

➨ As part of his visit to the Wilson Center in July, **Peter Gleick** of the Pacific Institute gave an interview to the Wilson Center's *dialogue* radio program on "The World's Water." To hear the interview, go to http://wwics.si.edu/dialogue/index.htm# and look for the program of 30 September 2002. ■

NEW ECSP INITIATIVE

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beth Economy of the Council on Foreign Relations, **Alan Hecht** of the Council on Environmental Quality, **Sandra Postel** of Global Water Policy Project, and **Steve Del Rosso** of the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

Expected Outcomes

- New water networks among WWG members and an expanding set of U.S. and international actors that cross professional, disciplinary, and water/non-water boundaries;
- A dynamic set of policy-relevant discussions and publications that move beyond rehashing stale debates to reframe and advance dialogue and action on critical water issues; and
- WWG members utilizing and communicating lessons learned to their organizations and respective disciplines through new water networks. ■

To find out more about Navigating Peace*, contact ECSP at* ecsp@wwic.si.edu *or 202/691-4130.*

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The University of Michigan
Population Fellows Program

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

The *Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars,* located in the Ronald Reagan Building in the heart of Washington D.C., was founded in 1968 by Congress as the nation's memorial to President Woodrow Wilson. Through its renowned fellows program and a range of regional and functional programmatic activities, the nonpartisan center fosters scholarship and dialogue in the humanities and the social sciences. As such, The Wilson Center serves as an ideal meeting place for scholars and practitioners of widely divergent ideological and professional backgrounds. Meetings are marked by free intellectual exchange, reflecting a tradition of bringing together people who differ in discipline, profession, and nationality, but who share an interest in a subject and in having their views challenged in lively debate. The Wilson Center is directed by The Honorable Lee H. Hamilton and its Board of Directors is chaired by Joseph B. Gildenhorn. Prior to becoming Director, Lee Hamilton served for thirty–four years as a United States Congressman from Indiana. He served as a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, now the Committee on International Relations, for his entire tenure.

Environmental Change and Security Project (ECSP)

Since October 1994, the Woodrow Wilson Center's Environmental Change and Security Project (ECSP) has provided specialists and interested individuals with a "road-map" to the myriad conceptions, activities and policy initiatives related to environment, population and security. The Project pursues three basic activities: (1) gathering information on related international academic and policy initiatives; (2) organizing meetings of experts and public seminars; and (3) publishing the *ECSP Report, The China Environment Series,* and related papers. ECSP is directed by Geoffrey Dabelko and housed in the Wilson Center's Division of International Studies—headed by Robert S. Litwak. ECSP explores a wide range of academic and policy-related topics: various theoretical linkages among environment, population and security; how environment, population and security ideas are nested in the broader debates over redefining security; the ways in which policymakers in the United States and other countries are utilizing these ideas and making related policies; and how governments, NGOs, businesses, and other organizations respond to the causes and symptoms of environmental and demographic issues.

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