



University for Peace
Universidad para la Paz



April 2004
PD/ESP/Overview/2

UPEACE PROGRAMME ON ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY AND PEACE

I. THE NEED TO BUILD EXPERTISE ON THE CRITICAL INTERFACE BETWEEN ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY AND PEACE	2
II. THE RESPONSE: EDUCATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY AND PEACE	3
III. OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME	4
IV. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROGRAMME	4
V. PARTNERSHIPS	6
VI. PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES	7
VII. OUTPUTS 2003/2005	9
VIII. RESOURCES SOUGHT	9

"Let me congratulate you and your colleagues on a thorough and well conceived programme and curriculum. I believe such programme, when fully implemented, would go a long way towards addressing the crucial need for trained people, particularly in developing countries, for addressing the interlinked issues of environmental degradation, peace, and security."

Mohamed El-Ashry
Former Chief Executive Officer
Global Environmental Facility

I. THE NEED TO BUILD EXPERTISE ON THE CRITICAL INTERFACE BETWEEN ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY AND PEACE

The interface between the peace, development and environmental security will be of growing importance in the 21st Century. There is mounting concern over the extent to which environmental stress is contributing to human insecurity by threatening livelihoods, health and the fulfilment of basic needs and by precipitating ecological breakdown. The rapid pace of environmental degradation is also intensifying competition over natural resources, aggravating social tensions, and in certain volatile situations, escalating violence and conflict. The projected growth of world population to around 9 billion by 2050 will further heighten pressures on the fragile support systems of the earth on which human livelihoods and survival depend, presenting a major threat to peace and security.

In a recent global survey of 30,000 people, 45% identified natural resource degradation or environmental pollution as the single greatest threat to future generations.

Knowledge, technology and resources are available to improve environmental security, but their effective use in vast areas of the world is limited by a shortage of skilled personnel who can define the specific nature of the threats posed by environmental degradation and can adapt and implement solutions in their local contexts to avert and respond to critical environmental threats. This lack of capacity is particularly acute in the least developed countries, where the needs are also most urgent because of the heightened vulnerability of people to the impacts of environmental degradation. Recognising that lack of capacity and expertise is one of the major barriers hindering progress towards sustainability, the UN General Assembly has called for a Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, beginning in 2005 (A 57/532/Add.1).

The urgent need for education and training in the field of environmental security is paralleled by significant worldwide demand for such education. However, few institutions of higher education currently have the capacity or resources to develop relevant, quality curricula and training materials and deliver specialized multidisciplinary programmes of education or training on environmental security and peace. A major initiative is clearly needed to strengthen the capacity of educational institutions around the world, and particularly in the most vulnerable countries, to develop and deliver education on environmental security. In this context, the University for Peace is launching an international Programme on Environmental Security and Peace.

"This is a very encouraging and well-constructed initiative, which will provide a balanced and well-integrated course on the important subject of environmental security and peace - a nexus so fundamental to sustainable development at local, national, regional and global levels."

Klaus Toepfer
Executive Director
United Nations Environment Programme

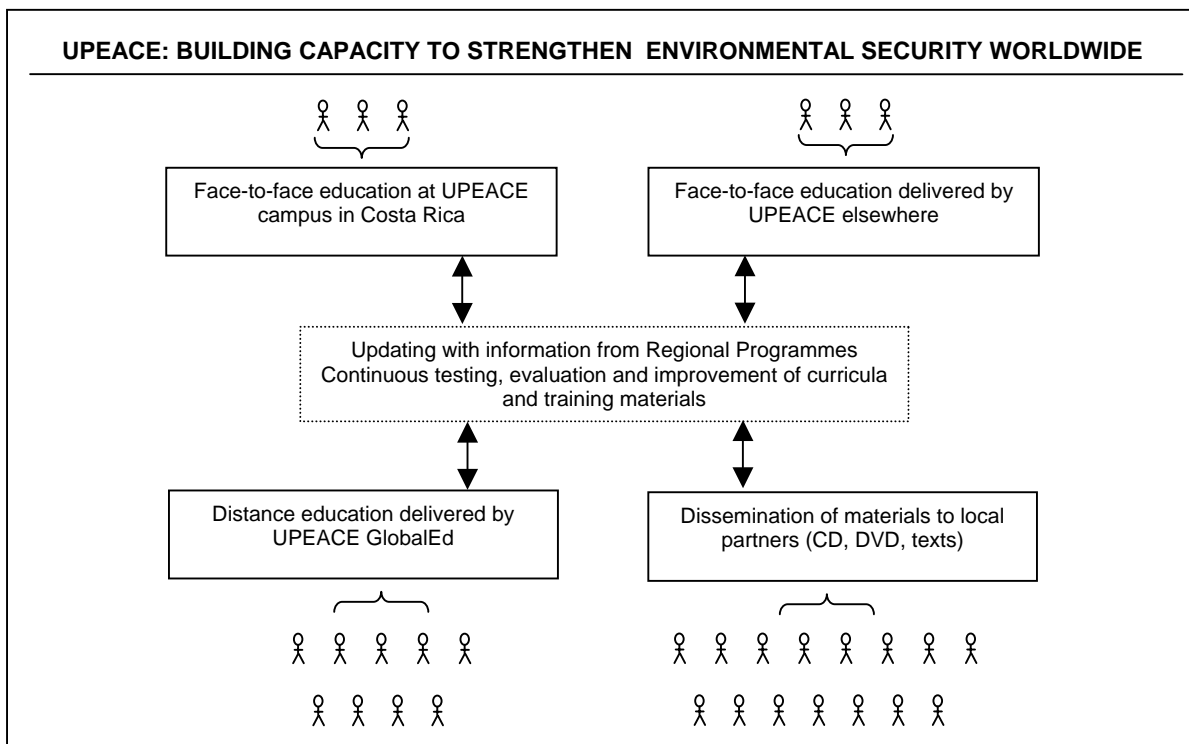
II. THE RESPONSE: EDUCATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY AND PEACE

The University for Peace was established as a Treaty Organization by the United Nations General Assembly in resolution 35/55 of 5 December 1980. The UNGA decision specifically established the University for Peace as an international institution of higher education, and authorized it to engage in teaching, research, post-graduate training and dissemination of knowledge through interdisciplinary study of all matters relating to peace. UPEACE is the only institution in the United Nations family authorized to grant degrees at the Master's and Doctoral levels. Five Master's Programmes are now being taught at UPEACE headquarters on peace related issues. UPEACE is also engaged in developing, teaching and disseminating a wide range of teaching materials on key issues related to peace and conflict studies.

In accordance with its mission from the General Assembly of the United Nations, UPEACE is launching an international Programme on Environmental Security and Peace. The overarching aim of the Programme is:

“ To strengthen education, training and research, particularly in the developing countries, to anticipate, understand, analyse, manage and, where possible, prevent critical threats to peace arising from environmental degradation and insecurity ”

The Programme will not only offer face-to-face teaching at the UPEACE campus in Costa Rica and online distance learning opportunities, but will also collaborate with partner universities and institutions, and particularly with under-resourced universities in the developing world, to develop, adapt and disseminate curricula and training materials for use at national and local levels. This approach will generate a multiplier effect, enabling larger numbers of young people and professionals to acquire the necessary skills and knowledge in their home countries, and maximizing access to environmental security education for those most in need.



III. OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME

The specific objectives of the UPEACE Programme in Environmental Security and Peace are:

- To develop postgraduate curricula, professional training resources, and non-formal and community-based teaching materials that will deepen conceptual understanding, extend practical knowledge and build both quantitative and qualitative skills to analyse, manage, and prevent threats to environmental security which may lead to violence and conflict;
- To test these curricula and training materials initially at the UPEACE campus and then at regional and national levels through selected partner institutions.
- To adapt and disseminate appropriate formal and non-formal curricula and teaching materials, focused on the interface between environmental security and peace at the global, regional and national levels, including lessons learned and best practices.
- To establish an international knowledge network of key individuals and institutions that will undertake collaborative research and teaching to address critical knowledge gaps in the field of environmental security.

IV. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROGRAMME

This Programme considers environmental security from both the human security and the ecological security perspectives. The adopted definition is differentiated from militaristic conceptions, which view environmental security through a national security lens. By contrast, a human security approach to environmental security is people-centred, concerned with the ways in which environmental degradation introduces or exacerbates chronic threats or harmful disruptions in the daily lives of people and their future prospects. Linkages between environmental degradation and poverty, hunger, spread of disease, and forced migration are thus, for example, equally important as linkages to conflict and violence. An ecological security approach is ecosystem-centred; concerned with the implications of environmental degradation for the integrity and resilience of the biosphere.

The Programme will thus place an emphasis on priority environmental issues such as: freshwater scarcity, quality, and variability; climate change; energy security; land degradation, desertification and deforestation; biodiversity loss; food security; and vulnerability to natural disasters. It will also consider key cross-cutting concerns including: the implications of population growth; health and disease; poverty reduction and livelihood implications; environmental change and migration; conflict and cooperation; the capabilities, consequences and risks of science and technology; ethical, legal and institutional factors; and consideration of effects and responses at the global, regional, sub-regional and local levels. In each area, the Programme will examine the causes of environmentally related insecurity, conflict and violence, and review the methods, processes, techniques, indicators, frameworks and tools available to evaluate, analyse, mitigate or prevent them.

Certain definitions of environmental security have been critiqued as too broad, encompassing a multitude of environmental issues, and thus lacking utility and meaning. This Programme follows the school of thought that argues that the concept of environmental security has most value precisely as a means of prioritising environmental issues: it enables certain environmental issues to be elevated to a higher status than ordinary policy problems by framing them as security concerns. From the outset, the Programme will identify priority tissues, initially through a survey of a consultative network of experts and practitioners. The temporal scale and magnitude of possible impacts, the reversibility of impacts, and identified linkages between environmental degradation and conflict are some of the criteria that may be used to evaluate and prioritise issues as environmental security concerns.

Environmental security has also been critiqued as representing an attempt by Northern states to dictate patterns of development, natural resource usage, and population policies to countries in the South. This argument reflects apprehension that Northern academics and institutions have dominated the environmental security field. However, increasing numbers of institutions and academics from the developing world are now explicitly addressing environmental security issues. Moreover, greater attention is being given to analyses examining the role of Northern resource extraction, consumption and production processes in Southern environmental insecurities. The UPEACE Programme will help to redress this imbalance. It will aim to ensure that concerns of priority to the developing world are properly incorporated, that the geopolitical complexity of environmental insecurities is recognized, and that Southern perspectives are highlighted and integrated. To achieve this, UPEACE will engage leading academics from developing countries in guidance, substantive curriculum development and training activities of the Programme in Environmental Security and Peace.

"I find the Programme prepared very well. It will certainly be valuable for developing a corps of environmental security managers."

M. S. Swaminathan
Chairman
M.S. Swaminathan Foundation

"Congratulation on a good initiative. It is time that Environmental Security is given the importance it deserves."

Mersie Ejigu
Former Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources,
Ethiopia
Former Minister of Planning and Development, Ethiopia
President and CEO, Partnership for African
Environmental Sustainability

V. PARTNERSHIPS

While major global and regional threats to environmental security must be properly addressed, most analysis, policy and action must be framed and implemented in specific national and local circumstances. This demands effective use of local knowledge and expertise. Furthermore, local partner institutions will be best placed to implement appropriate in-country environmental security education and training programmes.

For this reason, UPEACE is establishing an international knowledge network of partner universities and institutions specifically focused on environmental security and linked to its other activities and partners in the field of education for peace. This will help to ensure that the content of its teaching programmes on environmental security and peace will not only draw on worldwide knowledge and expertise but also will be consistent with and relevant in local contexts. A number of universities, institutions and government bodies around the world have already indicated their interest in collaborating with UPEACE to develop and implement local educational programmes and courses on environmental security and peace.

A large number of internationally recognised experts have already agreed to lend their support to the programme in design, research and/or teaching, including amongst many others:

- Anwarul Chowdhury, UN Under-Secretary General and High representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
- Geoffrey Dabelko, Director, Environmental Change & Security project, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
- Nitin Desai, Former Under-Secretary General, Department of Social and Economic Affairs, United Nations
- Mersie Ejigu, President and Chief Executive Officer, Partnership for African Environmental Sustainability
- Mohamed El Ashry, Former CEO of the Global Environmental Faculty
- Maria Ivanova, Director, Global Environmental Governance Project, Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy
- Julia Marton-Lefevre, Executive Director, LEAD International
- Leif Ohlsson, Department of Peace and Development Research, University of Göteborg
- R K Pachauri, Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- Ashok Swain, Director of the Uppsala University Programme of International Studies
- MS Swaminathan, Chairman, MS Swaminathan Research Foundation
- Ambassador Tinomata Tadanori, Vice-Chair, Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol
- Klaus Toepfer, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme
- Wouter Veening, Director, Institute for Environmental Security, Netherlands

- Jeremy Warford, Formerly Senior Advisor, Environment Department, World Bank

Besides its worldwide access to international expertise, UPEACE has a significant body of relevant in-house expertise including: Mr. Maurice Strong, President of the UPEACE Council, Chairman of the Earth Council and formerly Secretary General of the UN Conference on Environment and Development; Ambassador Mohamed Sahnoun, a UPEACE Council Member and Chair of the IUCN-IISD Task Force on Environment and Security; Mr. Martin Lees, Rector of UPEACE and founding member of the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development; and the experienced team from UPEACE's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) which is highly regarded in the field of natural resource conflict management.

VI. PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

1. Preparatory Activities

A *consultative network* is being established comprised of leading experts in different aspects of environmental security. This network will provide guidance in the development and implementation of the Programme.

Strategic partnerships are being formalised with selected institutions interested in collaborating in environmental security curricula development, dissemination, training and/or research.

2. Development and Pilot-Testing of Curricula and Training Materials

A small resident faculty at UPEACE headquarters will be augmented by visiting professors and consultants to develop, test, evaluate and improve curricula and training materials related to environmental security.

The Programme will initially focus on development, pilot testing and dissemination of a **Master's in Environmental Security and Peace**, which is planned to be launched in September 2005. The M.A. level has been specifically targeted because it allows intensive and in-depth study, which is vital given the degree of complexity of the environmental security field, the need for in-depth understanding of concepts and issues, and the technicality of the skills that must be acquired. The curriculum for the Masters in Environmental Security and Peace is being designed to provide a solid basis so that following completion of their studies, participants will be qualified to teach competently in the field, undertake high quality research on environmental security issues, and develop and implement sound management and policy decisions. The curriculum is modular, including for-credit courses and modules that can be taught at UPEACE headquarters and elsewhere, and can also be integrated partially or fully into existing teaching programmes in other universities.

As it becomes feasible, the Programme will focus on development, pilot testing and dissemination of intensive **Training-of-Trainers courses** (approx 12 weeks duration) and specialized **Short Professional courses** (ranging from 1 day to 2 weeks). The Short Professional courses will be aimed at specific target audiences such as media professionals, mid/high level executives from the private, public and non-profit sectors, parliamentarians, legislators and senior government officials. The target participants for the intensive Training-

of-Trainers courses will be teachers, non-formal educators, and junior to mid-career faculty. The aim is to impart the fundamental motivation, knowledge and skills necessary to teach in the field of environmental security and peace so that participants will be able to guide the development of more extensive educational programmes on environmental security and peace in their respective institutions. This approach will enable a rapid multiplier effect, accelerating the availability of environmental security education at the national and local levels.

3. Continuous Evaluation, Updating and Improvement of Curricula and Training Materials

Based on the pilot testing, the content, format, structure and methodology of curricula and training materials will be reviewed and improved. This will be a continuing process: curricula and materials will be iteratively improved based on evaluations and insights that will be fed back to UPEACE following the delivery of courses and M.A. programmes at UPEACE and worldwide. UPEACE's regional and national programmes including those in Africa, Central Asia, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and Brazil and India, provide a unique facility for continuously updating the curricula and training materials, based on the latest data, analyses, and lessons learned from real-world problems and practices. UPEACE's regional and national programmes also collaborate directly with in-country institutions to ensure that educational content, methodology and format is relevant and appropriate to a specific local context.

4. Adapting and Disseminating Curricula and Materials: Dissemination to Regional and National Partners for In-Country Educational Programmes

UPEACE will collaborate with strategic regional and national partners to assist universities and institutions with limited capacity to develop and conduct high quality courses and programmes on environmental security. UPEACE will provide its curricula and training materials for local adaptation, and will also provide teacher training, guidance and co-teaching, if necessary. The Environmental Security and Peace Programme will collaborate with UPEACE's regional and national programmes, which have established networks and close working partnerships at regional and national levels. The format for dissemination of curricula and materials will vary depending on the circumstances of each partner, and may include: CD-Rom, DVD, internet delivery and support, hard-copy, and face-to-face guidance.

5. Distance Education

UPEACE is developing a facility referred to as "UPEACE GlobalEd" which will enable worldwide delivery of the M.A. in Environmental Security and Peace via distance education. By providing a distance education option, UPEACE is broadening access to environmental security education, particularly for professionals unable to take time away from their work. While using much of the same content as the full Master's degree programme, the format and content will be adapted specifically to the requirements of distance education.

6. Website: Educating for Environmental Security and Peace

UPEACE will develop a dedicated website 'Educating for Environmental Security and Peace', which will provide public access to a searchable database of relevant case studies and literature.

7. Collaborative Research

The consultative network will be surveyed to identify priority knowledge gaps that are impediments to addressing major threats to environmental security effectively. This will include: analysis of significant threats of violence and conflict arising from environmental insecurity; case studies of lessons learned and best practices in strengthening environmental security; and identifying opportunities to catalyse cooperation and peace building that may arise from the need to address shared issues of environmental insecurity and competition for resources. Drawing on the recommendations of the consultative network, strategic focal areas for research will be identified, and appropriate research initiatives launched.

VII. OUTPUTS 2003/2005

Major outputs of the first phase will include:

- Curricula, methodology and materials, developed on a multicultural basis, for a Master's Programme in Environmental Security and Peace to be launched in September 2005;
- Initial teaching, testing and evaluation of the Master's Programme in Environmental Security and Peace at the UPEACE campus;
- Production of curricula and materials for short professional courses based on the courses that constitute the M.A. in Environmental Security and Peace;
- Creation of courses and modules on DVD/ CD-Rom for dissemination in jointly developed packages to partner universities;
- Content to launch teaching activities through the UPEACE distance education programme, UPEACE Global-Ed;
- An internet-based clearinghouse of curricula, research results and materials related to environmental security and peace; and
- An international knowledge network of cooperating universities and research institutions.

VIII. RESOURCES SOUGHT

UPEACE is requesting support for development and implementation of the Programme on Environmental Security and Peace outlined above for the period 2003 – 2005. A detailed 3-year budget is available on request. As part of the first phase of activities, UPEACE is requesting funding for:

- Further multicultural development of curricula and training materials, including a curriculum development workshop that will bring together leading experts to review and improve the structure and content of the programme;
- Fellowships for selected, qualified students from developing countries to participate in pilot short courses and in the M.A. programme;

- Initial development of the internet-based clearing house of curricula and materials; and
- Conversion of initially six of the courses in the M.A. Programme into DVD/ CD-Rom and on-line formats through the UPEACE Center on Education and Information Technologies and their pilot dissemination and testing.