



I-B. Objectives and Methodology

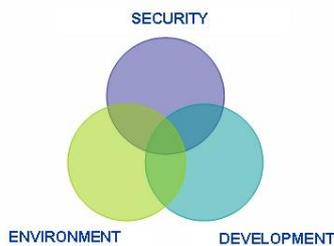
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1. The Environment – Development – Security Triangle

At least since the late 1980s and early 1990s the relationship between **environment and development** has been enshrined in governmental domestic and foreign policies and international relations. Following the appearance of the Brundtland Report in 1987 and the convening of the Earth Summit in 1992, it would be hard to find a government or international / intergovernmental organisation that does not officially recognise that environmental protection and sustainable human development go hand and hand and which does not incorporate the linkages between these two objectives at least to some degree in its legislation, initiatives, programmes and projects.

Perhaps more recently greater official recognition has also begun to be given to another relationship subject to decades of study which is the relationship between **development and security** and the need for conflict sensitive development cooperation policies and practices. Economists, political scientists and now politicians are seeking to better understand roots of insecurity in underdevelopment as well as the positive reinforcing relationship between security and development.

While it is helpful to analyse policies and practices in terms of the attention paid to each of the three dichotomies shown on the triangle on the right, ultimately we are even more interested in analysing each of the areas of overlap between the three goals of policy which are better illustrated by the Venn diagram below.



Of course, even more circles and sub-circles could be added to draw an even better picture of overlapping policy goals including, for example, democracy, governance, human rights, health, education, etc. – not to mention visualising separately also the domestic and foreign dimensions of policies and practices.

The focus of the current study and the accompanying *EnviroSecurity Action Guide* is to catalogue the extent to which selected governments and international agencies have or have not incorporated the relationship between environment, resources, security, conflict and peacemaking into their foreign and security policies and actions.

As Michael Renner points out in his introductory essay to this report, for the past 20 or 30 years there has also been an ongoing discourse regarding the interaction between **security and environment**. However, there is little evidence that governments and the international community have yet really incorporated this third side of the triangle of

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environment – development – security into official policies. Never-the-less, as Mr Renner concludes, “Even where governments have not advertently or intentionally addressed the topic of environmental security, a range of relevant policy actions are developing and a variety of on-going practical governmental and non-governmental programmes and projects are having a noticeable impact on improving the interplay between environment and security in many critical areas in the world.”

2. Objectives

The purpose of this ***Inventory*** (and the accompanying on-line ***EnviroSecurity Action Guide*** data base) is to provide an easily accessible overview of what several leading governments and international / intergovernmental organisations are doing with respect to integrating environmental and sustainable development considerations and objectives into foreign and security policy and practice. The overview is descriptive and is not meant to be evaluative.

The ultimate objective of the project is to provide governmental and international officials, NGOs, and researchers with essential information useful to compare and assess ongoing efforts, assist those wishing to develop new work in this field and stimulate further international cooperation on environment and security.

The project has resulted in two outputs:

- the ***Inventory of Environment and Security Policies and Practices***: An Overview of Strategies and Initiatives of Selected Governments, International Organisations and Inter-Governmental Organisations, and
- the ***EnviroSecurity Action Guide***, an interactive relational database containing more detailed information on selected organisations, specific initiatives, relevant publications and useful web resources related to environment, security and sustainable development. A special ***Essential Reading List*** has also been jointly created in partnership between Adelphi Research and the IES.

Both the *Inventory* and the *Action Guide* are available on-line on the website of the Institute for Environmental Security at <http://www.envirosecurity.org>.

It is the aim of the Institute and its partners to maintain and update both publications expanding them to include more country profiles and international agencies and also to begin to systematically include information on a wide variety of academic, scientific, research, NGO and other organisations and activities.

Work will especially continue on surveying the Member States of the European Union and reviewing EU policy and practice in this field as a basis for a new project of the IES on ***Greening European Security*** recently launched in cooperation with Adelphi Research and the Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment (GLOBE-EU).

Working especially with Members of the European Parliament, the aim of the new programme is to promote the forging and implementation of an integrated strategy for environment, sustainable development and security - or the better inclusion of environmental security aspects in the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy, European Security Strategy and European Sustainable Development Strategy.

3. Methodology

The planning for the *Inventory* and *Action Guide* involved extensive consultations and drafting on the project's aims and methodology with a variety of expert partners and officials over several months also resulting in the establishment of a series of agreements with various parties who each agreed to the carrying out different aspects of the work.

Considerable time and effort was put especially into deciding upon the scope, questions and themes to be covered in the survey for the *Inventory*. (See below.)

Exhaustive planning also went into the design and development of the *Action Guide* resulting in the structure for the system which includes interactive modules covering **organisations** (especially governments and international agencies in the initial phase), **initiatives** (academic and scientific research, political and legislative action, financial mechanisms, capacity building and training work, international campaigns and programmes, local field projects, and more), **publications** (speeches, books, reports, etc.) and internet **web-resources** with the possibility of adding a fifth module on relevant international negotiating and decision making **events** at a later stage.

Key researchers / writers working on the *Inventory* were joined by an Editorial Review Committee who helped shape and guide the project as it was being implemented.

The first operational step in the project was to write to contacts in each EU Member State plus Canada, Japan, Norway, Switzerland and the United States as well as in several international agencies inviting them to indicate which officials would be best to consult in our study and asking them to point us to the most useful official documents and other materials regarding relevant strategies and initiatives of their countries and organisations.

Many officials replied providing contact details and relevant references with respect to one or more of the specific themes outlined for the study. Some provided extensive advice and information, and in one case – that of the Czech Republic – we were even given the full text needed for the country profile.

From several other governments we received no reply to our requests – which should not necessarily indicate a lack of interest in the subject. In the next phase, a further effort will be made to seek out and contact the appropriate officials in the countries which are not covered in the first edition of this report.

Desk research for the national and IGO profiles continued on the basis of public information available on-line and in-print regarding the policies, programmes, and projects of the agencies covered.

Finally, the authors of most of the country and IGO profiles shared drafts with their contacts in the national ministries – development, environment and/or foreign affairs – and international agencies and they received many valuable comments and additional information in return.

There is not time nor space to mention everyone who contributed in one way or another in this project. The best way we can express our appreciation, though, is to share the collective results and hope all those who each contributed a piece of the puzzle will find the whole picture that has emerged to be valuable to them in their work.

4. Study Questions and Themes

The research for this study and enquiries to officials consulted were built around 7 key questions and 8 central themes. To the extent possible, the authors attempted to find out

the following with respect to each country and international / intergovernmental organisation covered in the study:

1. How environmental security is defined by the Government / IGO.
2. The Government's / IGO's overarching environmental security priorities.
3. Overview of the geo-political and other factors that have prompted the development of the Government's / IGO's environmental security approaches.
4. How the Government / IGO has addressed its stated environmental security priorities through different types of (indicative) initiatives such as:
 - Research / studies / scientific initiatives / monitoring
 - Policy initiatives / legislation
 - Coordination, networking, organisational, institutional activities
 - Legal and judicial initiatives
 - Financial mechanisms, funding activities
 - Education, training, capacity building and other information initiatives
 - Field level environment programmes and projects

... with respect to the following themes:

- **ES and foreign and security policy**

(Mainstreaming environmental factors into foreign and security policy especially energy and food security, and security related to other resources such as land, water, living marine resources, terrestrial biodiversity)

- **ES and development cooperation**

(Mainstreaming conflict prevention and livelihood protection into development cooperation especially in conflict prone and conflict affected countries, for example, through payment of ecological services and equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms)

- **ES and peace building**

(Environmental cooperation for peace building such as through peace parks, river basin management initiatives, and cooperation over degraded and environmentally-stressed resources in conflict-prone and conflict-affected zones)

- **ES monitoring, mapping and early warning**

- **ES risk and needs assessment and management**

- **Environmental conflict prevention and resolution**

- **Post-conflict environmental rehabilitation and reconstruction**

- **Natural disaster and conflict mitigation and adaptation**

5. How the Government / IGO characterises the overall strengths and weaknesses of its environmental security approaches.
6. Key policy lessons learned in terms of the development and implementation of environmental security policy.
7. Views regarding the merits of a potential EU Environmental Security Strategy and ideas for a possible framework

As the country and organisation profiles show, it was not always possible to answer all of these questions or present information on all of the themes in every case. Gaps do not

necessarily mean a lack of policy or action; they may simply mean that relevant information was not readily available or supplied.

Regarding the last question on views about the role of the EU in this field, it was possible to discern some opinions and at least general positions in some of the countries covered, but this is clearly an issue which will require further inquiry. It will be a central subject in the follow-up programme on ***Greening European Security*** mentioned above.

5. Follow-up

Follow-up plans include building upon the experience with the *Inventory* and producing updates of the present country and IGO profiles as well as adding profiles on other countries and organisations. New profiles and updates will be published on-line as they become available. A second larger edition of the printed version of the report is also being planned.

The *Action Guide* will also be updated on a regular basis with the latest and ever more detailed information on the countries and organisations covered in the project as well as an increasing number of other organisations (including many more non-governmental organisations). We especially welcome input from users regarding other governmental and non-governmental activities and information resources which should be included in the data base.

This project is perhaps the first attempt to provide an extensive overview of official environment and security policies and practices. But until we receive further feedback from this first edition to help us fill in the gaps and until we are able to survey more governments – both in the developed and in the developing world - we cannot suggest that study is really comprehensive yet.

Never-the-less, from the outset, we hoped that the carrying out of the study and asking governments about their positions and actions in this field would raise further interest and debate and perhaps the study will help stimulate decision makers to begin to formulate or further develop policy and international cooperation on environment and security as well as promote the launching of new practical initiatives.

Comments and suggestions for improvements to the *Inventory* and/or the *Action Guide* are very much welcomed and should be sent to the Institute for Environmental Security.

