

III-C. Profile of NATO

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1. Overview

NATO¹, and in particular its Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society (CCMS)², has been engaged in work on environment and security for several years.

Together with the Science Committee³, the CCMS has been playing an important role in raising the profile of the environment and security agenda within NATO.

Most recently, the Science Committee and the Committee the CCMS have together agreed to restructure.⁴ “Science for Peace and Security” (SPS) is both the name of the new, single Committee and of the new Programme, resulting from the emergence of common priorities for the NATO Programme for Security through Science and the activities of the CCMS and following the rapidly changing global security environment.

The North Atlantic Council approved on 28 June the Terms of Reference for the new Committee, which will be the primary NATO committee supporting practical cooperation in civil science and innovation.

The SPS Committee will operate under a Work Programme, which will define the content of its activities, in line with NATO’s Strategic Objectives and guidance given by the NATO Council. It will focus on security, environmental sustainability and Partner and Mediterranean Dialogue priorities. The SPS Programme will enable NATO to demonstrate visible support for practical, concrete projects with tangible output.

The restructuring will indeed maximise the synergy between the Science Committee and the CCMS, as well as with other bodies. It will produce a simplified, more effective and fully integrated organisation.

The new SPS Committee will hold its first meeting on 20 October 2006 at NATO Headquarters.

2. NATO’s Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society (CCMS)⁵

The CCMS, which was established in 1969, has been a unique forum for co-operation on issues of inter alia transboundary environmental protection and environmental problems in general. The aim of the (CCMS) has been to address issues such as non-traditional threats to security, new and emerging risks that could cause economic, social and political instability, and conflict prevention in relation to resource-scarcity, among others.

¹ The main website for NATO is at: <http://www.nato.int/>

² The website for NATO/CCMS is at: <http://www.nato.int/ccms/index.html>

³ The Security for Science Programme site is at: <http://www.nato.int/science/index.html>

⁴ See: <http://www.nato.int/science/news/2006/n060711a.htm>

⁵ See: <http://www.nato.int/ccms/index.html>

Increasingly concerned with non-traditional threats to security, including the consequences of environmental change, the pilot study on “Environment & Security in an International Context” was launched in 1995, with the final report appearing in March 1999. The study, co-chaired by Germany and the United States, elaborated conclusions and recommendations to integrate environmental considerations in security deliberations and to integrate security considerations in national and international environmental policies and instruments.

Even before the 1999 report was released, NATO/CCMS was carrying out a number of other specialised studies such as in the 1995-1998 Pilot Project on Cross-Border Environmental Problems emanating from Defence-Related Installations and Activities.

And since then, as well, the CCMS has been involved in a wide range of studies and projects related to environmental security.⁶

Previous Studies included:

- Assessment of Natural Hazards
- Design of the Caspian Basin Observing System
- Effective Risk Response Strategies
- Environmental Decision-Making in Central Asia
- Environmental Education in the Armed Forces
- Improvement of Weather Forecasts
- Security of Narrow Waterways

Some of the topics dealt with more recently include:

- Advanced Cancer Risk Assessment
- Air Pollution Modelling and its application
- Clean Products and Processes
- Ecosystem Modelling of Coastal Lagoons
- Eco-terrorism
- Environmental Management Systems in the Military Sector
- Food Chain Security
- Integrated Water Management
- Landscape Science For Environmental Assessment
- Management of Industrial and Toxic Wastes
- Prevention and Remediation Issues
- Risk Assessment of Chernobyl Accident
- Sustainable Building for Military Infrastructure

In 2006, NATO/CCSM has been involved in the development and implementation of a regional activity plan for prevention and elimination of environmental consequences of oil product spills as well as work on desertification in the Mediterranean region and other issues.

⁶ A complete catalogue of publication by the CCMS is available at:
<http://www.nato.int/ccms/publi.htm>

3. NATO's Science Committee

Established in 1957, the Science Committee has increased its focus on environmental security in recent years. Specific projects have included the reclamation of contaminated military sites, regional environmental problems and natural and man made disasters. Work has also been undertaken in the development of low cost technologies, which address important environmental problems.

4. Security through Science Programme

A more recent initiative of NATO has been the Security through Science Programme, an offshoot of the overall NATO Science Committee.

The aim of the Security through Science Programme is to contribute to security, stability and solidarity among nations, by applying science to problem solving. Collaboration, networking and capacity-building are means used to accomplish this end. A further aim is to catalyse democratic reform and support economic development in NATO's Partner countries in transition.

Civil science has proved to be a highly effective vehicle for international dialogue, due to its universality and its ability to create new international networks. The talent garnered in these scientific networks can be applied to the emerging threats to the Alliance. Science is both a means of finding answers to critical questions and a way of connecting nations.

Grants are directly provided by NATO to sponsor collaborative efforts between scientists of states within the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council states and the Mediterranean Dialogue states. Project support is targeted at such challenges as defence against terrorism and countering other threats to security. Activities directed towards the defence against terrorism include environmentally related threats such as eco-terrorism and the rapid detection of chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear waste. Projects directed towards countering other threats to security sector address overall environmental security concerns, including desertification, land erosion, and pollution as well as water resources and waste management and sustainable development.

5. NATO's Partnership for Peace Programme

The NATO Partnership for Peace Programme is a recent NATO initiative developed to promote the stability and address threats to peace between NATO Member States. Partnership programmes will be developed with individual member states in accordance with country specific needs and goals.

6. NATO Disaster Response

The Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Center is NATO's primary disaster relief unit. The EADRCC was created in 1998 and has provided assistance to countries such as Romania, Georgia and Bulgaria in face of massive flooding disasters, as well as to Portugal to deal with massive forest fires and to the US following the devastation of hurricane Katrina.

7. NATO cooperation with ENVSEC

NATO became an associate member of the Environment & Security Initiative (ENVSEC) in 2004, through its Public Diplomacy Division. The NATO Science Committee provides

financial support for the ENVSEC Initiative through its Security through Science Programme.

NATO support has enabled the ENVSEC Initiative to extend the scope of its coverage to Eastern Europe (Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine). As well, NATO consults with the OSCE, UNEP and UNDP to ensure that Science for Peace projects conform with ENVSEC criteria (i.e. impact on security; integration of environment and security; focus on vulnerable regions, etc). NATO projects that meet all criteria are included into the ENVSEC Initiative. Currently, there are 16 Science for Peace included under the ENVSEC Initiative.⁷

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⁷ For a complete list of all ENVSEC projects go to: <http://www.envsec.org/projects.php#46>