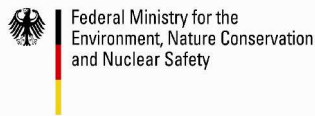




European  
Commission



Federal Ministry for the  
Environment, Nature Conservation  
and Nuclear Safety



Federal Foreign Office



Federal Ministry  
for Economic Cooperation  
and Development

# Integrating Environment, Development, and Conflict Prevention – European and National Approaches and Challenges

A European Conference  
hosted by the German EU Council Presidency 2007

## STRUCTURE AND OUTLINE

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**Venue:** Bundespresseamt  
Entrance Reichstagufer 14  
10117 Berlin

**Dates:** March 29 and 30, 2007

**Conference Website:** [www.adelphi-consult.com/ECC2007](http://www.adelphi-consult.com/ECC2007)

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## ***Structure and Outline of Conference***

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**Background** Interdependencies between environment, development, and conflict prevention have gained significant importance on the international agenda over the past years. Energy and climate security, and sustainable natural resources management are priorities for the German EU Council and G8 presidencies in 2007. Several recent studies highlighted major implications of global environmental change on national, regional, and global security: The Worldwatch Institute's "State of the World" Report 2005 on "Redefining Global Security", the speech by UK Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett on "Climate Change and Security" in Berlin on October 24, 2006, the "Stern Review" on the economic dimensions of climate change and the upcoming report on climate change and security by the German Advisory Council on Global Change (WBGU) (to be published in 2007). Putting climate protection and natural resource management into the broader context of foreign and security policy will increase policy relevance and help to mobilize financial resources. It also opens new windows of opportunity for environmental and development policy by indicating broader negotiation arenas and issue linkages as well as new stakeholder configurations.

The European Commission builds its approach to address interlinkages between natural resources and conflict on a vast variety of policies and programmes in its external relations. The European Security Strategy explicitly names natural resources as a potential source for conflict. However, policies and programmes currently only cover these issues marginally. A more coherent and systematic approach is required. The European Commission recently commissioned a study to systematically review its policies and programmes in this area and to initiate a dialogue to better integrate the management of natural resources into its external relations and conflict prevention policies. This report is to be released in spring 2007 and will serve as an input for the conference.

Member States started to address environment, development, and conflict prevention in their environmental and development – and more recently – foreign policies. A special survey on domestic strategies and policies as well as innovative initiatives and projects is being carried out by Adelphi Consult on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment in preparation of this conference. It complements an earlier project by the Institute for Environmental Security on policies and practices in selected EU member states and international organizations. Preliminary results of these surveys will be presented at the conference.

**Aims** The conference aims at identifying key issues, policies, and best practices, and at providing recommendations for the European Commission / European Union and individual Member States to address environment, development, and conflict prevention in their policies and programmes.

**Audience** Key officials / policy makers from EU Member States and European Institutions, representatives of civil society organizations, the private sector, and the scientific community.

**Organizers** The conference will be hosted by the German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), the German Federal Foreign Office (AA), and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation (BMZ), in cooperation with the European Commission and Adelphi Consult.

**Follow-up** Results from the debate and recommendations are to be summarized in conclusions by the chair. They will feed into a conference of senior officials/policy makers from the EU Member States on May 24, 2007, in the German Federal Foreign Office. This high level policy dialogue on strengthening environment, development, and conflict prevention in EU policies and programmes will discuss further steps with a long-term perspective.

**Day 1**  
**29 March 2007**

**Session I: Global Trends and European Challenges**

**Rationale:** The opening sessions will look at the crucial interlinkages between natural resource management and conflict prevention and will also address global trends on environment, development, population and conflict prevention. Poverty, displacement and migration are closely linked to the depletion and accessibility of natural resources. In addition, both the nature of violent conflict (increase of internal conflict) and the way we analyse conflicts (causes of conflict sometimes broader than merely ethnicity as in the case of Rwanda and Sudan) have changed. In this panel, relevant global trends of environment, development, population growth, and conflict will be illustrated as well as challenges identified to be addressed at national, European and global level.

In particular, the following questions will be considered:

- (1) Which are the prevailing global trends on environment, development, conflict, and population most relevant for emerging conflicts over natural resources?
- (2) Which are the major policy challenges at global, regional, and national level?
- (3) Which innovative approaches and tools were identified and would offer windows of opportunities for governments, aid agencies, international and regional organisations, and the European Union?

**Session II: European Commission and Member States Priorities**

**Rationale:** The debate on environment, development, and conflict prevention has gained significant dynamic as both EU Members States and the European Union started to systematically look at the interdependencies between natural resources, security and conflict. Two recent projects on institutional approaches by EU Member States and selected international organizations to address environment and conflict have been carried out by Adelphi Consult and the Institute for Environmental Security. They demonstrate the vast array of approaches to this subject by governments. The European Commission commissioned a study on natural resources and conflict prevention, identifying the Commission's potential and providing recommendations for future action. This session will allow an overview on initiatives and programmes in Europe and illustrate prominent policy approaches on this subject.

Emphasis will be laid on the following topics:

- (1) A comparison of national and European perspectives on environmental security concerns.
- (2) Overview to existing strategies and activities currently being implemented within Europe.
- (3) What could and should be achieved within the German and following Presidencies.

**Session III: Parallel Thematic Working Groups, Part I**

**WG A I: Conflict Resources and Extractive Industries**

**Rationale:** Recent armed conflicts revealed the importance of natural resources for financing violent conflict by non-state armed groups. The illicit trade in profitable resources such as diamonds, timber, endangered species and others sometimes feed into transnational criminal activities, fuelling corruption and reducing state revenues. Uncontrolled or illicit exploitation of natural resources is accompanied by highly unsustainable practices leading to massive environmental destruction and livelihood insecurities. Thus, conflict resources also pose significant developmental challenges beyond the key issues of good governance and transparency. Therefore, it is

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necessary to involve all relevant stakeholders in finding solutions, which includes the extractive industries and civil society organisations working on this area.

In particular, the following questions will be considered:

- (1) What are the particular developmental and environmental challenges arising from the illegal exploitation of natural resources?
- (2) What are the merits and flaws of existing resource certification schemes such as the Kimberley Process or the EU's Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) process?
- (3) What general lessons can be learned from existing certification schemes that are adaptable to track other conflict resources (design of such a process, involvement of all stakeholders, ownership, legitimacy etc.)?
- (4) Would a global definition of conflict resources facilitate action by the international community?
- (5) To what extent can civil society and multi-stakeholder initiatives, such as the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) or the Publish What You Pay (PWYP) campaign contribute to building and strengthening regulatory systems for conflict prevention?

### **WG A II: Climate Change, Energy, and Security**

**Rationale:** The Stern Review is the most recent of many studies outlining the enormous impacts of future climate change, the urgency and economic advantages of early and determined action. Melting of glaciers, rising of the sea-level, shifts of climate zones, and the increasingly frequent and intense extreme weather events will have serious economic and social consequences for entire regions. As a result, soil erosion, desertification or increased water shortage can lead to further deterioration of living conditions, escalation of social and political tensions, or even conflicts – as well as significant increases in environmental refugees and uncontrolled migration flows. Fossil fuel reserves are limited and highly concentrated in politically unstable regions. Energy security thus constitutes a political challenge that will continue to increase due to rising demand not only in countries such as China, India and other developing countries, but also in industrialized countries. The current debate on energy security has to be broadened to include devastating impacts, such as the lack of access to modern energy, of fossil fuel price surges, of climate change, on fragile economies and states in the global South. Putting climate change and resource management into the broader context of foreign and security policy will increase policy relevance and help mobilise financial resources as well as to back action plans for the expansion of renewable energies. Due to the cross-cutting nature of adaptation to climate change, it will also open new windows of opportunity for environmental and development policy by indicating broader negotiation arenas to fully cope with the wide-reaching consequences of climate change.

In particular, the following questions will be considered:

- (1) What are the implications of climate change and energy security challenges for foreign, development, and security policy? How can climate change, mitigation-policy and energy security debates be successfully combined to harness synergy effects?
- (2) What would be the perspective of a foreign and security policy that takes climate change seriously? Are there any risks emerging from putting climate change and energy in the traditional foreign policy context?
- (3) What are the implications of the emerging climate and energy security complex for development policies? How do development policies need to be designed to meet the adaptation challenge while overcoming energy poverty?

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- (4) How can the current debate on adaptation strategies and measures better be used to incorporate the security dimension of climate change? What are the contributions of renewable energies and increased energy efficiency for conflict prevention and stability?
- (5) Which are the appropriate international fora and mechanisms to promote a global agenda on climate and energy security? What are the options for creating broader negotiation arenas and issue linkages, stakeholder configuration, windows of opportunity, policy relevance and financial resources?

**WG A III: “Environmental Peacemaking” (Transboundary Environmental Cooperation)**

Rationale: The idea of ‘peace parks’ is based on the assumption, that environmental topics, such as nature protection allow cross-border professional environmental cooperation to continue even in times of tensions and keep diplomatic channels open. Increasing scarcities in water, land, and other resources due to population growth, economic development, and climate change will make co-operative environmental governance even more important. Scarcity of vital resources could even promote stable relations despite conflicting interests, if it is realized, that instability and (violent) conflict would lead to even greater scarcities. Transboundary environmental cooperation could therefore be a viable entry point for confidence building measures,.

In particular, the following questions will be considered:

- (1) What are the potentials and limitations of environmental peacemaking on inter- and intra-state levels?
- (2) At what stage of the conflict cycle should environmental peacemaking be considered? Which are the key actors to be involved on different diplomatic tracks?
- (3) What are suitable candidates or regions where environmental peacemaking could be an appropriate tool? Could it, for instance, be a tool to keep diplomatic channels to so-called ‘rogue states’ open?
- (4) What would be the consequences for environmental diplomacy and development policy, if environmental peacemaking is prioritized?

**Session IV: Parallel Thematic Working Groups, Part II**

Rationale: The structure of Session IV will be further specified as soon as the speakers have been confirmed and the topic of their intervention agreed upon.

**Day 2  
30 March 2006**

**Session V: Presentation and Discussion of Thematic Working Groups’ Results**

Rationale: Results of the debate within each of the three working groups in Session III and IV will be presented by the chairs. They will be assisted by Adelphi staff to draft the summary reports. The presentation will allow participants in the plenary to share the results of the debate across working groups. A short Q&A will follow.

**Session VI: Parallel Policy Working Groups**

**WG B I: Regional Cooperation (emphasis on ENP)**

Rationale: Increasingly, the EU is seeking to integrate bilateral and regional external policies to develop a holistic approach. The prime example for this is the European Neighbourhood Policy, which incorporates a very diverse range of countries in terms of geography, policy, culture, and needs.

In particular, the following questions will be considered:

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- (1) To what extent does the ENP incorporate and recognize environmental security concerns and/or conflict-potential arising from unsustainable natural resource management?
- (2) What tools and options are available to the ENP to cope with links between environment, development, and conflict prevention?
- (3) Where are potential synergy-effects with national and international policies in the area of the ENP? What concrete steps are to be taken to increase coherence between actors?

### **WG B II: Mainstreaming conflict prevention and natural resources in the EU's external relations (RELEX, Trade, Development)**

Rationale: The EU is currently one of the most active global players with regard to development, trade and other foreign policy areas. Due to this fact, it is necessary to develop adequate policies so that latent conflict potential does not exacerbate. It also puts the EU in the unique position to use its influence and power to globally contribute to conflict prevention and mitigation. Given the above outlined, upcoming challenges, it is crucial for the EU to adapt to a changing environment and utilize its potential as an agent for positive global change.

In particular, the following questions will be considered:

- (1) What are the currently available tools for conflict-sensitive programming within the EU, and to what extent do they need to be adapted?
- (2) How can a 'whole-of-government' approach by the EU be achieved to increase inter-service and inter-institutional cooperation? For instance, to what extent do EU agricultural, industrial, fishery and other policy areas need to be adapted with regard to their impact on environmental security and natural resources management?
- (3) In which areas and to which questions are more research required, for instance regarding the development of adequate certification schemes, early warning systems, environmental monitoring, or other important areas?

### **Session VII: Chairperson's Conclusion, Panel Discussion, and Q&A**

Rationale: The Chairperson will summarize the outcome of the debate, building on the results of the working groups in Session III and IV and the summary provided by the chairs of Session VI. Selected representatives of the European Commission and the German government as well as scientific community and civil society will enter into a debate on the outcome and should primarily discuss policy options at the European level.