

Brussels Dialogue on Climate Diplomacy

CLIMATE CHANGE AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Resource Guide 2017 - Consolidated Edition

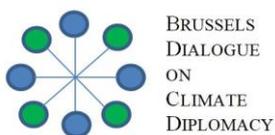
Editor: Ronald A. Kingham

2017

The Climate Change and International Security Resource Guide is produced for the Brussels Dialogue on Climate Diplomacy (BDCD) which consists of a series of informal meetings to exchange information and promote cooperation among European institutions and international organisations active in the nexus between climate change and international, national, human and environmental security.

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CLIMATE CHANGE AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Resource Guide

2017 Consolidated Edition

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PUBLICATIONS



Action on Climate and Security Risks: Review of Progress 2017

December 2017, Janani Vivekananda, adelphi

This report looks at progress made on policy and practical responses to climate-security risks for 2016-2017. Using the independent G7 commissioned report [A New Climate for Peace](#) (2015) as a basis, and building on last year's report, [Towards A Global Resilience Agenda](#) (2016), the 2017 report sets out the key achievements, pitfalls and new challenges facing the foreign policy community working to reduce climate-fragility risks.

The scan of the 2017 horizon shows that climate fragility risks persist and are worsening. The world is facing more climatic extremes, a greater number of increasingly internationalised conflicts, the highest levels of hunger and displacement since World War II, and an increasingly volatile geopolitical landscape.

DOWNLOAD: <https://www.planetarysecurityinitiative.org/sites/default/files/2017-12/action-on-climate-and-security-risks.pdf.pagespeed.ce.d9--K471N1.pdf>

Recommended Sources on Climate Diplomacy and Security

American Security Project / Climate Security
A New Climate for Peace
Center for Climate and Energy Solutions
Climate Diplomacy
Climate Home News
E3G / Climate Diplomacy
Institute for Planetary Security
New Security Beat
Planetary Security Initiative
The Center for Climate & Security

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Climate Change, Inequality and Conflict: Approaches to strengthen Mali's Climate Change Adaptation

December 2017, Basak Kalkavan, Planetary Security Initiative



This policy brief argues structural inequalities and conflict-sensitivity need to be mainstreamed into climate adaptation measures based on the case-study of Mali. While there are many adaptation projects further assessment is needed to promote inclusion and prevent violence.

In developing effective climate change adaptation measures, two important, yet often overlooked, factors need to be incorporated into the framework: structural inequality and conflict-sensitive approach. Especially in the case of Mali, adaptation and development policies have often not been inclusive. Additionally, there is a growing need to assess the potential negative implications of climate change adaptation measures on conflict onset. Despite several climate adaptation projects being implemented on the local level, the interaction between these and the ongoing clashes among different producer groups needs further assessment as

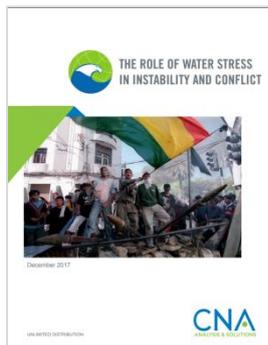
violent clashes continue to erupt.

In order to reduce this vulnerability, minimize violent clashes among different land users, and increase the adaptive capacity of different groups, the Malian government should consider promoting ethnic heterogeneity, endorsing a pastoral lifestyle, reinforcing a positive synergy between different groups, creating a unified framework for resource management, and promoting good governance

DOWNLOAD: https://www.planetarysecurityinitiative.org/sites/default/files/2017-12/PB_Climate,P20change,P20inequality,P20and,P20conflict.pdf.pagespeed.ce.tlB8yADvMX.pdf

The Role of Water Stress in Instability and Conflict

December 2017, Military Advisory Board, CNA



The authors - senior military officers – “see water stress—the lack of adequate fresh water—as a growing factor in the world’s hot spots and conflict areas, many of vital interest to the United States. Our earlier reports have identified a nexus among climate, water, energy, and U.S. national security. We have previously shown how emerging resource scarcity across this nexus can be a threat multiplier and an accelerant of instability. With escalating global population and the impact of a changing climate, we see the challenges of water stress rising with time. It is in this context that we now seek to provide a better understanding of the mechanisms through which water factors into violence and conflict”.

DOWNLOAD: https://www.cna.org/CNA_files/PDF/CRM-2017-U-016532-Final.pdf

The Future of Europe and the Future of Climate Action: Reflections and Scenarios for the EU27

17 November 2017, Jonathan Gaventa and Manon Dufour, E3G / Martin Nesbit and Kamila Paquel, IEEP / Radostina Primova, HBS EU



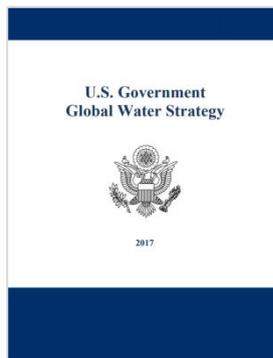
The European Union is at a reflection point. Following a tumultuous decade of repeated crises, from the financial downturn to the Brexit vote, European leaders and the European Commission have kicked off a debate on the Future of Europe. This will consider the Union’s future focus, governance and operation. It should be a moment for innovation for climate governance, as well as for EU governance more broadly.

The report concludes that climate action is a key test: if the direction of travel agreed in the Future of Europe process does not work for Europe’s energy and climate transition, it will have failed to meet Europe’s biggest societal challenge. Europe’s security and prosperity depends on a stable climate, successful adaptation and an orderly transition to a decarbonised economy. Climate policy can help to create a framing narrative for a renewed EU with an unambiguous, publicly supported sense of purpose.

DOWNLOAD: <https://ieep.eu/publications/the-future-of-europe-and-the-future-of-climate-action-reflections-and-scenarios-for-the-eu27>

U.S. Global Water Strategy

15 November 2017, U.S. State Department



Safe water and sanitation are fundamental to human health, economic development, peace and security. Globally, three in ten people lack safe drinking water in their homes, and six in ten people lack safe sanitation. Water scarcity is forecasted to intensify in the years and decades ahead. A predicted two-thirds of the world's population will live in water-stressed conditions by 2025. Many nations have no agreements or frameworks in place to share their water resources. These challenges have the potential to spread disease, undermine economic development, exacerbate migration pressures, increase civil unrest, reduce trade and export opportunities, and prevent countries from advancing policies and programs important to the United States.

Press Release and Download Links: <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2017/11/275611.htm>

REVIEW: Sherri Goodman, Wilson Center Senior Fellow, wrote on [New Security Beat](#): The U.S. Global Water Strategy sets forth a bold vision for a “water-secure world,” recognizing that sustainable supplies of water are deeply connected to our national security. It clearly reflects the importance of hydrodiplomacy: One of its strategic objectives is to “reduce conflict by promoting cooperation on shared waters,” noting that “countries that cooperate on water are less likely to go to war.” Congress should take the next step in advancing the Global Water Strategy by supporting the creation of a Center for Water Conflict Prevention. Congress should also support the recommendation to invest in sustainable infrastructure and services, and promote science, technology, and innovation, all of which are key to advancing global water security.

Climate-migration-security: Making the most of a contested relationship

November 2017, Louise van Schaik and Tammo Bakker, Planetary Security Initiative



This policy brief considers the interlinkages between climate change, migration and security. It argues that despite the lack of scientific consensus the potential consequences are too large to ignore and no-regret policy options should be adopted.

Furthermore it discusses the relationship between climate change, migration and security. This relationship is academically contested. Research is inconclusive on key issues, such as how many migrants may come to Europe due to climate change. However, given the political urgency and potential scale of the issue, it is not possible to wait for academic consensus to emerge.

The relationship between youth unemployment, irregular migration and instability in the context of climate change is politically recognised as a likely risk with high impact, even though contemporary policies still focus primarily on responses to forced or irregular migration. Currently an opportunity exists to

make the most of available insights and invest wisely in countries of origin.

Several no-regret policy options could be envisaged that boost (youth) employment opportunities, restore degraded lands and ecosystems, strengthen food, water and energy security and reduce inequalities between groups in society. These problems are at the core of many conflicts and contribute to instability, especially in cases of poor governance. Addressing them in an integrated way is therefore of the utmost importance to securing a sustainable future.

SOURCE: <https://www.planetarysecurityinitiative.org/news/climate-migration-security-making-most-contested-relationship>

DOWNLOAD: https://www.planetarysecurityinitiative.org/sites/default/files/2017-11/PB_Climate-migration-security.pdf

Intergovernmental Organizations and Climate Security: Advancing the Research Agenda

13 October 2017, LISA M. DELLMUTH, MARIA-THERESE GUSTAFSSON, NIKLAS BREMBERG, MALIN MOBJÖRK, Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Climate change



Climate-related security challenges are transnational in character, leading states to increasingly rely on intergovernmental organizations (IGOs)—such as the European Union and the North-Atlantic Treaty Organization—for policy solutions. While climate security issues do not typically fit comfortably within the mandates of existing IGOs, recent decades have seen increasing efforts by IGOs to link climate change and security. This article reviews existing studies on IGO responses to climate security challenges. It draws together research from several bodies of literature spanning political science, international relations, and environmental social science, identifying an emerging field of research revolving around IGOs and climate security. We observe significant advancement in this young field, with scholars extending and enriching our understanding of how and why IGOs address climate security challenges. Yet we still know little about the conditions under which IGOs respond to climate security challenges and when they do so effectively. This article discusses the main gaps in current work and makes some suggestions about how these gaps may be usefully addressed in future research. A better understanding of the conditions under which IGOs respond (effectively) to climate security challenges would contribute to broader debates on climate security, institutional change, and effectiveness in international relations and environmental social science, and may facilitate crafting effective global solutions to society's most intractable climate security challenges.

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SOURCE: <http://wires.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WiresArticle/wisId-WCC496.html>

Planetary Security and Anticipatory Governance: Climate Change and Other Apex Challenges

October 2017, Leon Fuerth, Planetary Security Initiative



In this policy brief Leon Fuerth argues a new type of complex problems, climate change being the apex example, needs a new type of governance that anticipates for future threats.

We are experiencing major, emergent challenges to planetary security that are complex, fast-moving and highly disruptive. Climate change is a primary example of such a challenge, but others -- for the most part unintended consequences of our high-tech civilization -- are on the horizon. Leon Fuerth makes the case that existing, legacy-based systems of governance are inadequate for managing what is coming. He argues that we need to develop anticipatory forms of governance, which would involve: integrating foresight analysis and policy making; networking management of policies designed for complex issues; and instituting feed-back systems for real-time assessment of the effectiveness of policies that are in play. He maintains that the bigger challenge is not the design of such systems, but the political will to establish them, especially at the global level. Fuerth suggests that although national governments will continue to be primary responders to this new class of challenges, the most serious deficiency exists at the global level, and concludes that this is a problem well suited for a process that could be inspired by the UN Secretary General.

governments will continue to be primary responders to this new class of challenges, the most serious deficiency exists at the global level, and concludes that this is a problem well suited for a process that could be inspired by the UN Secretary General.

SOURCE: <https://www.planetarysecurityinitiative.org/news/planetary-security-and-anticipatory-governance>

DOWNLOAD: https://www.planetarysecurityinitiative.org/sites/default/files/2017-10/PB_Planetary_Security_and_Anticipatory_Governance_1eproof,P20,P283,P29.pdf.pagespeed.ce.ENIPLmFjJ.pdf

Video: Addressing Climate Change and Inequality

Elina Bardram, Head of Unit, International and Inter-Institutional Relations, DG Climate Action, European Commission

Climate change is a global issue, but it undoubtedly affects some more than others. The poorest populations are worst affected by droughts, floods and failed harvests. They are also least responsible for the carbon emissions which cause them. Without ambitious policies to tackle inequality and climate change together, rising temperatures could undo decades of development work.

VIDEO: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IXMvUiBqj1s>

Read the full article “Climate change could torpedo development work”:

<https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/article/climate-change-could-torpedo-development-work#sthash.KsJC7scu.dpuf>

**Facing an Unpredictable Threat: Is NATO Ideally Placed to Manage Climate Change as a Non-Traditional Threat Multiplier?**

Amar Causevic, Connections QJ, 16, no.2 (2017): 59-80



This paper examines NATO’s perception of climate change as a non-traditional threat multiplier and analyzes how different schools of international relations theory define climate change and address this security concern. In addition, the article provides insights into how climate change-induced threats affect the socio-economic and political security of nation states and what that means for NATO adding that the Alliance will have to do more to integrate these concerns because current efforts are not sufficient to meet future security challenges stimulated by increase in the

average global temperature.

The paper concludes that NATO has recognised the importance of climate change as a security threat, but that NATO’s organizational mechanisms and divisions that are responsible for coping with climate change impacts are still evolving. This process faces new challenges, especially after the election of the U.S. President Donald Trump, who is highly skeptical regarding the issue of climate change. One must note, however, that in March 2017 U.S. Secretary of Defense James Mattis stated that climate change is already impacting operations of the U.S. armed forces and that combatant commands should incorporate these risks into their planning.

SOURCE: http://connections-qj.org/article/facing-unpredictable-threat-nato-ideally-placed-manage-climate-change-non-traditional-threat?lipi=urn%3Aurn%3Apage%3Ad_flagship3_profile_view_base%3B9MzI%2F%2BFTR9uJ7WKe%2F02VzA%3D%3D

Related Article:

NATO and Climate Change: The Need for a More Coherent Approach

<https://worldview.stratfor.com/article/nato-and-climate-change-need-more-coherent-approach>

Military Planning for the Climate Century

19 October 2017, Mark Nevitt, Just Security



“Climate change has been described as the world’s greatest environmental threat. But it is also increasingly understood as a national security threat, that serves as both a “threat multiplier,” and “catalyst for conflict.” Plus, its national security effects are multidimensional, without geographic or spatial limitations. ... In light of climate change’s sheer complexity, how should the world’s militaries begin to prepare for its national security threats?”

SOURCE:

<https://www.justsecurity.org/46109/planning-climate-century-u-s-worlds-militaries/>

The climate crisis as fuel for conflict exacerbation

August 2017, Annalena Baerbock, Omid Nouripour, Jürgen Trittin, Bärbel Höhn



The successful conclusion of the Paris Climate Change Conference and the goal, agreed under international law, of limiting global warming to significantly less than 2 degrees Celsius, gave hope that we may yet be able to prevent climate catastrophe. Yet with the election of Donald Trump as President of the United States and his announcement to back out of the Paris Climate Agreement, unfettered fossil-fuelled capitalism appears to be celebrating a comeback.

Photo: Darfur refugee camp in Chad. By Mark Knobil from Pittsburgh, USA (Camp) [CC BY 2.0], via [Wikimedia Commons](#)

German version: Die Klimakrise als Konfliktverschärfer

<http://www.annalena-baerbock.de/die-klimakrise-als-konfliktverschaefer/>

English version: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1BjRYgHaJ6Yno8O0dcPJEbuo466YpITh1>

U.S. Global Change Research Program – Climate Science Special Report (CSSR)

28 June 2017



A final draft report by scientists from 13 federal agencies concludes that Americans are feeling the effects of climate change right now. The report was completed this year and is part of the National Climate Assessment, which is congressionally mandated every four years.

DOWNLOAD Draft of the Climate Change Report 28 June 2017:

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/08/07/climate/document-Draft-of-the-Climate-Science-Special-Report.html>

Related Articles:

Scientists Fear Trump Will Dismiss Blunt Climate Report

7 August 2017, Lisa Friedman, *The New York Times*

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/07/climate/climate-change-drastic-warming-trump.html>

Fearful Trump will intervene, government scientists leak climate change study to the media

8 August 2017, Ben Wolfgang, *The Washington Times*

http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/aug/8/government-scientists-leak-climate-change-study-to/?utm_source=RSS&utm_medium=RSS

Lawmakers showing bipartisanship in D.C.

12 August 2017, *Watertown Daily Times*

Rep. Scott Perry, R-Pa., ... introduced an amendment to strike all attention to climate change from the [National Defense Authorization Act](#). ... The Perry Amendment failed ... A team of 24 Democrats and 24 Republicans, who call themselves the [Climate Solutions Caucus](#)*, reached out to colleagues on both sides of the aisle. Republican caucus members spoke in favor of taking responsibility for climate change.

<http://www.watertowndailytimes.com/opinion/lawmakers-showing-bipartisanship-in-dc-20170812>

*The **Climate Solutions Caucus** is a bipartisan group in the US House of Representatives which will explore policy options that address the impacts, causes, and challenges of our changing climate. The caucus was founded in February of 2016 by two south-Florida representatives Rep. Carlos Curbelo (R-FL) and Rep. Ted Deutch (D-FL) who will serve as co-chairs of the caucus.

<https://citizensclimatelobby.org/climate-solutions-caucus/>

Disaster Alley: Climate Change Conflict & Risk

June 2017, Ian Dunlop & David Spraat, Foreword by Sherri Goodman, Breakthrough – National Centre for Climate Restoration, Melbourne, Australia



The report forecasts climate change could potentially displace tens of millions from swamped cities, drive fragile states to failure, cause intractable political instability, and spark military conflict.

DOWNLOAD:

https://uploads.guim.co.uk/2017/06/20/ACFrOgDkCYAvFeJ9d4YxhOIZiOHnKTONWbkhIY_dX8kl_O3ChbGcEmWsbUNrOnJUwE4SNWFvzB7RM6w4GsF0pDwdnRElip-k5J-03TQc0Op4FWrsNcZpjXAuy7NNJ_Y=.pdf

Australia warned it has radically underestimated climate change security threat

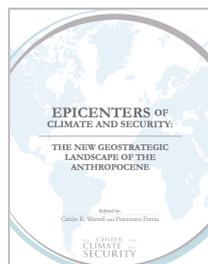
20 June 2017, Ben Doherty, *The Guardian*

Senate inquiry starts as report into political, military and humanitarian risks of climate change across Asia Pacific released.

FULL STORY: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/jun/21/australia-warned-it-has-radically-underestimated-climate-change-security-threat>

Epicenters of Climate and Security

9 June 2017, *The Center for Climate and Security*



Security experts identify 12 key climatic risks to international security that may shape the geostrategic landscape of the 21st century. In the wake of extraordinary upheaval in the international effort to address climate change, the report presents a compelling case for why tackling these climate and security “epicenters” – major categories of climate-driven risks to international security – should be a top priority for governments and institutions around the world. The report also outlines the key tools for managing systemic risks that should be included in every climate security practitioner’s and policy-maker’s toolbox.

SOURCE: <https://climateandsecurity.org/epicenters/>

Video: Hill Briefing on Climate Change and the U.S. Military’s Mission

5 June 2017



On June 5, The Center for Climate and Security (CCS), the Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) and the Henry M. Jackson Foundation (HMJ) hosted a briefing on Capitol Hill exploring climate change risks to U.S. national security – particularly, the effect on Department of Defense (DoD) force readiness, missions and infrastructure.

SOURCE: <https://climateandsecurity.org/2017/06/07/video-hill-briefing-on-climate-change-and-the-u-s-militarys-mission/>

The Alliance in a Changing Climate: Bolstering the NATO Mission through Climate Preparedness

22 May 2017, Shiloh Fetzek, Center for Climate and Security (CCS)

In a new report, the Center for Climate and Security (CCS), a policy institute with an Advisory Board of retired senior military officers and national security experts, applauds NATO’s attention to climate change while offering recommendations for how the Alliance can more thoroughly address climate-related risks to the NATO mission. The report was released ahead of the North Atlantic Council meeting on 24-25 May 2017. The report looks at the impact of climate change on NATO’s operating environment: *“Climate change will adversely affect the future security environment and intersect with core NATO activities. It has the potential to change the context in which NATO operates dramatically, and will create risks that increase in both likelihood and severity. With so much potential for disruption, climate change should be treated as a strategic concern for the Alliance – a threat multiplier of existing risks to NATO, including on its eastern and southern borders.”*

FULL STORY: <https://climateandsecurity.org/2017/05/22/nato-encouraged-to-address-climate-risks-to-its-mission-in-new-report/>

Climate Change and the UN Security Council: Bully Pulpit or Bull in a China Shop?

2 May 2017, *Massachusetts Institute of Technology*



Although claims about climate/conflict links remain contested, concerns that climate change will affect peace and security have gained traction in academic, activist, and policy circles. One set of pressures for responsive action has centered on the UN Security Council, which has held several often-contentious debates on the topic. Whether the Council should address climate change is a highly politicized question, tied to controversies about the Council's mandate, membership reform, and the appropriate division of labor in the UN system. Lost in this political debate has been a more fundamental question—what exactly could the Council do?

Ken Conca, Joe Thwaites, and Goueon Lee article in *Global Environmental Politics* analyses six different proposals for what actions the UN Security Council could take on climate change.

SOURCE: http://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/abs/10.1162/GLEP_a_00398

Ocean Atlas: Facts and Figures about Our Relationship with the Ocean

May 2017, *Heinrich Boell Foundation and the University of Kiel's Future Ocean Cluster of Excellence*



The ocean covers more than two-thirds of our planet's surface. It is rich in resources and provides us with food, energy, and minerals. Oceans are important transportation routes and crucial for the stability of our climate and the weather. But due to overfishing, the loss of biodiversity, and ocean pollution, the future of this unique ecosystem faces a grave threat today.

This is where the atlas comes into play. It illustrates the important role played by the ocean and its ecosystems – not only for people living on the coasts but for all of us. It aims to give a current insight of the state and the threat of the seas, that are our livelihoods. Therefore we hope to stimulate a broader social and political discussion about the meaning of the ocean as an important system and the possibilities for protecting it.

SOURCE: <https://www.boell.de/en/oceanatlas>

Exploring the potential for transformational change in the Horn of Africa

May 2017, *Jenny Clover and Polly Ericksen, Planetary Security Initiative*



Horn of Africa is incredibly dynamic and one of the world's most food-insecure areas, drought being a direct trigger of recent food insecurity crises. In a region that is one of the most conflict-prone regions in Africa, the humanitarian impact is severe on an already vulnerable part of Africa. In turn the consequences of the drought in such a context are costly and potentially explosive: food and nutrition security are both a cause and consequence of conflict and instability. Building resilience to shocks is even more important in conflict-affected countries.

Most of the Horn of Africa may be classified as arid and semi-arid and livestock production is the economic mainstay of these environments. Pastoral communities have long adapted to harsh climatic conditions but they are now facing endemic insecurity with increasing climate variability, more frequent occurrence and intensity of droughts and competition for shrinking pasture and water resources.

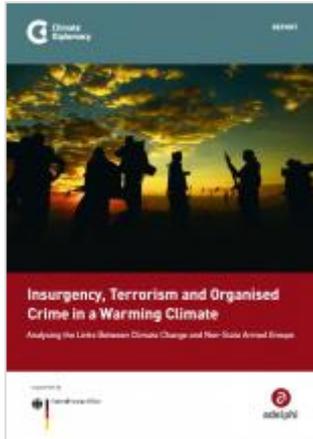
Building on the growing momentum for change that addresses the underlying causes of vulnerability, this brief calls for recognition that livestock is a powerful engine and a key driver for sustainable agriculture, for poverty reduction and the achievement of food security and nutrition. It highlights the importance of longer-term solutions that keep the enhancement of the adaptive capacities of communities at the core of the responses and which address the relationship between issues that have the potential to drive conflict or peaceful cooperation.

SOURCE: <https://www.planetarysecurityinitiative.org/news/exploring-potential-transformational-change-horn-africa>

DOWNLOAD: https://www.planetarysecurityinitiative.org/sites/default/files/2017-05/PB_Horn_of_Africa.pdf

Insurgency, Terrorism and Organised Crime in a Warming Climate - A Summary

20 April 2017, Lukas Rüttinger, adelphi / Climate Diplomacy



Over the past ten years, both our understanding and awareness of the links between climate change and security have increased tremendously. Today the UN, the EU, the G7 and an increasing number of states have classified climate change as a threat to global and/or national security. However, the links between climate change, conflict and fragility are not simple and linear. The increasing impacts of climate change do not automatically lead to more fragility and conflict. Rather, climate change acts as a threat multiplier. It interacts and converges with other existing risks and pressures in a given context and can increase the likelihood of fragility or violent conflict.

Taking the state of play on the links between climate change and fragility as a starting point, this report addresses the question of how the impacts of climate change are a contributing factor in the rise and growth of non-state armed groups. Four case studies that span the whole spectrum of non-state armed groups and patterns of violence, conflict and fragility explore in depth the specific role non-state armed groups play in the complex dynamics of climate change and fragility and try to identify how climate change acts as a risks multiplier in regards to non-state armed groups.

SOURCE / DOWNLOAD: <https://www.climate-diplomacy.org/publications/insurgency-terrorism-and-organised-crime-warming-climate>

Water, climate and conflict: security risks on the increase?

April 2017, Willem Ligtoet, Joost Knoop, Sophie de Bruin, Detlef van Vuuren, Hans Visser, Karen, Ruben Dahm and Louise van Schaik, Deltares, PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, Clingendael Institute, Planetary Security Initiative



Water plays a critical role in development strategies at global, regional, national and local levels. Many aspects of water can threaten human security, for example floods from rivers or the sea as well as water pollution, but water scarcity is regarded as the most important water issue in relation to political tension and conflict.

In situations where water has become scarce, competition over water (and the remaining fertile land) has the potential to spark tensions between users at levels ranging from local communities up to international river basins. Water and climate conditions in the world are expected to change dramatically due to population growth, further economic development and climate change. It is projected that these developments will lead to increased water stress affecting conflict risks at local, national and river-basin levels.

Acknowledging the complexity of the interaction between the biophysical environment, human security and political conflict, this briefing note focuses on their possible interrelationships, considering also future climate change and socioeconomic developments.

SOURCE: <https://www.planetarysecurityinitiative.org/news/water-climate-and-conflict-security-risks-increase>

DOWNLOAD: https://www.planetarysecurityinitiative.org/sites/default/files/2017-05/Briefing_Note_PSI_Water_climate_and_conflict.pdf

Enhancing regional cooperation in the MENA through the Water-Energy-Food Security Nexus

April 2017, Rana El Hajj, Nadim Farajalla, Tessa Terpstra and Anders Jägerskog, Planetary Security Initiative / Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs, American University of Beirut



The Middle East North Africa (MENA) region is one of many contradictions and extremes in terms of natural resources, socioeconomic contexts, level of development and per capita income. The region, which is mostly rich in conventional energy resources such as oil and gas, is one of the most water scarce and food import dependent regions in the world. The richness and scarcity are not pervasive but come with large interregional variations.

Existing insecurities in water, energy and food in the region have been linked to some of the conflicts in the region acting as a threat multiplier as well as pressure points. One recent example is the devastating ongoing war in Syria which started as the result of complex interrelated sociopolitical and economic factors including, as well as challenges associated with climate variability and changes in the availability of freshwater. These insecurities are expected to be further intensified with the projected impacts of climate change, increase in population growth, economic growth, increase in urbanization rate and the ongoing security conflicts in

the region.

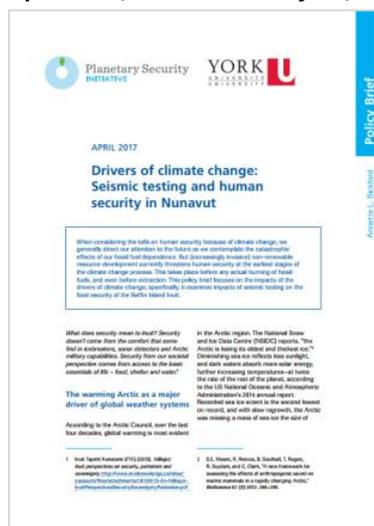
This policy brief argues that many countries in the region could benefit from enhanced cooperation to deal with challenges in the WEF security nexus approach and provides recommendations.

SOURCE: <https://www.planetarysecurityinitiative.org/news/enhancing-regional-cooperation-mena-through-water-energy-food-security-nexus>

DOWNLOAD: https://www.planetarysecurityinitiative.org/sites/default/files/2017-06/PB_PSI_MENA.pdf.pagespeed.ce.nKqus4fudj.pdf

Drivers of climate change: Seismic testing and human security in Nunavut

April 2017, Annette L. Bickford, York University / Planetary Security Initiative



When considering the tolls on human security because of climate change, we generally direct our attention to the future as we contemplate the catastrophic effects of our fossil fuel combustion. But non-renewable resource “development” currently threatens human security at the earliest stages of the climate change process, before extraction and combustion.

Impacts of climate change are articulated through social relations. This policy brief considers seismic testing on the human security of the Baffin Island Inuit with the objective of exploring social pathways of global warming. This policy brief also serves as an accompaniment to the Arctic Working Group sessions (WG1) during the Planetary Security Conference 2016, co-organised by York University and co-sponsored by The Embassy of Canada to the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

SOURCE: <https://www.planetarysecurityinitiative.org/news/drivers-climate-change>

DOWNLOAD: https://www.planetarysecurityinitiative.org/sites/default/files/2017-05/PB_Drivers_of_climate_change.pdf.pagespeed.ce.y-Ma56Bl-t.pdf

Why and how to use foresight tools to manage climate security risks

April 2017, Shiloh Fetzek, Bessma Mourad, Kirsty Lewis and Chad Briggs, *The Center for Climate & Security / Planetary Security Initiative*



Foresight tools employ skills that we all use intuitively – thinking through how situations might evolve or turn out, working with limited information, feeling for the limits of our knowledge and formulating approaches that seem optimal given what we know and can reasonably or plausibly speculate. By providing structures that support these kinds of approaches, foresight tools offer a structured way of asking, “What if?”, and can support strategies to manage systemic risk.

Assessing climate security risks can be challenging, as there are significant and multi-faceted uncertainties involved. For practitioners who are looking for conceptual approaches to understanding and evaluating such risks, foresight tools offer a practical toolset for formulating robust responses, even in the context of significant uncertainty. This briefing note will discuss three related foresight tools: scenario building, gaming and anticipatory governance. These tools are useful, because they supplant analysis approaches that look for the most likely outcome in favour of devising

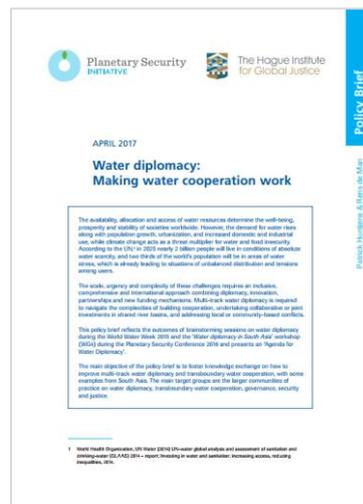
strategies that are robust across a range of plausible outcomes.

SOURCE: <https://www.planetarysecurityinitiative.org/news/why-and-how-use-foresight-tools-manage-climate-security-risks>

DOWNLOAD: https://www.planetarysecurityinitiative.org/sites/default/files/2017-04/PB_Why_and_how_to_use_foresight_tools.pdf.pagespeed.ce.8LZUyRqu8Y.pdf

Water Diplomacy: Making water cooperation work

April 2017, Patrick Huntjens and Rens de Man, *The Hague Institute for Global Justice / Planetary Security Initiative*



The availability, allocation and access of water resources determine the well-being, prosperity and stability of societies worldwide. However, the demand for water rises along with population growth, urbanisation, and increased domestic and industrial use, while climate change acts as a threat multiplier for water and food insecurity. In many instances a sustainable and equitable management of shared resources is however lacking.

The scale, urgency and complexity of these challenges requires an inclusive, comprehensive and international approach combining diplomacy, innovation, partnerships and new funding mechanisms. Multi-track water diplomacy is required to navigate the complexities of building cooperation, undertaking collaborative or joint investments in shared river basins, and addressing local or community-based conflicts.

This policy brief reflects the outcomes of brainstorming sessions on water diplomacy during the World Water Week 2015 and the ‘Water diplomacy in

South Asia’ workshop (WG4) during the Planetary Security Conference 2016 and presents an ‘Agenda for Water Diplomacy’. Its main objective is to foster knowledge exchange on how to improve multi-track water diplomacy and transboundary water cooperation, with some examples from South Asia.

SOURCE: <https://www.planetarysecurityinitiative.org/news/water-diplomacy-making-water-cooperation-work>

DOWNLOAD: https://www.planetarysecurityinitiative.org/sites/default/files/2017-04/PB_Water_Diplomacy_WG_4.pdf.pagespeed.ce.dy4jVGe4NX.pdf

Food Security: Strengthening resilience to climate-fragility risks

April 2017, Benjamin and Johannes Ackva, and Rued Ruben, adelphi / Wageningen University & Research / Planetary Security Initiative



Violent conflict and global environmental changes endanger the progress that many countries have made in improving food security, often with the support of the international community. Access to sufficient and healthy food is crucial to human security and welfare. It also has important repercussions for societal, state and international security. Whereas the exact role of food insecurity in driving unrest and other forms of conflict remains contested, the stunted development and risks of disaster and displacement – as well as the impacts of food insecurity on governments’ legitimacy – constitute plausible security risks that a preventive foreign policy needs to address. Alleviating these risks requires intensified efforts to improve access, availability, stability and utilization of food and to shift towards managing risks rather than exclusive reliance on post-hoc responses to disasters and crises.

Ensuring global food security will entail using fewer natural resources to produce both more and better quality food while increasing environmental sustainability. This challenge is compounded by the need to address the geographic and social distribution of food security threats. The international community can play a role in helping to get the balance between inevitable trade-offs right. This policy brief map out specific risks that foreign policy-makers need to be aware of.

Even if primary responsibility lies with national governments, the international community has a residual responsibility – and, if rejecting that responsibility, will have to cope with the consequences of inaction such as large-scale suffering and potential destabilization. Preventing food insecurity from turning into an issue of international peace and security is hence not only about altruism, but enlightened self-interest.

SOURCE: <https://www.planetarysecurityinitiative.org/news/food-security-strengthening-resilience-climate-fragility-risks>

DOWNLOAD: https://www.planetarysecurityinitiative.org/sites/default/files/2017-05/PB_Food_Security.pdf

Translating Climate Security Policy into Practice

March 2017, Malin Mobjörk and Dan Smith, SIPRIL / Planetary Security Initiative



The policy brief discusses the multi-faceted character of climate risks and the challenges that occur when this is addressed in practice.

The risks caused by climate change can differ per stakeholder and geographical location and have knock-on effects on food and water security inter alia. This has the potential to increase political tensions and can lead to instability, conflicts and eventually armed conflict. The brief argues that addressing the multi-faceted character of climate risk means policies and development programmes must bring together different disciplines, time horizons and scales.

However, such an integration is complex and in need of a narrative and concepts that span the different boundaries and disciplines. This allows climate risks to be framed as a safety concern and will help to secure more financial instruments which match the integration process. In addition, risk assessment teams and policy makers are learning to work and think across disciplines and engage with different aspects of climate risks. Policies should be subject to stress tests to prepare and identify possible consequences of new situations of insecurity. Once a policy is implemented, monitoring is important to assess its impact in practice.

SOURCE: <https://www.planetarysecurityinitiative.org/news/translating-climate-security-policy-practice-policy-brief>

DOWNLOAD: https://www.planetarysecurityinitiative.org/sites/default/files/2017-03/PB_Translating%20Climate%20Security%20Policy%20into%20Practice.pdf

NATO Report on Food and Water Security in the MENA Region

March 2017, NATO Parliamentary Assembly



The NATO Parliamentary Assemblies' Science and Technology Committee drafted a new report on Food and Water Security in the Middle East and North Africa. The report underlines that pressures on natural resources and connected impacts on food production are factors that contribute to the (in-) security of the MENA region.

SOURCE: <https://www.nato-pa.int/document/2017-176-stc-17-e-food-and-water-security-mena-martens-report>

The EU and Climate Security

January 2017, Taylor Dimsdale, E3G & Gerald Stang, European Union Institute for Security Studies / Planetary Security Initiative



What does a warmer world mean for European security? This policy brief first provides an overview of some key challenges facing European policy makers as they seek to take action against climate risks. It then analyses some of the programmes and mechanisms already in place across the Union. Finally, it sets out some practical recommendations on how European institutions can respond to the global security risks of a changing climate.

SOURCE: <https://www.e3g.org/library/the-eu-and-climate-security> and <https://www.planetarysecurityinitiative.org/news/eu-and-climate-security-policy-brief>

DOWNLOAD: https://www.planetarysecurityinitiative.org/sites/default/files/2017-03/PB_The_P20EU_Climate_Security.pdf.pagespeed.ce.C75k3WI-1K.pdf

The Atlas of Environmental Migration

2017, Dina Ionesco, Daria Mokhnacheva, François Gemenne, IOM



As climate change and extreme weather events increasingly threaten traditional landscapes and livelihoods of entire communities the need to study its impact on human migration and population displacement has never been greater.

The Atlas of Environmental Migration is the first illustrated publication mapping this complex phenomenon. It clarifies terminology and concepts, draws a typology of migration related to environment and climate change, describes the multiple factors at play, explains the challenges, and highlights the opportunities related to this phenomenon. Through elaborate maps, diagrams, illustrations, case studies from all over the world based on the most updated

international research findings, the Atlas guides the reader from the roots of environmental migration through to governance. **Also available in French**

SOURCE: <http://www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/atlas-environmental-migration>

2016 Publications

Towards A Global Resilience Agenda - Action on Climate Fragility Risks

December 2016, Main authors: Malin Mobjörk, Dan Smith, and Lukas Rüttinger, adelphi / SIPRI / Clingendael Institute / Planetary Security Initiative



This report takes stock of key developments since the publishing of the independent report [A New Climate for Peace](#) commissioned by G7 members. It provides a concise risk horizon scan, and an overview and assessment of key policy developments in 2015 and 2016 that are of relevance for addressing climate-fragility risks and fostering the global resilience agenda. Developments in 2015 and 2016 confirm the risk assessment of A New Climate For Peace. The intersection of accelerating impacts of climate change, the continuing increase in numbers of armed conflicts and deepening geopolitical rivalries create a deeply unsettling new normal. At the same time the international community has shown that it can act

together to address global problems. The Agenda 2030, the Paris Agreement, the World Humanitarian Summit, and Habitat III all show that there are efforts to find a viable change strategy. This is mirrored by activities of the G7, the UN, the African Union and the European Union.

SOURCE: <https://www.planetarysecurityinitiative.org/news/towards-global-resilience-agenda-action-climate-fragility-risks>

DOWNLOAD: https://www.clingendael.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/towards_a_global_resilience_agenda.pdf

The economics of planetary security: Climate change as an economic conflict factor

November 2016, Michel Rademaker, Karlijn Jans, Christopher Frattina della Frattina & Hannes Rööfs (The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies) / Stephan Slingerland, Alexander Borum & Louise van Schaik (Netherlands Institute for International Relations Clingendael), Netherlands Institute of International Relations 'Clingendael' /The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies



A new [monitor](#) has for the first time modelled the economic impact of climate change together with conflict risk with startling results.

The monitor and accompanying report, the Economics of Planetary Security: Climate Change as an Economic Conflict Factor, was produced by The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies (HCSS) and Clingendael Institute as a key input to the Planetary Security Initiative conference, taking place in The Hague, the Netherlands on December 5 and 6 supported by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The monitor is innovative in its inclusion of security risks related to the transition to a low carbon economy, a topic of increasing concern for financial investors and conflict analysts, according to Louise van Schaik of the Clingendael Institute, a co-author of the report and Project Manager of the Planetary Security Initiative.

Michel Rademaker, Deputy Director of HCSS, said the monitor assessed Conflict Vulnerability, Climate Change Vulnerability, Low Carbon Risk and Economic Resilience to produce an aggregate resilience indicator. Ultimately, this monitor shows how resilience to the above vulnerabilities could be bolstered. With the report, the institutions sought to uncover what it is that makes some countries resilient and to ask whether we can introduce these factors to other countries to help protect people from worsening impacts.

SOURCE: <https://www.planetarysecurityinitiative.org/news/economics-planetary-security>

DOWNLOAD: https://www.clingendael.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/economics_of_planetary_security.pdf

United we stand: Reforming the United Nations to reduce climate risk

6 July 2016, Camilla Born & Nick Mabey, E3G



By the end of 2015, the global consensus for acting on climate change had transformed. The 2015 mandate has implications for each and every UN institution, country, sector and community.

SOURCE: <https://www.e3g.org/library/united-we-stand-reforming-the-un-to-reduce-climate-risk>

Climate Change in an EU Security Context: The Role of the European External Action Service

June 2016, Hannes Sonnsjö & Niklas Bremberg, Stockholm University

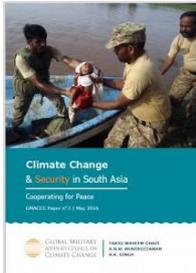


The main goal of the project was to assist and inform policy making on security risks posed by climate change, with the focus on two specific areas: How policy organisations such as development and defence actors frame and integrate climate security risks in their work; and how and under what circumstances climate change increases the risk of violent conflict.

DOWNLOAD:

http://www.statsvet.su.se/polopoly_fs/1.295524.1473162984!/menu/standard/file/Sonnsio%CC%88%20%26%20Bremberg%2C%20Climate%20change%20in%20an%20EU%20security%20contxt%2C%202016.pdf

Climate Change and Security in South Asia: Cooperating for Peace, May, 2016, Lt. General Tariq Waseem Ghazi (Ret.), Maj. General A.N.M. Muniruzzaman (Ret.) and Air Marshall A.K. Singh (Ret.), GMACCC / IES



This report warns that a recent drought in India which has affected over 330 million people – causing displacement and threatening farms – is just the first hint of how climate change could destabilise the South Asian region, unless steps are taken to address the threat posed by a warming, resource-scarce world. It recommends that the region's leaders strengthen cooperation to reduce the potential for widespread human suffering and further instability.

DOWNLOAD: http://gmacc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Climate_Change_and_Security_in_South_Asia.pdf

European diplomatic practices: Contemporary challenges and innovative approaches

13 October 2016, Federica Bicchì & Nicklas Bremberg, Journal European Security, Volume 25, 2016 - Issue 4



As the aim of this special issue is to show practice approaches at work in the case of European diplomacy, this introduction provides readers with a hands-on sense of where the conversation about practices and European diplomacy currently stands. By introducing the key terms and overviewing the literature, the article contextualises the guiding questions of the special issue.

It starts by reviewing how practice approaches have evolved in IR debates. It then describes European diplomacy's nuts and bolts in a post-Lisbon setting. It continues by focusing on specific practices and analytical mechanisms that contribute to understand European diplomacy's transformations and the role of security. While the debate about practices goes beyond the case of diplomacy, the latter has become a showcase for the former and this special issue continues the debate on practices and diplomacy by zooming in on the EU.

SOURCE: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09662839.2016.1237941>

Diplomacy and Security Community-Building: EU Crisis Management in the Western Mediterranean

2016, Niklas Bremberg, Routledge

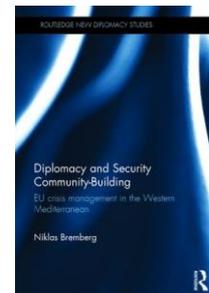
This book contributes to the ongoing debate in IR on the role of security communities and formulates a new mechanism-based analytical framework.

It argues that the question we need to ask is how security communities work at a time when armed conflicts among states have become significantly less frequent compared to other non-military threats and trans-boundary risks (e.g. terrorism and the adverse effects of climate change). Drawing upon recent advances in practice theory, the book suggests that the emergence and spread of cooperative security practices, ranging from multilateral diplomacy to crisis management, are as important for understanding how security communities work as more traditional confidence-building measures.

Using the EU, Spain and Morocco as an in-depth case study, this volume reveals that through the institutionalization of multilateral venues, the EU has provided cooperative frameworks that otherwise would not have been available, and that the de-territorialized notion of security threats has created a new rationale for practical cooperation between Spanish and Moroccan diplomats, armed forces and civilian authorities. Within the broader context, this book provides a mechanism-based framework for studying regional organizations as security community-building institutions, and by utilizing that framework it shows how practice theory can be applied in empirical research to generate novel and thought-provoking results of relevance for the broader field of IR.

This book will be of much interest to students of multilateral diplomacy, European Politics, foreign policy, security studies and IR in general.

SOURCE: <https://www.routledge.com/Diplomacy-and-Security-Community-Building-EU-Crisis-Management-in-the-Bremberg/p/book/9781138925731>



Planetary Security: Peace and Cooperation in Times of Climate Change and Global Environmental Challenges: Conference Report / 2-3 November 2015

January 2016, Shirleen Chin and Ronald A. Kingham (Editors), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands



The conference Planetary Security: Peace and Cooperation in Times of Climate Change and Global Environmental Challenges was held at the Peace Palace in The Hague on 2-3 November 2015. Organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, it brought together practitioners and experts from the defense, aid, and foreign policy community to discuss the impact of climate change and other global environmental challenges on security. This report consists of a comprehensive summary of the proceedings as well as of twelve working group reports which are illustrated by infographics. Next to analyses of obstacles to further progress, the report summarises recommendations for future policies to strengthen resilience in the face of climate and other environmental changes.

DOWNLOAD: <https://www.planetarysecurityinitiative.org/sites/default/files/2016-09/PSI%20Conference%202015.pdf>

The twelve 2015 Planetary Security Conference working group reports can be downloaded individually:



WG1: ANALYSIS OF SYRIA: LESSONS LEARNED



WG2: SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS)



WG3: AFRICA: FOCUS ON SAHEL



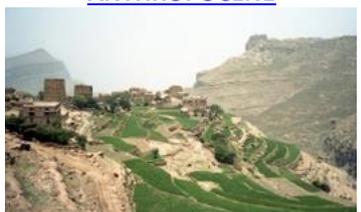
WG4: THE POLITICAL DIMENSIONS OF THE ANTHROPOCENE



WG5: THE WORLD IN 2050: A FAR FUTURE SCENARIO WORKSHOP



WG6: URBAN DELTAS: WATER RELATED CLIMATE IMPACTS



WG7: SECURITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE ARABIAN PENINSULA



WG8: ARCTIC SECURITY & CONFLICTING INTERESTS



WG9: FOOD SECURITY ON THE BRINK?



WG10: WATER DIPLOMACY FOR PEACEFUL CLIMATE ADAPTATION



WG11: DISPLACEMENT & MIGRATION



WG12: RISK ASSESSMENT & RISK MANAGEMENT

2015 Publications

Climate Change and Conflict: An Annex to the USAID Climate-Resilient Development Framework

February, 2015, Kirby Reiling and Cynthia Brady, United States Agency for International Development, Washington, DC



There is growing recognition of the interrelationship between climate change and conflict. Research and field experience are demonstrating that these dynamics are often particularly acute in countries that are fragile or conflict-affected – regions that represent the majority of the countries in which USAID works. It is important, therefore, that USAID and its partners be aware of how climate change may affect security and stability, and how dynamics of conflict, fragility, and peace may either support or hinder efforts to address climate. Examining the climate change–conflict nexus can help avoid unintended outcomes that undermine USAID objectives and illuminate opportunities to strengthen efforts to promote both peace and climate resilience.

This paper provides a set of guidelines for USAID and its partners to employ in planning, designing, implementing, and learning from programs where climate change and conflict have the potential to interact. It is a complement to USAID’s Climate-Resilient Development Framework, 3(CRD Framework), which outlines an approach for helping USAID and its partners achieve development objectives in the face of climate variability and change. It presents a framework for analysis, illustrates how this framework can be applied, and discusses ways to understand conflict dynamics and be attuned to opportunities for peacebuilding through climate related activities.

DOWNLOAD:

https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1866/ClimateChangeConflictAnnex_2015%2002%2025%2C%20Final%20with%20date%20for%20Web.pdf

ACP Compendium of Risk Knowledge - Mapping Risk in the African, Caribbean & Pacific Group of States (ACP)

2015, ACP Secretariat, Brussels



The ACP Compendium of Risk Knowledge presents the state-of-the-art in disaster risk reduction (DRR) knowledge concerning ACP countries. More importantly, it highlights valuable DRR efforts -categorized under hazards, vulnerability and capacity in the three regions.

SOURCE: <http://www.acp.int/content/acp-compendium-risk-knowledge>

2014 Publications

The Gathering Storm: Climate Change, Security and Conflict

27 March 2014, Environmental Justice Foundation



The Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF) is a UK-based, non-governmental organisation working internationally to protect the natural environment and defend human rights. Our Climate Campaign aims to raise awareness of the grave threat climate change poses to the well-being and basic human rights of the millions of people worldwide who are being forcibly displaced or severely impacted by its deteriorating environmental conditions.

In 2014, EJF’s report and film, *The Gathering Storm: Climate change, Security and Conflict*, showed how our changing climate is increasingly becoming an obstacle to peace and stability across the world. We are currently preparing a follow-up report, once again highlighting the security risk posed by climate change, and outlining the gaps that currently exist in the protection of people forced to flee their homes due to its consequences. In this report we also examine how the severe droughts in Syria, 1999-2011, fed into the on-going war in the country and the wider region. We are not suggesting direct causal linkages, rather that climate change represents a threat multiplier and a real risk to global security.

SOURCE: <https://ejfoundation.org/index.php?p=reports/the-gathering-storm-climate-change-security-and-conflict>

NEWS & VIEWS

A digest of notable articles and opinion pieces in the press and on-line

Trump drops climate change from US national security strategy

19 December 2017, Julian Borger, *The Guardian*

The Trump administration has dropped climate change from a list of global threats in a new national security strategy the president unveiled on Monday. ...

That stance represents a sharp change from the Obama administration's NSS, which placed climate change as one of the main dangers facing the nation and made building international consensus on containing global warming a national security priority.

FULL STORY: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2017/dec/18/trump-drop-climate-change-national-security-strategy>

Five stories that aren't about Trump at COP23

1 November 2017, Camila Born, *E3G*



Wonder Woman taking our focus away from Trump.

"I don't know about you, but I'm suffering from Trump fatigue. If the guy isn't prepared to acknowledge the Paris Agreement – and, for that matter, the best interests of everyone else on the planet – I see no point in acknowledging him.

So no mentioning the T-word from here on in. So, what do we talk about now? Here's the low-down on the top five non-T****-related stories that could hit the headlines at COP23".

FULL STORY: <https://www.e3g.org/library/five-stories-that-arent-about-trump-at-cop23>

Second climate set-back for Trump as G7 affirms link between climate change and health

6 November 2017, *E3G*

The two-day G7 Health Ministerial ended today in Milan, Italy with all nations agreeing on the links between climate change and health risks. All nations further agreed to work with colleagues responsible for health policies, particularly at the UN Climate Change Conference in Bonn on 6-17 November 2017.

This is yet further proof of Trump failing to have an impact on the global response to climate change – even with his own government.

FULL STORY: <https://www.e3g.org/news/media-room/second-climate-set-back-for-trump-as-g7-affirms-link-between-climate-change>

Congress and President Affirm Climate Change Threatens Security – Asks for Military to Prepare

13 November 2017, Andrew Holland, *American Security Project*

Climate change is a threat to national security. The military and national security community has been preparing for the effects of climate change for over a decade. However, for several years, there has been notable push-back from Congress; as recently as 2016, the House of Representatives had voted along purely partisan lines to support an amendment prohibiting any action by the Department of Defense on climate change.



In a remarkable turnaround, the Republican-led Congress has now begun to ask for the military to plan for the effects of climate change, and President Trump has signed legislation requiring that they do so. Below, is a list of legislation considered in 2017, by their committee of jurisdiction.

FULL STORY: <https://www.americansecurityproject.org/congress-climate-security/>

See also: [America Security Project / Climate Security: Top Stories of 2017](https://www.americansecurityproject.org/asps-top-stories-of-2017/)

<https://www.americansecurityproject.org/asps-top-stories-of-2017/>

Environmental and energy co-operation essential for good neighbourly relations, conclude participants at OSCE discussion in Vienna

17 October 2017, OSCE



VIENNA, 17 October 2017 – Co-operation on environmental and energy issues contributes to preventing tensions, building confidence and promoting good neighbourly relations in the OSCE region and therefore it must be strengthened, underlined senior officials and experts at high-level discussion taking place on 16 and 17 October in Vienna.

OSCE participating States convened to discuss the implementation of OSCE commitments on environment and energy in an annual Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting.

“When it comes to environmental and energy security, we need innovative thinking and approaches that go beyond national borders,” said Michael Linhart, Austrian Deputy Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs. “The recent series of hurricanes that have devastated parts of the Caribbean and the United States Southern coast, but also the devastating storms, flooding and wildfires in Europe and in Central Asia, are painful warnings in that respect.”

Vuk Žugić, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, said that the OSCE region faces a game-changing situation, with an unprecedented confluence of transnational and global challenges, including devastating extreme weather events, climate challenges and other risks. “The OSCE comprehensive concept of security is fully compatible with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Agenda provides benchmarks to assess and reinforce the Organization’s contribution to sustainable development in the region. In this context, takeaways from this meeting are very important.”

FULL STORY: <http://www.osce.org/chairmanship/350156>

What Is Loss and Damage from Climate Change? First Academic Study Reveals Different Perspectives, Challenging Questions

25 September 2017, Rachel James, Richard Jones & Emily Boyd, *New Security Beat*

For many years, vulnerable countries have pushed for loss and damage (L&D) to be tackled as part of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). As early as 1991, small island states were calling for an international insurance pool covering residual damage from rising sea levels that couldn’t be prevented by mitigation and adaptation efforts.



FULL STORY: <https://www.newsecuritybeat.org/2017/09/loss-damage-climate-change-academic-study-reveals-perspectives-challenging-questions/>

Stronger EU-Africa ties could stem crises

27 September 2017, Caroline O’Doherty, *Irish Examiner*

Europe needs to find a new way of working with Africa to prevent famines and other crises repeatedly occurring, Foreign Affairs Minister Simon Coveney has said. ...

While the international community was responding financially, Mr Coveney said money alone would not solve the problems of climate change, migration, water scarcity, and security. ...

“It’s questionable whether the political structure for dialogue between the EU and the African Union is fit for purpose. There will be an extra billion people on the continent of Africa in the next 25 years. If we are going to find lasting solutions to the issues there, we need a much more regular and deeper dialogue between the EU and the African Union and we need a structure and potentially an institution that can facilitate that.”

FULL STORY: <https://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/stronger-eu-africa-ties-could-stem-crisis-459755.html>

Retired General: 'Our Bases and Stations on the Coast Are Going Underwater'

24 August 2017, Justin Mikulka, *DESMOG*

This past July, in a Congressional hearing on “The Status and Outlook for U.S. and North American Energy and Resource Security,” retired Marine Brigadier General Stephen A. Cheney offered a dire warning for many current military bases in coastal locations.

“From the tactical side our bases and stations on the coast are going underwater. Norfolk [in Virginia] is the prime example. It’s closed dozens of times a year now because of flooding both from rain and sea level rise,” Cheney explained. “We’re going to have to talk about relocation of our bases and stations that are on the coast.”

Though climate science denial is the rule in the White House, some Republicans who represent coastal districts have been swayed by the recurring floods. Representative Carlos Curbelo (R-FL) represents southern Florida, where the region’s regular flooding has him convinced that climate change is happening now.

FULL STORY: <https://www.desmogblog.com/2017/08/24/retired-general-our-bases-coast-going-underwater-sea-level-rise>

Managing Climate Change: Lessons from the U.S. Navy

July – August 2017, Forest L. Reinhardt and Michael W. Toffel, *Harvard Business Review*

The United States Navy operates on the front lines of climate change. It manages tens of billions of dollars of assets on every continent and on every ocean. Those assets—ships, submarines, aircraft, naval bases, and the technology that links everything together—take many years to design and build and then have decades of useful life. This means that the navy needs to understand now what sorts of missions it may be required to perform in 10, 20, or 30 years and what assets and infrastructure it will need to carry out those missions. Put another way, it needs to plan for the world that will exist at that time.

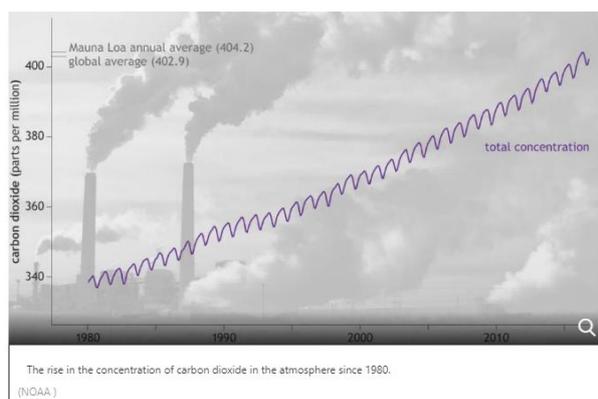
SOURCE: <https://hbr.org/2017/07/managing-climate-change>

Here's What Trump's Team Has Gotten Wrong About Climate Change So Far

11 August 2017, Pam Wright, *The Weather Channel*

Climate Change 101: What exactly is climate change? We break it down for you. At a Glance:

- Trump and other officials share a skepticism about climate change and try to suppress or debunk the consensus of scientists that climate change is real and human-caused.
- The science overwhelmingly concludes that Earth is warming and will continue to do so, as shown in two new federal reports this week.



President Donald Trump is not the only official in the upper echelons of government to doubt human-caused climate change.

Others in his administration share his skepticism and freely try to debunk the consensus of scientists that climate change is real, is caused by humans and will continue to impact the planet.

This week two new reports again prove that Trump's team simply has it wrong.

The first report is a draft of the congressionally-mandated [National Climate Assessment](#) (NCA), which was published online for public comment in January but came to the media's attention this week

after [scientists expressed fears](#) to the New York Times that the Trump administration would ignore, alter or quash the information. The results were compiled and presented by 13 government agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Separately, NOAA published its 2016 [State of the Climate report](#), which highlights that 2016 was the warmest year in 137 years of recordkeeping. The conclusions of the report were based on contributions from nearly 500 scientists from more than 60 countries.

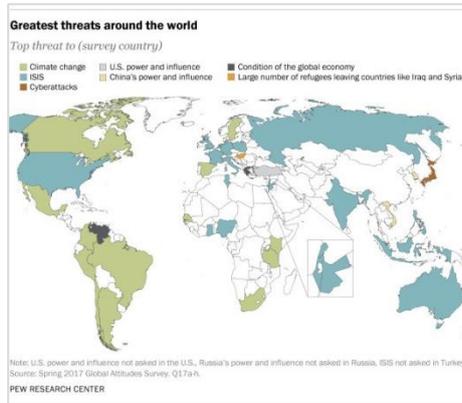
TEAM TRUMP SAYS vs THE FACTS ... READ THE FULL STORY AT:

<https://weather.com/science/environment/news/trump-team-climate-change-global-warming>

Climate change is a top security threat, and most of the world knows it

2 August 2017, Rebecca Leber, Grist

People around the world consider climate change to be a top security threat — and in some cases the biggest threat, according to a survey published Tuesday by Pew Research Center. The poll surveyed 42,000 adults in 38 countries and asked them to prioritize eight types of perceived threats, including concern about the economy, cybersecurity, climate change, and ISIS.



Of course, views on all these issues varied widely depending on region, age, and the political leanings of those who were surveyed. In most cases, especially in most western European countries, climate change ranks in second place when it's not a top concern. Overall 13 countries surveyed — most clustered in Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa — ranked global warming as the top concern. Eighteen nations picked ISIS.

Americans tend to consider ISIS and cybersecurity to be greater threats than climate change, in comparison to Canada and most European countries. Out of the eight issues polled, Americans rank climate change third (56 percent), while 74 percent rank ISIS as number one, and 71 percent see cyberattacks as a top threat. Cybersecurity also comes in second in Germany and the U.K.,

which were also recent victims of high-profile attacks.

Among those who do consider climate change a major security threat, the U.S. is also uniquely polarized. Eighty-six percent of liberals say climate change is a major concern, while only 31 percent of conservatives say the same. The right-left divide exists in other countries, but no country approaches the 55-point gap in the U.S.

Though terrorism dominates the news when an attack occurs, in terms of sheer scale, the threat of climate change is far greater. Obama was criticized for saying as much as president, but national security experts have been making these connections for years, warning that global warming is a “catalyst for conflict,” and growing cause for instability.

Hundreds of thousands of people die each year from heatwaves, flooding, and other climate-related impacts, while millions more die from breathing bad air. In contrast, terrorism killed 29,376 globally in 2015 for the second deadliest year on record, according to Institute for Economics and Peace’s annual index.

There’s one other way U.S. exceptionalism comes through in this survey: Pew also asked respondents about their concern over Russia, China, and U.S. influence and power. Thanks to Trump’s unpopular reputation abroad, concern about the U.S. role is on the rise.

SOURCE: <https://grist.org/article/climate-change-is-a-top-security-threat-and-most-of-the-world-knows-it/>

This story was originally published by Mother Jones and is reproduced by Grist as part of the Climate Desk collaboration.

Trump’s Withdrawal from the Paris Agreement Challenges Latin America

23 June 2017, Lisa Viscidi, Director of the energy, climate change and extractive industries program at the Inter-American Dialogue, New York Times

“In 2014, President Barack Obama committed \$3 billion to the Green Climate Fund, which helps poor countries fight and adapt to climate change. The fund was a key compromise in Paris to get developing countries on board despite industrialized nations’ greater historical responsibility for carbon emissions. Mr. Obama transferred \$1 billion to the fund while in office.

But the Trump administration is already moving to completely eliminate climate change funding. Mr. Trump’s budget blueprint drops support for the Global Climate Change Initiative and payments to United Nations climate change programs. And in his June 1 announcement, the president reiterated that the United States would no longer make its pledged payments to the Green Climate Fund”.

SOURCE: <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/23/opinion/paris-agreement-climate-change-latin-america.html>

Don't give up – 4 reasons why Trump's Rose Garden speech is not the end of climate diplomacy

21 June 2017, *Dennis Tänzler, adelphi*

The speech US President Donald Trump made in the White House Rose Garden on 1 June sparked intense debate around the world. What are the prospects for climate diplomacy after the US exit and why is there no need to sing a swan song for the Paris Agreement yet? Dennis Tänzler presents four arguments for even stronger engagement in climate diplomacy.

SOURCE: <https://www.climate-diplomacy.org/news/don%E2%80%99t-give-%E2%80%93-4-reasons-why-trump%E2%80%99s-rose-garden-speech-not-end-climate-diplomacy>

For Our National Security, It's Time for Climate Action

11 April 2017, *Ted Lieu, Congressman, U.S. House of Representatives in Pacific Council on International Policy*

To ensure a strong defense and a prosperous future, it is absolutely critical that the United States address the connections between climate change and national security.

SOURCE: <https://www.pacificcouncil.org/newsroom/our-national-security-it%E2%80%99s-time-climate-action>

Boko Haram terrorists thriving on climate crisis: report

20 April 2017, *Megan Darby, Climate Home News*



Zara collects water at a camp in Maiduguri, Nigeria, for people displaced by conflict
(Pic: UNICEF/UN057061/Abubakar)

As chronic water shortages create instability and violence around Lake Chad, researchers warn climate change feeds terror.

Chronic drought around Lake Chad is reinforcing terrorist group Boko Haram's stronghold on the region, a report commissioned by the German government has warned.

Some 30 million people across Nigeria, Chad, Niger and Cameroon are competing over a shrinking water resource.

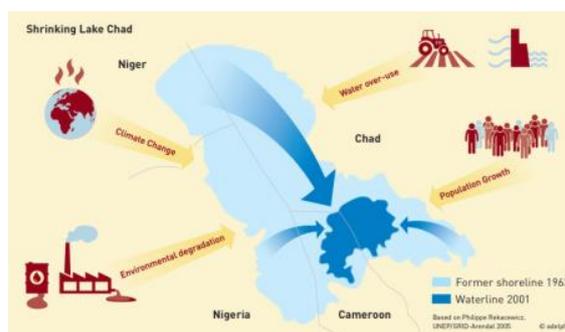
As farming and pastoral livelihoods suffer, the legitimacy of state governments has eroded and the region has become a ripe recruiting ground for

Islamic extremism and the illicit trades in drugs, arms and people that sustain it.

It is a prime example of how climate change can fuel instability and conflict if the impacts are not addressed, according to the analysis by consultancy Adelphi.

"The report does not say that climate change creates terrorists," author Lukas Rüttinger told Climate Home. "But climate change changes the context in which these groups operate – it contributes to creating the conditions in which those groups can thrive. We can observe that already."

The role of global warming was acknowledged in the UN Security Council's [first resolution](#) on conflict in the Lake Chad basin last month.



Based on Philippe Rekacewicz, UNEP/GRID-Arendal 2005 © adelphi

FULL STORY: This article originally appeared on Climate Home News

<http://www.climatechangenews.com/2017/04/20/boko-haram-terrorists-thriving-climate-crisis-report/>

INITIATIVES

An overview of recent campaigns, policy initiatives, information sources and innovative projects

Platform on Disaster Displacement

People who are forced to cross a border in the context of a disaster or the effects of climate change have limited protection when they arrive in another country. The **Platform on Disaster Displacement**, which held its first meeting in October 2016, aims at: addressing knowledge and data gaps; using instruments at the national, regional and international level to promote effective practices in order to prevent or reduce cross-border disaster-displacement; promoting policy coherence and mainstreaming of human mobility challenges; and promoting normative development in gap areas. A report of this meeting is available at:

http://disasterdisplacement.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/PDD-AC_Workshop-Report-screen.pdf

The Platform on Disaster Displacement is following up on the work by the **Nansen Initiative** which was launched in 2013. Its recommendations are listed in the Protection Agenda which was endorsed by 109 governmental delegations during a Global Consultation that took place in Geneva in October 2015. These steps are documented in: <http://disasterdisplacement.org/the-platform/our-architecture>

G7 Climate Risk Insurance Initiative: Stepping Up Protection for the Most Vulnerable

The G7 Initiative on Climate Risk Insurance aims to increase access to direct or indirect insurance coverage against the impacts of climate change for up to 400 million of the most vulnerable people in developing countries by 2020. According to recent estimates, only about 100 million people in developing countries and emerging economies are currently covered by climate risk insurance.

Also known as “InsuResilience”, the initiative was adopted at the G7 Summit in Elmau/Germany in June 2015 and is to be implemented in close partnership between the G7 states, developing countries and emerging economies.

<http://newsroom.unfccc.int/lpaa/resilience/g7-climate-risk-insurance-initiative-stepping-up-protection-for-the-most-vulnerable/>

See also Joint Statement on InsuResilience: The Initiative on Climate Risk Insurance Communicated on 5 December 2015 at the InsuResilience Event at UNFCCC COP21 http://www.bmz.de/g7/includes/Downloadarchiv/G7_Joint_Statement_InsuResilience.pdf

Green Grid Alliance

Climate Parliament is assembling a group of 20 developing countries with ambitious renewable energy goals into a global leadership group to speed up the worldwide transition to renewable energy. The focus of this Green Grid Alliance will be to build the new smart grid infrastructure that we need for the renewable revolution. This includes everything from continental-scale grids, connecting major industrial areas with areas of abundant renewable resources, to village level micro-grids, enabling local communities to harness their local energy resources. So far, 19 countries have confirmed their interest in participating. They are: Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Jordan, Indonesia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Peru, Samoa, Senegal, Tanzania, Tunisia and Uganda. In most cases these commitments have been made by Energy or Environment Ministers meeting with the Climate Parliament. We are now waiting for a response from India. As a Parliamentary network, combining access to all levels with the ability to act independently, the Climate Parliament is uniquely positioned to serve as a catalyst for bringing together such a group. We expect to launch the Green Grid Alliance later in 2017.

<http://www.climateparl.net/our-achievements>

22 Projects that can help the Paris Agreement Succeed in the leading Greenhouse Gas Emitting Countries - Climate Scorecard Report #12

August 2017, Edited by: Lois Barber and Ron Israel, Designed by: Kristin Hope

Would you like some very positive news about effective policies from around the world that are significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions? Then, please read this month's Climate Scorecard Report. It highlights the most effective carbon-reducing policies and practices from the top 22 greenhouse gas emitting countries. The Report is inspirational, heartening, and contains useful information that could help your state, region, or country reduce its own greenhouse gas emissions and meet its Paris Agreement Pledge.

<http://climatescorecard.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/ClimateScorecardReport12.pdf>

Enhanced Global Knowledge Platform on Climate-Fragility Risks

adelphi

This project, supported by the German Federal Foreign Office and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, implements this decision to ensure continuity of the discussion on climate-fragility risks through the knowledge platform beyond the publication of the report “A New Climate for Peace” in April 2015.

This project has three main components:

- Regular contributions to the platform's blog Resilience Compass, which assesses emerging thinking and policies regarding climate-fragility risks and climate change responses
- Developing and refining the ECC Factbook, a database on environmentally-related situations of fragility and solution strategies, particularly by extending coverage of conflict resolution and resilience-building strategies in the conflict cases
- Reaching out to (foreign) policy makers to sensitize them to the fragility risks climate change poses, by organizing dedicated briefings and informal roundtables for policy makers and practitioners from G7 and other countries on climate-fragility risks, resilience building, and the role of foreign policy, and on how to make the best use of the resources of the platform.

<https://www.adelphi.de/en/project/enhanced-global-knowledge-platform-climate-fragility-risks>

See also the knowledge platform www.newclimateforpeace.org which facilitates further discussion of the report by providing additional analysis and eliciting broader engagement with the issues identified in the report, including by civil society actors and experts from countries with high climate-fragility risks. It provides a space to share analysis, research, and emerging thinking on climate change impacts and climate change responses in fragile states and on the actions necessary to build resilience and stability. Moreover, it offers policy-makers ready access to information on the topic by monitoring, filtering, and synthesizing topical and scientific issues.

<https://www.newclimateforpeace.org/>

International Climate Action Initiative

World Resources Institute

The International Climate Action Initiative uses analysis, innovation and partnerships to achieve effective national policies and ambitious, equitable international climate action. The initiative works to advance national and international cooperation on climate change and to catalyze ambitious, equitable action and implementation of the Paris Agreement. The website includes a blog, links to related publications and highly useful maps and data on the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

<https://www.wri.org/our-work/project/international-climate-action>

New York Times Climate Newsletter

New York Times

This is good information source - especially for beginners - on what is climate change / global warming and why we should worry: “Tens of thousands of people are already dying in heat waves made worse by global warming. The refugee flows that have destabilized politics around the world have been traced in part to climate change. Of course, as with almost all other social problems, poor people will be hit first and hardest”. The site also lists the solutions and actions needed. The section on “Why do people deny the science of climate change?” says that “Instead of negotiating over climate change policies and trying to make them more market-oriented, some political conservatives have taken the approach of blocking them by trying to undermine the science.

President Trump has sometimes claimed that scientists are engaged in a worldwide hoax to fool the public, or that global warming was invented by China to disable American industry. The climate denialists’ arguments have become so strained that even oil and coal companies have distanced themselves publicly, though some still help to finance the campaigns of politicians who espouse such views”.

Readers can subscribe to the New York Times Climate Newsletter and pose questions to be answered in future editions.

https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/climate/what-is-climate-change.html?te=1&nl=&emc=edit_clim_20180131

EVENTS

Key events on climate change and security around the world in 2017**Third Planetary Security Conference: “From Analysis to Action”****12-13 December 2017, The Hague**

The theme of the 3rd Planetary Security conference, held on 12-13 December 2017 in The Hague, was "From Analysis to Action". The event aimed to strengthen the knowledge-policy interface by consolidating the community of practice on planetary security.

This year's Planetary Security Conference changed the game on the issue of climate and security with the launch of [The Hague Declaration](#). The six point plan has been signed by over 70 high profile experts, from ministers to ambassadors, mayors, generals and academics in the field, seeks to move the agenda from knowledge to action. Clingendael director Monika Sie Dhian Ho told the opening plenary that the Declaration will help strengthen and deepen the work of the community moving forward. Key highlights of the conference and the Hague Declaration can be seen in the [Best of PSC 2017 videos](#).

The conference – attended by 350 experts – came at the end of a year of ongoing and worsening political conflict and humanitarian crises including the devastating ones unfolding in Lake Chad, Iraq and Mali which were the focus regions for the two days. These crises have been aggravated by natural resource scarcity, according to Sie Dhian Ho.

Iraq's Minister for Water Hassan Janabi said his country – which is now finally entering a process of stabilisation - was going through an additional “painful cultural change” as a result of a dwindling water resources due to climate change driven drought and related changes in rainfall patterns and control of the natural water flows by neighbouring countries. “Iraq is at a huge turning point – we've just ended the war with ISIS, but it depleted our coffers so that my infrastructure budget is zero. More than 100,000 of our people have been fighting ISIS, but now they are out of work and will go back to their farms, but the water shortage will make it hard. On top of that we experienced an extreme earthquake which put a major dam out of service. So we may struggle to provide safe drinking water to the population. These are severe problems,” Janabi said.

Many participants acknowledged the need to tackle root causes of such crises in order to prevent relapse.

SOURCE: <https://www.planetarysecurityinitiative.org/news/planetary-security-community-walks-talk-action-third-annual-conference>

Hague Declaration discussed at the UN Security Council

On December 15, 2017, the United Nations Security Council held the Arria Formula meeting to discuss the security implications of rising temperatures. The Hague Declaration on Planetary Security, developed and endorsed by the Planetary Security Initiative and partners, was discussed during the meeting.

SOURCE: <https://www.planetarysecurityinitiative.org/news/hague-declaration-discussed-un-security-council>

SHARE THIS VIDEO: [Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) [LinkedIn](#) [Google+](#) [YouTube](#)SHARE THIS VIDEO: [Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) [LinkedIn](#) [Google+](#) [YouTube](#)

What are different countries doing about climate security risks? 5 Answers Jun 13, 2017



Best of Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development 2017 May 24, 2017

Climate Parliament's Global Parliamentary Roundtable, Delhi

18 December 2017, Delhi, India



On 5th and 6th December 2017, Climate Parliament legislators from Africa, Latin America and Asia, as well as global business leaders, met for the Global Parliamentary Roundtable in New Delhi. Over the two days, discussions covered international energy grid interconnections, smart grids, electric vehicles, village mini-grids, rural electrification, and the possible financial instruments to fund such initiatives.

SOURCE: <https://www.climateparl.net/single-post/2017/12/18/Global-Parliamentary-Roundtable-Delhi>

UN Environment Assembly: "Towards a pollution free planet"

4 to 6 December 2017, Nairobi



This year's Assembly will be sustainable and climate-neutral, and it will feature side events that confront pollution in its various forms. The Assembly aims to deliver a number of tangible commitments to end the pollution of our air, land, waterways, and oceans, and to safely manage our chemicals and waste. These will include the following:

- A political declaration on pollution, linked to the Sustainable Development Goals, to signal that humanity can work together to eliminate the threat of pollution and the destruction of our planet
- Resolutions and decisions adopted by Member States to address specific dimensions of pollution
- Voluntary commitments by Governments, private sector entities and civil society organizations to clean up the planet
- The #BeatPollution Pledge, a collection of individual commitments to clean up the planet

The Assembly will be preceded by a Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum on 27-28 November.

SOURCE: <http://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/>

5th EU-Africa Summit

29-30 November 2017, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire



EU-Africa Summits of Heads of States and Governments take place every three years alternatively in Africa and Europe. These Summits take stock of the progress made in the implementation of commitments made and provide political guidance for further work.

SOURCE: https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/regions/africa/continental-cooperation/africa-eu-dialogue_en

Montreal Protocol: Joint Eleventh Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention and the Twenty-Ninth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol

20-24 November, ICAO, Montreal, Canada

SOURCE: <http://ozone.unep.org/en/meetings>



SEE ALSO:

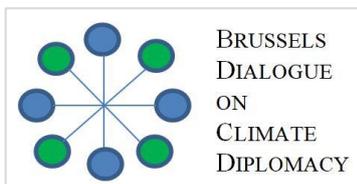
30TH ANNIVERSARY OF MONTREAL PROTOCOL AND WORLD OZONE DAY 2017

This year marks 30 years since the Montreal Protocol was adopted. In honour of this important milestone, the Ozone Secretariat and the global community are conducting the #OzoneHeroes campaign to celebrate the international agreement's success in protecting Earth against ozone depletion and mitigating climate change. The campaign seeks to inspire the same collaborative energy that propelled the Montreal Protocol's mission and led to its continued success in protecting all life on Earth.

SOURCE: <http://ozone.unep.org/en/information-material>

Enhancing Climate Diplomacy in a Changing Political Environment: New Opportunities for Cooperation among International Organisations for addressing Climatic Threats to International, National, Human and Environmental Security

20 November 2017, ACP Secretariat, Brussels



The purpose of the conference was to provide a platform to inventory and highlight actions by regional and international intergovernmental bodies and seek opportunities for increased cooperation between and among them to enhance climate diplomacy as a means to address climatic threats to international, national, human and environmental security.

Key sessions included:

- Assessing the Risks of Climate Change and Promoting Regional Cooperation for Peace in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific
- Presentations of Featured International Initiatives
- Enhancing the Role of International Organisations in Climate Diplomacy
- Enhancing the Role of the Security Community in Climate Diplomacy



SOURCE: <https://brusselsdialogue.net/events.html>

Halifax International Security Forum

17-19 November 2017, Halifax, Nova Scotia

Halifax International Security Forum advances a unique and modern vision of security by promoting greater strategic cooperation among democracies.

Halifax brings together individuals who are on the ground facing consequential local threats, writers who challenge and influence the world's thinking on security, and decision-makers who make the tough choices.



SOURCE: <http://halifaxtheforum.org/>

EU side events at COP 23

6-17 November 2017, Bonn, Germany



European
Commission

The Pavilion of the European Union hosted a series of side events during the COP23 in Bonn, in order to stimulate the debate on key thematic areas, engage observers and facilitate the dialogue with party delegates and other participants.

The final programme was published on this website:

SOURCE: https://ec.europa.eu/clima/events/articles/0118_en

COP23 / CMP13, Bonn (Fiji)

6-17 November 2017, Bonn, Germany



SOURCE: <http://newsroom.unfccc.int/cop-23-bonn/>

See also:



SOURCE: <http://sdg.iisd.org/tag/unfccc-cop23/>

EEB Annual Conference 2017**Changing Landscapes: Protecting the environment in a new Europe****6 November 2017, Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh, UK**

The conference will bring together members of the environmental movement from across the EU, the UK and Scotland, together with policy makers, civil society, thought leaders as well as entrepreneurs. Participants will debate issues such as tackling climate change, preventing biodiversity loss, undertaking a deep reform of agriculture policies and safeguarding our marine environment, with the overarching aim of fully implementing the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

SOURCE: http://www.eebconference.eu/?utm_source=EEB+Annual+Conference&utm_campaign=24be05ee2d-EEB+Conf+Save+the+Date&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_dd62d7f2f1-24be05ee2d-696166893

Climate Action and Human Wellbeing at a Crossroads: Historical Transformations on Backlash?**4 to 5 November 2017, Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE), IIASA - International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Bonn, Germany**

Conference, 4-5 November 2017 in Bonn

Climate Action and Human Wellbeing at a Crossroads:

Historical Transformation or Backlash?

Back to back with COP23, the German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE) together with the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) will host the international conference “**Climate Action and Human Wellbeing at a Crossroads: Historical Transformation or Backlash?**” in Bonn on 4-5 November.

Representatives from science, politics, business and civil society will discuss driving forces and challenges with respect to accelerating the transformation towards sustainability. **Especially**, the key sectors of energy, transportation and land use need **major transformations**. Furthermore, it will be discussed how to deal with nationalist and authoritarian counter-transformations that could undermine peace, stability, and human wellbeing and how to strengthen a new culture of global cooperation, substantiated by mutual respect and support.

The conference will issue a strong call for decisive steps to accelerate the implementation of climate and sustainability commitments.

We are proud having received confirmations from a number of high-level speakers, among them Barbara Hendricks, Leena Srivastava, Jeffrey Sachs and Achim Steiner. Furthermore, prestigious institutions such as UNFCCC, UNDP and World Resources Institute have embraced the goals of the conference as a **core partner**. The Conference is supported by *Stiftung Mercator*, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, the Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, *Stiftung Internationale Begegnung of Sparkasse* in Bonn.

SOURCE: <http://www.crossroadsbonn.org/>

**Course: CLIMATE CHANGE: SECURITY CHALLENGES AND RESPONSES
How to Anticipate and Deal with the Dangers of Climate Change****17 - 19 Oct 2017, The Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), Geneva, Switzerland**

Climate change is perhaps the century’s greatest security threat, with the potential to magnify the impact of a host of global challenges, from armed conflict and migration to water, food and health security. This course is designed to equip participants with both conceptual and practical tools to advance understanding of climate change and its impact on global, regional and local security environments and to help devise workable solutions for this multifaceted challenge.

SOURCE: <http://www.gcsp.ch/Courses/Climate-Change-Security-Challenges-and-Responses>

Oceans in crisis: Strengthening sustainable governance

16 October 2017, Press Club Brussels, Rue Froissart 95, 1000 Brussels, Belgium



Oceans cover more than two-thirds of our planet. They are rich in resources and provide people with food, energy, and a stable climate. Nevertheless, the future of these unique ecosystems is endangered by overfishing, loss of biodiversity, deep-sea mining and marine pollution, including the accumulation of plastic waste. The EU integrated maritime policy prioritizes blue growth and industrial development in coastal regions, including the promotion of deep-sea mining but lacks strong legal safeguards for ensuring the protection of the deep sea and the rights of coastal communities. [The Ocean Atlas 2017](#) is an educational tool that provides facts and figures on the importance of our marine ecosystems and the urgency of SDG 14. The atlas will be presented by Prof Dr Mojib Latif, Oceanographer and Head of the Research Division: Ocean Circulation and Climate Dynamics at GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research in Kiel. The presentation will be followed by a discussion among panel speakers from politics, industry and civil society about the challenges related to Blue Growth, deep-sea mining and plastic pollution, as well as to what extent the EU could play a leadership role in the international maritime protection and set the course for global actions. The goals of the panel discussion are to:

- inform civil society and EU policy makers about imminent threats to the ocean such as climate change, pollution, destruction of coastal and marine habitats and non-sustainable exploitation of marine resources;
- spark a vivid discussion on how to achieve sustainable maritime governance

SOURCE: <http://agenda.euractiv.com/events/hbs-oceans-crisis-strengthening-sustainable-governance-158754>

Planetary Security in the MENA Region

4-5 October 2017, Amman Jordan

23- 24 November 2017, American University of Beirut, Lebanon



At the second Planetary Security Initiative Conference of December 2016, a working group focusing on the MENA region discussed the need to build resilience towards resource scarcity through an integrated approach to water, energy and food management. The [recommendation](#) was to turn from theoretical studies to action by engaging in a dialogue with relevant policy makers from countries in the region. It was suggested to build upon existing initiatives and successful examples of integrated planning in order to identify possible areas and scales for national integrated planning and regional cooperation.

Therefore, the **Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs**, in partnership with the **Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs at the American University of Beirut (AUB)** has taken the initiative to organize a sub- regional policy dialogue for the Levant as part of the Planetary Security Initiative. The aim is to contribute to the development of an integrated approach to the water-energy-food (WEF) nexus.

The first workshop of the policy dialogue is taking place in Amman Jordan on the 4th and 5th of October, 2017 and will include representatives of ministries of Water, Agriculture and Energy of Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Palestine. The second consultation meeting will take place at AUB in Beirut, Lebanon on 23- 24 November, 2017.

The aim of the policy dialogue meetings in Amman and Beirut is to identify modalities for regional cooperation or collaboration using the WEF Nexus Approach as a vehicle. The objectives are to propose policy recommendations that can be adopted on both national and regional levels based on shared experiences of existing challenges, opportunities, and initiatives. Furthermore, through the dialogue process we hope to identify pilot projects that could be replicated in all participating Levant countries that are scalable and could inform national and regional policy on the benefits of a WEF approach to planning. Outcomes of the workshops will be shared on social media and at the Planetary Security Conference in The Hague, 12-13 December 2017.

For more information, please contact Nadim Farajalla (nf06@aub.edu.lb) or Rana El-Hajj (re15@aub.edu.lb) from the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs of the American University of Beirut.

SOURCE: <https://www.planetarysecurityinitiative.org/news/planetary-security-mena-region>

2017 Environment and Emergencies Forum: From crisis to opportunity: building resilience by managing environmental risk in emergencies

26-28 September 2017, Nairobi, Kenya



The Environment and Emergencies Forum (EEF) is a unique global event organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The EEF has been organized every two years since 1995, as requested by Member States through a 1993 UN Environment Governing Council Decision. This biennial forum brings together stakeholders from around the world to showcase innovations in environmental emergency preparedness and response, and to highlight current efforts on integrating environmental risk in humanitarian action.

SOURCE: <http://eacentre.org/eef/>

6th Roundtable on Climate & Security: Climate, Water, Migration and Regional Stability

21 September 2017, Institute for Environmental Security/ UNESCO IHE-Delft, The Netherlands

IHE Delft hosted the sixth meeting of The Hague Roundtable on Climate & Security on 21 September. Rector Dr. Eddy Moors welcomed ambassadors and officers from 20 countries and 14 NGOs who came together for the half-day meeting to discuss cooperation in adapting to impacts of climate change.



The theme of the meeting was the relationship of climate, water and migration on regional stability. Participants shared their concerns and ideas on issues including too much water (flooding and sea level rise), too little water (droughts with rising temperatures), and potential mass migration and conflict. Major General (Ret.) A N M Muniruzzaman of Bangladesh addressed the meeting via Skype to call for global action in addressing Bangladesh's current challenges that can have regional consequences.

The importance of water resources to security at a global level was examined in the context of the UN Security Council with emphasis on cooperation, to reduce threats to peace and stability. "Climate impacts have changed everything and it's increasingly crucial to connect scientific researchers and policy makers," said Alexander Verbeek, Planetary Security Initiative founder & former Dutch MFA strategic advisor, who led a brainstorming session with attendees on responding to climate-related crises.

SOURCE: <https://www.un-ihe.org/news/ihe-delft-hosts-6th-roundtable-climate-security>

Conference on the Global Pact for the Environment

20 September 2017, Columbia University, New York



CCSI and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), under the guidance of Prof. Jeffrey Sachs, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on the SDGs, and Laurent Fabius, President of the Constitutional Council of the French Republic, hosted a one-day conference to present and discuss the blueprint for a Global Pact for the Environment. The conference built on the successful June 2017 launch of the Global Pact in Paris, which brought together prominent leaders to discuss the draft pact and its role in moving the environment and development agendas forward. Speakers at the launch included Ban Ki-moon, President

Emmanuel Macron, Mary Robinson, Paul Polman, and other pacesetting advocates of global environmental governance.

SOURCE: <http://ccsi.columbia.edu/2017/09/20/conference-on-the-global-pact-for-the-environment/>

2017 Arctic Energy Summit

18-20 September 2017, Finlandia Hall, Helsinki, Finland



With planning begun for the 2017 Arctic Energy Summit, to be hosted in Helsinki next September, it is an important time to reflect on what is meant by “Arctic” energy. While Arctic nations take full advantage of their role in the region – to protect the environment, advance sustainable development, and strengthen international cooperation – most communities and companies based in Arctic nations (or even outside) are left wondering what part they play.

SOURCE: <http://arcticenergysummit.com/>

Ministerial on Climate Action

EU co-hosts major international climate meeting with Canada and China

15-16 September 2017, Montreal, Canada



The Ministerial on Climate Action brought together ministers and high-level representatives from 34 economies that are part of the G20 and other invited countries. An open dialogue among major developed and developing economies is of the utmost importance to push for convergence and demonstrate resolve at the ministerial level on the commitment to climate action and the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

SOURCE: https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/eu-co-hosts-major-international-climate-meeting-canada-and-china_en

72nd Session of the UNGA

12-25 September 2017, UN Headquarters, New York

The 72nd Regular Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 72) will convene at UN Headquarters on Tuesday, 12 September 2017. The General Debate will open on Tuesday, 19 September 2017, with a focus on the theme, ‘Focusing on People: Striving for Peace and a Decent Life for All on a Sustainable Planet’.



SOURCE: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/>

See also: IISD – SDG Knowledge Hub: <http://sdg.iisd.org/events/72nd-session-of-the-un-general-assembly-unga-72/>

Regional Parliamentary Roundtable: Transition to Renewable Energy in the Americas

9-10 September 2017, Santiago, Chile, Climate Parliament



On 9-10 September the Climate Parliament hosted a regional parliamentary roundtable in Santiago, Chile, discussing energy integration and green grids in the Americas. At this high-level dialogue, legislators, experts and business leaders of the Americas shared actionable ideas on how to accelerate the transition to clean energy and electric transport across the region. In particular, this roundtable addressed the challenge of building the new smart grids at village, city, national and regional levels that are needed to complete a global transition to renewable energy by mid-century.

SOURCE: <https://www.climateparl.net/santiago-2017>

World Water Week

27 August – 1 September 2017,



World Water Week is the annual focal point for the globe’s water issues. It is organized by SIWI. In 2017, World Water Week will address the theme “water and waste: reduce and reuse”. In 2016, over 3,200 individuals and around 330 convening organizations from 130 countries participated in the Week. Experts, practitioners, decision-makers, business innovators and young professionals from a range of sectors and countries come to Stockholm to network, exchange ideas, foster new thinking and develop solutions to the most pressing water-related challenges of today. We believe water is key to our future prosperity, and that together, we can achieve a water wise world.

SOURCE: <http://www.worldwaterweek.org/>

Making Multi-stakeholder Partnerships Work for the Sustainable Development Goals: A Workshop on the Margins of the UN High Level Political Forum

15-16 July 2017, New York



One and a half days of focused presentations and lively interaction bringing together multi-stakeholder partnerships that contribute to the SDGs under review at this year's UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (1, 2, 3, 5, 9 and 14), and others interested in partnerships. The workshop will:

(1) Provide space for partnerships working on particular goals and targets to share their experiences and lessons learnt, helping to build a well-informed community of practice that can have a significant role in implementing the SDGs, (2) Begin to collate a set of principles that multi-stakeholder partnerships themselves articulate as guidance for how they work, (3) Inform the debate about multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainable development at the UN, among governments and stakeholders

SOURCE: <http://msp-institute.org/projects/making-msps-work-for-the-sdgs>

G20 Summit

7-8 July 2017, Hamburg, Germany



G20 resolutions can provide key impetus for the conclusion of binding agreements at the United Nations level. Climate policy is the latest example. After the G7 expressed its commitment to adopting an ambitious world climate agreement in order to limit global warming to a maximum of 2°C, the G20 issued a similar signal in support of this goal. The United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris in December 2015 adopted a legally binding international climate agreement, which is

designed to keep global warming significantly below 2°C.

The G20 promotes sustainable development and is working in cooperation with African states to create an enabling environment for investment and infrastructure development. The G20 will be resolute in its endeavours to ensure the rapid and comprehensive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with its global goals for sustainable development, and of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

SOURCE: <https://www.g20.org/en/g20/timeline>

Transatlantic Cooperation and Europe's Southern Neighbourhood

28 June 2017, Friends of Europe, Brussels



Europe and NATO face an array of strategic and complex security challenges to the South. Ongoing instability emanating from the Middle East and North Africa – including state failure, civil conflict, and a new wave of deadly terrorism – continue to pose threats to European security. Massive migration and refugee flows, coupled with political upheavals on both sides of the Atlantic, have stoked tensions and exacerbated divisions across the transatlantic community. At the same time, the evolving security environment in Europe's east has diverted attention, highlighted competing priorities, and hampered international responses to the multifaceted challenges in the south.

SOURCE: <http://www.friendsofeurope.org/event/transatlantic-cooperation-and-europes-southern-neighbourhood>

ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly - Declaration on Climate Change

19-21 June 2017, Malta



The 33rd Session of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly took place from 19 to 21 June 2017 in St. Julian's (Malta). MEPs and MPs of the ACP countries adopted a declaration on climate change in which "The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly underlines that climate change is a global phenomenon, which will no doubt continue to have dramatic effects on our environment, affecting all countries. The ACP-EU Joint

Parliamentary Assembly reaffirms its total commitment to full implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change and calls on the global community to maintain the momentum for ambitious action".

SOURCE: <http://www.acp.int/content/declaration-acp-eu-joint-parliamentary-assembly-climate-change> and <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20170621IPR78004/declaration-of-the-acp-eu-joint-parliamentary-assembly-on-climate-change>

Climate Diplomacy Week

19 June - 2 July 2017, worldwide

Watch the new video on "What is 'Climate Diplomacy?'":



Embassies around the world are celebrating Climate Diplomacy Week, with events taking place to highlight the importance of climate action in the EU and beyond. Conferences, citizens' debates, exhibitions, films and social media activities aim to encourage informed debate on post-Paris climate diplomacy.

SOURCE: <https://www.climate-diplomacy.org/events/climate-diplomacy-week-2017>

2017 Pacific Environmental Security Forum

9-12 May 2017, Anchorage, Alaska, U.S

The 2017 Pacific Environmental Security Forum was the seventh annual Indo-Asia-Pacific environmental security event organized by U.S. Pacific Command (USPACOM). The event brought together partners from across the Pacific to tackle environmental security concerns. Event activities include presentations, panel sessions, work group activities, a site visit, and other exercises.

SOURCE: <http://www.pesforum.org/>

Workshop on Climate-fragility Risks in the Lake Chad Region

3-4 May 2017, Stockholm



At the 2017 Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development from 3 - 4 May, adelphi, in partnership with SIPRI and SEI, convened two sessions on climate change and fragility risks in the Lake Chad region, to discuss the different approaches and next steps for building resilience.

SOURCE: <https://www.climate-diplomacy.org/news/climate-diplomacy-workshop-lake-chad-climate-fragility-risks-and-conflict-prevention>

2017 Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development

3-4 May 2017, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, Stockholm

**STOCKHOLM FORUM
on Peace and
Development 2017**

With a focus on 'Sustaining peace: what works?', the 2017 Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development identified good practice in peacebuilding interventions and assessed how and under what conditions such approaches might be replicated, scaled or modified to meet the needs of other contexts. In addition to two high-level panels and a debate, the Forum featured several interactive workshops and roundtable discussions. The Forum brought together over 200

high-level researchers, policymakers and practitioners from around the world with the aim of informing key policy and research agendas.

SOURCE: <https://www.sipri.org/events/2017/2017-stockholm-forum-peace-and-development>

Senior Military Leaders Talk Climate and National Security on Capitol Hill

27 April 2017, American Security Project and the Center for Climate & Security, Washington, DC



On April 27th, the American Security Project (ASP) and the Center for Climate & Security (CCS) held a briefing on Capitol Hill highlighting climate change risks to military readiness and national security, as well as what Congress could do to help. The panel included Center for Climate and Security Advisory Board member, Vice Admiral Dennis McGinn, USN (Ret.), Brigadier General Stephen Cheney, USMC (Ret.), and Brigadier General David McGinnis USA (Ret.). The Center for Climate and Security's Director of Government Affairs, Colonel Thomas Watson, USAF (Ret.), provided opening remarks, and the discussion was moderated by ASP's Senior Fellow for Energy and Climate, Andrew Holland. For a short recap and a full video of the event, visit the CCS website:

SOURCE: <https://www.americansecurityproject.org/event-recap-hill-briefing-on-climate-change-and-the-risks-to-national-security/>

The Hague Roundtable on Climate & Security focuses on water

19 April 2017, Institute for Environmental Security, The Hague



International cooperation on water-related climate risks was the theme of the fifth Hague Roundtable on Climate and Security on 19 April 2017. More than 40 representatives of embassies and non-governmental institutes shared strategies on water issues at the meeting hosted by the Ambassador of Australia to the Netherlands, H.E. Dr Brett Mason.

Threats and opportunities were examined from various perspectives with the aim of building capacities to peacefully address challenges such as sea level rise, disaster response, droughts and water-related conflict.

The Roundtable meeting series is an initiative from the Institute for Environmental Security to share information and strategies to build action on addressing climate risks including natural resource availability, food security, migration, disaster response, and stability of fragile states.

SOURCE: <http://www.envirosecurity.org/news/single.php?id=380>

ACP Group aims for impact at UN Climate Change Conference COP23

14-15 March 2017, ACP, Brussels



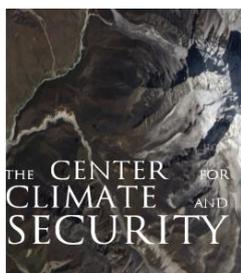
A special meeting organised by the ACP Sub-Committee for Sustainable Development laid the groundwork for an enhanced ACP role at the COP23 global climate talks in Bonn, Germany this November. It sought to assess the outcomes of the previous climate conference (COP 22), and identify follow-up actions, with an emphasis on key issues for the ACP Group including mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology development and transfer, capacity building and REDD+.

The meeting also explored different ways and means to enhance support to ACP Member States' implementation of the Paris Agreement, taking into account priorities in the [ACP Action Plan on Climate Change 2016-2020](#). An ACP Roadmap to COP23 is being finalised to support member states in this regard.

SOURCE: <http://www.acp.int/content/acp-group-aims-impact-un-climate-change-conference-cop23>

Security & Climate: Issues and Perspectives for the Pacific Coast

21 February 2017, Center for Climate and Security, San Diego, California



The Center for Climate and Security, with support from The San Diego Foundation and the Skoll Global Threats Fund, is hosting a high-level event 'Security & Climate Change: Issues and Perspectives for the Pacific Coast' in San Diego, California on Tuesday, February 21. Confirmed speakers include: San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer (R), Congressman Scott Peters (D-CA), Rear Admiral Yancy B. Lindsey, Commander, Navy Region Southwest, General Ron Keys, U.S. Air Force (ret), Ambassador Reno Harnish, Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

The US is a Pacific nation. The Asia-Pacific is one of the most disaster prone and climate vulnerable regions of world with a rapidly-growing population. It's the most militarized part of the globe, and home to both rising powers and failed states – including states with nuclear capabilities. And it's also home to some of the U.S.'s closest allies. The US military hosts numerous coastal installations across the region (including on the West Coast of the U.S.), and the U.S. is slowly but surely "rebalancing" towards this critical region. Considering this reality, addressing climate change risks in the Asia-Pacific should be a key element of U.S. national security and foreign policy, not least as that response presents significant opportunities for the United States, both at home and abroad. We are at a critical moment in time when we must decide whether or not we will lead in addressing the most pressing challenges of the 21st century. This conference aims to start answering that question.

SOURCE: <https://climateandsecurity.org/2017/02/08/security-climate-change-issues-and-perspectives-for-the-pacific-coast/#more-12131>