Examining the Role of Natural Resources in Conflicts on Three Continents

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Project Team

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Security and Natural Resources

- Looking back over the past sixty years, at least forty percent of all intrastate conflicts can be associated with natural resources (UNEP, 2009, page 8)

- In the 21st Century, the security of nations will depend increasingly on the security of natural resources or “natural security.” The global economy, developing countries and local economies throughout the world all rely on the availability of potable water, arable land, fish stocks, biodiversity, energy, minerals and other renewable and nonrenewable resources to meet the rising expectations of a growing world population. (Center for New American Security, 2010, page 5)
Project Context

Natural Resources and Security and Stability

- **Addressing the Inter-linkages between Natural Resources Management and Conflict in the European Commission’s External Relations**, Adelphi Research 2007

- **Strengthening Post-Conflict Peacebuilding through Natural Resource Management**, ELI, Todai, UNEP (6 volumes in press)

*From Conflict to Peacebuilding, the Role of Natural Resources and the Environment, United Nations Environmental Program, February 2009*
Forthcoming publication:

Strengthening Post-Conflict Peacebuilding Through Natural Resource Management

The Environmental Law Institute (ELI), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the University of Tokyo

- More than 220 practitioners, researchers, and decision makers from 40 countries are developing 150 case studies and thematic analyses examining specific experiences and identifying lessons. In 2011, Earthscan will publish these case studies and analyses in a series of six edited books addressing: 1) High-Value Natural Resources; 2) Land; 3) Water; 4) Livelihoods; 5) Assessment and Restoration; and 6) Governance and Institutions. The case studies and analyses will total approximately 3,000 pages, representing a diversity of resources, countries, post-conflict contexts, peacebuilding objectives, and outcomes.
- Collects and shares lessons learned in managing natural resources in post-conflict countries to support the transition to peace;
- Raises awareness and capacity of practitioners, leaders, and researchers regarding how natural resources can be managed to support the transition to peace; and
- Assists post-conflict societies in transitioning to peace through improved natural resource laws, policies, and management.
- An overarching synthesis volume will highlight the lessons learned from the six edited volumes and place them in the context of the broader literature and experience. Approximately 300 pages, the synthesis volume is structured around peacebuilding activities such as security, livelihoods and economic recovery, basic services, and governance and rule of law. Cambridge University Press will publish the synthesis volume in 2011.

For more information: http://www.eli.org/Program_Areas/PCNRM/index.cfm or nichols@eli.org
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**Strengthening Post-Conflict Peacebuilding through Natural Resource Management**, ELI, Todai, UNEP (in press)
Proactive Peacebuilding with Natural Resources Assets

Project Approach

1. Develop plan
   - April 2010

2. Select case studies
   - May 2010

3. Select relevant media events
   - El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Sierra Leone, Philippines

4. Create media events database
   - Feb 2011

5. Case studies & media database
   - 1st workshop, Chicago, IL
   - Aug 2010

6. Adjust study approach to strengthen intervention understanding
   - Liberia added

7. Broaden analysis – 2 more pilots, more sources
   - July 2011

8. 2nd workshop – analysis of approach
   - Feb 2011

9. Final report draft and review
   - July 2011

10. Publish and integrate results – final report draft and review
    - April 2010

Timeline:
- April 2010
- May 2010
- Aug 2010
- Feb 2011
- July 2011
- July 2011
- Feb 2011

Events:
- 1st workshop, Chicago, IL
- Liberia added
Type of Event

Percentage

Political Expression  Political Attacks  Mass Movements  Destabilizing State Acts  Political Reconfigurations

Nicaragua  Guatemala  El Salvador  Sierra Leone  Philippines
Instability Composites, Sierra Leone
Natural Resources Value, Per Capita

The graph shows the natural resources value per capita in Thousand US Dollars from 1950 to 2002 for various countries:

- Global Average
- Nicaragua
- Guatemala
- El Salvador
- Sierra Leone
- Philippines
Geospatial View - Civil Unrest Events
Central American Pilot Sites

<http://www.clinecenter.illinois.edu/research/speed-data.html>
Natural Resources Stakeholders

- **Manage & Harvest for Local Population Use**
  - Manage & Harvest for Commerce (raw materials & processed products)

- **Conserve for Ecosystem Protection, Long Term Use & Recreation**

- **Resolution of Crises & Conflicts Related to Natural Resources**
  - Address interests & dependencies of all stakeholders on natural resource assets (balance value obtained from the resource)
  - Work within the ability of resource to meet the needs of the population (avoid resource depletion and ecosystem degradation)
  - Nurture pathways (such as post harvest processing) to increase local value obtained from resource use

- **Treaty, Legislation, Agreement**
Liberia
Pilot Location
Leveraging High-Value Natural Resources to Restore the Rule of Law: The Liberia Forestry Initiative's Role in Liberia's Transition to Stability

33.3% (1.5 million ha) reserved for conservation
51.2% (2.3 million ha) reserved for commercial
15.5% (.7 million ha) reserved for community benefit

Forthcoming ELI Publication authors: Stephanie L. Altman, Esq., Sandra S. Nichols, Esq., and the Honorable John Woods, Former Managing Director of the Liberian Forest Development Authority
Liberia
Pilot Location
Leveraging High-Value Natural Resources to Restore the Rule of Law: The Liberia Forestry Initiative's Role in Liberia's Transition to Stability

Liberia’s Timber Industry: From Chaos to Reform

2001
- 26 Oct 2001: UN committee releases a report connecting timber consumption to weapons funding in Liberia
- 7 Mar 2001: UNSCR 1343: Panel created, restrictive action placed against Liberia

2002

2003
- 2 Oct 2003: UNMIL takes over peacekeeping duties for ECOWAS
- 18 Aug 2003: Comprehensive Accra Peace Agreement
- 11 Aug 2003: Taylor resigns

2004
- 19 Sept 2003: UNSCR 1509: Interim timber embargo renewed
- June 2004: Full deployment of UNMIL troops

2005
- 16 June 2005: UNMIL midterm review continues sanctions
- 2 Feb 2006: Executive Order #1 voids all forest concessions
- 11 Sept 2007: 10 Core Regulations Signed

2006
- 5 Oct 2006: National Forest Reform Law signed
- 29 Sep 2008: UNSCR 1836: UNMIL mandate extended but reduced in size
- 23 Sept 2009: Forest Management Contracts ratified by Legislature

2007
- 5 Mar 2008: Bids officially opened for six timber sale contracts

2008
- 19 June 2006: Liberia timber bans lifted

2009
- 23 Sept 2009: Forest Management Contracts ratified by Legislature
- Sept 2009: United States Government ends direct funding and lead involvement in the LFI. World Bank assumes coordination role.

BUILDING STRONG®
Project Conclusions

- Understanding the value and effectiveness of actions (interventions) to avert or respond to natural resources crises/conflicts is potentially important for enhancing strategies for advancing global stability. In conflicts rooted in natural resource issue, the interests of multiple stakeholders need to be addressed as well as the underlying constraints of the natural resources.

- Post event case studies have traditionally been a way to understanding conflicts – but these are limited, costly and done after the fact. Moreover, they often lack good data on conflict levels. Including local and accurate media coverage during post (or pre) conflict analysis will help improve the capacity of these analyses to evaluate the impact of strategies to reduce conflict.

- Both historic and current media analysis can enhance our understanding events. Current media analysis can also help shape and monitor strategies to promote peace building through outreach, peace keeping, and agreement support before, during and after crises and conflicts.
Questions?
Process for Media Analysis

**BBC Summary World Broadcasts** (translated transcribed and digitized)

Select nations and timeframe for study (aligned with ELI case studies)

Trained operators extract information on conflict “events”; enter into SPEED database

Analyze data in SPEED database

Comparison of SPEED results with other data and sources