Conflict management and water-related disputes

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Water as a potential source of conflict
Typical water conflicts

- Dispute of the quantity of the water (e.g. use of border rivers, common water table)
- Dispute of the quality of the water (e.g. pollution to rivers and ground water)
- Dispute of the use of the water areas (e.g. fishing)
- Dispute of the use of underwater areas (e.g. oil, natural gas)
- Dispute of the marine borders
Environmental impacts of the conflicts
Environmental impacts of war

Direct environmental impacts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bomb damage</th>
<th>Landmines and UXOs</th>
<th>Sabotage of resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

| Depleted uranium     | Military waste     | Troop movements       |
Environmental impacts of war

Indirect environmental impacts:

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<th>Refugees</th>
<th>Sanctions</th>
<th>Collapse of management</th>
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Indirect environmental impacts:
- Refugees
- Sanctions
- Collapse of management
- Military exploitation
- Corruption
- Use of marginal lands
Three ways to look the problem

- Natural resources and environment triggering the conflicts
- How conflicts are influencing to natural resources and environment
- Natural resources and environment as a peace building tool
Natural resources and environment causing the conflicts

- Fight over oil or mineral resources
- Climate change causing environmental refugees
- Natural resources as a financing tool for conflict (forests, diamonds, oil etc.)
- Slowing down the peace processes due to the economic reasons (people benefitting of continued conflict)
Natural resources & conflicts

- Afghanistan
- Angola
- DRC (Congo)
- Indonesia, Aceh
- Liberia
- Sierra Leone
- Somalia
- Sudan, Darfur
- Forests, opium
- Oil, diamonds
- Diamonds, minerals, forests
- Forests, nature gas
- Diamonds, minerals, forests
- Diamonds, coffee, chocoa
- Fishing, charcoal
- Oil, climate change
Conflicts influencing to the natural resources & environment

- Direct influence (destroyed ecosystems, pollution etc.)
- Undirect influence (immigration, refugees, unsustainable use of natural resources etc.)
- Effecting the institutions (collapse of environmental management, increased corruption etc.)
Natural resources & environment in peacebuilding

- Sustainable use of natural resources (e.g. sharing of oil revenues to strengthen peace process)
- Sustainability in reconstruction (environmentally friendly buildings and energy solutions etc.)
- Dialogue and participatory processes (environmental cooperation over borders)
Conclusions

• Conflict prevention: sustainable use of natural resources, climate change adaption, peaceful way of solving conflicts
• During conflicts: help also environment, minimize risks
• After conflicts: environment as part of reconstruction, assess the environmental impacts of the conflicts
Sediment sample from Danube River in FR Yugoslavia, June 1999
Bomb damage at Novi Sad refinery, FR Yugoslavia, May 1999
Refugee camps in FYR of Macedonia, May 1999
Clean-up of environmental « hotspots »

With US$ 12 million raised from the donor community, UNEP was implementing 15 high priority clean-up operations at three sites:

Pancevo Industrial Complex:
- EDC, mercury and hydrocarbon remediation, repair of wastewater plant, canal remediation, groundwater monitoring

Kragujevac Car Factory:
- PCB decontamination and treatment/disposal of hazardous wastes

Novi Sad Oil Refinery:
- Hydraulic barrier construction, hydrocarbon remediation, repair of wastewater pipeline, groundwater monitoring
Sistan Basin Wetland

99% loss of the wetland and surrounding green cover
Kole Hashmat Khan Wetland

- Urban and agricultural encroachment
- Uncontrolled water extraction
- Drainage ditch

1976 repeat photography

2002 repeat photography
Woodlands deforestation

- Extreme deforestation observed across the country
- Soil erosion/floods are increasing
- Regeneration is prevented by extensive grazing and cultivation.
Woodlands deforestation

Satellite analyses in Badghis province

1977

2002

Woodland
(tree cover >40%)

Woodland very low density
(10% < tree cover < 20%)

Woodland low density
(20% < tree cover < 40%)

No woodland detected
(0% < tree cover < 10%)
Wadi Gaza outlet channel – untreated waste water is polluting Mediterranean
Groundwater in Gaza is polluted by agrochemicals and leakages from dumpsites.
Open burning of wastes at a temporary landfill in the West Bank
First time in 29 years....

Iranian and Iraqi delegations in Geneva May 18, 2004