



ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE AND SECURITY PROGRAM

REPORT

ISSUE 13 2008–2009

New Directions in Demographic Security

Security Implications of Global Population Changes

Youth Bulges and the Chances of Democracy

Population and U.S. Defense Policy

Climate Change, Environmental Degradation, and Armed Conflict

Migration and Civil Conflict in Small Island States

Youth and Conflict in Africa and the Middle East

UN Environment Programme: Building Peace After Conflict

An Ethical Approach to Population and Climate Change

Navigating Peace: Water, Conflict, and Cooperation

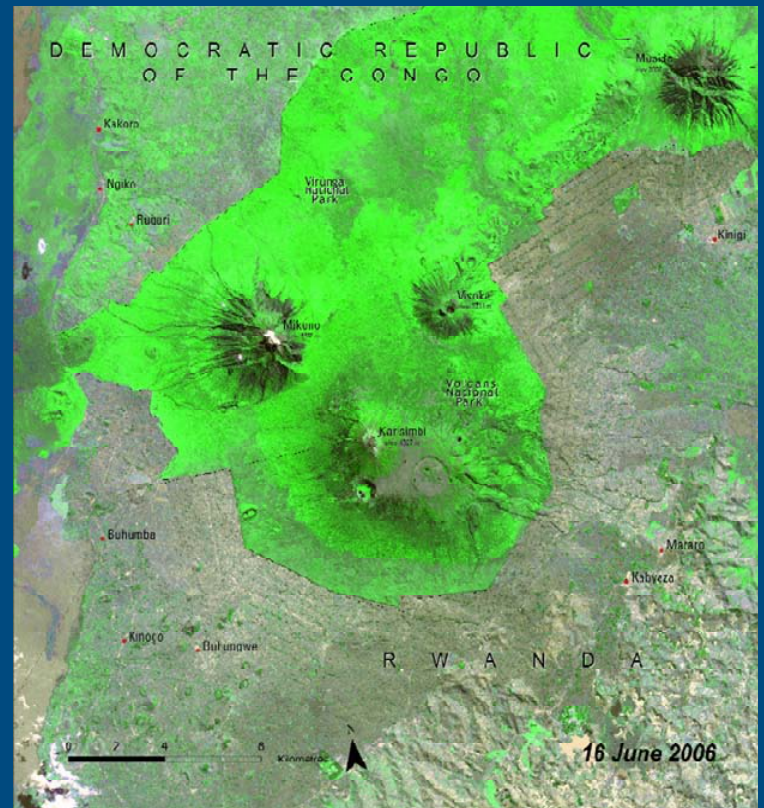
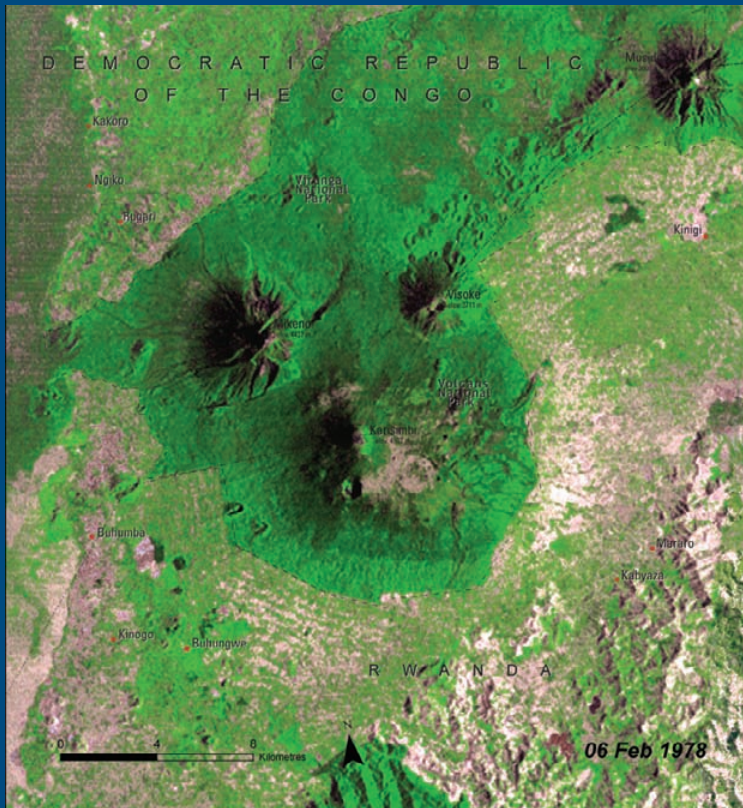
Best of the Beat: Top Blog Posts

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Virunga National Park, 1976 and 2006

The Virunga Park area in Uganda, Rwanda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is home to over half of the world's 700 surviving mountain gorillas. Surrounding the protected areas, however, are some of the densest human populations in Africa. In addition to population pressure, armed conflict in the region has made habitat and species protection very difficult.

In the 1978 image (left), a line between the protected areas and the populated agricultural areas surrounding the parks is already

apparent. While the boundary of the parks has remained largely intact since the mid-1970s, during the 1990s and early 2000s, large numbers of people moved into the area surrounding the parks, many of them refugees from armed conflicts in Rwanda, Uganda, and the DRC. The decline in areas of green outside the protected areas in the 2006 image (right) suggests that few fallow fields and little natural vegetation remain.

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Environmental Change and Security Program

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Since 1994, the Environmental Change and Security Program (ECSP) has promoted dialogue on the connections among environmental, health, and population dynamics and their links to conflict, human insecurity, and foreign policy. ECSP brings international policymakers, practitioners, and scholars to Washington, D.C., to address the public and fellow experts on four specific initiatives:

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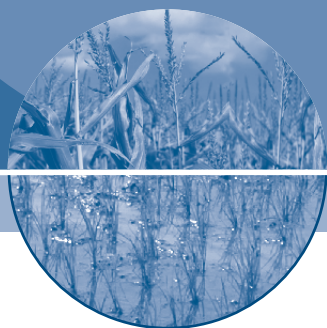
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