



Woodrow Wilson  
International  
Center  
for Scholars



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE AND SECURITY PROGRAM

# REPORT

**ISSUE 11** 2005

### **Environmental Change and Security Program**

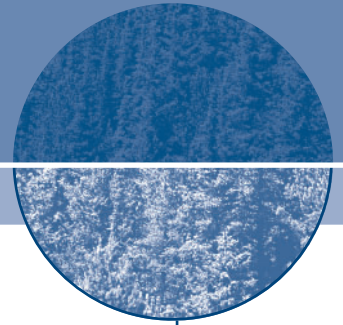
The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars  
One Woodrow Wilson Plaza • 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20004-3027  
Tel: (202) 691-4185 • Fax: (202) 691-4001  
[ecsp@wilsoncenter.org](mailto:ecsp@wilsoncenter.org)  
[www.wilsoncenter.org/ecsp](http://www.wilsoncenter.org/ecsp)

e c s p



environmental change & security program

# ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE AND SECURITY PROGRAM



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.

The program distributes two annual journals, the *Environmental Change and Security Program Report* and the *China Environment Series*, to more than 7,000 people around the world. *ECSP News*, a monthly e-mail newsletter, links 3,000 subscribers to news, meeting summaries, and event announcements on the program's comprehensive website, [www.wilsoncenter.org/ecsp](http://www.wilsoncenter.org/ecsp). ECSP also publishes *Focus*, a series of papers on population, environment, and security (previously named *PECS News*), as well as original research and occasional reports.

ECSP's core activities are made possible by the generous support of the U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of Population and Reproductive Health through a cooperative agreement with the University of Michigan's Population Fellows Programs.

ECSP and its China Environment Forum also receive support from the Blue Moon Fund, Carnegie Corporation of New York, Japan Foundation's Center for Global Partnership, Shell (China) Limited, Tamaki Foundation, the United Nations Environment Programme, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and private individuals. ECSP is directed by Geoffrey D. Dabelko and is housed in the Woodrow Wilson Center's Division of International Security Studies, headed by Robert S. Litwak.

The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars is the living, national memorial to President Wilson established by Congress in 1968 and headquartered in Washington, D.C. It is a nonpartisan institution, supported by public and private funds, engaged in the study of national and world affairs. The Wilson Center establishes and maintains a neutral forum for free, open, and informed dialogue. The Center commemorates the ideals and concerns of Woodrow Wilson by: providing a link between the world of ideas and the world of policy; and fostering research, study, discussion, and collaboration among a full spectrum of individuals concerned with policy and scholarship in national and world affairs. The Center is directed by the Honorable Lee H. Hamilton, and its Board of Directors is chaired by the Honorable Joseph B. Gildenhorn.

## Submissions and Correspondence

The *Environmental Change and Security Program Report* is sent annually free of charge throughout the world. Contact ECSP at the address below to subscribe:

Environmental Change and Security Program  
The Woodrow Wilson Center  
One Woodrow Wilson Plaza • 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20004-3027  
Tel: (202) 691-4185 • Fax: (202) 691-4001  
[ecsp@wilsoncenter.org](mailto:ecsp@wilsoncenter.org)  
[www.wilsoncenter.org/ecsp](http://www.wilsoncenter.org/ecsp)



# CONTENTS

## Foreword

- 1 *Geoffrey D. Dabelko*

## Population and Conflict: Exploring the Links

- 3 **Introduction**  
*Geoffrey D. Dabelko*
- 5 **Defusing the Population Bomb: Is Security a Rationale for Reducing Global Population Growth?**  
*Henrik Urdal*
- 12 **The Young and the Restless: Population Age Structure and Civil War**  
*Sarah Staveteig*
- 20 **Missing Women and Bare Branches: Gender Balance and Conflict**  
*Valerie M. Hudson and Andrea M. den Boer*
- 25 **The State of the Field: Demography and War**  
*Monica Duffy Toft*

## Special Reports

- 29 **Environmental Stress and Demographic Change in Nepal: Underlying Conditions Contributing to a Decade of Insurgency**  
*Richard Matthew and Bishnu Raj Upreti*
- 40 **Speaking Truth to Silence: There's Still a Place for the Demographic Case**  
*Robert Engelman*
- 51 **U.S. Military and Environmental Security in the Gulf Region**  
*Rear Admiral John F. Sigler, USN (Ret.)*

## Parks for Peace or Peace for Parks? Issues in Practice and Policy A Forthcoming Publication From ECSP

- 58 **Introduction**
- 59 **Conservation and Conflict Resolution: Crossing the Policy Frontier**  
*Saleem H. Ali*

- 61 **Trade-offs Among Multiple Goals for Transboundary Conservation**  
*Trevor Sandwith and Charles Besançon*
- 63 **Peace Parks in the Cordillera del Cóndor Mountain Range and Biodiversity Conservation Corridor**  
*Martín Alcalde, Carlos F. Ponce, and Yanitza Curonisy*
- 65 **Peace Parks in Southern Africa**  
*Larry A. Swatuk*
- 67 **Global Politics and Peace Parks**  
*Rosaleen Duffy*

## Reviews of New Publications

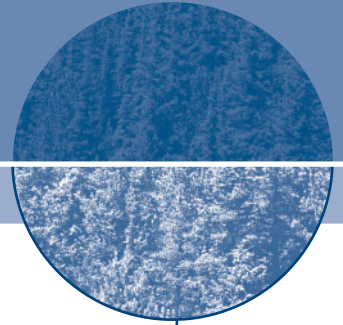
- 70 **Bare Branches: The Security Implications of Asia's Surplus Male Population**  
By Valerie M. Hudson and Andrea M. den Boer  
*Reviewed by Richard Cincotta*
- 74 **Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed**  
By Jared Diamond  
*Reviewed by Kenneth C. Brill*
- 77 **From Conflict to Sustainable Development: Assessment and Clean-up in Serbia and Montenegro (Final Report) and Desk Study on the Environment in Liberia**  
By the United Nations Environment Programme  
*Reviewed by Gregory D. Foster*
- 81 **Global Crises, Global Solutions**  
By Bjørn Lomborg (Ed.)  
*Reviewed by Robert Costanza*
- 84 **Global Population Policy: From Population Control to Reproductive Rights**  
By Paige Whaley Eager  
*Reviewed by Duff Gillespie*
- 86 **Governing Water: Contentious Transnational Politics and Global Institution Building**  
By Ken Conca  
*Reviewed by Anthony Turton*
- 91 **HIV and National Security: Where Are the Links?**  
By Laurie Garrett  
*Reviewed by Jennifer Wisniewski Kaczor*
- 92 **Dams and Development: Transnational Struggles for Water and Power Identity, Conflict and Cooperation in International River Systems**  
By Jack Kalpakian  
*Reviewed by Anton Earle*

- 96 **Journal of Peace Research: Special Issue on the Demography of Conflict and Violence**  
By Henrik Urdal and Helge Brunborg (Eds.)  
*Reviewed by Christian Leuprecht*
- 98 **The Party's Over: Oil, War and the Fate of Industrial Societies**  
By Richard Heinberg  
*Reviewed by Michael Renner*
- 101 **The Return of Malthus: Environmentalism and Post-war Population-Resource Crises**  
By Björn-Ola Linnér  
*Reviewed by Ted Gaulin*
- 104 **Scarcity and Surfeit: The Ecology of Africa's Conflicts**  
By Jeremy Lind and Kathryn Sturman (Eds.)  
*Reviewed by Bidisha Biswas*
- 106 **Twenty-First Century India: Population, Economy, Human Development, and the Environment**  
Tim Dyson, Robert Cassen, and Leela Visaria (Eds.)  
*Reviewed by Toufiq A. Siddiqi*

dotPOP

- 110 *Jennifer Wisniewski Kaczor*

# FOREWORD



**GEOFFREY D.  
DABELKO**

Editor

**E**nvironmental pathways to peace can emerge at the unlikeliest of times—even during conflict, when managing shared environmental resources can be an important lifeline connecting combatants cut off from other avenues for dialogue. In May, I attended a conference in Tehran designed to connect Iran to the world’s environmental community. “Environment, Peace, and the Dialogue Among Civilizations and Cultures,” sponsored by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and Iran’s Department of Environment, built on then-President Mohammed Khatami’s initiative to engage in dialogue across borders and civilizations.

Seven hundred guests from around the world listened to President Khatami’s energetic opening speech, which called for new dialogues that would help build international trust and understanding. He tied environmental decline to growing poverty and injustice, while stressing that environmental cooperation can increase peace and stability.

Approximately 70 politicians and experts from more than 30 countries, joined by at least as many Iranian attendees, debated topics such as environmental damage in wartime, scarcity’s contributions to conflict, and cooperation as a peacebuilding tool. Using the environment as a pathway to peace was dissected in panel discussions—and practiced in the hallways among the international crowd of scholars and policymakers.

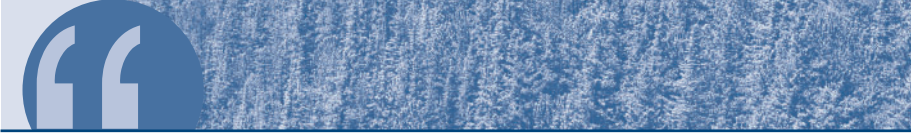
At its most fundamental level, environmental peacemaking uses cooperative efforts to manage environmental resources as a way to transform insecurities and create more peaceful relationships between parties in dispute. Environmental management may help overcome political ten-

sions by promoting interaction, confidence building, and technical cooperation.

Even as we seek to turn the environment and security thesis on its head, ECSP continues its decade-long focus on conflict. The 11th issue of the *Environmental Change and Security Program Report* leads with a set of commentaries that explores links between population factors and conflict uncovered by recent research. We asked five scholars in the rapidly developing field of demographic security to distill their findings into brief articles on the role played by four key population dynamics: density, age structure, sex ratio, and ethnicity.

Nepal—the subject of this year’s case study on environment, population, and conflict—might be a candidate for future environmental peacemaking efforts. Frequent contributor Richard Matthew and his collaborator Bishnu Raj Upreti analyze the underlying and often ignored forces contributing to Nepal’s deadly Maoist insurgency. As in previous issues of *ECSP Report*—which examined key states including Brazil, Nigeria, and Ethiopia—the authors demonstrate that even though environmental and population factors are not the primary causes of instability, they are essential pieces of the puzzle.

Despite the important connections between population and environment, integrated programs addressing this linkage are facing a critical juncture: foundations are moving their funds to other priorities. Robert Engelman of Population Action International argues that there is still a place for the demographic case. In a sweeping overview, he surveys the field from NGOs to academics to policymakers, and concludes, “We can improve lives by promoting with one strategy reproductive health, the



While environmental peacemaking efforts will never single-handedly resolve conflicts in the Middle East, they may be, according to Iran's former vice president for the environment, "the end of the beginning."

demographic transition, and environmental sustainability"—if donors step up to support it.

Environmental peacemaking can take myriad forms, two of which we present in this issue of *ECSP Report*. A preview of a forthcoming ECSP publication, "Parks for Peace or Peace for Parks," offers five perspectives on these intriguing transboundary programs that seek to build peace and meet conservation goals—at the same time. Using examples from South Asia, southern Africa, and South America, the excerpts are drawn from papers that delve deep into the debate and offer recommendations for those considering these appealing yet complex mechanisms.

The military may seem an unlikely venue for environmental peacemaking, but as Rear Admiral John Sigler USN (Ret.) explains, environmental security engagement—particularly disaster response—is a part of U.S. Central Command's efforts to promote regional stability and contribute to the ongoing process of conflict resolution. While the goals may swing from conservation to security, looking at these efforts side-by-side helps develop our understanding of environmental peacemaking—which we are continuing to do, as Ken Conca and I (with others) follow up on our 2002 book on the topic.

To learn more about ECSP's current and upcoming projects, visit our ever-expanding website, [www.wilsoncenter.org/ecsp](http://www.wilsoncenter.org/ecsp), where new features include video of many of our past

meetings and a topical navigation tool, which sorts news, research, videos, and links according to your interests. Our redesigned monthly e-newsletter, *ECSP News*, delivers meeting summaries, program news, and event announcements straight to your inbox, as we continue to use new media to streamline our publications and improve our dissemination.

While environmental peacemaking efforts like the Iranian conference or the U.S. military's programs will never single-handedly resolve conflicts in the Middle East, they may be, according to Iran's former vice president for the environment, Massoumeh Ebtekar, "the end of the beginning." In many places, the environment and natural resources are contributing to conflict and insecurity, whether from scarcity or abundance. But practitioners and policymakers should try to utilize environmental pathways to peace rather than ignore this tool. For example, the recently signed Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act recommends expanding U.S. programs that support and encourage cooperative water management mechanisms around the world, as they are "critical components of long-term United States national security." Without such systematic efforts to capitalize on these peacemaking opportunities (and better analysis of existing programs), states and societies may deny themselves a valuable tactic—and a lasting peace.

## References

- Carrell, Rachel, & Hugh Wilkins. (2005, May 13). "A summary report of the international conference on Environment, Peace, and the Dialogue Among Civilizations and Cultures." *Dialogue Among Civilizations Bulletin 108(1)*. International Institute for Sustainable Development. Available online at <http://www.iisd.ca/sd/sdter/9may.html>
- Conca, Ken, & Geoffrey D. Dabelko (Eds.). (2002). *Environmental peacemaking*. Washington, DC & Baltimore, MD: The Woodrow Wilson Center Press & Johns Hopkins University Press.
- H.R. 1973. (Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005). 109th Congress, Congressional Record H9705 (2005) (enacted).