



Environment and Security

“Forces for Sustainability”

Jelte van Wieren, 14 March 2007

Environment and Security

- “Many wars are fought over natural resources, which are becoming increasingly scarce across the earth. If we did a better job of managing our resources sustainably, conflicts over them would be reduced. Protecting the global environment is directly related to securing peace” (Wangari Maathai, 2004)

Environment and Security linkages

Environmental problems can be a source of armed conflict:

- Abuse of natural resources
- Scarcity of resources (because of degradation, population pressure, damage or unsustainable use)
- People are physically moved from their land as a result of env. problems

Environment and Security linkages

Armed conflict can be the cause of damage to the environment:

- Land mines and ammunition
- Weapons of mass destruction (nuclear, biological, chemical)
- Scorched earth tactics
- Decay of resource management systems
- Misuse of natural wealth to finance war

Environment and Security linkages

Armed conflict can be the indirect cause of damage to the environment:

- Resources used for conflict cannot be used for socio-economic development and environmental purposes.
- Countries or regions with armed conflicts spend higher percentages of national budgets on defence and security

Environment and Security linkages

In some situations armed conflict can be good for the environment:

Because insecurity can prevent large scale human or industrial utilization of natural resources.

After the conflict has ended

In many situations of armed conflict, environmental problems are among the root-causes of the conflict.

In many post-conflict situations the same environmental problems are still there and if they are not addressed, form a major threat for renewed violence.

DDR

- D: Disarmament (collection, handling, storage, destruction of weapons or weapon systems)
- D: Demobilisation (remove combatants from the chain of command)
- R: Reintegration (getting started in civilian life)
- R: Reinsertion (support in cash or in kind to help ex-combatants to return to their living areas)
- R: Repatriation (support to ex-combatants on foreign soil to return to their own country)

Multi-country Demobilisation and Reintegration Programme (MDRP)

- (D)DR

7 Countries:

Rwanda

Burundi

Angola

CAR

RoC

DRC

Uganda

MDRP Donors

Worldbank

EC

UK

Belgium

Netherlands

Germany

Finland

Ireland

Sweden

Denmark

France

Italy

Canada

Norway

African Development
Bank

MDRP targets & budget

- Target demobilisation: 350,000
- Realised: 240,000
- Target Reintegration: 330,000
- Realised: 150,000
- 6 national DR programmes
- 10 Special Projects:
 - Child Soldiers
 - Women associated with armed groups

MDRP Targets and Budgets

- Timeframe: 2002 – 2009
- Budget:
- \$ 500 million
- Commitments:
- Worldbank: \$ 200 million (IDA grants)
- Donors: \$ 280 million through MDTF

What DDR can do

DDR can increase security . .

- By reducing the number of weapons.
- By reducing the number of armed combatants.
- By reintegrating ex-combatants into civilian life.

What DDR cannot do . . .

- DDR cannot bring about peace and security (on its own).
- DDR cannot solve underlying reasons for conflict.
- DDR does not substitute for a lack of political will.
- DDR does not bring development.
- DDR hardly ever provides for sustainable reintegration.

Then why do DDR at all?

- DDR needs to be done in a post-conflict situation because . . .
- If you don't do DDR, the number of weapons and combatants still around is almost certain to lead to new violence.

DDR and the Environment

- There is no direct linkage between DDR and environmental concerns, however because it can increase security it can indirectly benefit the environment.
- The implementation of DDR/SSR programmes can have an impact on the environment, as shown by the case of Nyaleke CBR in Virunga national Park, DRC

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Nyaleke CBR

- The Netherlands provided support through the South African Army to upgrade two CBR's in North Kivu, DRC
- One of the CBR's, turned out to be located inside Virunga Park
- Moving the camp was no option, therefore the facilities created were made mobile and agreement was reached with the DRC authorities that the camp would be closed upon completion of the training programme

Nyaleke CBR: effects on the environment

- Presence of thousands of soldiers in a volatile ecosystem created pressure, but
- Upgrade of health, sanitation, water and accomodation relieved the pressure;
- Poaching of wildlife by hungry soldiers took place, but
- Improvement of the logistic systems, food supply and storage in Nyaleke camp did the trick.

Nyaleke CBR: effects on the environment

- Netherlands suggested to DRC authorities to use the facilities of Nyaleke camp for guarding Virunga park and training of game wardens.

Order restored in Nyaleke CBR



Questions

