Environmental Security

Approaches and issues

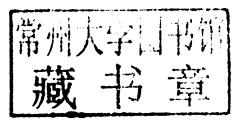
Edited by
Rita Floyd and Richard A. Matthew



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We dedicate this book to our respective children Corin S. Floyd (born 2011), Ainslie C. S. Matthew (born 2001), Elissa A. Matthew (born 2003) and Liam A. Matthew (born 2003), in the hope that our natural environment will still be a place of beauty and a source of well-being for them to enjoy as adults.

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This book is one of those notorious edited books that has been years in the making. Rita first wanted to read a book of this kind back in 2003 when she was a student trying to come to grips with environmental security, but none was available. At that time the idea of editing was daunting and it became more a concrete reality only after the International Studies Association's annual meeting in Chicago (2007), after which Richard joined the project as co-editor. Having taught environmental security for many years, he was equally frustrated with the absence of such a book. The initial enthusiasm for the book became slowly side-lined by other commitments (notably Richard's travels and Rita's maternity leave) and the not insignificant challenge of co-editing across the Atlantic. In the end we owe completion to Routledge's Andrew Mould's interest in, and enthusiasm for, this project, who first heard of it in the summer of 2011.

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The book's cover was chosen deliberately. Instead of selecting a – for this kind of book – more standard picture of an already damaged environmental landscape, we wanted the cover to depict nature's beauty, and in that way remind everyone why we should care about environmental issues.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome

BALWOIS Project Water Observation and Information System for Balkan

Countries

CBC Caucasus Biodiversity Council

CBDN Caucasus Business Development Network

CBM Confidence building measures

CI Caucasus Initiative (of the German Federal Government)

CSR Corporate Social Responsibility

DFID United Kingdom's Department for International Development

DOD US Department of Defense

DRC The Democratic Republic of the Congo

DUSDES Office of the Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for

Environmental Security

ENP European Neighbourhood Policy
ENVSEC Environment and Security Initiative
EPA Environmental Protection Agency
ESS Environmental Security Studies

EU European Union

FDI Foreign direct investment

GECHS Global Environmental Change and Human Security

GEF Global Environment Facility
GLOFs glacial lake outburst floods
HIV Human immunodeficiency virus
IFI International Financial Institution

IO International organizations

IPCC Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

IRFC International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

Societies

IWRM Integrated Water Resource Management

LOCP Lake Ohrid Conservation Project
LOMB Lake Ohrid Management Board
MENA Middle East and North Africa region

MoE Ministries of the environment

MOU Memorandum of Understanding
NATO North Atlantic Treaty Organization

nef new economics foundation NGO Non-governmental organization

NK Nagorno-Karabakh NRE Non-recognized entities

OSCE Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

PRIO Peace Research Institute in Oslo

REC Regional Environment Centre for the Caucasus

SARS Severe acute respiratory syndrome SCRM South Caucasus River Monitoring SDC Swiss Development Cooperation

SO South Ossetia

SSA Sub Saharan Africa

STS Science and Technology Studies
TJS Trans-boundary Joint Secretariat

UN United Nations

UNDP United Nations Development Programme

UNSC United Nations Security Council

USAID United States Agency for International Development

USDAT Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology

WSSD World Summit on Sustainable Development

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ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY STUDIES

An introduction

Rita Floyd and Richard A. Matthew1

Introduction

Over the past two decades a substantial body of literature has emerged in North America, Europe and throughout much of the developing world exploring the existing and potential linkages between security and the environment. While it explores some ideas that have roots in classical thought, this literature is largely a response to two almost simultaneous events: the end of the Cold War (1989–92), which compelled a rethinking of the concept of security, and the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, which mobilized scientific evidence of global environmental change into a global policy agenda widely regarded as urgent and vital.

The ensuing flood of academic enquiry has examined large-scale environmental processes such as climate change and deforestation. It has explored the socio-political effects of changes in natural resource assets at various scales of analysis. It has examined the activities of the military from an environmental perspective and sought to understand the role the environment plays in conflict and in conflict resolution. It has explored the interaction of environmental change with demographic and health factors from a security perspective. It has considered the environment in terms of different levels of security analysis including global, regional, national, subnational and human. It has studied vulnerability to environmental change from the perspective of equity and poverty. And it has sought to understand the impacts of strategies for conservation and adaptation to environmental stress in different security contexts.

This work has been important and influential. It has been the subject of considerable policy activity. It has been popularized by leading journalists and authors. It has been integrated into International Relations and security studies curricula at both undergraduate and graduate levels. Interest among the emerging generation of scholars appears widespread and strong, and many of the scholars who defined the field in the early post-Cold War years continue to be active in it.

Perhaps reflective of the complexity of our high-speed and densely interconnected world, environmental security has not evolved over the past two decades as a homogeneous field of analysis, but rather as a polysemous category encompassing a wide range of analytical and normative meanings and positions. Indeed, the field of environmental security is so fragmented that the term is used to refer to entirely different, and even