

# **Shifting Bases, Shifting Perils**

## **Security Implications of Climate Change in the OSCE Region**

**Achim Maas, Adelphi Research (Berlin)**

**Environment and Economic Officers Annual Staff Meeting  
3 February 2010, Vienna**

### **Structure of Presentation and Scoping Study**

The Scoping Study was implemented by **Adelphi Research** in cooperation with **Chatham House** and **CIMERA**

- **Climate Change and Security**
- **Mapping Security Implications of Climate Change**
- **An Emerging Response**
- **Recommendations**

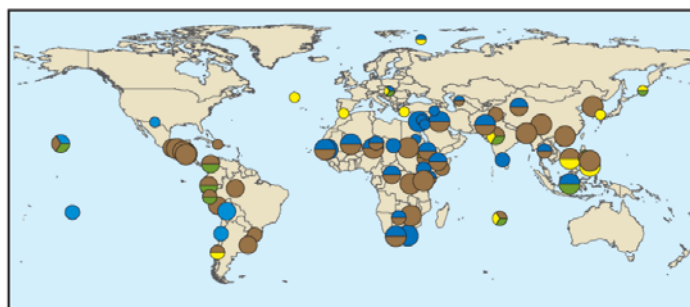
# 1. Climate Change and Security: Interlinkages, Concepts and Scenarios

## Environment & Conflict: Known interlinkages

That **environment is a factor** in contributing to outbreak, duration and termination of violent conflict is not new.

**Climate change** will intensify and multiply environmental drivers of conflict, but will also **add new qualities** to environmental conflict.

World Map of Environmental Conflicts 1980-2005



Conflict intensity

- Diplomatic crisis
- Protests (partly violent)
- Use of violence (national scope)
- Systematic/collective violence

Conflict cause

- Water
- Land/soil
- Fish
- Biodiversity

Source: Carius et al. 2006

## Climate change: Transformer of Constants...

**Infrastructure:** Grafted on a stable environment, thawing of permafrost and related impacts will **challenge planning**.

**Territory:** Sea-level rise will **reshape borderlines of countries** and thus their territory.

**Environmental Patterns:** Economies and institutions are **adapted to certain patterns** – such as river flows and monsoons – which will change due to climate variability.



## ... and Multiplier of Threats

**Resources:** **Competition over resources** (land, water, energy, food, labour, income, ...) may increase.

**Climate-fuelled migration:** **States may vanish and economies contract** – and population forced to leave.

**Fragility:** Changing **distribution of resources** and **inadequate management** of climate impacts may **erode the social contract** – and may **destabilise states**.



© UNHCR/H.Caux/December 2005

## Security Implications Plausible – But certain?

Security consequences from climate change are plausible, but questions remaining are: When, where and what to expect and hopefully predict?

**Migration:** Number ranges are huge, with few serious estimates. How will climate change **drive migration** and where will it be a sui generis cause of it?

**Psycho-Cultural Aspects:** How do individuals and societies **adapt to climate change** – and where may it trigger what type of violence?

**Institutions and governance:** How climate change is managed by **institutions will greatly affect if conflicts turn violent.**

## Scenarios on Climate Change and Security

**Scenarios:** Coherent, systematically developed **statement of a likely future.**

**Reducing Uncertainties:** Identifying **key risks** and where additional **research** is needed – providing a **framework for action.**

**Policy Pathways:** **Developing responses** and **indicators** to assess progress – foundations for a **early warning mechanism.**

## 2. Mapping Potential Security Implications of Climate Change

### Mapping Potential Security Implications

**Aim:**

- Providing a first overview to potential security implications of climate change in four regions of interest for the OSCE

**Approach:**

- Desk-based scoping study based on available literature
- Focus on security implications
- Focus on climate change

**Framework:**

- The OSCE Dimensions



## **The Arctic**

### **Environment and Economic Dimension**

- ▶ Livelihood Challenges
- ▶ Environmental Degradation
- ▶ Resource Claims
- ▶ Transportation Routes

### **Politico-Military Dimension**

- ▶ Territorial Claims
- ▶ Militarisation of the Arctic

### **Human Dimension**

- ▶ Impacts on Indigenous Communities



## **Southern Mediterranean**

### **Environment and Economic Dimension**

- ▶ Decreasing Food and Water Security
- ▶ Displacement of Large Populations
- ▶ Economic Stagnation

### **Politico-Military Dimension**

- ▶ Militarisation of Water Disputes
- ▶ Weakening of Civil Authorities
- ▶ Intensifying Extremism

### **Human Dimension**

- ▶ Violation of Human Rights
- ▶ Impacts on Civil Liberties



## **South East and Eastern Europe**

### **Environment and Economic Dimension**

- ▶ Energy Insecurity
- ▶ Food Insecurity
- ▶ Economic Deterioration
- ▶ Population Movements

### **Politico-Military Dimension**

- ▶ Ethno-Political Tensions

### **Human Dimension**

- ▶ Social Tensions
- ▶ Authoritarian Governance



## **South Caucasus and Central Asia**

### **Environment and Economic Dimension**

- ▶ Decrease in Food and Water Availability
- ▶ Disasters and Health Impacts
- ▶ Migration
- ▶ Aral Sea Deterioration

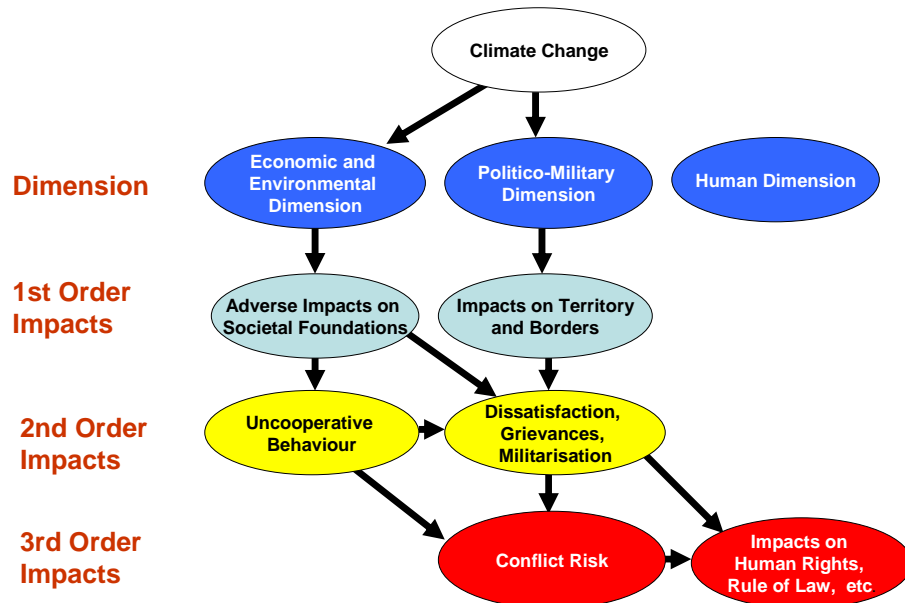
### **Politico-Military Dimension**

- ▶ Escalating Water Tensions
- ▶ Increase in Extremism
- ▶ Disputes over the Caspian Sea

### **Human Dimension**

- ▶ Impacts on Human Rights and Minorities

## Potential Impacts of Climate Change on Security



## 3. An Emerging Response





## The UN Process

### Political Level

- Debate at UN Security Council in 2007
- Debate at UN General Assembly in 2009, GA Resolution 63/281 adopted
- Debate at other bodies, such as UN Human Rights Council in 2008

### Technical Level

- Report by UN Secretary-General
- Studies, guidance notes and assessments by specialised agencies
- First projects commencing, e.g. in the Pacific



## The EU Process

- Commenced during **German EU Council Presidency** in 2007
- **Joint Paper** by High-Representative Solana and European Commission in 2008
- **Roadmap** on Climate Change and International Security for 2008 and 2009
- General Affairs Council welcomed results of the Roadmap in **December 2009**

## The Added Value of OSCE

- **Inclusive** body
- **Comprehensive** mandate and approach
- Established forum for **dialogue**
- **Field** presences

## 4. Recommendations



## **Recommendations – Political Level**

- **Climate change survey**
- **Joint sessions of key bodies**
- **International partnering**
- **Approaching non-OSCE stakeholders**
- **Follow-up on Bucharest**



## **Recommendations – Technical Level**

- **Coordination and cooperation**
- **Disseminating information**
- **Improving networking and communication**
- **Conducting regional consultation and assessments**
- **Building capacity**
- **Improving research and analysis**

**Thank you for your attention!**

**You can find further information on**

**[www.adelphi-research.de/ecc](http://www.adelphi-research.de/ecc)**

**[www.chathamhouse.org.uk](http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk)**

**[www.cimera.org](http://www.cimera.org)**

