The Environment and Security (ENVSEC) Initiative was launched in 2003 at the Fifth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference in Kiev, Ukraine to strengthen national capacities, regional co-ordination mechanisms and international co-operation for environment and security risk reduction. Since then, the Initiative has developed into a unique multi-agency programme operating in four regions: Eastern Europe, South Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia.

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) have joined forces to provide holistic solutions to environmental challenges.

ENVIRONMENT AND SECURITY:
A PLATFORM FOR CO-OPERATION

The increasing pressure on natural resources, the impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and unsustainable development pose multifaceted security challenges within and across borders. The ENVSEC Initiative helps to:
- Transform these risks into opportunities for co-operation;
- Improve mutual understanding;
- Effectively manage transboundary environmental challenges on a co-operative basis.

“In the Balkans, Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia, the UN and the OSCE are teaming up through ENVSEC. These environmental challenges are extensive and varied, but solutions share a common denominator, that is cooperation”

Ban Ki-Moon, UN Secretary General
The designations employed on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the organizations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area of its authority or delineation of its frontiers and boundaries.

**ENVIRONMENT AND SECURITY PRIORITY AREAS**
“The Environment and Security Initiative is a concrete example of joining efforts by many partner organizations to forge effective responses to traditional and emerging challenges. This lasting partnership will continue to enable joint and co-ordinated action in support of sustainable development and peace”

Lamberto Zannier,
OSCE Secretary General

Environmental degradation and competition over natural resources can lead to political disputes and threaten stability. Environmental co-operation, on the other hand, can act as a bridge for improved mutual understanding, and lay the foundation for conflict prevention and confidence building.

The ENVSEC Initiative was founded to address the linkage between the environment and security through both technical and political actions, ranging from in-depth vulnerability assessments to capacity building and institutional strengthening. ENVSEC encourages co-ordination and co-operation between countries and supports pilot interventions at local, country and transboundary level. It also enhances civil society engagement and promotes information sharing and community participation through Aarhus Centres.
ENVSEC IN ACTION

NATURAL RESOURCES AND SECURITY

The ENVSEC Initiative promotes transboundary co-operation for environmentally sound management of shared natural resources, including in 13 transboundary water basins in the ENVSEC regions. It supports countries in strengthening their natural resource management policies and legislation, and it encourages ratification and implementation of multilateral environmental agreements.

CO-OPERATION ON THE DNIESTER:
Since 2004, Moldova and Ukraine have co-operated through a number of projects known as “the Dniester process” with the support of the ENVSEC Initiative. In 2012, this process culminated in the signing of the Dniester Treaty which provides a framework for the two countries to work together on preventing and controlling water pollution, regulating water flows, conserving biodiversity, monitoring information exchange, and promoting public participation and co-operation in emergency situations.

PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL LOGGING IN SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE:
Illegal logging and illegal timber trade are growing problems for many countries in the region as they can lead to deforestation, forest degradation, and desertification. The ENVSEC Initiative assessed the state of the forestry sector in South Eastern Europe, including the legal, institutional and policy frameworks. It also formulated recommendations and a regional road map for addressing illegal logging and illegal timber trade, followed by several training and capacity building programmes.
Climate change is a “threat multiplier”, exacerbating existing risks to security. The ENVSEC Initiative takes practical steps towards promoting co-operation on climate change issues within and across borders.

**CLIMATE CHANGE AND SECURITY IN EASTERN EUROPE, THE SOUTH CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA:**

Climate change has a direct impact on security through its effect on critical infrastructure and because of extreme weather events that increase stresses on natural resources. Since 2013, the ENVSEC Initiative, with the support of the European Union Instrument for Stability and the Austrian Development Agency, has been implementing a multi-stakeholder project to identify the security implications of climate change in Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia.

The project enhances understanding and awareness of climate change as a security challenge and the consequent need for regional and transboundary co-operation in adaptation. It conducts participatory climate change and security assessments in each of the regions, and supports one transboundary adaptation strategy.
The designations employed on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the organizations concerned, as under the United Nations Charter, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. UNCTAD, UNECE, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) have joined forces in four regions: Eastern Europe, South Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia.

Environmental degradation and competition over natural resources can lead to political disruption. Environmental co-operation, on the other hand, can act as a bridge for improved mutual understanding, and lay the foundation for conflict prevention and peace.
ENVSEC IN ACTION
HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES AND SECURITY

“The ENVSEC Initiative is an excellent example of a well-functioning multi-agency co-operation, a joint effort that can provide an effective integrated response to environment and security challenges”

Antti Rytövuori, Minister, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Finland in Geneva (2011)

REDUCTION OF TRANSBOUNDARY RISKS FROM MINING IN SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE:
Over a period of 10 years, the ENVSEC Initiative has generated information on the current state of around 150 mining sites in South Eastern Europe, and possible remediation solutions; organized several capacity-building activities; supported countries in the ratification and implementation of relevant multilateral agreements; and improved the safety of two non-active mining sites through pilot remediation work.

PREVENTING ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING OF HAZARDOUS WASTE:
The ENVSEC Initiative supports efforts to prevent the illegal trafficking of hazardous waste by strengthening the capacity of relevant national authorities (customs, environmental inspectors etc.) to detect and prevent environmental crimes at the border where different sorts of hazardous waste are involved.

URANIUM LEGACY SITES IN CENTRAL ASIA:
The ENVSEC Initiative, with the support of the European Union, stimulates regional dialogue, increases awareness of policy-makers as well as citizens on risks associated with uranium waste and possible measures, and promotes community engagement in remediation of uranium legacy sites.
The Environment and Security (ENVSEC) Initiative was launched to strengthen linkages between the legal status of any country, territory, city or area of its authority or delineation of its frontiers and boundaries.

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), South Caucasus and Central Asia.

The ENVSEC Initiative helps to:

- Improve mutual understanding;
- Enhance confidence building programmes and confidence building measures;
- Facilitate joint and co-ordinated action in conflict prevention;
- Build and support of sustainable development; and
- Strengthen regional dialogue and peace.
THE ENVIRONMENT AND SECURITY (ENVSEC) INITIATIVE
SINCE 2003

- 5 ENVSEC PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS
- 4 REGIONS
- 13 STRENGTHENED COLLABORATION ON THE MANAGEMENT OF TRANSBoundary WATER BASINS
- 150 PROJECTS
- 100 COLLABORATION WITH INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS
- 60 AARHUS CENTRES
- 20 LOCAL PARTNERS

ENVSEC in Eastern Europe, South Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

The link between security and development is a key underlying principle of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which states “there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development”.

The ENVSEC Initiative through its primary focus on the interlinkages between peace and environment and security, building trust at different levels, the ENVSEC Initiative will particularly be instrumental in realizing the following SDGs below:

- Peace and Justice, Strong Institutions
- No Poverty
- Good Health and Well-being
- Clean Water and Sanitation
- Affordable and Clean Energy
- Climate Action
- Life on Land
- Life Below Water

Overall, the transition to a green economy will require enhanced co-operation among and within countries and the ENVSEC Initiative with its wide network of stakeholders will do its share.

Making peace and prosperity inclusive, the ENVSEC Initiative contributes in many ways to the transition to a green and inclusive societies and economies.

To redirect consumption habits, to combat climate change and pollution, to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources, to promote access to and affordable, reliable, modern energy services, to promote sustainable production patterns, to protect the cultural heritage, to promote environmental protection policies and institutions, to promote human well-being and social equity, to ensure access to water and sanitation, to protect the natural environment, to foster global partnership for sustainable development.

The green economy, as an approach that is based on building an economy that is socially and environmentally sustainable, is a promising investment and trade in support of reducing environmental risks and promoting multi-stakeholder partnerships.

The ENVSEC Initiative promotes the sustainable management of transboundary natural resources and biodiversity loss, and threatens the stability and security of states, including in Central Asia, the South Caucasus, and the Black Sea region.

Given its accumulated experience for over a decade and its network of partners at local, national and regional levels, the ENVSEC Initiative will particularly be instrumental in realizing the following SDGs below:

- Peace and Justice, Strong Institutions
- No Poverty
- Good Health and Well-being
- Clean Water and Sanitation
- Affordable and Clean Energy
- Climate Action
- Life on Land
- Life Below Water

Its direct contribution for the environment and the implications for people, planet and prosperity, and through its long-standing partnerships.

The green economy, as an approach promoting multi-stakeholder partnerships, will contribute to the overall implementation of the sustainable development goals and post-2015 development agenda.

The environmental mediation is meant to facilitate conflict resolution, and not to provide any legal remedy for damage or conflict.

The ENVSEC Initiative contributes in many ways to the transition to a green and inclusive societies and economies.

Its indirect contribution is through improving decision making, access to justice in environmental matters.

Its direct contribution is its work for reduction of environmental risks, strengthening ecosystems resilience, and institutional frameworks for addressing public and governmental concerns in relation to new projects and their impacts on the environment.

The ENVSEC Initiative promotes environmental journalism as an instrument for awareness raising and advocacy in the environmental security sector, and it also promotes the engagement of youth in environmental security education and training.

The ENVSSEC Initiative aims at facilitating and strengthening national and international partnerships and networks, and promoting good practices.

The ENVSEC Initiative promotes Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and green building assessments.

The ENVSEC Initiative supports awareness raising and capacity building for the green economy near its primary focus on the interlinkages between peace and environment and security.

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The ENVSEC Initiative supports awareness raising and capacity building for the green economy near its primary focus on the interlinkages between peace and environment and security.
The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are built around five pillars: peace, prosperity, people, planet, and partnerships.

The ENVSEC Initiative through its primary focus on the interlinkages between peace and environment and security for Sustainable Development, which states “there can be no sustainable development without security and peace, and no security and peace without sustainable development.” The link between security and development is a key underlying principle of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which states “there can be no sustainable development without peace and security, and no peace and security without sustainable development.”

The ENVSEC Initiative contributes in many ways to the transition to a green and inclusive economy in Eastern Europe, South Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Its direct contribution is through its work for reduction of environmental risks, strengthening ecosystems resilience, and improved human well-being and social equity. Its indirect contribution is through empowering civil society and making them an integral part of decision-making processes that build on participation, ownership and co-operation.

Overall, the transition to a green economy will require enhanced co-operation among and within countries and the ENVSEC Initiative with its wide network of stakeholders will do its part to redirect consumption habits, promote just, sustainable and inclusive societies, combat climate change and its impacts, and sustainably manage all natural resources.

Key to the success of the Initiative is its methodological work on a four-stage approach and processes that build on participation, ownership and co-operation.

TRANSGOVERNMENTAL WATER CO-OPERATION IN RIVER BASINS

(Dniester, Pripyat, Neman, Kura-Aras, Sava, Drin, Lepene, Timok, Danube, Chu-Talas, Amu Darya)

DAM SAFETY

FLOOD PREVENTION

WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT

COMMUNITY-BASED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL LOGGING
Prevention of illegal trafficking of hazardous waste
Participation in Decision-Making, Access to Justice in Transboundary water co-operation in river basins
Reduction of transboundary risks from mining
Aarhus Centres (Access to Information, Public Lepenec, Timok, Danube, Chu-Talas, Amu Darya) partnerships.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets are designed to be achieved by 2030. The goals are structured to ensure that action is taken at all levels. At the same time, the goals are interconnected, meaning action in one area can support or provide a前提 for action in another. Achieving the goals will require improved human well-being, nurturing planet, prosperity, and safeguarding peace. The environmental and development dimensions are inextricably intertwined.

The link between security and development is a key underlying principle of the 2030 Agenda. Overall, the transition to a green economy will require enhanced co-operation among and within countries and the ENVSEC Initiative with its wide network of stakeholders will do its share.

The ENVSEC Initiative contributes in many ways to the transition to a green and inclusive development. It is broadly characterized by three integrated dimensions: economic progress; and improved ecological scarcities; enhanced reduced environmental risks and threats. The green economy, as an approach to redirect consumption habits, will ensure that economic activities produce the least possible negative impact on the environment.

The ENVSEC Initiative works towards reducing environmental risks, strengthening ecosystems resilience, and conserving biodiversity loss. It promotes Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) that provide regulatory protections of large-scale projects. The Initiative also promotes Environmental Mediation in local areas.

The green economy approach involves changing production patterns and consumption habits, particularly in energy, through small-scale and large-scale projects. It strengthens institutional frameworks for addressing public and governmental concerns, and improves decision-making processes. The Initiative also promotes the involvement of stakeholders and the implementation of projects.

The ENVSEC Initiative contributes to the transition towards a green and inclusive development. It supports the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and promotes environmental journalism.

ENVSEC HIGHLIGHTS

- Climate Change and Security
- Reduction of Transboundary Risks from Mining
- Remediation of Uranium Legacy Sites
- Removal of Toxic Rocket Fuel - Mélange
- Safe Destruction of Obsolete Pesticides
- Prevention of Illegal Trafficking of Hazardous Waste
- Aarhus Centres (Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making, Access to Justice in Environmental Matters)
- CASE NGO Small Grants Programme
- Environmental Mediation
- Environmental Journalism

Photo: Victor Mello
The green economy, as an approach to redirect consumption habits, investment and trade in support of inclusive prosperity, is a promising path towards achieving sustainable development. It is broadly characterized by three integrated dimensions: reduced environmental risks and ecological scarcities; enhanced economic progress; and improved human well-being and social equity.

The ENVSEC Initiative contributes in many ways to the transition to a green and inclusive economy in Eastern Europe, South Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Its direct contribution is its work for reduction of environmental risks, strengthening ecosystems resilience, and protecting the natural environment. The Initiative also promotes Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) that provide regulatory and institutional frameworks for addressing public and governmental concerns in relation to new projects and their impacts on the environment. Its indirect contribution is through improving resource efficiency, particularly water, and through empowering civil society and communities.

Overall, the transition to a green economy will require enhanced co-operation among and within countries and the ENVSEC Initiative with its wide network of stakeholders will do its share.
ENVSEC AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets are built around five pillars: peace, people, planet, prosperity, and partnerships.

The link between security and development is a key underlying principle of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which states “there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development”.

The ENVSEC Initiative through its primary focus on the interlinkages between peace and environment and the implications for people, planet and prosperity, and through its longstanding multi-stakeholder partnership approach will contribute to the overall implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Eastern Europe, South Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia.

Given its accumulated experience for over a decade and its network of partners at local, national and regional levels, the ENVSEC Initiative will particularly be instrumental in realizing the following SDGs below:
The 17 Sustainable Development Goals are:

6. **Clean Water and Sanitation**
   - Ensure access to water and sanitation for all

7. **Affordable and Clean Energy**
   - Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

11. **Sustainable Cities and Communities**
    - Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

12. **Responsible Consumption and Production**
    - Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

13. **Climate Action**
    - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

14. **Life Below Water**
    - Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources

15. **Life on Land**
    - Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss

16. **Peace and Justice, Strong Institutions**
    - Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies

17. **Partnerships for the Goals**
    - Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development