Focus: Climate Diplomacy

- Oops, They Did It Again! Climate Change in the UN Security Council
  by Dennis Tänzler, adelphi

Regional Highlights

Global
  by Rebecca Bertram and Charlotte Beck, Heinrich Böll Foundation

Asia
- Cities and Climate Diplomacy in the Asia Pacific
  by Gianna Gayle Herrera Amul and Maxim Shrestha, Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS)

Oceania and Pacific
- Pearl Farming as an Adaptation Strategy for Climate Change?
  by Saleem H. Ali, University of Queensland

Topics

Water
- Green Cities – Blue Solutions: the Importance of Trans-boundary Cooperation
  by Lisa Kreutzmann, adelphi

Early Warning and Risk Analysis
- Climate Insurance – an Important Building Block of Adaptation
  by Daria Ivleva, adelphi

Tools

Upcoming Events
- UN Summit for Adoption of Post-2015 Development Agenda
- Conference on Conflict, Peace and Natural Resources
- Intergovernmental Forum on Mining and Sustainable Development

Publications and Resources
- Climate Change: A Risk Assessment
- Gender and Urban Climate Policy
- Documentary: La Buena Vida – The Good Life
- Livelihoods, Natural resources, and Post-Conflict Peace-building
- The Lancet Report on Climate and Health
- OECD Report on Low-Carbon Policies
- EU Council Conclusions on Climate Diplomacy
- Encyclical Letter by Pope Francis

Legal Notice / Contact
Climate change as a Security Council topic is no longer breaking news. On the contrary, it has seemingly become a good tradition to organize a debate once in a while about the ways in which climate change is going to affect peace and stability. This summer saw an Arria Formula meeting at the end of June and an open debate of the Council on small island developing states (SIDS) in July. So the vested interest of the international community is obvious. However, what is the reason for the renewed attention on this topic? Indeed, there may be several.

First, the aim is to ensure a continuity of the discussion on climate change as a threat multiplier at the highest level. In the concept note of the Arria Formula meeting, the governments of Spain and Malaysia outlined the need to focus once more on climate change and security, especially in the light of the most recent IPCC report and the urgent situation for Small Island States: “It is a matter of survival for many Small Island States as well as the low-lying coastal territories of numerous states, which are currently facing serious threats of permanent inundation from sea-level rise.”

Second, 2015 is a year with a number of high level conferences that are crucial to renew the governance structure of global environmental and development governance. The hope for a new and ambitious global agreement as a result of the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris is enormous, as a key step to limit climate change and, hence, also its security implications. With the Security Council dealing again with some of the most devastating impacts of climate change, there is hope for further momentum for the final rounds of negotiations.

Third, initiatives like the one of the G7 Foreign Ministers to ask for concrete actions on climate change and fragile states can contribute to a shift in the debate to move from warning to real action. Part of the final communiqué of the foreign ministers in Lübeck, Germany, back in April is to consider how the international community can strengthen resilience to climate change and to avoid increased incidents of violent conflicts. Though the G7 have a major impact when it comes to greenhouse gas emission reductions and development finance, a broader platform of states is needed to address key aspects of resilience building, especially in fragile contexts. Accordingly, outreach to the G20, Small Island States or the g7+ governments is important and can be introduced by flagging the issue in the Security Council again.

So what’s next? One of the statements well received during the Arria formula meeting was the statement by Tony de Brum, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Marshall Islands. He appreciated the attention for the topic but also asked what the Presidential Statement adopted during the 2011 Security Council debate led to. More concretely, he argued, if the Security Council is one of the primary multilateral forums, what has been the progress on this issue since 2011? After the two sessions in 2015, there may be room for some progress in this regard. The EU and others referred to the need for regular reporting on climate change and security and are in favour of an updated report by the Secretary General who already published a report back in 2009. The SIDS open debate organized by New Zealand in July aimed at framing discussions both with view to immediate proposals in the run up to Paris and as part of a more comprehensive long-term process. So there are a few entry points for a follow up – but enduring leadership is needed to move the debate beyond warnings concerning security implications of climate change.
Regional Highlights: Global


by Rebecca Bertram and Charlotte Beck, Heinrich Böll Foundation

Their worlds are still far apart: national security and foreign policy experts have traditionally thought of energy mainly in terms of the need to secure access to energy resources from abroad while avoiding strategic dependence on the suppliers. Energy dependence on a Russian or Middle Eastern supplier, for example, is seen as a major security risk. Energy experts, on the other hand, have often failed to grasp the security and foreign policy implications of certain policies, and have mainly looked at energy policy as a domestic issue.

Advocates of clean energy in particular have failed to make a good argument on how new green technologies can yield positive effects on international security and conflicts around the world.

In recent years, green technologies have made significant technological advances and considerably decreased in cost. Already, global investments in renewable energies have overtaken investments in conventional fuels, and, for the first time in history, new renewable energy installations surpass that of new conventional energy installations.

“"No longer are green technologies solely regarded - and at times dismissed - as idealistic; they actually make economic sense."

Take one example: In the United States, solar technology costs have decreased by 80 percent, and wind technology by 60 percent over the past five years. No longer are green technologies solely regarded – and at times dismissed – as idealistic; they actually make economic sense.

These dramatic changes in energy technology and market developments have serious implications for national security strategy. Here are five reasons why green technologies make sense not only for economic and ecological but for security reasons as well, and why they need to be taken seriously by national security experts:

1. Green energy is home-grown and increases a country’s energy independence. Germany, for example, still imports almost 90 percent of its hard coal and natural gas needs, as well as almost 100 percent of its petroleum and uranium demands. Concerns about the resulting vulnerability to “energy blackmail” by supplying countries are not new, but they have reached new heights in light of the ongoing conflict at Europe’s eastern border to Russia.

   Germany’s energy transition – or Energiewende – that calls for wind, solar and biomass to make up 80 percent of the country’s power supply by the middle of the century will directly strengthen the country’s independence from the pressure of suppliers and transit countries. Energy experts from the Fraunhofer Institute predict that if the energy transition is managed well, including greater diversification of home-grown clean energy sources and energy efficiency measures, Germany could, in fact, be independent of Russian gas imports by 2030.

2. Green energies avoid the strategic lock-in effects of pipeline and LNG infrastructure. Due to the rapid build-up of clean energies and shifting demand centres from Europe and the United States to Asia, global energy markets will look completely different in 2030 and beyond. It makes little sense, therefore, to invest heavily in new pipelines and LNG terminals today which will be in operation for the next fifty
years and will lock in client and supplier in huge investment commitments. Europe is rightly attempting to diversify its oil and gas supplies from Russia, but in doing so builds new “old” infrastructure for energy supplies from other regions, such as Central Asia and the Gulf countries. Instead, the EU and its member states should aim for energy security through a stable clean energy infrastructure that can adjust flexibly to the energy market realities of the future.

3. Green technologies help to mitigate the security threats of climate change. Security experts warn that climate deterioration and related resource scarcity are becoming one of the main sources of violent conflict – be it over food, water or land. A dramatically changing climate would have the most severe impact on already fragile states and regions that would be destabilized further and turn into wider security concerns. This scenario can best be prevented by drastically reducing global carbon emissions within the next decade. The world needs to find ways to decouple economic growth from carbon emissions and fossil fuel consumption – for both ecological and security reasons. Green energy offers a clear solution to this.

4. Green technologies avoid the “resource curse.” In resource-rich Russia and Nigeria, for example, fossil fuel wealth combined with weak public institutions have drastically exacerbated poverty, inequality, corruption and undemocratic governance. By contrast, decentralized green energies strengthen domestic stability through citizen involvement, transparency and accountability – a fertile ground for security as well. This partly explains the widespread reluctance by policy makers to pursue clean energy in many parts of the world. Economic and political elites often risk losing considerable windfall profits when transitioning from fossil fuels to clean energy sources, as these are typically smaller, more decentralized and less conducive to rent seeking.

5. Green technologies strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime by busting the myth of profitability. Despite widespread claims to the contrary, nuclear energy is not economically profitable compared to affordable green energy. If the myth of cheap nuclear energy were to be recognized as such, it would be harder for states to claim that they pursue nuclear power solely for civilian or economic purposes. Exposing the fallacy of governments’ arguments for nuclear energy thereby indirectly strengthens the nuclear non-proliferation regime. The current negotiations between the P5+1 and Iran show how difficult it is to ultimately make a distinction between a purely civilian and a potentially military nuclear programme. Recognizing that it does not make economic sense to pursue nuclear energy would help the international community to more easily determine when a state builds a nuclear programme with the intention of acquiring nuclear weapons.

These energy and security links need to be emphasized and further explored in critical discussions between energy and security experts on both sides of the Atlantic. But one thing is already clear: the nature of renewable energy and its rapid advance are bound to affect the way in which both disciplines have so far analysed the challenge of energy security. Anyone drafting energy and security policy needs to take them into account now.

Photo by josef.stuefer / Flickr.com

This article originally appeared in *Energy Transition*. The article is based on discussions held at a recent conference convened by the Heinrich Böll Foundation North America and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace as part of a Transatlantic Energy Security Dialogue. The views above are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the institutional position of the Carnegie Endowment or the Heinrich Böll Foundation. With special appreciation to R. Andreas Kraemer for his conference contribution that inspired this op-ed.

Rebecca Bertram is the Director of the Energy and Environment Programme and Charlotte Beck is the Director of Foreign & Security Policy at the Heinrich Böll Foundation's Washington Office.
Non-state actors are increasingly involved in issues surrounding climate change. Cities are recognised as international actors and have the capacity and authority to represent their interests against, along or beyond those of their national governments. Cities therefore have (or can have) a defined foreign policy, particularly in terms of security, development, economy, culture, cooperation (networks) and representation. Despite being relegated to observer status in the UN system, cities conduct noteworthy diplomatic activities for combating global warming. One of the reasons is that land-use planning, waste management, transportation issues and energy consumption are local in nature and have to be addressed at this level. Most cities engaged in climate diplomacy do so on at least one of the following three levels:

1. **Through a collective position:** This form of climate diplomacy is conducted through various city networks, like the C40 Climate Leadership Group (C40) and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), where cities band together to push for a common agenda. The numerous declarations, pacts and the resolve demonstrated by city networks often serve as a reminder that a consensus and willingness to seriously address and tackle climate-related issues is possible. Perhaps the greatest contribution and benefit of climate diplomacy by cities in networks is the strength and encouragement it provides to member cities to start working on some of the climate challenges in their own capacity with the help of one another.

2. **Through interaction and engagement with each other:** The role of cities in contributing to GHG as well as the disproportionate burden of climate change impacts are well appreciated by now. There is also an understanding that cities follow a similar urbanisation trajectory, often facing similar challenges. The example of Bangkok and Yokohama’s city-to-city cooperation on sustainable urban development shows how Yokohama’s Partnership of Resources and Technologies (Y-PORT) initiative serves as a brand to promote and utilize the city’s environmental technologies. Some cities also choose to engage their counterparts directly through various events and symposiums, for example Singapore’s World Cities Summit initiative.

3. **Within national borders:** Capital cities are able to directly engage and work with state governments on certain issues. Climate change and sustainable development are areas that overlap both city and national administrations’ agendas. Diplomacy at this level happens when city officials and administrations push for certain agendas with regard to climate change and the environment. Another dimension of climate diplomacy by cities within the national context could be with other secondary cities within the country. For example, the Bangkok Metropolitan Authority is known to have good relations with other Thai cities like Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai, which it engages on various platforms with regard to climate change and urban development issues.

How can climate diplomacy by cities be strengthened?

While cities have taken the initiative of tackling the issue of climate and have started engaging in climate diplomacy, there is still a long way to go. Some potential avenues for sharpening their effectiveness and to become better practitioners of climate diplomacy are listed below.
Pearls are the only organic gem with global appeal across numerous cultures. Their origins in oysters that often need a particularly clean and temperature-sensitive environment provide them with an important connect to climate change strategies. Often pearl farming also occurs in vulnerable small-island states, which have few options for economic development if tourism declines due to coral bleaching. Pearl farming can coexist with coral systems and, in fact, recent research conducted under the auspices of the National Geographic Society suggests that tropical fish abundance can be higher around pearl farms. No doubt pearl farms themselves could be vulnerable to climate change. However, there is still ample opportunity for their development in many sheltered geographies.

Earlier this year, the Sustainable Pearls Forum took place in Hong Kong, bringing pearl industry leaders around a table to discuss the importance of sustainability for cultured pearls. This event included companies such as Paspaley, Robert Wan, Jewelmer, Tiffany & Co. and Mikimoto. The Forum highlighted the potential of pearls as pioneers of sustainable practices but also the challenges and the lessons from less successful but progressive initiatives.

- **Recommendations for city mayors and city officials:** City officials should institutionalise a city climate diplomacy agenda or an international relations policy on climate change. Cities should train their representative agencies and officials to tap international climate finance. Also, cities’ implementing agencies, honed through years of experience and expertise, should be trained to double up as climate diplomats for cities.

- **Recommendation for city networks:** City networks can strengthen the system of grouping cities and local governments in terms of their strengths and weaknesses. Concrete agendas and plans can make the appeal of networks greater for cities and local administrations. Networks can help cities make a plan, preferably with ranked priorities, in terms of climate change adaptation and mitigation needs. City networks should also equip city leaders and implementing agencies to focus not only on sharing best practices but also the challenges and the lessons from less successful but progressive initiatives.

- **Recommendation for national governments:** Relevant national agencies should work more closely and potentially train city officials and local leaders. Rather than letting cities conduct their diplomacy entirely in their own capacity, the aligning of agendas and interests might help both cities and national governments in the international sphere. There is potential that city diplomacy could possibly open doors to national level engagements and bilateral relations, or vice versa. Being able to switch between national and local/city diplomacy could open up numerous new opportunities and avenues for climate diplomacy.

---

**Regional Highlights: Oceania and Pacific**

**Pearl Farming as an Adaptation Strategy for Climate Change?**

by Saleem H. Ali, University of Queensland

Pearls are the only organic gem with global appeal across numerous cultures. Their origins in oysters that often need a particularly clean and temperature-sensitive environment provide them with an important connect to climate change strategies. Often pearl farming also occurs in vulnerable small-island states, which have few options for economic development if tourism declines due to coral bleaching. Pearl farming can coexist with coral systems and, in fact, recent research conducted under the auspices of the National Geographic Society suggests that tropical fish abundance can be higher around pearl farms. No doubt pearl farms themselves could be vulnerable to climate change. However, there is still ample opportunity for their development in many sheltered geographies.

Earlier this year, the Sustainable Pearls Forum took place in Hong Kong, bringing pearl industry leaders around a table to discuss the importance of sustainability for cultured pearls. This event included companies such as Paspaley, Robert Wan, Jewelmer, Tiffany & Co. and Mikimoto. The Forum highlighted the potential of pearls as pioneers of sustainability in the jewellery industry and demonstrated that there is a clear business case for sustainable cultured pearls. All the videos and presentations at this event are now available online.

[Photo by Srikumar Mitra / Flickr.com](https://www.flickr.com/photos/75699915@N08/4877350563)
having only sea-based operations in Australia. Mr. Paspaley argued that, “from my perspective the simplest and first step in sustainability is the preservation of the wild stock and the environment itself” and that “the overall conclusion is that the pearling industry is environmentally benign. In fact, it could be argued that the industry has an environmentally beneficial effect. If it were not for the existence of the pearling industry, there would be fewer influential advocates for the environmental preservation of this remote region.”

Responsible pearl farming is unique because it is about not just preserving vital ecosystems but also producing high-quality pearls. This economic and environmental synergy, particularly with reference to climate change concerns, enables producers to market their pearls in unique and profitable ways. As a business opportunity emerging from climate change adaptation, the promotion of pearl farming in vulnerable tropical coasts deserves greater attention.

“Responsible pearl farming is unique because it is about not just preserving vital ecosystems but also producing high-quality pearls.”

The results of a US jewellery consumer market survey carried out by Sustainable Pearls and MVI Research were presented by University of Vermont researcher Julie Nash. These clearly showed that there is a business case for sustainable pearls. The Forum also included a side event in which pearl producers discussed Sustainability Principles for pearls that will be launched in 2015.

Topics: Water

Green Cities – Blue Solutions: the Importance of Transboundary Cooperation
by Lisa Kreutzmann, adelphi

Where urban infrastructure is based on water sources that cross national borders, the efficiency, sustainability and security of the water infrastructure depend on transboundary cooperation. This needs to be taken into account in planning water supply, sanitation and risk management. To explore these issues, adelphi, in cooperation with the German Federal Foreign Office, organized the event “Green Cities – Blue Solutions: the importance of transboundary cooperation” on 26 March 2015 as part of the Blue Planet Forum 2015. Experts exchanged experiences and ideas relating to the Danube, Dniester, Lake Victoria and Elbe River Basins.

The discussion focused on the relevance of transboundary cooperation for the planning and security of urban infrastructure, specific examples in this regard and lessons learnt. Transboundary cooperation is a crucial instrument for addressing existing challenges in a more efficient way. Participants agreed that joint financial management or complementing technical expertise ensure considerable benefits for all partners. The transfer of good practices and knowledge is relevant not only for stakeholders within one river basin, but also between different basins.

Cooperation between downstream and upstream countries in transboundary river basins, for instance through exchanging knowledge and information for dam construction, is a decisive factor for infrastructure planning. The water and energy nexus is of utmost importance. Large amounts of electricity are required for water collection and treatment, particularly in urban areas. Thus, effective allocation and distribution of water resources across borders potentially reduce overall energy consumption.
The discussion highlighted examples of transboundary cooperation regarding urban (water) infrastructure among cities and other levels of administration.

Knowledge of potential risks in the catchment is crucial for water suppliers. One good example is the Danube Utility Benchmarking and Information Sharing platform or DANUBIS, an online repository of data for and about water and sanitation utilities in the Danube region. Additionally, the development of a monitoring system to safeguard water supply along the Danube River and stronger cooperation with other basin organisations is planned.

In the Dniester River Basin, the cities Chisinau and Odessa have established a continuous exchange of best practices, however the actual exchange of data is limited – possibly due to the absence of adequate platforms. This form of cooperation can be supported by creating more platforms for information exchange.

The Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) benefits from bilateral and multilateral partnerships for capacity building of municipal authorities in urban planning. This well-established regional cooperation initiative around Lake Victoria has been able to attract international financial support for many projects. However, investment for water supply and sanitation needs further promotion. It is essential to develop sustainable financing instruments to support the development of transboundary water resources and to secure water quality.

Flood risk management encompasses various elements, ranging from reducing flood occurrence to reducing the potential damage caused. The concept of flood partnerships, for example within the Rhine River Basin, was established to facilitate exchanges between different actors in a transboundary basin. Flood partnerships are partnerships among communities, local authorities, emergency services, water management departments and other stakeholders in a common river basin, which contribute to the Flood Risk Management Plans of the EU Floods Directive.

Moreover, the discussion focused on prevailing challenges and lessons learnt from the different basins. Challenges exist in supporting preventive and adaptive capacities, protecting and improving water quality and supporting local populations in participating in decision-making.

Climate change effects were perceived as a major challenge for water security and economic development. Climate change-related extreme weather events pose a significant challenge for managers of services and utilities. In this regard, technical cooperation between stakeholders of different countries, for example in the Elbe River Basin, is necessary and, moreover, provides an opportunity to broaden political cooperation across borders. Politicians need to pick up on new challenges and opportunities arising in a changing environment. Therefore, the discussion centred on transparent and well-functioning water supply and wastewater management systems, which should rely on a political framework to be a rational platform for urban and rural areas.

Integrated transboundary river basin management should be anchored at an appropriate institutional level to trigger forward-looking planning. An effective interplay across various levels of governance involved in river basin management offers opportunities to facilitate the development and protection of (urban) water infrastructure.

**Topics: Early Warning and Risk Analysis**

**Climate Insurance – an Important Building Block of Adaptation**

by Daria Ivleva, adelphi

The G7 Summit on 7-8 June 2015 in Schloss Elmau has dealt prominently with climate change and development issues. The German G7 Presidency achieved an unprecedented level of commitment to climate change insurance as adaptation tool, thus powerfully promoting resilience. The leaders of the G7 states jointly declared:

“We will aim to increase by up to 400 million the number of people in the most vulnerable developing countries who have access to direct or indirect insurance coverage against the negative impact of climate change related hazards by 2020 and support the development of early warning systems in the most vulnerable countries.”
Insurance helps to better cope with the consequences of climate change. Both the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992) and the Kyoto Protocol (1997) refer to it as one of the three ways to support adaptation in developing countries, along with providing funding and technology transfer.

Insurance companies have been suggesting for years that climate change should be considered in political and corporate planning. They are among the actors who observe climate change impacts on natural disaster trends most closely. The Global Insurance Industry Group, founded by ClimateWise, Munich Climate Insurance Initiative (MCII), and the UNEP Finance Initiative, maintained in the run-up to the COP19 in Warsaw that: “Increased risks resulting from climate change and ecological degradation pose a shared risk to the insurance industry, governments and society.”

The German government also has been working actively on the topic. The MCII received support from the International Climate Initiative of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) for the project Climate Risk Adaptation and Insurance in the Caribbean, implemented together with Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF), MicroEnsure and Munich Re.

The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) contributed EUR 50 million to help establish and develop the ARC Insurance Company Ltd., which insures against drought risks in Kenya, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, and Senegal. Expansion to up to 20 African countries is planned. During the high-level conference on “Reducing risks, insuring losses, increasing resilience” held on 6 May 2015 in Berlin, Minister Gerd Müller (BMZ) announced that Germany would spend EUR 150 million to achieve the 400 million goal.

States, organisations and households can profit from insurance products. The CCRIF, for instance, allows Caribbean states to pool the risks caused by their exposure to extreme weather events. Index-based insurance, as offered by MCII or CCRIF, makes payments when certain weather indicators are red and before actual damage is caused.

Importantly, the activities to improve risk analysis and preventive measures to reduce risks are accompanying elements of insurance projects. Incentives to adopt adaptation measures can be integrated into an insurance scheme.

“Increased risks resulting from climate change and ecological degradation pose a shared risk to the insurance industry, governments and society.”

However, the scaling-up of pilot projects is demanding. To gather appropriate data, establish an effective regulatory framework and build trust among potential customers are all challenging tasks. Also, the sustainability question remains. Will insurance schemes persist when initial donor funding runs out and climate-related damage increases? And what does it take to offer an adequate solution to the uneven risk distribution around the world?

Experts furthermore reiterate that loss and damage as well as building resilience remain important issues for vulnerable countries, and climate insurance alone cannot be a sufficient response to this. The developing world and its advocates still expect an unequivocal and transparent outline of how the Copenhagen commitment of developed countries to mobilise annual climate finance of USD 100 billion by 2020 will be met.
The framework for global development after 2015 is to be adopted at the end of September 2015. The draft text resulting from complex negotiation and inclusive consultation processes has been recently approved by the international community (Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development). It includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals, all of which contain several sub-goals, thus outlining a comprehensive agenda in the respective development field.

Wageningen, Netherlands (7-10 October 2015)
Conference on Conflict, Peace and Natural Resources
This conference, organised by the National Committee Commemorations Capitulations 1945 (Wageningen45), Wageningen University and Research Center, and the European Network of Places of Peace, focuses on the role of natural resources in peacebuilding and fragility contexts. Topics include natural resources in peace negotiations and peace keeping, land investment conflicts and water governance. Detailed information is available on the conference website.

Geneva, Switzerland (26-30 October 2015)
Intergovernmental Forum on Mining and Sustainable Development
Every year, the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development (IGF) meets to offer space for discussions on sustainability issues in the extractive industry among national governments, mining corporations, international organisations and civil society representatives. IGF has developed the internationally recognised Mining Policy Framework on best governance practices in the sector.

Publications and Resources

Climate Change: A Risk Assessment
The report Climate Change: A Risk Assessment argues that the risks of climate change need to be considered on a par with risks to national security, financial stability or public health. Authored by David King, Daniel Schrag, Zhou Dadi, Qi Ye and Arunabha Ghosh and published by the Centre for Science and Policy (CSaP) at the University of Cambridge, this report offers a comprehensive climate change risk assessment. It is designed to support decision-makers and encourages them to give priority to the issue.

Gender and Urban Climate Policy
This joint publication by GIZ, UN HABITAT and Gender CC outlines gender-related challenges that urban planning faces in the context of climate change. It describes the requirements for gender-sensitive urban policies, offering tools and resources as well as specific examples of action based on case studies.
Livelihoods, Natural Resources, and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding

The authors of this book have gathered a wide array of cases to study the role of natural resources for peacebuilding and in post-conflict settings, also exploring respective policies and institutions of resource management. Individual chapters cover different types of resources and countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America.

Documentary: La Buena Vida – The Good Life

La Buena Vida - The Good Life (2015) tells the story of the community Tamaquino in Guajira, Colombia, resisting the relocation plans of a coal mining company. Their livelihoods are endangered by one of the largest open-pit coal mines in the world, El Cerrejón, that accounts for the biggest part of coal production in Colombia, the fifth-largest coal exporter in the world.

The Lancet Report on Climate and Health

The Commission on Health and Climate, a group of scientists convened by The Lancet journal, has published its second report on 22 June 2015. The study brings together data on climate and population trends and quantifies the future global health impacts of climate change. It looks at direct impacts of a changed climate and at adverse indirect effects of food insecurity, poor air quality or even displacement. The report calls for urgent action on mitigating climate change and preparing for its health-related challenges. This video explains the report’s findings.

OECD Report on Low-Carbon Policies

OECD and partner organisations look at how existing policies need to be changed in order to overcome the world’s fossil fuel dependence in Aligning Policies for a Low-carbon Economy. Reforms are advocated for far-reaching decarbonisation, covering both cross-cutting regulations (e.g. taxation) and specific sectors like electricity and urban mobility. This short video gives an overview of the report’s conclusions.

EU Council Conclusions on Climate Diplomacy

In its third conclusions on climate diplomacy, published on 20 July 2015, the Council of the European Union reinforces its commitment to addressing climate change as a key foreign policy and security issue. The Council states climate change is linked to multiple environmental, social, political and economic risks. Climate diplomacy initiatives and responses at a global and EU level are, thus, central to addressing climate change related threats with the aim of pursuing a ‘safe, sustainable and climate-resilient low-carbon development path’.

Encyclical Letter by Pope Francis

Pope Francis’ Encyclical Letter “Laudato Si”, published on 18 June 2015, is a moral plea for action against climate change and environmental degradation. Besides laying out the Pope’s critical stance on the ecological, spiritual and economic motives to ‘save our common home’, it also sends a central message to policymakers that: international political climate action is more important now than ever. “Diplomacy,” according to the Pope, “takes on new importance in the work of developing international strategies, which can anticipate serious problems affecting us all.”
The newsletter „Environment, Conflict, and Cooperation“ is published several times a year. To subscribe or unsubscribe, please click here.

The newsletter is supported by a grant from the German Federal Foreign Office.

Disclaimer:
adelphi research recommends visiting the websites linked to this newsletter. Following a judgment by the Hamburg Regional Court (Landgericht), we must, however, dissociate ourselves from the design and content of all linked pages in order to prevent any compensation claims.

The newsletter is published by adelphi in cooperation with its partner organizations:

adelphi is a leading think tank for policy analysis and strategy consulting. We offer creative solutions and services on global environment and development challenges for policy, business and civil society communities. Our projects contribute to sustaining natural life systems and fostering sustainable enterprises.

The Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining (CSRM) at the University of Queensland focuses on the social, economic and political challenges that occur when change is brought about by resource extraction and development. The Centre works with companies, communities and governments in mining regions all over the world to improve social performance and deliver better outcomes for companies and communities.

Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano (FFLA) mission is to promote constructive dialogue, strengthen citizen, political and institutional capacities, and articulate processes towards sustainable development in Latin America. Therefore it utilizes multi-sectoral public policy dialogues and conflict prevention methodologies as its main strategies.

The mission of the RSIS Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies is to conduct research and produce policy-relevant analyses aimed at furthering awareness and building capacity to address non-traditional security issues and challenges in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

© adelphi research gemeinnützige GmbH 2015