



ENVSEC-IES Workshop on Environmental Security Assessments: Methodologies and Practices

Themes and Discussion Points
Vers: 05 November 2010

Theme A: What are ESAs? How are they done? And who uses them?

- What are ESAs and what are the purposes and scopes of different kinds of ESAs?
- What is the role of the scientific and research community in the development of ESA methodologies?
- How are ESAs used by Policy Makers?
- How are ESAs used by Development Agencies?
- How are ESAs used by the Defence and Security Community
- How are ESAs be used by Companies?

Theme B: Key Elements of Environmental Security Assessments

- How do ESAs take into account geopolitical aspects and engage different international and national actors?
- How do different kinds of ESAs deal with climate change issues?
- How do different kinds of ESAs involve local stakeholders?
- How do different kinds of ESAs utilise earth observation / remote sensing and the incorporate Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and cartography?

Theme C: Lessons Learned: Sharing experiences and approaches which could help strengthen the quality and effectiveness of ESAs

- What are the main characteristics of different kinds of ESAs and other similar types of analyses?
- How have various ESAs been tailored for specific sectors like the development community or extractive industries or for policymakers at various levels, like NGOs, aid agencies or international organizations?
- How well have various ESAs met the needs of their users? What have been the shortcomings that analysts and end-users have identified? Additional themes to be explored possibly include the question of better identifying the target audience for ESAs and challenges in determining end-user needs for ESAs.

- How are ESAs used to translate analysis into action? How can ESAs best lead to programme action to address environmental insecurities? This theme seeks to explore whether a more explicit set of end goals need to be developed early on in the ESA process to better focus analysis in ways that facilitate deliverable goals in the end.
- What is the role of ESAs and similar types of analysis during Military and Peacemaking Operations?
- What can we learn from Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Assessments and how will the activities of the United Nations Interagency Framework Team for Preventive Action help strengthen consensual and sustainable management of land and natural resources?

Theme D: How else can ESAs be made more useful to end users?

- How has the inclusion of ES analysis in sectoral reports by development agencies, corporate users (such as extractive industries) or international organizations been received by these users at the national, regional, or international level? ES analysis has been increasingly mainstreamed in the work of many organisations. However, these same groups increasingly seek to integrate environmental security analysis into their work, but lack the analytical tools and frameworks to do so.
- Is it possible to explicitly detail the security implications of identified environmental insecurities in ESAs in order to allow more appropriate policy integration and coordination with those tasked in dealing with security concerns? Some end-users have expressed frustration with ESAs because of the difficulty in differentiating between identified environmental hazards and those environmental hazards that have more direct security implications. Can the downstream concerns – violent conflict, increasing group competition, deteriorating livelihoods, etc. – be more precisely identified in ESAs? Ultimately, this issue raises the question of how the insecurities identified by ESAs should be addressed, and by which actors? Given the broad definitions of security used by many ESAs, the range of insecurities identified probably require action by a similarly broad collection of actors, beyond traditional security organisations. In the end, how can ESAs do a better job of matching the analysis of insecurities with the identification of the actors needed to address those concerns?
- Can / should more explicit ESA toolkits be developed for different sectoral users to assist in mainstreaming this work?

Theme E: Ideas for Follow-up and Future Cooperation

How can the workshop participants and other interested parties work together to advance the development and use of ESAs in the future?

Here are some initial ideas put forward by IES:

Improving Information Exchange:

- Work together to review and improve the Adelphi-IES Essential Reading List on Environmental Security – a bibliography of key books and other publications on environment, security and related topics. See: <http://www.envirosecurity.org/actionguide/publist.php?list=essential-reading>
- Add / up-date records on the key participating organisations in the IES EnviroSecurity Action Guide (<http://www.envirosecurity.org/actionguide/>) and automatically produce a list of groups involved in the carrying out of ESAs and similar types of studies. (This could be done ahead of the workshop or afterwards on the basis of questionnaires and could also include scientific / academic research centres involved in related activities.)
- Create EnviroSecurity Action guide records (for initiatives and publications) to provide an inventory of existing and forthcoming ESAs as well as a list of existing literature on ESA and related methodologies and evaluations.

- Create a simple informal network for quick and easy exchange of information on ESA activities of the participating organisations. (This could be closed website forum, open or closed internet group, a blog or a Facebook page.)

Producing Handbooks / Tool Kits:

- Work together to produce a booklet on “How to carry out Environmental Security Assessments” bringing together the best practices currently utilised.
- Jointly produce a booklet on “How to use Environmental Security Assessments: Guidelines for Policy Makers, Development Agencies and Companies”.
- Or produce a single manual on “How to Carry Out and Use Environmental Security Assessments”.
- Develop more specific sectoral ESA toolkits which can be integrated into the work of different kinds of end users.