



Lessons Learned from UNEP Post-Conflict Assessments: Maximizing Policy Impact



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UNEP's Six Priorities 2010-2013



Climate Change



Disasters and Conflicts



Environmental Governance



Ecosystem management



Harmful substances



Resource Efficiency

Objective: to assess and address threats to human well-being from the environmental causes and consequences of disasters and conflicts.



Three main actors in the Disasters and Conflicts Programme

Disasters and Conflicts Programme



Joint UNEP-OCHA Environment Unit

(4 staff, global scope,
focus on urgent
environmental risks and
mitigation)



Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch

(75 staff, Global scope,
focus on post-crisis
environmental assessment,
recovery and risk reduction)

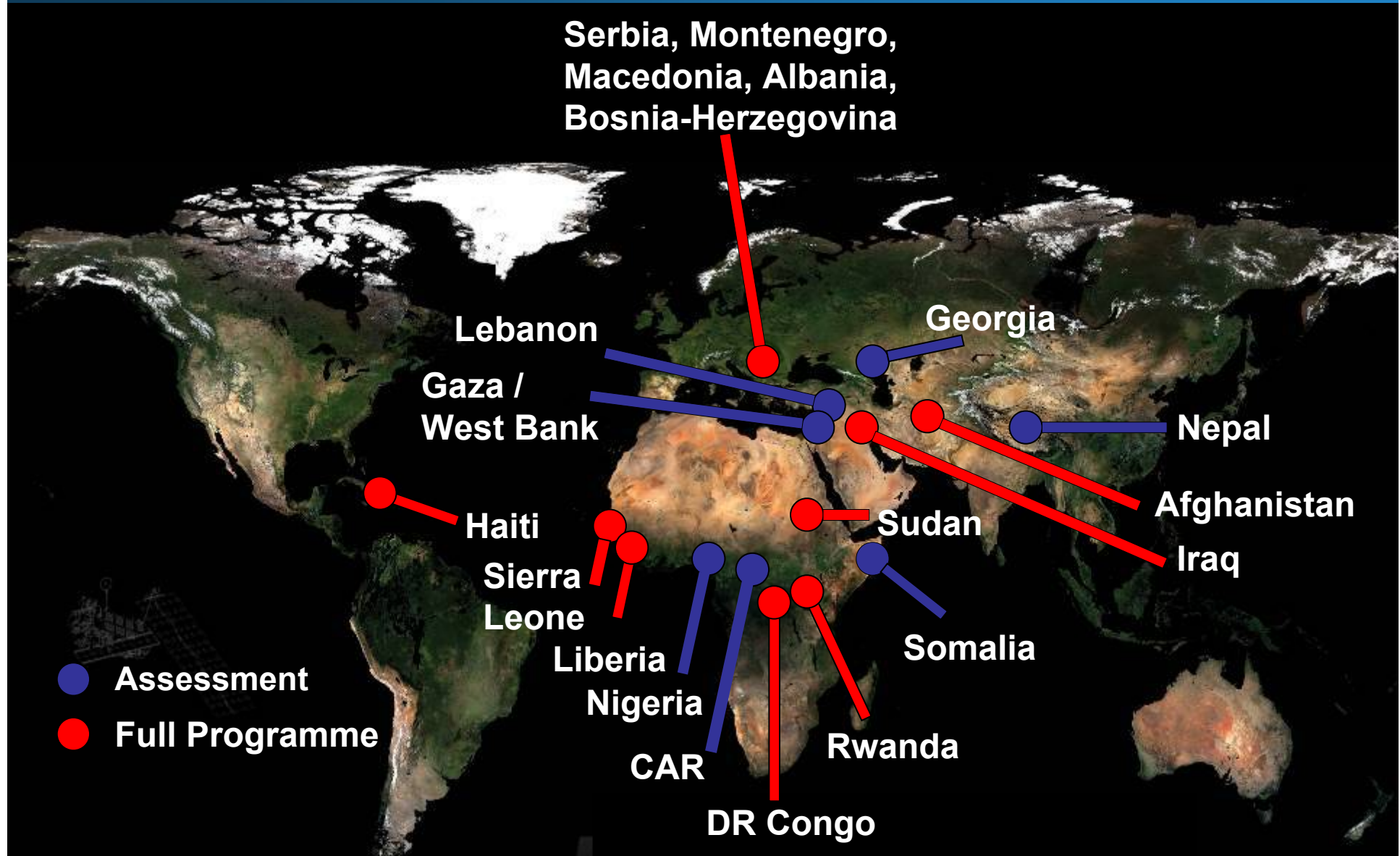


ENVSEC Initiative

(7 staff, Wider European
region scope, focus on
environment and security
assessments and
programmes)



Since 1999, PCDMB has operated in 20 conflict affected countries





UNEP's post-conflict assessment framework

Impacts from conflict

- Direct
- Indirect
- Governance failure

Drivers of conflict

- Access & ownership
- Wealth sharing
- Degradation

Opportunities for peace

- Economic development
- Sustainable livelihoods
- Confidence building



Undermine peace



Undermine peace



Reinforce peace



Assess capacity of national and local governments to address risks and opportunities. Integrate needs in peacebuilding and reconstruction plans.



Post-conflict assessment principles



Impartial



Mix of quantitative and qualitative



Demand-driven



Tailor-made





Main phases of post-conflict environmental assessments

1. Preparatory phase

- Political and institutional cooperation
- Desk studies and satellite imagery analyses
- Recruitment and training of international and national experts
- Initial stakeholder meetings and fact-finding missions



2. Field investigation phase

- Identification of potential environmental hotspots
- Technical missions (site visits, sampling, interviews)



3. Analytical and stakeholder consultation phase

- Laboratory and GIS analysis
- Expert review panel, stakeholder consultations



4. Reporting phase

- Technical reports from each field team
- Synthesis of technical reports into public final report
- Finalization and dissemination of final report



5. Follow-up

- Catalyze national action and financial support
- Integrate findings in UN frameworks

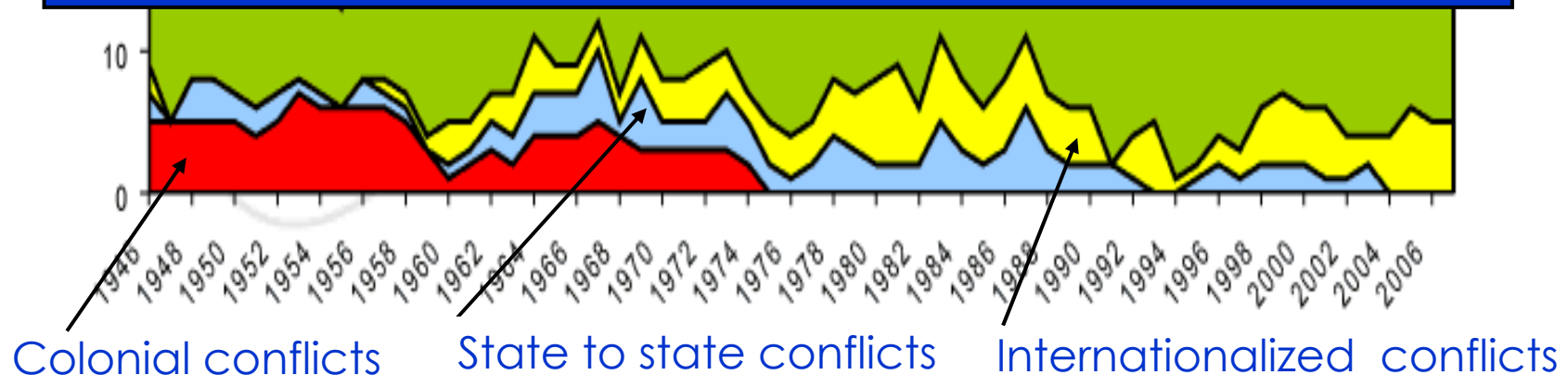


Lesson 1. Links between natural resources & conflict are significant

40% of internal conflicts have a link to natural resources

A link to natural resources doubles the risk of conflict relapse within 5 years

Only 25% of peace agreements include natural resource provisions





Lesson 2. There are three main types of resource conflict links



Land

(Ownership, rights, access)



Extractive Resources

(Oil, minerals, stones, and timber)



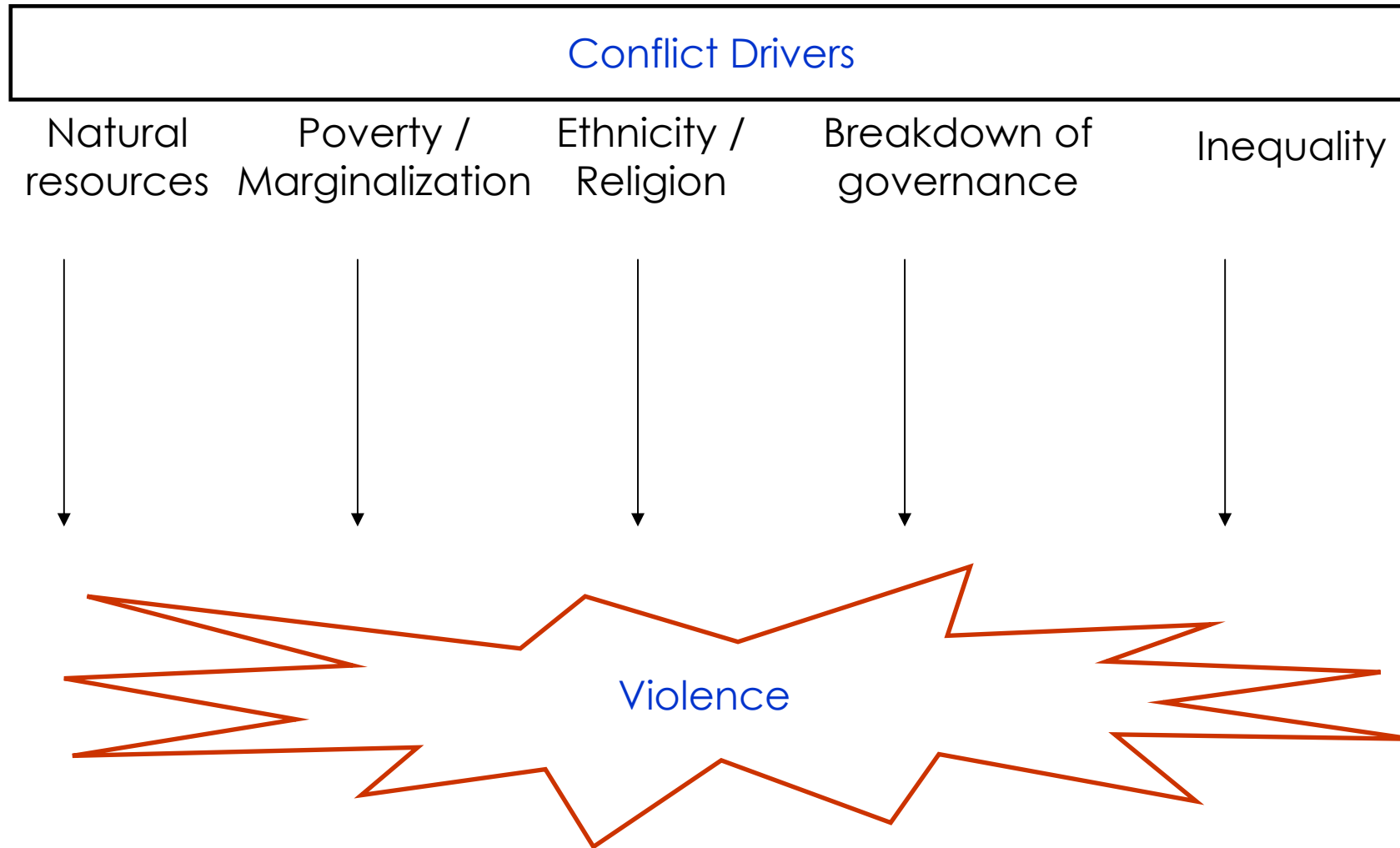
Renewable Resources

(Water, cropland, pastures, forests, fisheries, wildlife)

CONFLICT

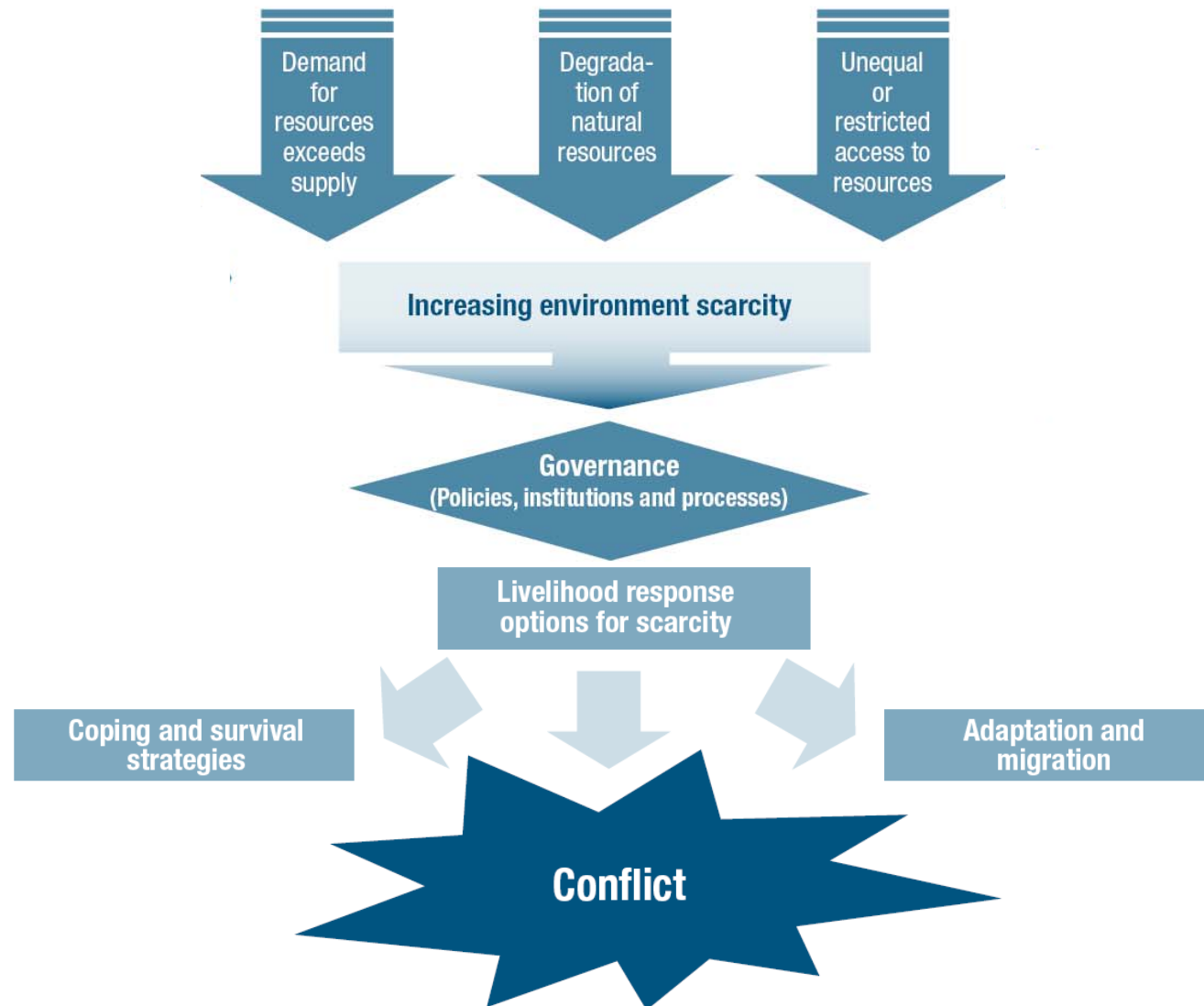


But natural resources are only one of many drivers of violence





Many steps in the chain from environment to conflict





Lesson 3. The title of the assessment is a strategic choice

PROS

Can be a vague and less political term, good platform for cooperation

Good level of conceptual clarity, speaks to target audience

Dramatic quality, grabs attention, multiple conceptual levels

Speaks to target audience, positive and relevant

Environment

Natural Resources

Security

Peacebuilding

CONS

Lack of clarity, multiple perceptions, can lead to marginalization (eg zoo)

Highly political, tied to national sovereignty, vested interests

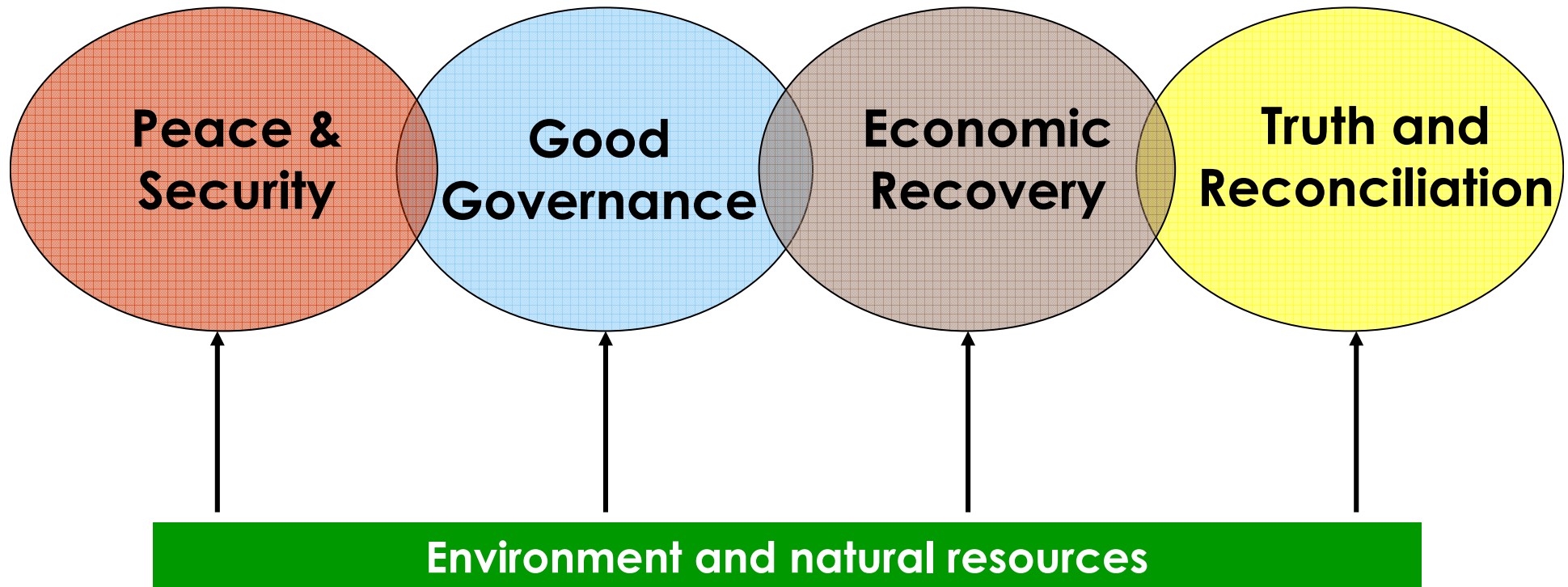
May bring unwanted actors to table, or politicize process

Implies peace needs to be built, instability, lack of conceptual clarity



Lesson 4. Make it relevant to national peacebuilding priorities

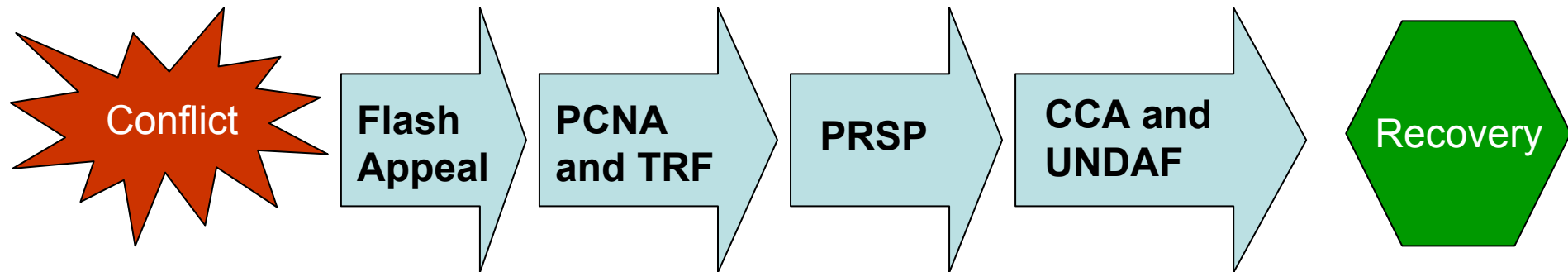
4 pillars of peacebuilding



How can environment and natural resources contribute to or undermine these goals ?



Lesson 5. Understand the policy process & entry points from outset



When is the input needed ? In what format ?

Who decides on priorities ? How is funding allocated ?

Must find policy anchors in main policy frameworks





UNEP

Lesson 6. Understand the political context of key decision makers

Election cycles and political legacy

Institutional competition and legitimacy

Political feasibility of project proposals

Regional and international dynamics

How to breakdown the needs into 1-2 year projects – start small and build up

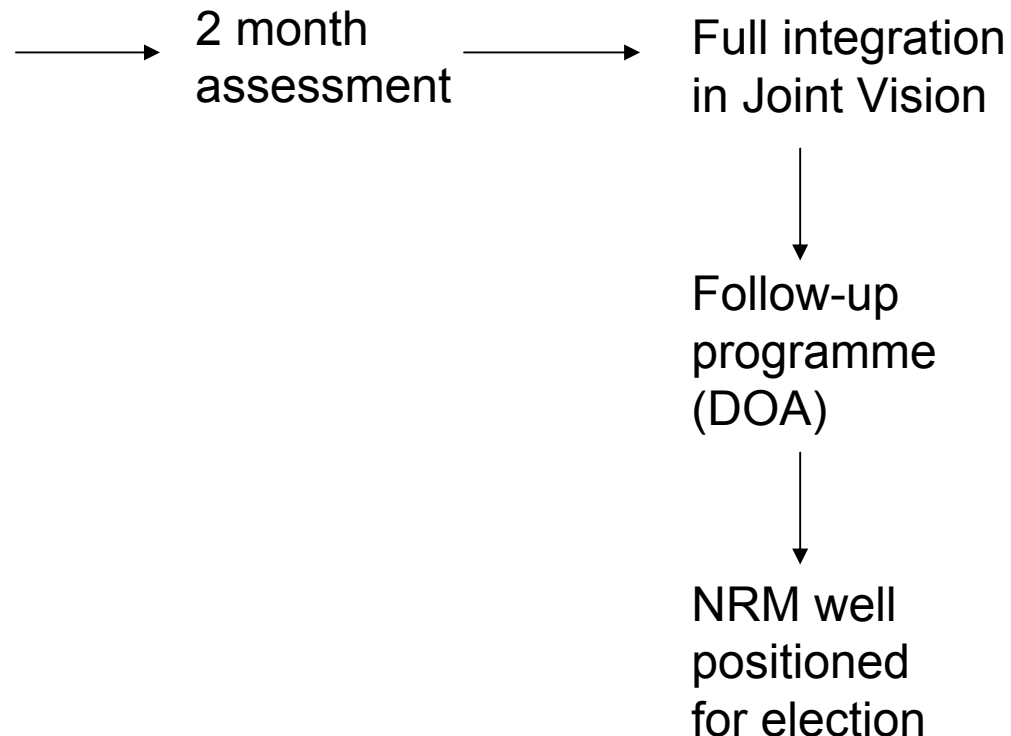
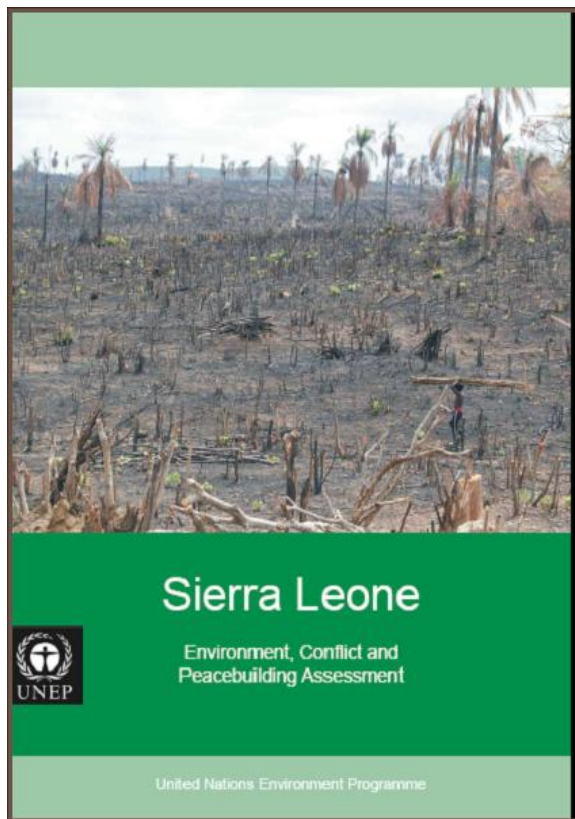
How to use internal champions





Lesson 6. Understand the political context of key decision makers

Policy impact is often a function of opportunity and political context – not overall time or financial investment.





Lesson 7. Be flexible and tailor your approach to needs and context

Impacts from conflict

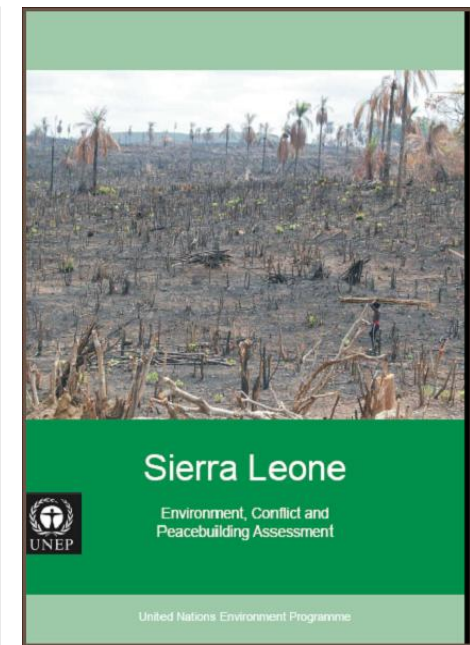
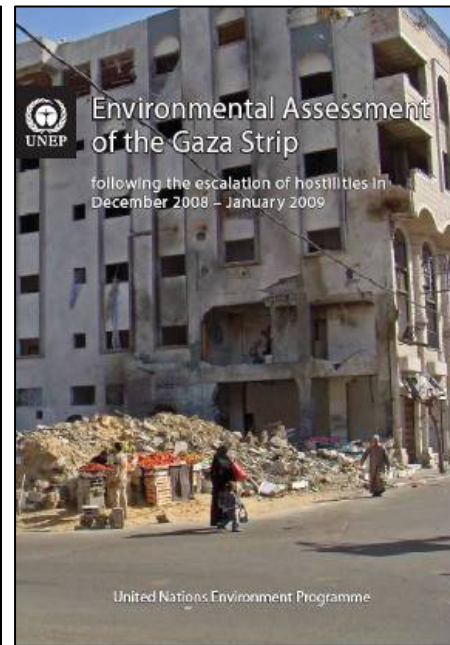
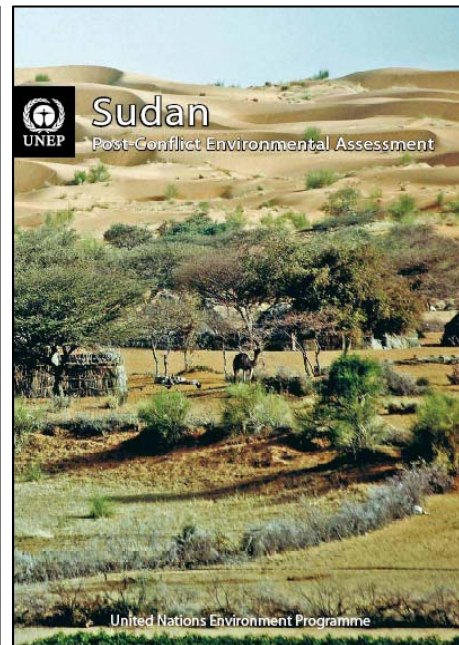
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Drivers of conflict

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- Wealth sharing
- Vested interests

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Lesson 8. More science doesn't necessarily lead to more impact

Carefully consider time and cost trade offs of more quantitative approaches.

Comprehensive comes at a cost. Sometimes selective is sufficient.

But – flagship figures and statistics do matter.





Lesson 9. Must be on the ground to advocate and position findings

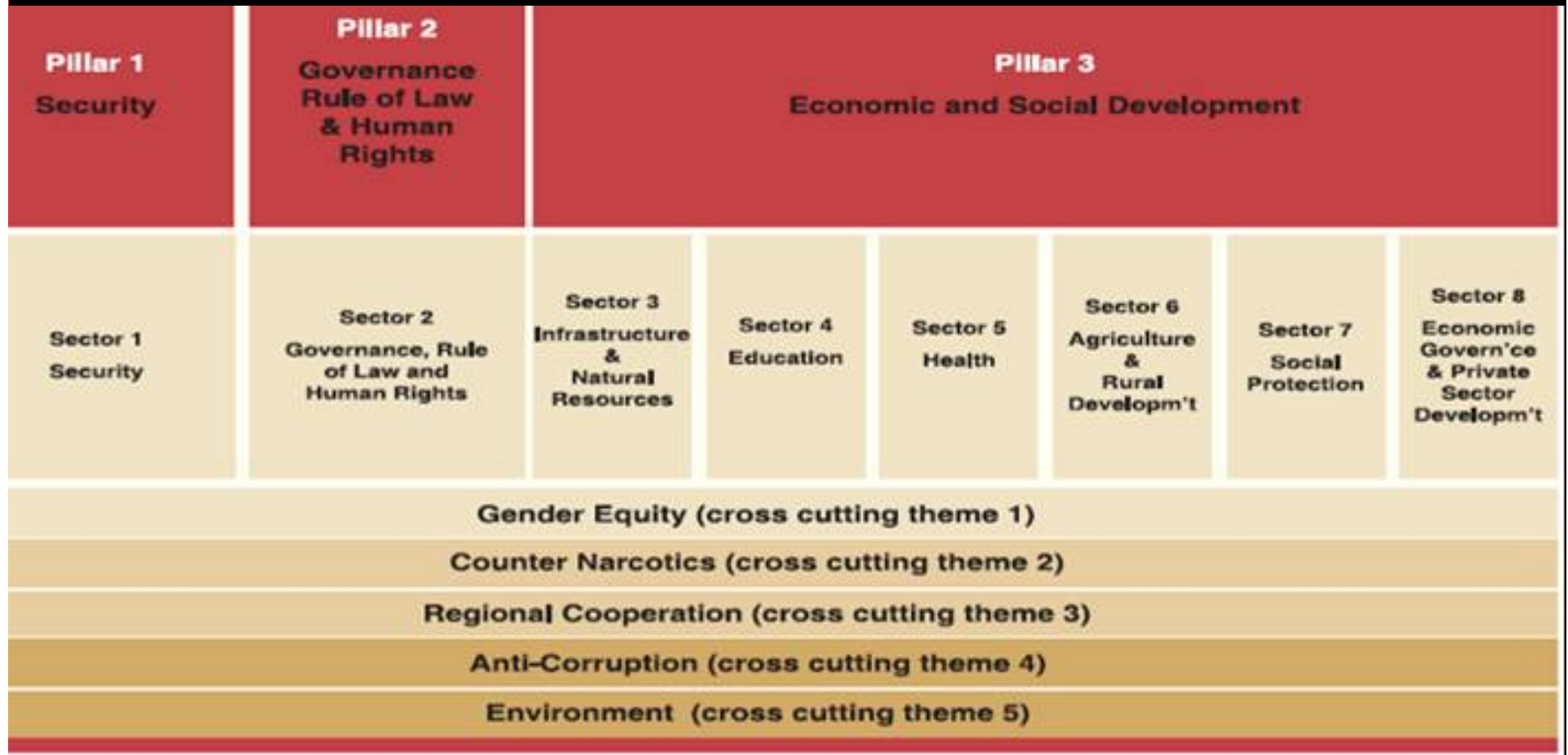
An assessment is only as good as the amount of time and effort spent in dissemination and advocacy.





Lesson 10. Be aware of the pitfalls of becoming a cross-cutting issue

Afghanistan National Development Strategy (2008-2013)



The total budget was USD 50.1 billion.

USD 17.1 billion (34.3%) was dedicated to infrastructure and natural resources

USD 4.4 billion (8.7%) was dedicated to agriculture and rural development.



Bonus Lesson: Collaborate !!! Issue is too large to address in isolation

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UNEP/IISD Expert Advisory Group on Environment, Conflict and Peacebuilding



New UN-EU partnership created on natural resources and conflict



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Framework Team for Preventive Action

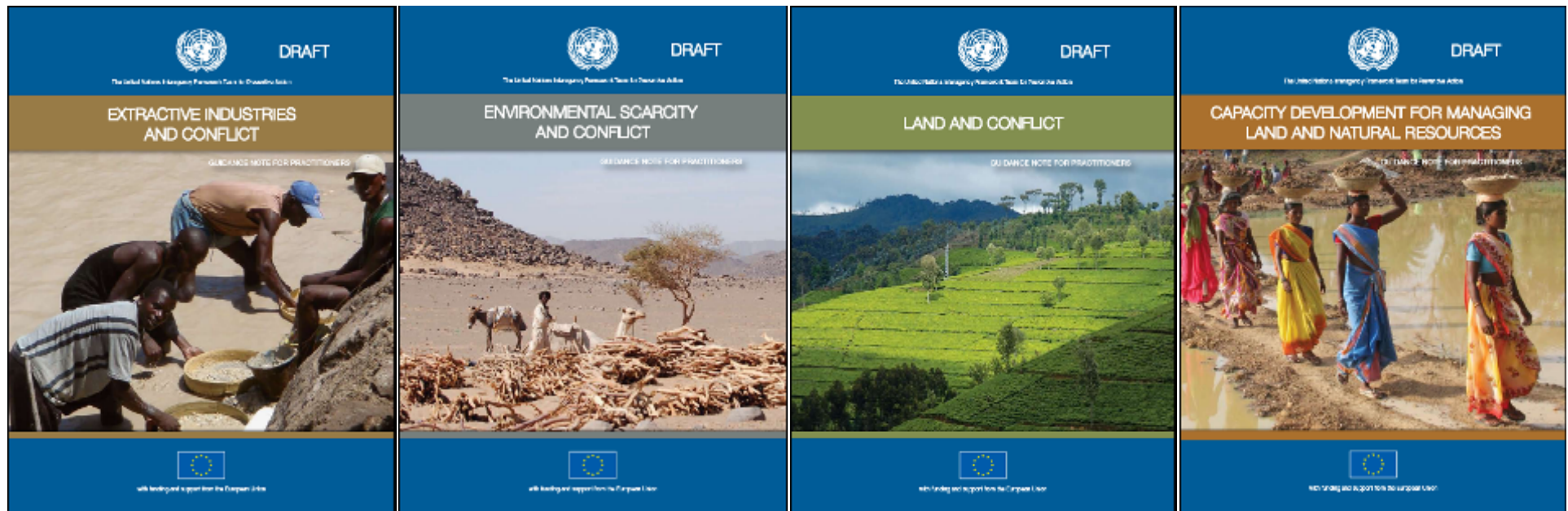
DG RELEX



UN-EC Partnership on Natural Resources and Conflict

Four main pillars:

- Guidance notes
- Training programmes
- Programming support
- Joint field interventions





Calls from the SG for greater attention to this issue

“As global population rises and the demand for resources grows, the potential for conflicts over resources could intensify. The impacts of climate change may exacerbate these threats. In response, we will need to develop new thinking on sources of insecurity and ensure that our preventive diplomacy takes into account the trans-boundary nature of ecosystems and environmental degradation”.

UN Secretary General, Statement, 6 November 2010





For more information and lessons learned

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