

January
2018

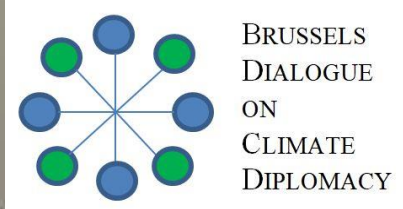
CLIMATE CHANGE AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Resource Guide – Update January 2018

The Climate Change and International Security Resource Guide is produced for the Brussels Dialogue on Climate Diplomacy (BDCD) which consists of a series of informal meetings to exchange information and promote cooperation among European institutions and international organisations active in the nexus between climate change and international, national, human and environmental security.



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BRUSSELS
DIALOGUE
ON
CLIMATE
DIPLOMACY

Editor: Ronald A. Kingham
Environment & Development Resource Centre
Institute for Planetary Security
1/31/2018





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Resource Guide

2018 – January Update

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PUBLICATIONS

Climate Geo-engineering: Uncertainties and Implications

11 Jan 2018, ANM Muniruzzaman, *RSIS Commentary*



Geo-engineering is emerging as an option to address the adverse impacts of climate change. It involves largescale artificial intervention in the climate. Two main methods of geo-engineering are Solar Radiation Management (SRM) and Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR).

Concerns revolve around the adverse effects of geo-engineering as it intervenes in the regular system and natural order of the world's climate. A special kind of governance is required at the global level to develop and monitor geo-engineering.

Download: <https://www.rsis.edu.sg/rsis-publication/rsis/co18005-climate-geo-engineering-uncertainties-and-implications/#.WnMWt6inGUK>

Policy Options for Climate-Resilient Infrastructure

Jan 2018, *Center for Climate and Energy Solutions*



A new federal infrastructure package presents a critical opportunity to strengthen America's infrastructure against the growing risks posed by extreme weather and other impacts of climate change. Enhancing the climate resilience of the nation's infrastructure can substantially reduce future losses, benefiting public health, safety, quality of life, and prosperity. This policy brief outlines the benefits of climate-resilient infrastructure and criteria that should inform infrastructure planning and investment to enhance climate resilience. It identifies the types of infrastructure projects that can promote resilience while simultaneously achieving other climate and energy goals and recommends changes to existing federal policies and programs to ensure ongoing improvement to the climate resilience of America's infrastructure.

SOURCE: <https://www.c2es.org/document/policy-options-for-climate-resilient-infrastructure/>
Department of Defense

EDRC

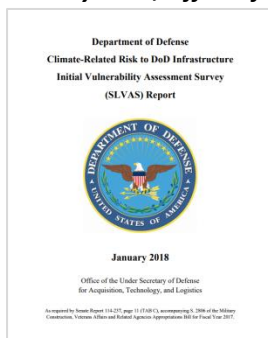
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Climate-Related Risk to DoD Infrastructure Initial Vulnerability Assessment Survey (SLVAS) Report

January 2018, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics

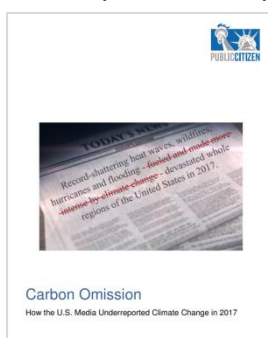


The survey questions focused on observed effects from past severe weather events (which may be indicative of more frequent and/or more severe future conditions), and the proximity of site acreage to any flood-prone areas. The survey asked respondents to identify any negative effects they may have experienced from extreme weather effects, both on the assets on the DoD site itself as well as any observed effects on similar assets in the surrounding community that provided supporting services (e.g., utilities, transportation, emergency response) for the DoD site.

DOWNLOAD: <https://climateandsecurity.files.wordpress.com/2018/01/tab-b-slv-as-report-1-24-2018.pdf>

Carbon Omission: How the U.S. Media Underreported Climate Change in 2017

Jan 2018, David Arkush, Public Citizen



Given the gravity and urgency of the climate crisis, as well as a surfeit of relevant, newsworthy developments, one would expect U.S. media to report on climate and clean energy issues daily. The year 2017 brought numerous unprecedented developments in these areas. From the U.S. reversing course on domestic climate policy and declaring it would back out of the Paris Agreement to recordshattering heat waves, wildfires, hurricanes, Arctic warmth, and more, there was no shortage of climate-related news. This report examines media coverage of topics relevant to climate change that garnered significant attention in 2017, such as extreme weather events, and assesses the extent to which media coverage explicitly connected the topics to climate change.

The proportion of pieces that mentioned climate change in climate-relevant contexts was decidedly low. There was no topic that media connected to climate change in more than 33 percent of pieces. Perhaps unsurprisingly, that high-water mark comes from articles discussing record heat. From there, the numbers drop off steeply. Some topics, like hurricanes, saw scant mention of climate at all, with just four percent of pieces discussing Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Maria, or Nate mentioned climate change or global warming. Finally, among pieces that mentioned climate change or global warming, only nine percent discussed solutions or mitigation.

DOWNLOAD: <https://www.citizen.org/sites/default/files/public-citizen-carbon-omission-media-report-january-2018.pdf>

Forthcoming

International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report cycle

AR6 on how to keep temperature rise to 1.5°C will be released in the autumn 2018.



The IPCC is currently in its Sixth Assessment cycle. During this cycle, the Panel will produce three Special Reports, a Methodology Report on national greenhouse gas inventories and the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6).

The 43rd Session of the IPCC held in April 2016 agreed that the AR6 Synthesis Report would be finalized in 2022 in time for the first UNFCCC global stocktake when countries will review progress towards their goal of keeping global warming to well below 2 °C while pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5 °C. The three Working Group contributions to AR6 will be finalized in 2021.

The outlines were approved by the Panel at its 46th Session in early September 2017.

Approved outlines of the Working Group contributions to the Sixth Assessment Report

- [Working Group I - The Physical Science Basis](#)
- [Working Group II - Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability](#)
- [Working Group III - Mitigation of Climate Change](#)
- [Leaflet: The Sixth Assessment cycle](#)
- [Strategic Planning Schedule AR6](#) (updated: 19 December 2017)

SOURCE: <http://www.ipcc.ch/>

NEWS & VIEWS

A digest of notable articles and opinion pieces in the press and on-line

Climate Change affecting Stability across West Africa and Sahel: UN Security Council

31 Jan 2018, Megan Darby, Climate Home News



French soldiers talk to locals in southern Mali. Since 2014, the French have led Operation Barkhane, a military effort to fight terror in the Sahel (Photo: TM1972/Wikipedia)

In a statement, the council president expanded concerns over the links between climate and violence in Africa to two regions that cover 26 countries.

The UN Security Council has identified climate change as a driver of conflict across West Africa and the Sahel, in a statement published on Tuesday. It expands on [a 2017 resolution](#) linking the dramatic shrinking of Lake Chad to the rise of Boko Haram and other armed groups in the region.

Water scarcity and desertification pit farming, pastoralist and fishing communities against each other for dwindling resources, analysts warn. As traditional livelihoods become harder to sustain, some people are seeking violent solutions.

The [statement](#) noted “the adverse effects of climate change and ecological changes among other factors on the stability of West Africa and the Sahel”, two regions that together span 26 countries. The Security Council, the UN’s most powerful body, “emphasises the need for adequate risk assessments and risk management strategies”.

Janani Vivekananda, climate change and security expert at consultancy Adelphi, described it as “a significant and positive step”.

She told Climate Home News: “Now, Lake Chad can’t be seen as the standalone example of climate security recognized by the UNSC. This points to an emerging coherence in how the UNSC recognizes the root causes of threats to peace and security.”

That needs to feed into humanitarian and peacebuilding action on the ground, she added. “There could be much stronger efforts to ensure all funds and programmes implemented are both conflict-sensitive and climate-sensitive”

FULL STORY: This article originally appeared on Climate Home News

<http://www.climatechangenews.com/2018/01/31/climate-change-affecting-stability-across-west-africa-sahel-un-security-council/>

Half of U.S. military facilities vulnerable to extreme weather and climate risks

30 Jan 2018, Nick Sobczyk, E&E

About half of the military's infrastructure has been affected by extreme weather and other climate-related risks, according to a Pentagon report obtained by a nonpartisan climate think tank.

The [report](#) — dated January 2018 and published yesterday (29 Jan) by the Center for Climate & Security in Washington, D.C. — surveyed more than 3,500 military sites around the world. It found that about 50% of bases reported effects from events like storm surge flooding, wildfire, drought and wind.

MORE: <http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2018/01/half-us-military-facilities-vulnerable-extreme-weather-and-climate-risks>

Pentagon survey details effects of climate change on military sites

30 Jan 2018, Missy Ryan, *The Washington Post*

A new Pentagon report identifies military facilities vulnerable to climate change, documenting the effect of flooding, drought and extreme temperatures at installations across the United States.

The assessment is based on the first survey of climate-related events at U.S. training bases, airfields and other military facilities.

“If extreme weather makes our critical facilities unusable or necessitate costly or manpower-

intensive workarounds, that is an unacceptable impact,” said the report from the Pentagon’s assistant secretary for energy installations and the environment.

The survey, which was conducted under the Obama administration and submitted to Congress on Friday, signals concern among defense officials about the challenges that climate change might pose for the U.S. military.

MORE: https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/pentagon-survey-details-effects-of-climate-change-on-military-sites/2018/01/29/42a40438-02e1-11e8-9d31-d72cf78dbeee_story.html?utm_term=.ff0ebef1a68a

Indian Military Recognizes Environment as “Critical” Security Issue, But Response Is Still Fragmented

29 Jan 2018, Dhanasree Jayaram, New Security Beat

For the first time, the [Joint Doctrine of the Indian Armed Forces](#) acknowledges that the “environment has emerged as a critical area of the security paradigm,” and warns that if environmental degradation and related issues increase security risks, the military will need to respond. Released in 2017, the doctrine lists a series of non-traditional security challenges linked to the environment that could influence conflict and war, including “climate change, ecosystem disruption, energy issues, population issues, food-related problems, economic issues of unsustainable modes of production, and civil strife related to environment.” While the military has taken steps to address its impacts on the environment, it can do much more to support the nation’s environmental goals and mitigate environment-related security risks.

FULL STORY: <https://www.newsecuritybeat.org/2018/01/indian-military-recognizes-environment-critical-security-issue-response-fragmented/>

Two Notable Omissions in the Mattis National Defense Strategy

26 Jan 2018, America Security Project

This article by [Benjamin Haas](#) and [Mark Nevitt](#) was originally published on [Just Security](#).



The Pentagon has a new National Defense Strategy (NDS), its first in 10 years, and, on Friday, released an 11-page summary of it. Signed by Defense Secretary James Mattis, the NDS flows from the broader national security vision outlined in President Donald Trump’s recently signed 2017 National Security Strategy (NSS), and it replaces the formerly required Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR). As a foundational matter, we admittedly do not have access to the full contents of the more comprehensive classified version, but it’s fair to assume that the summary provided to the public serves as an accurate proxy. Like most strategic documents of its nature, it has been both praised

and criticized on various grounds. And it also raises some important questions.

One remarkable feature of the document is that it makes clear that terrorism is not the highest-priority issue, placing “inter-state strategic competition” as “the primary concern in U.S. national security.” To some, this assertion might suggest that the Pentagon is willing to acknowledge that it may not need to maintain a wartime posture in order for the country to address terrorism.” And the opportunity to focus on other, more threatening issues seems promising. Whether this is a harbinger of an end to the “Forever War” is yet to be determined, however, as reality demonstrates that the Trump administration still uses military force to confront terrorism around the world, seemingly with carte blanche from Congress.

Yet the document is just as striking for what it omits as it is notable for what it asserts. Two significant exclusions in the NDS summary demand a closer look and further analysis: climate change and the expanding role of special operations forces. ...

FULL STORY: <https://www.americansecurityproject.org/two-notable-omissions-in-the-mattis-national-defense-strategy/>

The trouble with Trump leaving climate change to the military An adaptation-only climate strategy will be ugly indeed

23 Jan 2018 David Roberts, Vox

As the U.S. retreats from action to mitigate climate change, the focus - according to this article - will be on adaptation which is likely to involve the military in various ways.

"The military is taking climate change seriously because it has to. Unlike its Commander in Chief, it is not involved in a reality show — it has to deal with actual reality".

Climate concerns are expressed in incredibly strong terms in the recent National Defense Authorization Act, which was signed into law in December by none other than Trump himself (though his administration had little role in shaping it). The NDAA also establishes a broad review of the vulnerability of military bases and facilities to climate change.

The military is overwhelmingly focused on adaptation — preparing for the changes on the way, maintaining readiness and allocating resources accordingly. This is as it should be. The military is not the right tool for mitigation, for economy-wide decarbonization.

MORE: <https://www.vox.com/energy-and-environment/2018/1/23/16918280/trump-military-climate-change>

Prime Minister Modi Scores An Ace In Davos On Climate Change

23 Jan 2018, Edited by Debjani Chatterjee, NDTV

At the World Economic Forum in Davos, Prime Minister Narendra Modi says climate change is the first of the three big challenges before us. Mr Modi said a lot is being talked about emissions but what is being done about it.

MORE: <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/prime-minister-modi-scores-an-ace-in-davos-on-climate-change-1803760>

Half-Assed Solar Geoengineering Is Worse Than Climate Change Itself A cautionary tale for messing with the environment

23 Jan 2018, Rebecca Flowers, Motherboard

A [new paper in Nature Ecology & Evolution](#) pokes a hole in the idea that solar geoengineering is a quick fix for global warming. If a nation or the planet as a whole embarks on a solar engineering project, which then stops abruptly because of lack of funds or intergovernmental conflict, it could backfire by putting a huge number of species at risk.

MORE: https://motherboard.vice.com/en_us/article/bjy4z5/half-assed-solar-geoengineering-is-worse-than-climate-change-itself

Opinion: [Vermont Gov.] Scott fails on climate change

23 Jan, Steve Bower, BurlingtonFreePress.com

The U.S. military identifies climate change as a significant security threat. Globally we are looking at severe loss of coastal land (45 people of people live near the coast, in the U.S. and globally), many millions of climate refugees, increased global conflict, disrupted food sources, severely increased ...

MORE: <http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/story/opinion/readers/letters/2018/01/23/opinion-scott-fails-climate-change/109709520/>

106 Members of Congress Urge Trump to Call Climate Change A National Security Risk

17 Jan 2018, Ayana Byrd, ColorLines magazine

"It is imperative that the United States addresses this growing geopolitical threat."

We have heard from scientists, military leaders and civilian personnel who believe that climate change is indeed a direct threat to America's national security and to the stability of the world at large. As global temperatures become more volatile, sea levels rise and landscapes change, our military installations and our communities are increasingly at risk of devastation. It is imperative that the United States addresses this growing geopolitical threat.

MORE: <https://www.colorlines.com/articles/106-members-congress-urge-trump-call-climate-change-national-security-risk>

A tale of two policies: climate change, Trump, and the US military

17 Jan 2018, Sean Mowbray, *Mongabay.com*

First and foremost in the military mind is the Pentagon's mission: to defend the United States and its national interest. Seen within this framework, climate change is viewed as a "threat multiplier," rather than a distinct, standalone issue. ...

Increasing the size of the military in the face of escalating climate chaos is not a strategy everyone supports. A 2016 report, *Combat vs. Climate*, notes that the U.S. spends 28 times as much on military security as on climate security. This Institute for Policy Studies (IFPS) report says that the increase from 1 to 4 percent in spending on climate security by the Obama administration is not remotely commensurate with the serious threat climate change poses to national security as outlined in numerous studies by the U.S. military. Nor is that expenditure sufficient to bring the military's carbon emissions under control. ...

... even as the U.S. military bulks up, its fighting forces are likely to face an exhaustingly high number of international conflicts as global warming devastates crops, shatters developing nation economies, increases the number of failed states, and leads to war after war – leaving the world's future all the more insecure.

MORE: <https://news.mongabay.com/2018/01/a-tale-of-two-policies-climate-change-trump-and-the-u-s-military/>

**Here are all the ways Climate Change presents a threat to National Security
Donald Trump's decision to omit climate change from his National Defense
Authorization Act caused quite a stir.**

13 Jan 2018, Candace Buterajan, *Pacific Standard*

Over 100 bipartisan members of the House of Representatives urged President Donald Trump to reconsider the omission of climate change as a national security threat in his 2018 National Defense Authorization Act. In the letter, sent on Thursday, the members called Trump's omission "a significant step backwards" in recognizing the "geopolitical threat" of climate change.

The Trump administration's stance marks a significant divergence from the Obama White House, which created a [Climate Action Plan](#) in an effort to curb rising emissions levels in 2013. Evidence continues to mount that climate change not only exists, but is having a detrimental effect on public health, the environment, and world economies.

In their letter, the House members wrote that fluctuating and erratic temperatures have affected communities worldwide, along with eroding beaches and pieces of land chipped away by rising sea levels. "Landscape military installations and our communities are increasingly at risk of devastation," they wrote. "Climate change is indeed a direct [threat](#) to America's national security and to the stability of the world at large."

With the Trump administration ushering in an era of climate skepticism (and in some cases climate denial), the White House has significantly loosened policies and legislation addressing the environmental impact of climate change, leaving citizens and communities even more vulnerable to the inevitable [consequences of pollution](#).

Here are just a few ramifications and growing potential climate-change threats already on their way:

- Potential health risks are estimated to rise significantly due to higher temperatures and complications of natural disasters. An estimated additional 250,000 people will die every year between 2030 and 2050 as a result of these health risks, according to the World Health Organization.
- Climate change-induced malnutrition could affect nearly half a million adults globally by 2050 due to food and nutrition scarcity.
- The economies of the states in the South, Midwest, and mid-Atlantic are expected to suffer from predicted gross domestic product losses of up to 28 percent due to greenhouse-gas emissions effects on field production.
- Women and girls in developing regions may be impacted more from global warming than men and boys, due to social and economic inequalities.
- A potential decline in profit for marine fisheries globally, which have been estimated to support the livelihoods of 10 to 12 percent of the world's population.
- Islands, inhabited by hundreds of residents, such as the Tangier Islands in the Chesapeake Bay, could be entirely consumed by rising sea levels by 2050, or sooner.

- Even minor climate change-caused flooding leads to road closures, plumbing failure, and other significant daily disruptions.
- Rising climate disruption could bring about new global poverty, possibly resulting in an "additional 100 million people living in extreme poverty by 2030."
- Species' failure to adapt to human-caused environmental changes will result in extinction and many species' disappearance. Other species, such as birds in North America and sea animals, will change habitats over the next several decades.
- Entirely new climates and weather patterns introduced to ecosystems will cause a shuffling of biodiversity and animal communities.

The effects of climate change are not myths. In fact, the consequences of climate change are already in motion.

SOURCE: <https://psmag.com/environment/climate-change-national-security-threat>

The Only Force That Can Beat Climate Change Is the U.S. Army


9 Jan 2018, Anatol Lieven, FP

ARGUMENT

The Only Force That Can Beat Climate Change Is the U.S. Army

America's military is the only institution that can break the partisan deadlock on the worst threat the nation faces.

BY ANATOL LIEVEN | JANUARY 9, 2018, 12:46 PM



A U.S. Marine in a combat training exercise in Afghanistan on August 27, 2017. (Wakil Kosbar/AFP/Getty Images)

The precise extent of human-induced climate change is unclear, but the basic science is unequivocal, as is the danger it poses to the United States. This threat comes from the direct impact of climate change on agricultural production and sea levels but equally importantly from the huge waves of migration that climate change is likely to cause, on a scale that even the world's richest states and societies will be unable either to prevent or accommodate.

Yet for two out of the past four U.S. administrations, action on this issue has been frozen due to the refusal of a large section of the political establishment and electorate to accept the clear scientific evidence that this threat exists — and the Trump administration has now decided to remove climate change from the list of security threats to the United States under its new National Security Strategy (NSS).

America's military is the only institution that can break the partisan deadlock on the worst threat the nation faces.

The precise extent of human-induced climate change is unclear, but the basic science is unequivocal, as is the danger it poses to the United States. This threat comes from the direct impact of climate change on agricultural production and sea levels but equally importantly from the huge waves of migration that climate change is likely to cause, on a scale that even the world's richest states and societies will be unable either to prevent or accommodate. ...

The internal divisions in U.S. society and politics concerning climate change are obviously serious barriers to the security establishment's playing a bigger role — as witnessed by the Trump administration's NSS.

However, the sheer scale of the threat to the security of the country means that the U.S. military has an institutional and patriotic duty to instruct Americans concerning this threat, just as it has influenced them in the past on other threats falling within the military's sphere of competence.

Two wider issues are involved here. The first is that as an institution that depends on science for its weapons and intelligence systems, the U.S.

defense establishment not only has a keen understanding of its importance, but can remind the American public of the vital urgency of reckoning with scientific fact.

The second relates to the role of patriotism and nationalism in America. At present, climate change has been turned — quite unnecessarily — into an issue that divides Americans rather than unites them.

MORE: <https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/01/09/the-only-force-that-can-beat-climate-change-is-the-u-s-army/>

Managing Middle Eastern water in the era of climate change

8 Jan 2018, Kerry Boyd Anderson, Arab News

"With 82 percent of waste water not recycled and with significant loss through inefficient water use in agriculture, there is lots of room for improvement that could substantially increase the volume of water available for people, agriculture, industry and electricity".

"Another challenge for water management in the Middle East and North Africa is the nature of transboundary river systems, which cross through multiple countries, as well as many aquifers that are shared. The region's major rivers — the Nile, Euphrates, Tigris and Jordan — are all transboundary. Unfortunately, without effective multilateral cooperation, downstream countries are often left at the mercy of upstream ones".

MORE: <http://www.arabnews.com/node/1220721>

The Radical Paris Agreement: The much-maligned Paris climate deal has the potential to transform capitalism — if we know how to use it.

5 Jan 2018, Michael Dobson, Jacobin

Among the many reasons to celebrate the resurgence of the Anglo-American left, the battle to stall climate change surely approaches the top of the list. Even a passing understanding of contemporary science reminds us that we live in an age that demands radicalism. Transforming the globe's energy system within the time available is challenging enough, but we must do so in opposition to some of the wealthiest and most powerful corporate and political interests in history.

MORE: <https://www.jacobinmag.com/2018/01/paris-climate-agreement-global-warming-trump>

Report: The media is bad at covering climate change and worse at covering solutions

05 Jan 2018, Fast Company

While President Trump has turned bashing the mainstream media into a form of performance art, sometimes the press does deserve some constructive criticism. For example, look no further than the media's inadequate coverage of climate change and potential solutions—inadequate, at least, according to a [new report](#) by the watchdog group Public Citizen.

MORE: <https://www.fastcompany.com/40514003/report-the-media-is-bad-at-covering-climate-change-and-worse-at-covering-solutions>

Climate Change: Saving the Planet, Saving Ourselves

5 Jan 2018, Richard Gale and Dr Gary Null, Global Research

It is time that people, and more crucially our entire species, to accept the fact that climate change is the single most important threat to humanity's survival. Certainly, a nuclear confrontation with North Korea or Russia is a horrifying scenario that could eliminate tens or even hundreds of millions of people. However, it is within humanity's means to avoid nuclear war. ...

In a July issue of New York Magazine, journalist David Wallace-Wells published a worst case, doomsday scenario of climate change's impact upon human society and the environment before the end of this century. His essay, "The Uninhabitable Earth," was based upon many private interviews with unnamed scientists who were willing to voice their deeper concerns about catastrophic events and eroding conditions humanity will face unless a concerted global response to reduce greenhouse gases is not launched immediately.

Aside from several of Wallace-Wells' factual errors, this was the first featured article to appear in a mainstream publication that focused on climate change's darker side. It became the most read article in New York Magazine's history. However, earlier in 2003, Cambridge University astrophysicist and philosopher Martin Rees released his influential *Our Final Hour* warning that the pace of humanity's destructive activities presents a 50:50 chance for our civilization to survive past the end of the 21st century.

MORE: <https://www.globalresearch.ca/climate-change-saving-the-planet-saving-ourselves/5624919>



'United action needed to combat global food crisis, climate change'

4 Jan 2018, IANS, Business Standard

The International Conference on Agribusiness in Emerging Economies on Thursday called for united action to achieve new agricultural technologies to combat global food crisis and mitigate the impacts of climate change. [Experts] ... attempted to "explore the challenges in the development and harnessing opportunities to optimize inclusive agribusiness to achieve sustainable transformation that changes rural demographics, migration, merging globalisation of agri-markets to mitigate food security and adapt to climate change ...

MORE: http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/united-action-needed-to-combat-global-food-crisis-climate-change-118010401147_1.html

Opinion: As an EPA intern, I was barred from mentioning climate change

3 Jan 2018, Katie Miller, *The Washington Post* (in *The Middletown Press*)

Combing through the old tweets, I noticed that some had links to the EPA's information on climate change, but the links were now dead. I had to leave the links out of my draft tweets, erasing paths that citizens had once been able to follow to learn about the science. I understood that policies change from administration to administration, but could science, based on years of research, really become outdated, too?

MORE: <http://www.middletownpress.com/opinion/article/As-an-EPA-intern-I-was-barred-from-mentioning-12470063.php>

Listen to the Military on Climate Change

3 Jan 2018, David Barnhill, *The Progressive*

Whom should we believe when it comes to national security: military experts preparing for future dangers, or politicians preparing for their next election?

Yes, that's a rhetorical question, but it deserves consideration. When it comes to global warming, national security has taken a back seat to ideology and campaign contributions.

There is little doubt, outside of Washington, D.C., about the causes of climate change. That the planet is getting warmer due to human activity is confirmed by [97 percent of climate scientists](#) and nearly [200 scientific academies](#) around the world. As the American Association for the Advancement of Science has [noted](#), science is as certain of the reality of human-caused climate disruption as it is of the link between smoking and cancer.

But an alternate reality has been promulgated by fossil fuel interests and free-market fundamentalists. These "[merchants of doubt](#)" have sought to create distrust in climate science. The tobacco industry ran a similar campaign successfully for decades.

MORE: <http://progressive.org/op-eds/listen-to-the-military-on-climate-change-180103/>



Build a global Earth observatory Markku Kulmala calls for continuous, comprehensive monitoring of interactions between the planet's surface and atmosphere

3 Jan 2018, Markku Kulmala, *Nature: International Journal of Science*

Climate change. Water and food security. Urban air pollution. These environmental grand challenges are all linked, yet each is studied separately. ... The answer is a global Earth observatory — 1,000 or more well-equipped ground stations around the world that track environments and key ecosystems fully and continuously. Data from these stations would be linked to data from satellite-based remote sensing, laboratory experiments and computer models.

MORE: <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-017-08967-y>

The president ignores the generals on climate change

1 Jan 2018, Beacon Journal/Ohio.com editorial board

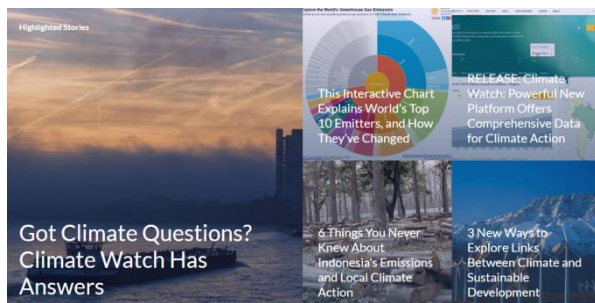
Here is where American leadership is crucial, our country long a leading emitter of greenhouse gases. Yet the president hasn't just been tweeting about his climate skepticism. Two weeks ago, the Trump White House dropped climate change from the list of global threats in its new national security strategy document. The move is more than a departure from the Obama years. It breaks from the thinking at the Defense Department going back more than a decade.

FULL STORY: <https://www.ohio.com/akron/editorial/editorials/beacon-journal-ohio-com-editorial-board-the-president-ignores-the-generals-on-climate-change>

INITIATIVES

An overview of recent campaigns, policy initiatives, information sources and innovative projects

Climate Watch: Powerful New Platform Offers Comprehensive Data for Climate Action



Climate Watch offers open data, visualizations and analysis to help policymakers, researchers and other stakeholders gather insights on countries' climate progress. The site visualizes national and global climate actions for achieving Paris Agreement pledges, offering insights on sustainable development, emission trends and more.

Following through on the landmark Paris Agreement means showing what countries are doing to meet their commitments and how they can ramp up ambition over time. For the first time, Climate Watch will bring together dozens of data sets onto one platform, including current and past greenhouse gas emissions, future emissions scenarios, sustainable development targets, progress towards meeting national climate pledges, information on climate risk and much more. Climate Watch will ensure policymakers and researchers are using the most accurate and comprehensive data for decision-making, and create the accountability and transparency necessary to combat climate change.

Climate Watch is managed by World Resources Institute (WRI) in collaboration with partners: African Center for Technology Studies (ACTS), Climate Action Tracker, Climate Analytics, The German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), The German Development Institute (DIE), Google, NDC Partnership, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and The World Bank.

VISIT: <https://www.climatewatchdata.org/>

PRESS RELEASE: <https://www.wri.org/news/2017/11/release-climate-watch-powerful-new-platform-offers-comprehensive-data-climate-action>

\$4.5 BILLION AVAILABLE TO CITIES FOR AGGRESSIVE CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND RESILIENCE



On December 12, 2017 at the One Planet Summit in Paris, the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy and the World Bank Group announced a new partnership to provide technical and financial assistance to 150 cities across the world that are undertaking aggressive climate action programs.

The World Bank's investment of \$4.5 billion USD will ensure cities battling the increasing threats of climate change have the funding necessary to implement sustainable initiatives and climate resilience programs.

The partnership brings together the largest global alliance of cities committed to tackling climate change with the world's leading development institution to design and structure climate resilient investments and to catalyze new sources of capital to finance them in cities across the globe.

SOURCE: Revitalization News, ISSUE #68: <https://revitalizationnews.com/article/4-5-billion-now-available-150-cities-aggressive-climate-change-action/?issue=issue-68-february-1-2018>

WWF advocating EU reach binding climate and energy targets

At WWF 2018 is also a big year for climate and energy. A report from the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on how to keep temperature rise to 1.5°C will be released in the autumn, and the UN climate conference COP24 in November is an opportunity to hike up the ambition of national climate plans. On the EU level, the European Commission will publish a paper on the future of climate and energy policy in the next few months, and the EU institutions will hammer out the final clean energy laws. If Europe wants to keep its reputation as a climate leader, it needs to urgently step up its climate and energy ambition - this is what we'll be working towards in 2018.



WWF believes that EU emissions must be cut by 55% by 2030, by 95% by 2050, to stand a chance of upholding the Paris Agreement and avoiding runaway climate change. Europe can reach 100% renewable energy supply before 2050!

To achieve this, WWF is advocating and campaigning for:

- transparent, binding and ambitious climate and energy targets to be implemented for 2030 and 2050;
- a reformed Emissions Trading System so that the polluter pays;
- an EU's Effort-Sharing Regulation not to be undermined by 'loopholes' which allow countries to emit more than they should;
- EU countries to phase out fossil fuels and their subsidies rapidly, beginning with coal;
- finance for clean technologies, for the just transition, and for adaptation, loss and damage and scaled up climate action.

SOURCE: [http://www.wwf.eu/what we do/climate/](http://www.wwf.eu/what_we_do/climate/)

IISS Climate Change and Security Programme

A screenshot of the IISS website. The main heading is "Climate Change and Security". Below it, there is a sub-heading "ARCTIC OPENING: Insecurity and Opportunity" and a small image of an Arctic scene. The page also features a quote from Ambassador Paula J. Dobriansky and a "READ MORE" link.

Particular areas of focus in the [International Institute for Strategic Studies](#) programme on Climate Change and Security include the effects of climate change on weak and distressed states, [the shifting balance of power in the Arctic](#), the implications of reduced [food and water security](#), the impact of energy transformation on [energy security](#), and how national and international security organisations should adapt their institutions to best respond to the challenges of global warming.

Through a series of dialogues, workshops, briefings, discussion meetings and publications, the IISS seeks to further international understanding of the security threats posed by climate change and to inform development of policies to alleviate those threats.

The current Climate Change and Security programme is led by Dr Jeffrey Mazo, Research Fellow for Environmental Security and Science Policy, and Managing Editor, Survival.

Former Transatlantic Dialogue on Climate Change and Security (TDCCS)

The IISS began its research into climate change and security with a two-year research programme funded by the European Commission. The TDCCS issued its [Final Report](#) findings in 2011. A blog was also established to create a discussion forum for policymakers, opinion-formers and other experts in the field.

SOURCE: <https://www.iiss.org/en/research/climate-s-change-s-and-s-security/about>

EVENTS

Recent and forthcoming events on climate change and security around the world

A Matter of Survival: Learning to Cooperate over Water

16 Jan 2018, Woodrow Wilson Center, Washington, D.C.



Meeting our global water challenges is no ordinary task: it is a matter of survival. As global climate patterns shift, access to clean water will become more challenging; water will grow scarcer in some places, while others will suffer from too much. The Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace, convened by a coalition of 15 countries, has developed a set of recommendations designed to prevent water-related conflicts and to enable water management be an instrument of peace, not war.

In this discussion with President Danilo Türk, Chair of the Panel on Water and Peace and former President of Slovenia, leaders from the U.S. and around the world share their insights on water and peace, and bring into focus the new U.S. Global Water Strategy. This high-level, half-day event provided an opportunity for U.S. water sector leaders to spur actionable partnerships and innovative, integrated solutions to the global water challenge.

MORE: <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/event/matter-survival-learning-to-cooperate-over-water>

Creating the Paris Path on Climate Change: From Paris through Marrakech to Fiji and Bonn and Beyond

31 Jan 2018, Goethe-Institut, Washington D.C.



Sustainability Collaborative of George Washington University and the *Goethe-Institut* of Washington, DC are co-organising a discussion on climate diplomacy during the first year of the Trump administration. This will be an evening of reflections on the most recent international meeting in Bonn, the second since Paris and the first since Trump took office. What have we learned? The panellists will be Liane Schalatek of the Heinrich Boell Foundation (North America), Elliot Diringer of the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES), and a representative from the Embassy of Fiji.

SOURCE: <https://lists.iisd.ca/read/attachment/99493/2/Goethe-GW+-+01.31.18+-+Creating+Paris+Path+on+CC..pdf>

SIPRI & WFP: Hunger, Food Security, Stability and Peace

2 Feb 2018, SIPRI, Stockholm Sweden



After steadily declining for over a decade, global hunger is on the rise again, affecting 815 million people in 2016, or 11 per cent of the global population, according to The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2017 report. Conflict is a key driver of hunger—60 per cent of the world's hungry live in conflict-affected areas. Hunger also drives conflict as it fuels longstanding grievances and disputes over land, livestock and other assets. Thus, as the world pursues a peaceful future, the role of food security—with its vital and far-reaching impact on security—remains fundamental.

The seminar will ask, 'In what ways is hunger a security risk and how can we work together to address the challenges?'. The discussion will provide an opportunity for SIPRI and the WFP to advance the issue on the global agenda and to advocate for food security as a driver of conflict prevention and sustained peace.

SOURCE: <https://www.sipri.org/events/2018/hunger-food-security-stability-and-peace>

The Role of Water Stress in Instability and Conflict

6 Feb 2018, Wilson Center, Washington, D.C.



President Trump has said that “water may be the most important issue we face for the next generation.” Water insecurity continues to grow in fragile areas facing rapid population growth, poverty, food and energy insecurity, and weak governance. According to a new report by CNA's Military Advisory Board (MAB), when combined with these stressors and poor resource management, water stress can contribute to the full spectrum of conflict, from civil unrest to civil wars, and can also be used as an instrument of coercion, exploited by extremist organizations and insurgents.

The U.S. launch of “The Role of Water Stress in Instability and Conflict,” produced by this elite group of retired Admirals and Generals from across the U.S. armed forces will be held in Washington on 6 February. The expert panel will discuss the role that water stress plays in diplomacy, violence, and conflict,

and what steps the U.S. government can take to mitigate those threats through diplomacy, strategic investments, and defense.

EVENT PAGE / DOWNLOAD: https://www.cna.org/CNA_files/PDF/CRM-2017-U-016532-Final.pdf

Implementing Global and National Climate Action in Cities – the Localisation of the NDCs

10 Feb 2018, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany

Side event at Ninth Session of the World Urban Forum, Kuala Lumpur, 7-13 Feb 2018

FORUM BANDAR SEDUNIA



KUALA LUMPUR • 7-13 FEB 2018

The Paris Declaration recognises the importance of cities and other so-called non-state actors in reaching international climate goals. Two-thirds of the National Determined Contributions (NDCs) already list urban fields of action in their national priorities. But this high level of attention, especially among rapidly urbanising countries, must still be underscored with action. In this sense, the role and importance of cities in climate related issues also still calls for more in-depth knowledge generation, as does their significance in implementing National Determined Contributions.

MORE: <http://wuf9.org/programme/side-events/implementing-global-and-national-climate-action-in-cities-the-localisation-of-the-ndcs/>

Symposium with Canadian Forces and Civilian Government Adaptation Experts

12-13 Feb 2017, Canadian Forces College, Toronto



The Canadian Forces College Toronto is convening a two-day symposium on 12-13 Feb, bringing together Canadian Forces and civilian adaptation experts in government to discuss and improve research and linkages, and to explore policy questions around these topics.

Watch for news on Environment and Climate Change Canada:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/news.html>

Environmental Security and Sustaining Peace: Free 8 week – online course

1 Mar – 10 May 2018, The SDG Academy



This 8-week massive open online course (MOOC) on Environmental Security and Sustaining Peace provides an in-depth introduction to the multiple roles that natural resources and the environment play in the onset, escalation, and resolution of, and recovery from, violent conflicts. Many of the considerations and approaches in this course are also relevant to understanding and addressing social conflicts around natural resources and the environment.

This course is for:

- Peace and security specialists that want to understand more about natural resources.
- Natural resource experts that want to design more conflict-sensitive programs.
- Sustainable development practitioners as well as private sector actors that need to understand how natural resources can be developed in fragile contexts with weak governance.
- Advanced undergraduates and graduate students interested in the key concepts and practices of this growing field.

SOURCE: <https://courses.sdgacademy.org/learn/environmental-security-and-sustaining-peace-march-2018>

9th Annual Global Forum in Urban Resilience & Adaptation

26-29 Apr 2018, Bonn, Germany

Resilient Cities – The Annual Global Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation – is the global platform for urban resilience and climate change adaptation, hosted in Bonn, Germany.

Resilient Cities was first launched in 2010 with the goal of connecting local government leaders and climate change adaptation experts to discuss adaptation challenges facing urban environments around the globe and forging partnerships that could have lasting impacts for cities.



Eight successful editions have made this goal a reality. The 9th edition of the Resilient Cities congress series will take place on 26-28 April 2018.

SOURCE: <https://resilientcities2018.iclei.org/>

2018 Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development

7-9 May 2018, Stockholm, Sweden

SIPRI is proud to host the 2018 Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development with a focus on 'The Politics of Peace'.

Targeted, inclusive and sustained conflict prevention can contribute to lasting peace by reducing the risk of violent conflict. In complex environments, international commitments like the Sustainable Development Goals and Women, Peace and Security Agenda can provide entry points for prevention by identifying common ground among diverse stakeholders. In practice, though, political will is often lacking in the countries where prevention is most needed. In such cases, building unlikely or temporary coalitions may be necessary to keep the peace in the interim while more sustainable solutions are developed. Even when there is political will to prevent violence, individual actors can obstruct peacebuilding—either wilfully or through negligence—in pursuit of their own interests. Thus, sustaining peace is not just about good technical solutions, but it is also about getting the politics right.



SOURCE: <https://www.sipri.org/events/2018/2018-stockholm-forum-peace-and-development>

40th Meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol

9-13 Jul 2018, Vienna, Austria



The Open-ended Working Group was established by decision I/5 of the First Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol in 1989 pursuant to Article 11 of the Montreal Protocol. The Open-ended Working Group meets at least once every year and its meetings are convened by the Secretariat according to decision I/6 of the First Meeting of the Parties. The Open-ended Working Group is comprised of all Parties to the Montreal Protocol and its meetings are co-chaired by one representative from a group of developed countries and another representative from a group of developing countries.

SOURCE: <http://ozone.unep.org/en/meetings>

30th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol

5-9 Nov 2018 (Tentative), Ecuador



The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was designed to reduce the production and consumption of ozone depleting substances in order to reduce their abundance in the atmosphere, and thereby protect the earth's fragile ozone Layer. The original Montreal Protocol was agreed on 16 September 1987 and entered into force on 1 January 1989.

SOURCE: <http://ozone.unep.org/en/meetings>

G20 Leaders' Summit

30 Nov – 1 Dec 2018, Buenos Aires, Argentina



The 2018 G20 agenda comprises over fifty meetings: **Technical meetings:** Around 40 technical-level meetings on specific work stream topics. Press will not have access to these meetings. **Ministerial meetings:** Around 10 meetings at government minister level. **Leaders' Summit:** The summit will take place from 30 Nov to 1 Dec 2018.

SOURCE: <https://www.g20.org/en>

The 24th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 24) to the UNFCCC

3-14 Dec 2018, Katowice, Slaskie, Poland



United Nations
Climate Change

SOURCE: http://unfccc.int/meetings/unfccc_calendar/items/2655.php?year=2018