

# **The Security Context of UNEP's activities:**

## **The Environment and Security Initiative ENVSEC**

**Otto Simonett**, UNEP GRID-Arendal  
Geneva, June 26, 2008

# **UNEP Medium-Term Strategy 2010-2013:**

The six cross-cutting thematic priorities are:

- (a) Climate change;**
- (b) Disasters and conflicts;**
- (c) Ecosystem management;**
- (d) Environmental governance;**
- (e) Harmful substances and hazardous waste;**
- (f) Resource efficiency - sustainable consumption and production.**

# **Disasters and Conflicts:**

**The UNEP objective is to minimize environmental threats to human well-being arising from the environmental causes and consequences of conflicts and disasters**

**The UNEP expected accomplishments are:**

- That States' environmental management contributes to disaster risk reduction and conflict prevention;
- That acute environmental risks caused by conflicts and disasters are mitigated;
- That the post-crisis assessment and recovery process contributes to improved environmental management and the sustainable use of natural resources.



United Nations Environment Programme  
environment for development

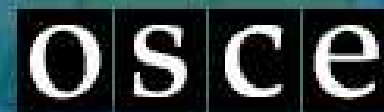
Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch



**Environment & Security**  
Transforming risks into cooperation



# ENVIRONMENT and SECURITY initiative [ENVSEC]



ENVIRONMENT AND SECURITY – TRANSFORMING RISKS INTO COOPERATION



## ENVIRONMENT AND SECURITY DIMENSIONS

threat

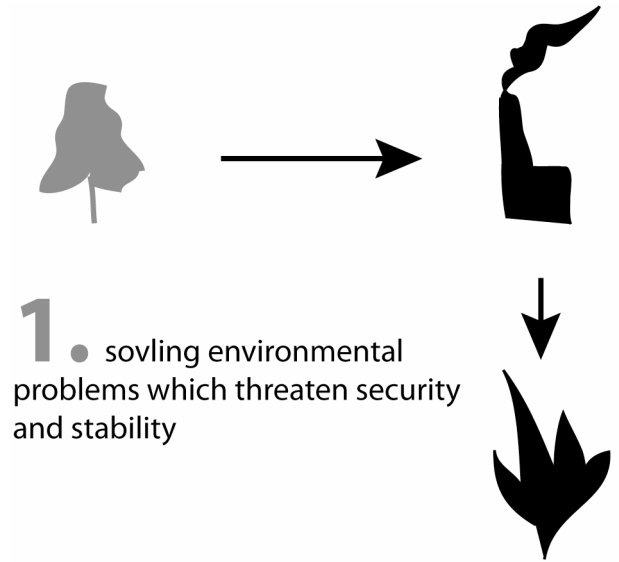
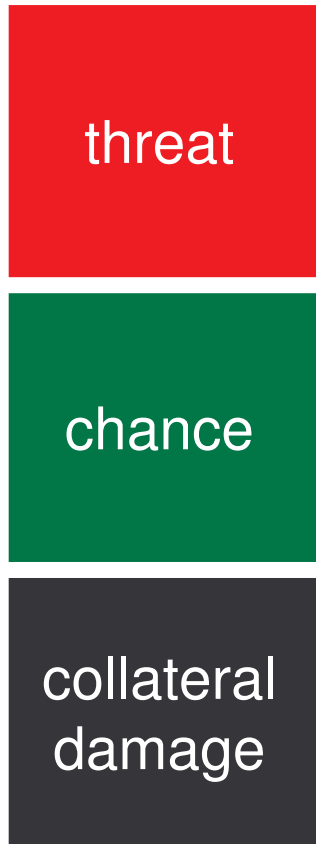
environmental risks & problems  
can **threaten**  
security

chance

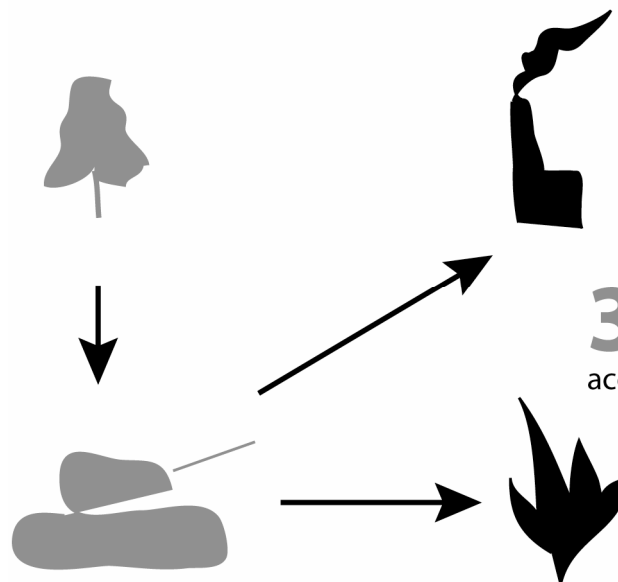
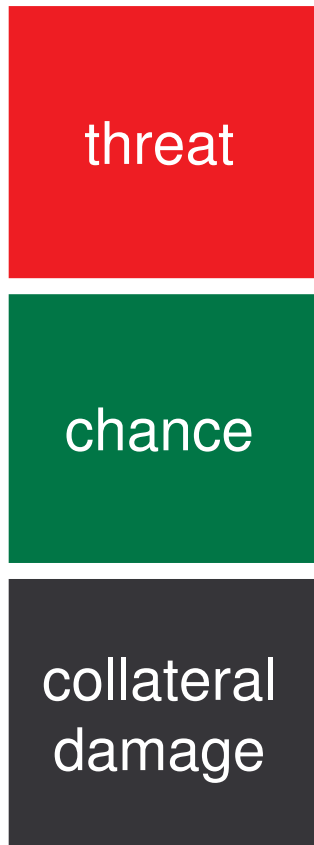
environmental cooperation and management  
can **help improve** security  
and soften conflicts

collateral  
damage

yet the environment is  
often **forgotten**  
where 'hard security' matters







**3.** promoting environmentally-acceptable security policies

border ecosystems  
industrial accidents  
**public awareness**  
frozen conflicts  
**regional cooperation**  
rocket fuel  
obsolete pesticides  
land disputes  
cross-border impacts  
energy  
[in]dependence  
military legacy  
waste trafficking  
geopolitics  
shared waters  
**nuclear radiation**  
monitoring  
social vulnerability

приграничные экосистемы  
промышленные аварии  
информирование людей  
таляющие конфликты  
**региональное сотрудничество**  
ракетное топливо  
непригодные пестициды  
земельные споры  
общественная радиация  
энергетическая  
[не]зависимость  
трансграничное воздействие  
военное наследие  
государственная политика  
социальная уязвимость  
мониторинг

border ecosystems  
industrial accidents  
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military legacy  
national policies  
social vulnerability

геополитика  
приграничные экосистемы  
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social vulnerability



# Environment and security priority areas in the Southern Caucasus



Environment and security priority areas

### Land degradation

- Soil degradation: contamination due to high levels of pesticides and/or heavy metals (mainly inherited from the Soviet period), salinization and erosion due to poorly maintained irrigation system and rise of water table
- Area affected by deforestation
- Pastures degraded by overgrazing
- Arable land degraded by oil exploitation

### Water pollution

- Transboundary and domestic polluted waters
- Coastline and infrastructures affected by sea level rise, and oil pollution
- Coastline affected by bacterial or nutrient loading and coastal erosion

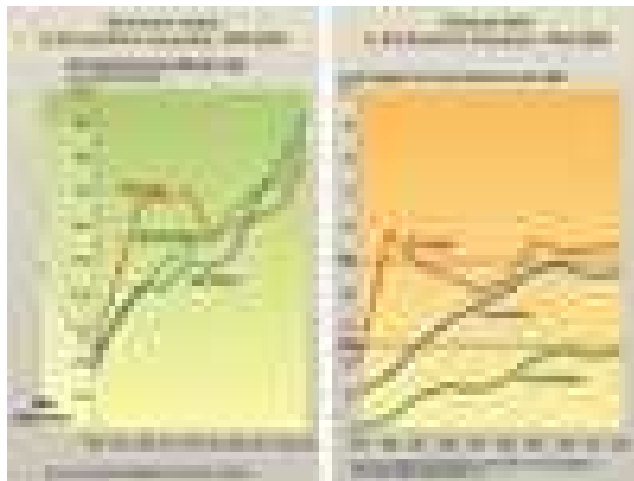
### Infrastructure

- Ageing Soviet industrial complex, mining centre or processing plant (oil terminal, refinery,...) major source of air, soil and water pollution
- Nuclear power plant
- BTC (Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan): oil pipeline route
- TRACECA (Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia): Renovated or new multimodal transportation corridor (road, railroad, pipeline)

### Security issues

- Former Soviet Union administrative boundaries of autonomous regions. (South Ossetia and Nagorno-Karabakh have been officially disbanded)
- Areas of conflict out of control of central authorities
- Line of contact
- Areas vulnerable to ethnic or political tension
- Concentration of landmines

# National environment and security issues in Azerbaijan



## Pollution due to oil production and industrial activities

- Soils contaminated by pollution from oil production
- Obsolete Soviet drilling platforms threatened by Caspian Sea level rise.
- Dispersed oil pollution
- Large ageing Soviet industrial complex still generating pollution (mines, chemical and cement factories, thermal and metallurgical plants). Significant heavy metal contamination (soil and water).

## Water issues

- Transboundary polluted waters
- Caspian Sea level rise**
  - Coastline already submerged (destruction of certain infrastructure)
  - Coastline at risk of flooding
- Drinking water canal
- Tension between Russian Federation and Azerbaijan due to diversion of water from Semur River
- Decaying Soviet irrigation infrastructure damaging soil
- Poorly maintained dam threatening downstream communities
- Water pollution sources outside of Azerbaijan

## Land degradation

- Soil degradation and erosion: pollution due to pesticides and/or heavy metals (mainly inherited from the Soviet period). Salinization due to poorly maintained irrigation system and rise of water table
- Area affected by deforestation.
- Area at risk of landslides
- Pasture degraded by overgrazing**
  - Summer pasture
  - Winter pasture

## Security issues

- Districts out of the control of Azerbaijani authorities
- Line of contact
- Concentration of landmines
- Refugee camps or settlements

## Transportation and communication

- TRACECA (Transport Corridor Europe Caucasus Asia) : Renovated or new multimodal transportation corridor (road, railroad, pipeline) and BTC (Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan); main oil pipeline route

Grey dashed lines represent Former Soviet Union administrative boundaries of autonomous regions. Nagorno-Karabakh have been officially disbanded



**Экологическое состояние областей Ферганской Долины**

**State of the Environment report**

Об этом докладе | Документы и приложения | Источники информации | Поиск и карта сайта

Резюме

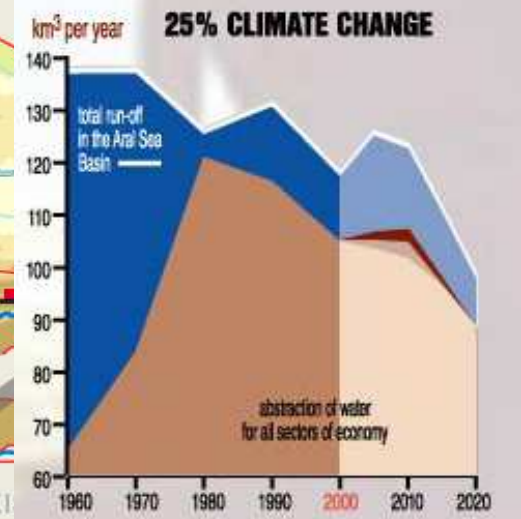
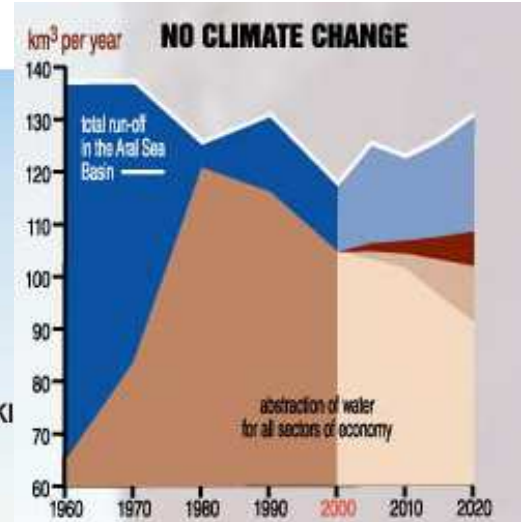
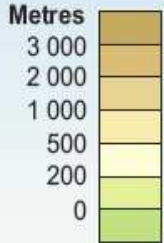
- Биоразнообразие
- Лесные ресурсы
- Водные ресурсы
- Земельные ресурсы
- Проблема отходов
- Качество воздуха
- Изменение климата
- Стихийные бедствия
- Охрана природы

Согдийская область | Балханская область | Джамал-Абладская область | Ошская область



# Water withdrawal and availability in the Aral Sea basin

- █ **Flow generation:** water available in the country from rainfall and glacier melt
- █ **Water abstraction:** withdrawal from surface water sources (rivers, canals and lakes)



SCENARIOS: █ optimistic █ intermediary █ business as usual



Object capitals are written in bold.

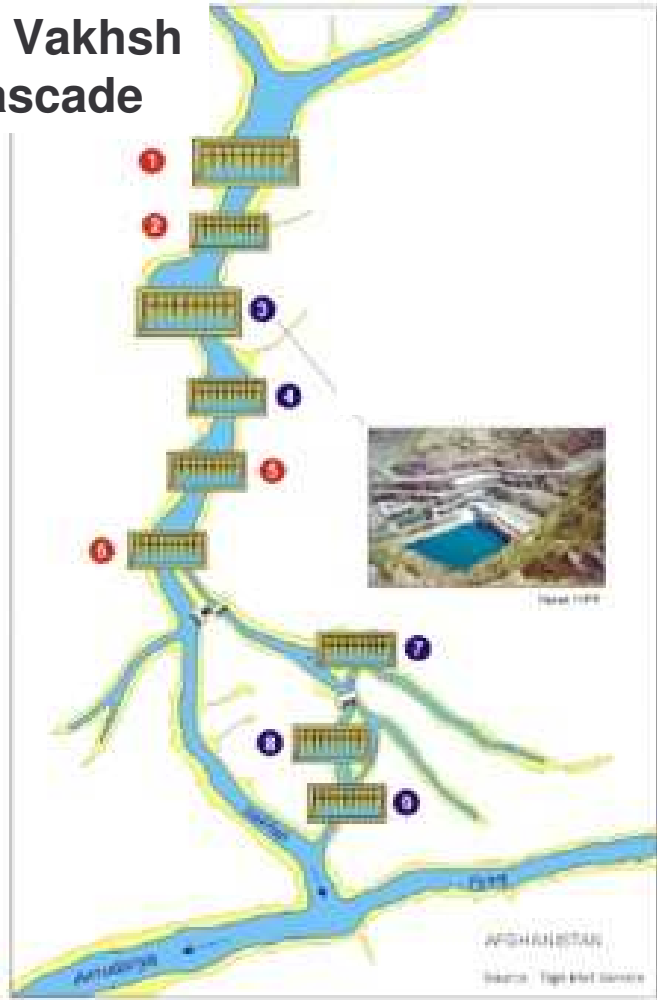


**South of the Danube**  
 Zmyrny Island  
 Bystros Canal (contested development)

Black Sea

Sea of Azov

# The Vakhsh cascade



**THE NEW  
ECONOMICS OF  
ENERGY SECURITY**

QuickTime™ and a  
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

