Towards a World Summit on Sustainable Development 2012
EESC, Brussels 1st October 2009

TAKING ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY SERIOUSLY:
Can we do so by 2012?

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Project Co-ordinator “Climate Change & The Military”
THE NEED FOR INTEGRATED THINKING

• False dawns for Environmental Security
  - the danger of over-claiming

• A mixture of disciplines
  - academic jealousies & the contest for budget

• “Environmental Security” or “Environment & Security”? 
  - the fear of “securitization”

• Development Policy - Foreign Policy - Military Policy

• Food Security - Energy Security - Climate Security
CLIMATE CHANGE & THE MILITARY I

• CNA Report “National Security & the Threat of Climate Change”
  - Delayed by Bush Administration
  - “Big Military v Big Oil”

• CNAS Report “The Age of Consequences: The Foreign Policy and National Security Implications of Global Climate Change”
  - The nasty stuff happens after 2050?

• Abrupt Climate Change – timing is all
TIPPING POINTS & “SQUEALING”

Source: Durwood Zaelke, IGSD, Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development

Climate Governance Brief August 2009 www.igsd.org
CLIMATE CHANGE & THE MILITARY II

• Montreal Protocol - Ozone Depleting Substances
  - The untold story of global military co-operation

• Stephen Andersen & the EPA
  - “The fully burdened cost of fuel”
  - GHG emissions / solar power / managing military land
  - Mindset / analysis / research / action
ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY MILESTONES

• Drought in the Amazon – Drinking water in Sao Paolo
• Darfur
• Katrina
• Peruvian glaciers
• Failing states & terrorism
• The Arctic – sea ice & the Greenland glacier
• The UN Secretary General’s Report on Climate Change & Security
THE LOSS OF THE “THIRD POLE” GLACIERS?

• 22% of humanity rely on summer melt water from the Hindu Kush / Himalayan / Tibet glaciers

• The great rivers of Asia: Yangtze-Brahmaputra-Ganges-Huang Ho-Indus-Mekong-Salween

• Flooding as the glacial dams burst

• Loss of summer melt water

• Loss of hydro-electric power schemes

• Changes to the Monsoon? Earthquakes? Extra sea level rise

• Damage to Tibetan permafrost
THE MILITARY IMPLICATIONS

• Unrest in rural China
  – political stability of China

• Afghanistan & Pakistan
  – impact on existing wars

• India & Bangladesh
  – displacement & migration

• The diversion of the Brahmaputra
  – a casus belli?
WHEN?

- By 2050? By 2035? By 2020?

- The political impact can be delayed by denial
  - but the military may want to apply the precautionary principle!
THREAT MINIMIZERS

• Reduce Black Carbon
  - Indian cooking stoves, scrubbers on Chinese power stations, marine fuel & diesel, reduce the burning of forests

• Talk to each other honestly – share research

• Involve the global military now and highlight at Rio+20 in 2012
INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY

- www.envirosecurity.org

- “Climate Change & The Military: The State of the Debate”

- “Climate Change & Security at Copenhagen II”
  IES Conference 7th - 8th October, Brussels