



United Nations Environment Programme

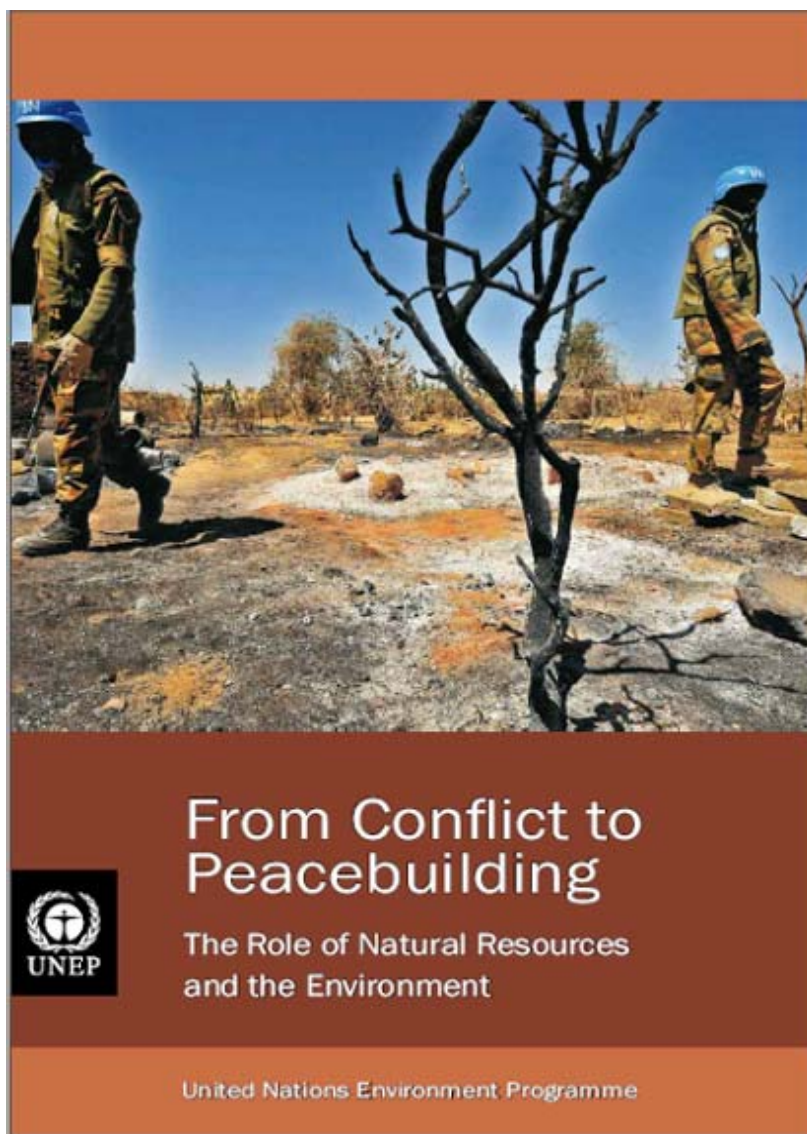
Title

Rationale

Findings

Recs

Webpage



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UNEP Post-Conflict and
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Report Launch

27 May 2009

Parliament House

Finnish Institute for Foreign Affairs
Helsinki, Finland



Question to the Audience:

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Should the management of natural resources be a key peacebuilding priority in post-conflict countries ?



Changing Replies to the Same Question within the UN (Straw Poll)

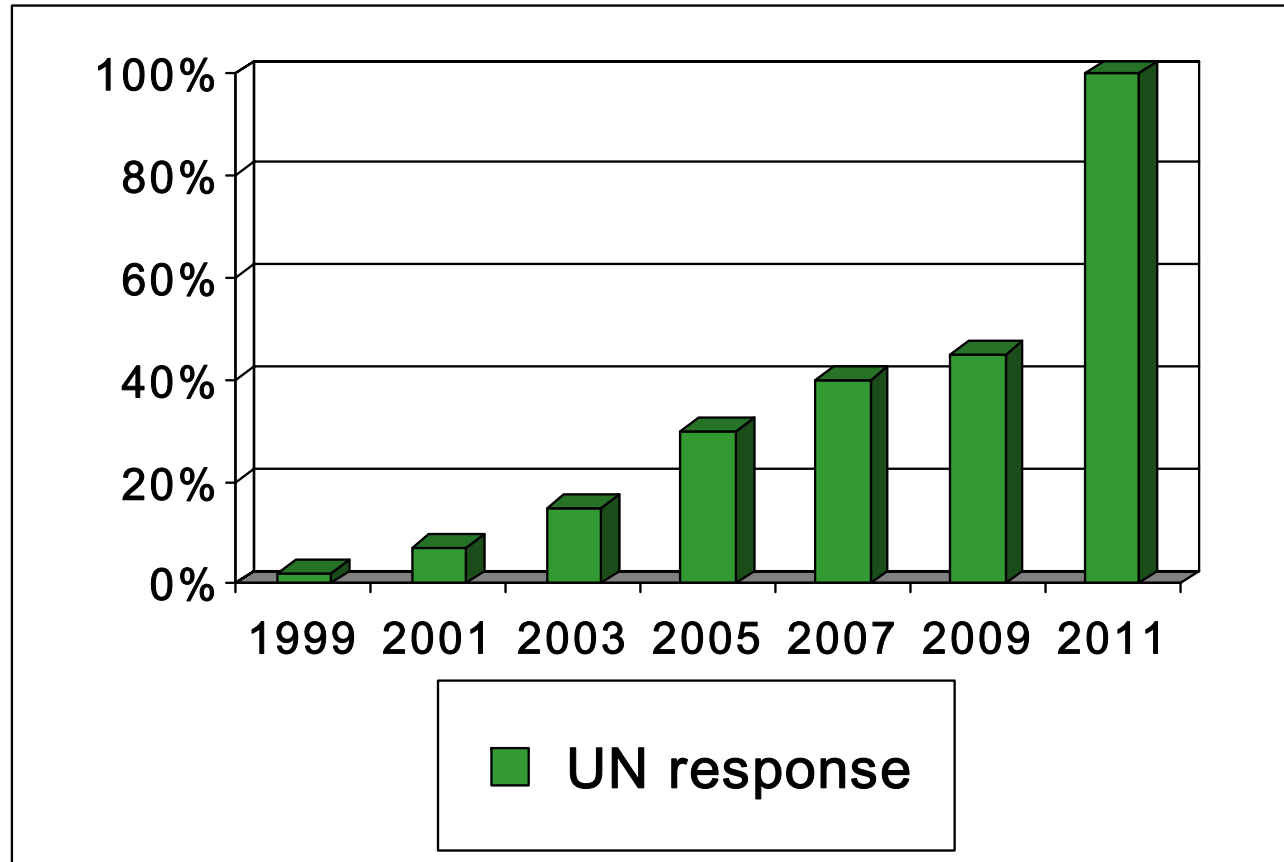
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Perceptions are changing but still work to do.
Our goal is to achieve 100% by 2011.



UNEP's report calls for the management of natural resources to be a priority

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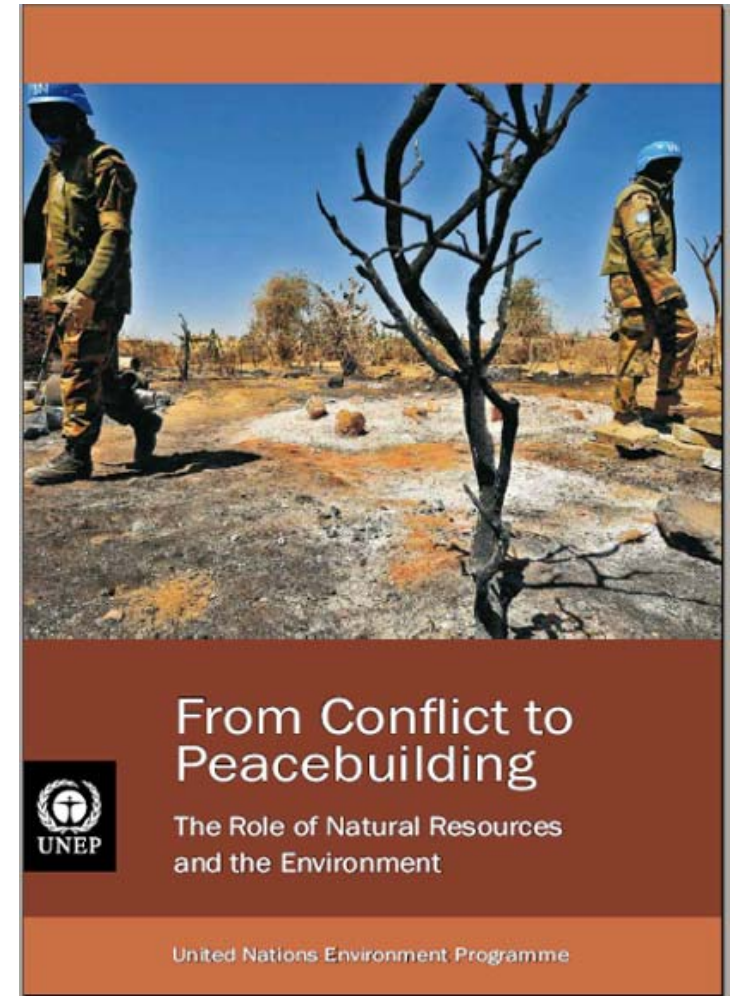
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Target Audience:

- Peacebuilding Commission
- Peacekeeping Operations
- UN Country Teams
- Conflict-affected countries

Process:

- UNEP lessons over 10 years
- Inputs from academic experts
- Review open to 250 practitioners and PBC





UNEP's Post-conflict operations

10 years of experience covering 20 operations

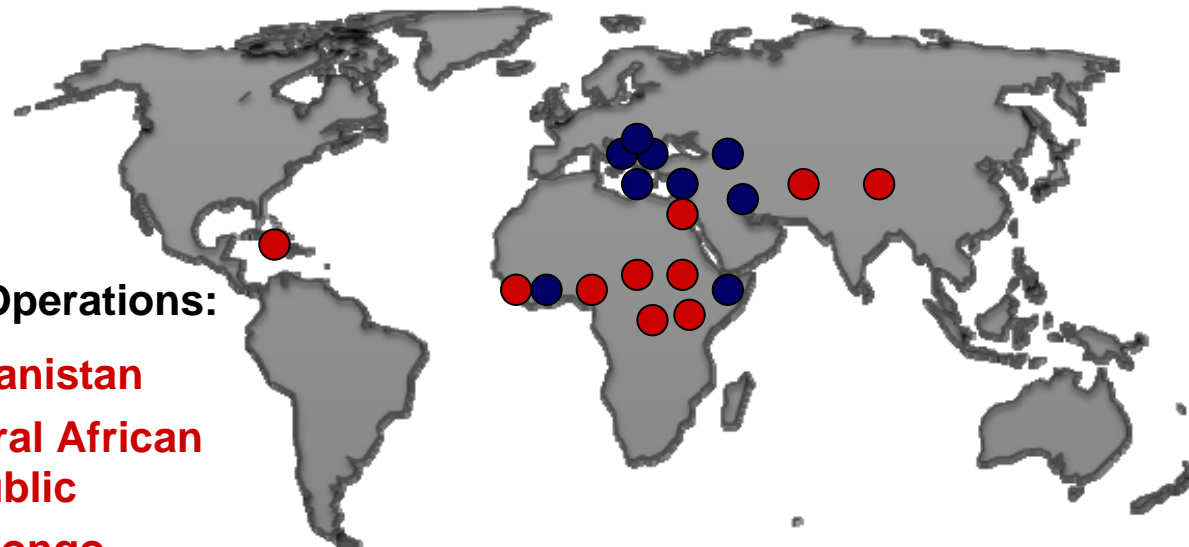
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Current Operations:

1. **Afghanistan**
2. **Central African Republic**
3. **DR Congo**
4. **Gaza/West Bank**
5. **Haiti**
6. **Nepal**
7. **Nigeria**
8. **Sierra Leone**
9. **Sudan**
10. **Rwanda**

Closed Operations:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 11. Albania | 16. Liberia |
| 12. Bosnia-Herzegovina | 17. Macedonia |
| 13. Georgia | 18. Montenegro |
| 14. Iraq | 19. Serbia |
| 15. Lebanon | 20. Somalia |



Three key lessons contained in the UNEP report

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1. Impacts: Damage to natural resources and the environment from conflict can undermine peace.



2. Risks: Natural resources and the environment are a source of conflict.



3. Opportunities: Natural resources and the environment offer concrete opportunities for peacebuilding.





1. Damage to natural resources and the environment can undermine peace

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1) Direct impacts

- Weapons and bombing
- Chemical contamination
- Rubble and waste

2) Indirect impacts

- Coping strategies
- Looting
- Displacement

3) Institutional impacts

- Breakdown of governance
- Lack of investment





Case Study 1: Afghanistan

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- Nearly 30 years of conflict
- 80% of population relies directly on natural resources
- UNEP engagement since 2001



Case Study 1: Afghanistan

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What is this ?



Case Study 1: Afghanistan

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What is this ?



Case Study 1: Afghanistan

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What is this ?



This is what a forest looks like after 30 years of war

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Many provinces lost 50 to 99% of forest and woodland cover

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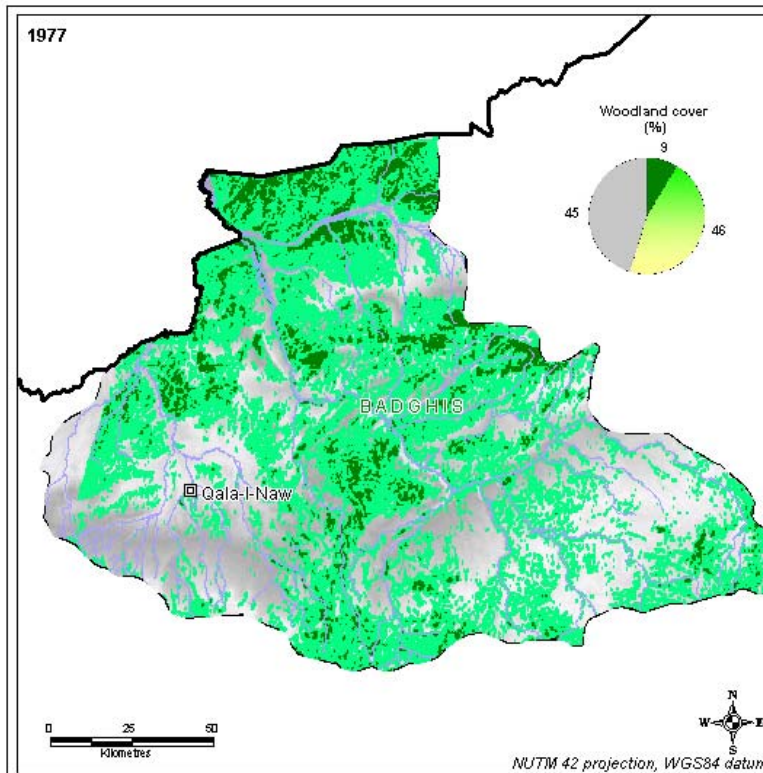
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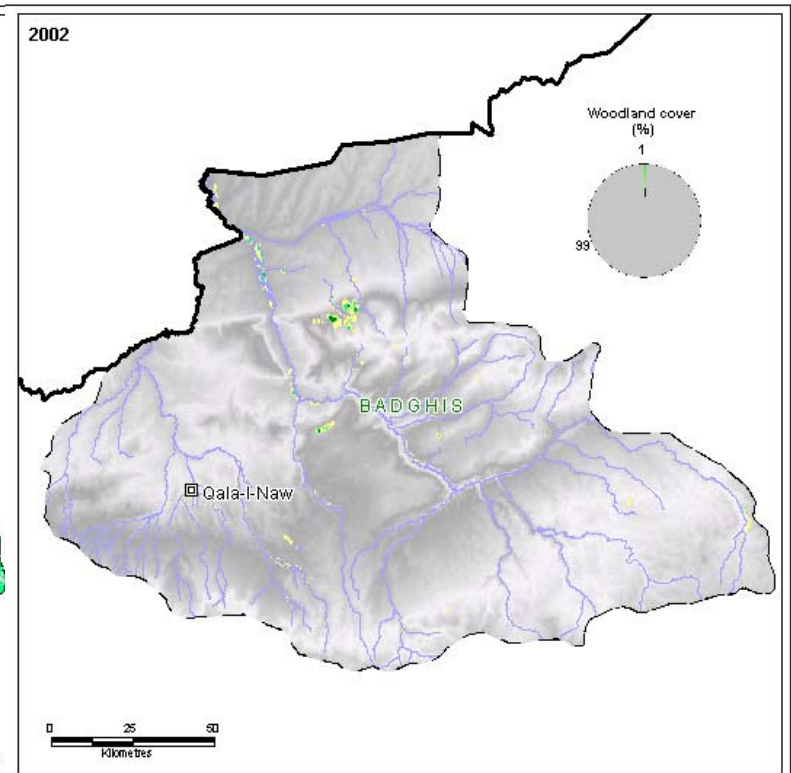
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1977



2002



How can peace be built in an environment so degraded by war ?



How did such widespread and complete deforestation take place ?

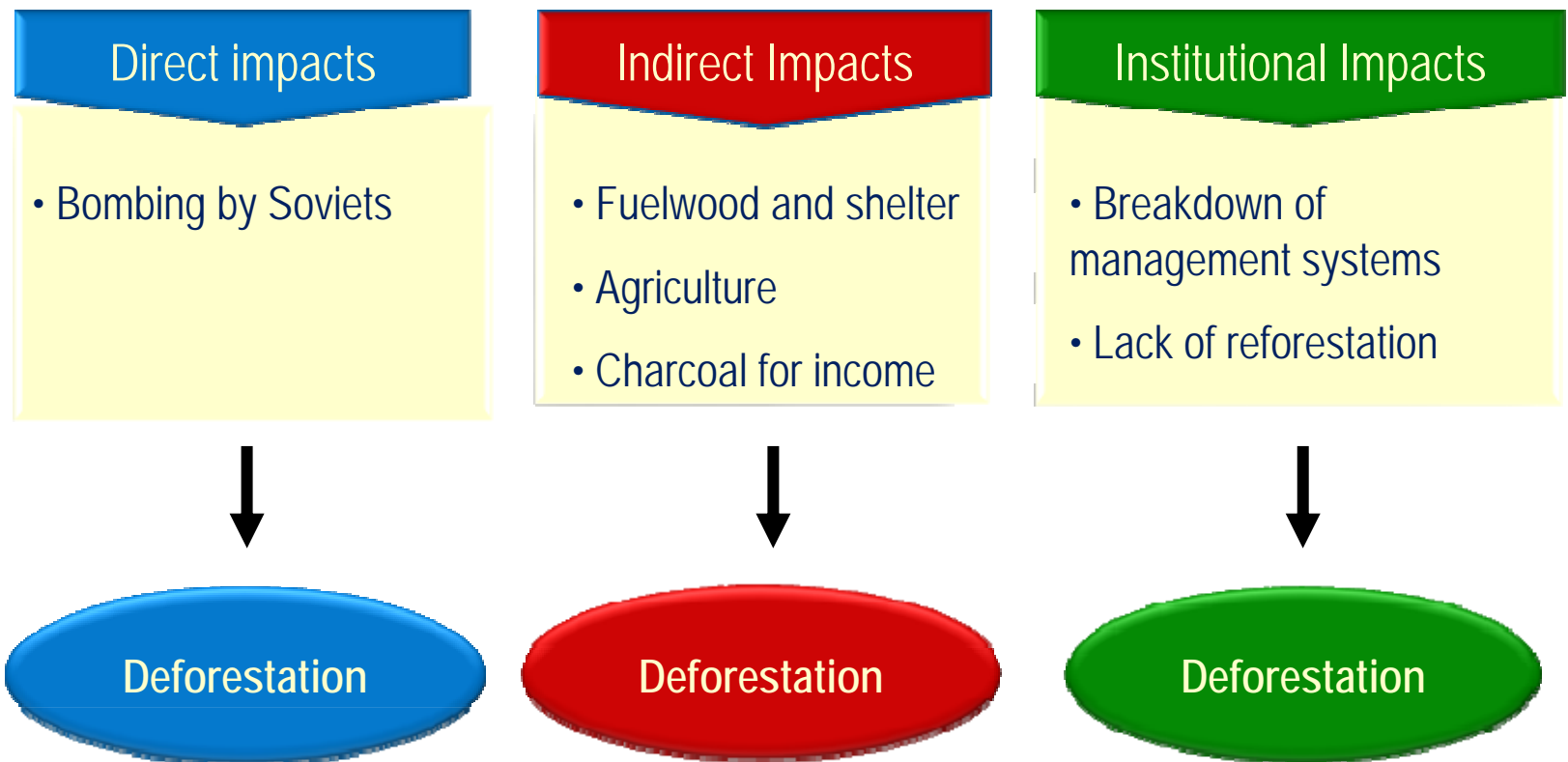
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2. Natural resources and the environment are a source of conflict

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1) Access and ownership

- Land tenure
- Benefits sharing
- Use of common property

2) Fueling conflict

- Revenues
- Capture of territory

3) Spoiling peacemaking

- Vested interests in maintaining conflict





Case Study 2: Central African Republic

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- Has known nearly 50 years of instability and violent conflict
- Added to agenda of Peacebuilding Commission in June 2008
- Rich in natural resources (forests, diamonds, gold, wildlife)
- UNEP requested to assess risks and opportunities in 2009



Case Study 2: Central African Republic

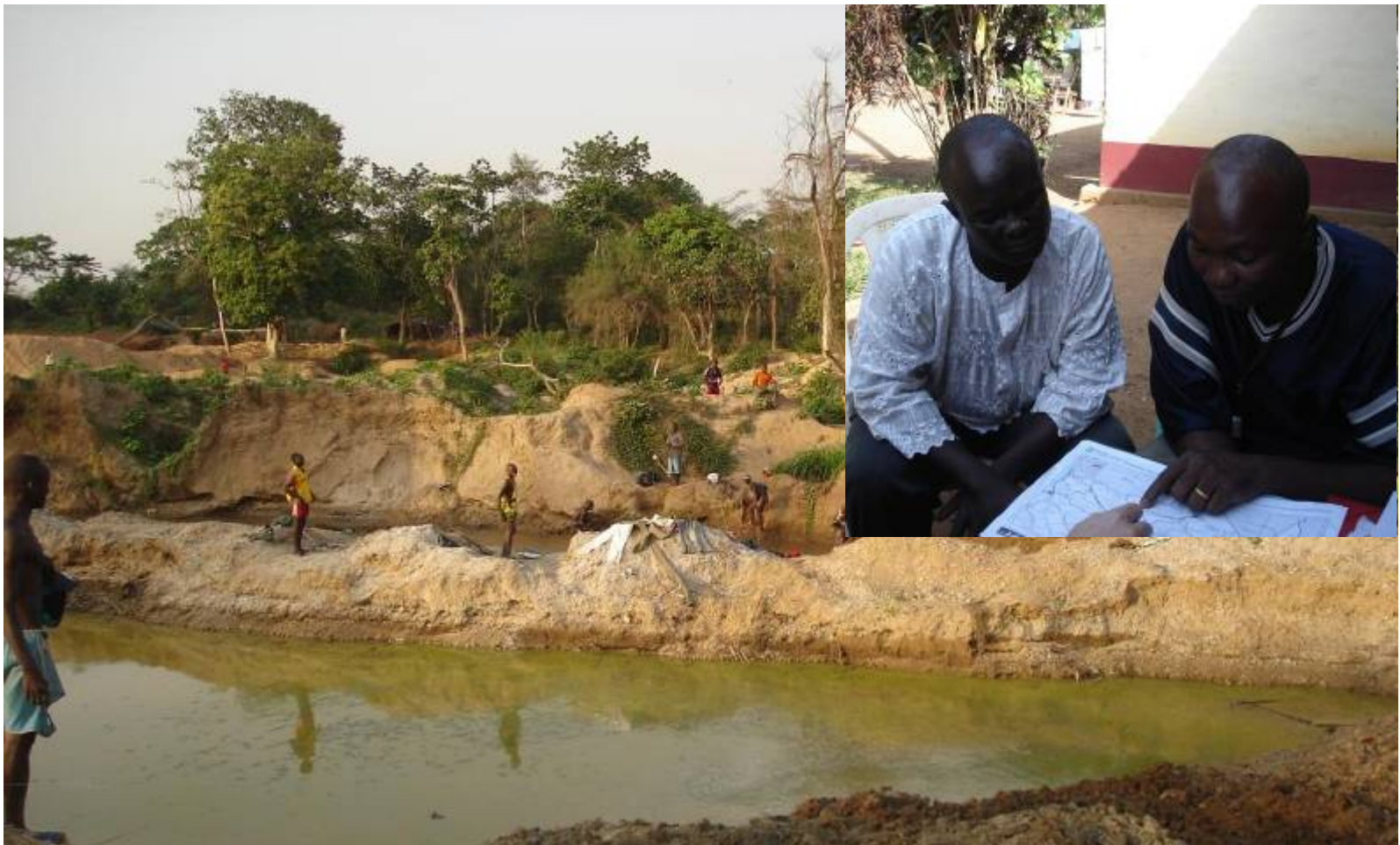
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100,000 people employed by artisanal diamond mining.
Diamonds accounted for 30% of export earnings in 2007.



Case Study 2: Central African Republic

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30 to 70% of diamonds exported illegally,
revenues not returning to communities or government.



Case Study 2: Central African Republic

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Well managed forest sector, but none of the revenues are returning to the communities as per law (40%).



Case Study 2: Central African Republic

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Lack of clear land tenure is a source of conflict between farmers and herders. Transboundary movement of nomads and lack of conflict resolution capacity is a “Time bomb waiting to explode”

Case Study 2: Central African Republic

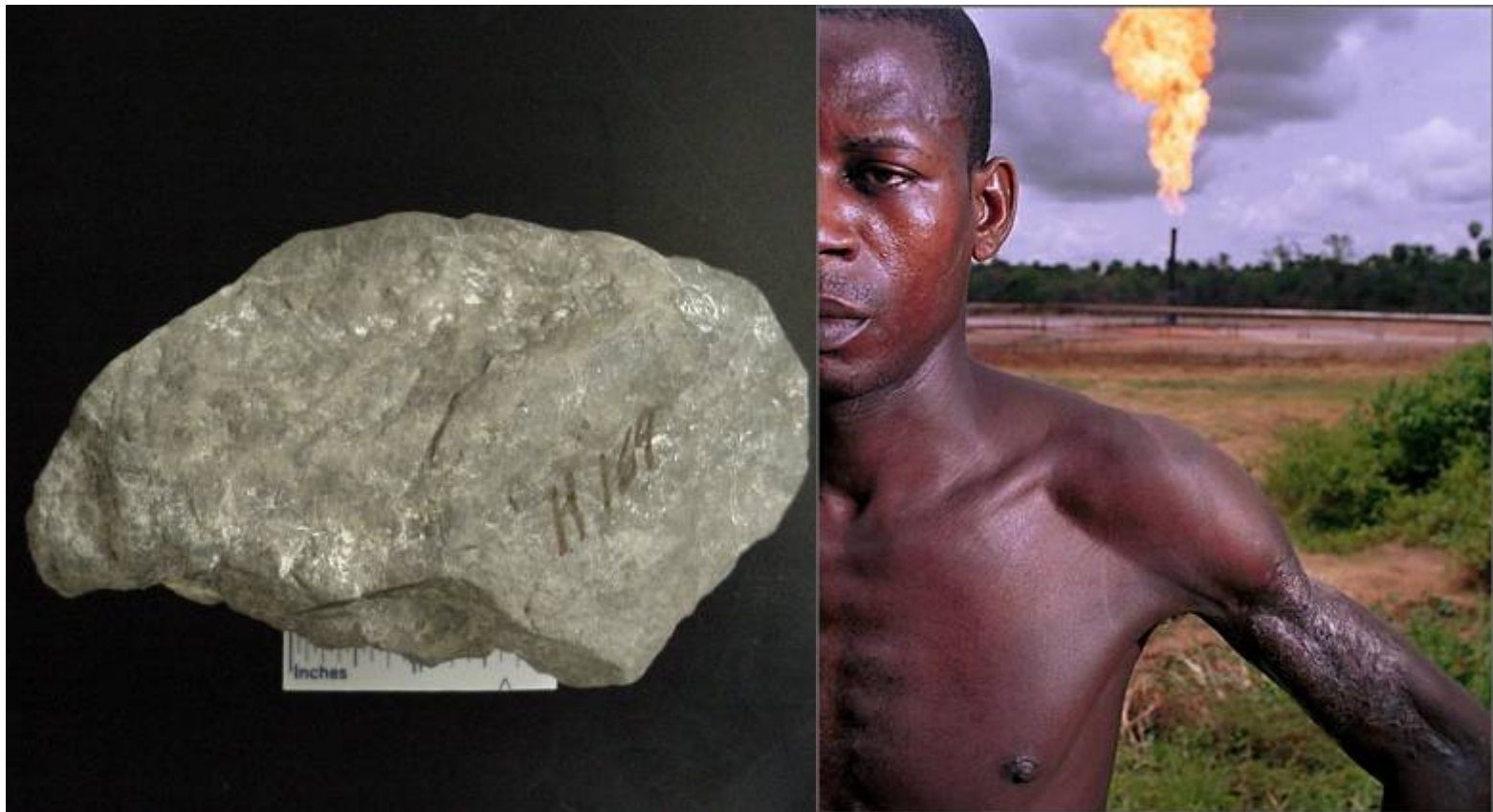
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Estimated 12,000 tons of uranium deposits worth 1-2 billion.
Sharing revenues from uranium and other high value resources
such as oil as may cause serious conflicts.



Conclusion: Risks must be addressed as part of peacebuilding strategy.

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The following paragraph was successfully included:

“Ensure sound management of natural resources within a protected environment, and guarantee equitable redistribution of their revenues.”

First time issue given priority status within a peacebuilding strategy.





3. Environment and natural resources are an opportunity for peacebuilding

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1) Economic recovery

- Extractive industries
- Renewable energy
- Export agriculture

2) Livelihoods and services

- Water and sanitation
- Bioenergy
- Shelter
- Agriculture & livestock

3) Reconciliation

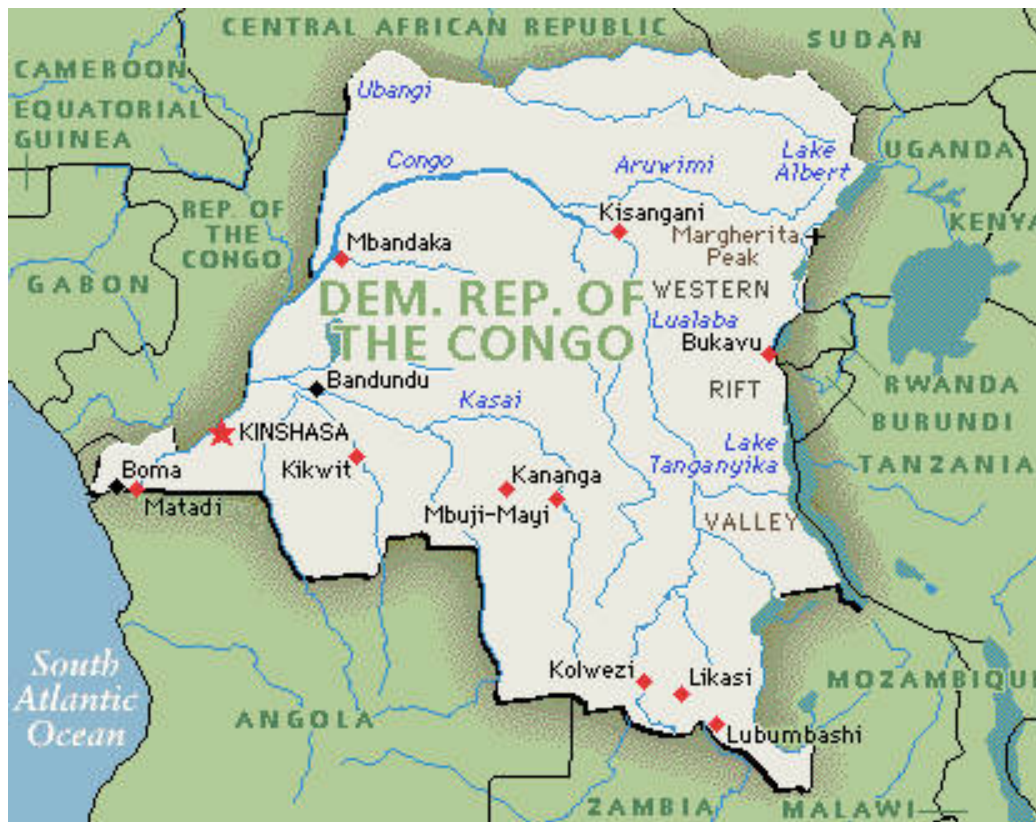
- Dialogue
- Confidence building
- Cooperation





Case Study 3: Democratic Republic of Congo

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- Africa's World War, 1998-2003, 8 nations, 25 armed groups
- Almost all parties financed from natural resources
- 7 of 9 neighbors have experienced conflict
- UNEP requested to conduct assessment in 2008



Case Study 3: Democratic Republic of Congo

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Economic Recovery Opportunities

- More natural resources than any country on the planet.
- Second largest forest on planet. Known as Earth's Second Lung
- 13% of earth's hydro-electric potential
- Soil may contain every mineral listed in periodic table. Estimated to be worth 24 trillion.
- 5 World Heritage Sites
- More than 7 billion dollars of investment contracts signed.





Case Study 3: Democratic Republic of Congo

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Regional Reconciliation:

- Transboundary movement of gorillas (and permit fees)
- Illegal extraction and trade of charcoal, bushmeat, fisheries
- Natural gas and hydro-electricity.





Summary of key recommendations

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1. Building capacity for natural resource management should be a peacebuilding priority as they underpin almost all other priorities.
2. UN system must integrate natural resource and environmental issues across all pillars of conflict management. Report framework should be basis.
3. Donors should adopt a policy position on linking natural resource management to peacebuilding.
4. Stronger international controls (e.g. certification schemes and sanctions) are needed to prevent natural resources from financing conflicts.
5. More investment is needed to use natural resources as platforms for dialogue, confidence building and cooperation.



UNEP's Six Priority Areas

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Climate Change



Disasters and Conflicts



Environmental Governance



Ecosystem management



Harmful substances



Resource Efficiency

**Focus areas for the period 2010-2013.
Disasters and Conflicts has been elevated to 1 of 6.**



Report Follow-up

UNEP requested to undertake follow-up work in four pillars:

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- 1. Peacebuilding:** Assist post-conflict countries to integrate risks and opportunities from natural resources and the environment into peacebuilding strategies.
- 2. Peacekeeping:** Assist peacekeeping operations to minimize environmental impact, monitor resource exploitation / trade, and link DDR to natural resource restoration and management.
- 3. Environmental Diplomacy:** Use shared natural resources as platforms for dialogue, confidence building and cooperation within and between conflict-affected countries. Contribute to environment and conflict early warning system.
- 4. Legal protection:** Provide assistance to implement international legal requirements regarding the protection of the environment during armed conflict.



Contact Information

Title

For further information, please contact:

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