

**World Summit on Sustainable Development,
Johannesburg 2002 [RIO + 10]**

**Proceedings of the Workshop on
“Security Implications of a Fragile Environment”
Pakistan Academy for Rural Development, Peshawar**

February 19 2002

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**World Summit on Sustainable Development
Proceedings of the Workshop on
“Security Implications of a Fragile Environment”
Peshawar, February 19, 2002**

1. Introduction

The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) will be held in Johannesburg, South Africa from August 24 - September 4, 2002. The main purpose of this convention is to assess main policies, which emerged from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), in 1992. The Government of Pakistan, through the Ministry of Environment (MoE), is also gearing up to participate in WSSD in accordance with the guidelines provided by the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). Its efforts are mainly focused on preparation of Country assessment Report (CAR), primarily based on findings of National Conservation Strategy (NCS) mid term review (MTR) and secondary research studies on Pakistan's progress on Rio Conventions. In order to support the WSSD preparatory process at MoE, IUCN has committed to hold public consultations in collaboration with UNDP. A total of eleven workshops will take place. Each of these workshops will focus upon a specific theme coherent to the location of the workshop. The specific themes have emerged from the South Asia and Asia Pacific regional roundtables. Two of these workshops have already been conducted. The first workshop on “Linking People with Coastal Ecosystem” was held in Quetta on February 12, 2002. The second workshop was organized by IUCNP with collaboration of Planning and Development Department, GoNWFP at Pakistan Academy for Rural Development (PARD) in Peshawar on Tuesday, 19th February 2002. The theme for discussion in the latter workshop was titled “Security Implications of a Fragile Environment.”

1.1 Objectives of the WSSD Consultations

The main objectives for holding the consultative workshops are:

- To bring together key stakeholders from government, civil society and private sector on one platform to discuss key issues with regards to sustainable development in Pakistan;
- To contribute towards preparation of Pakistan's CAR;
- To carve out a prospectus for updating the NCS from the overall consultation synthesis report.

This report presents the proceedings of the second workshop and major ideas emerging from the discussion.

1.2 Status & Chronology of Workshops as of March 27th, 2002

The following workshops have already been conducted, in the above connection:

1. The first workshop on “Linking People with Coastal Ecosystem” was held in Quetta on February 12, 2002.
2. This workshop was organized by IUCNP in collaboration with the Planning and Development Department, GoNWFP at Pakistan Academy for Rural Development (PARD) in Peshawar on Tuesday, 19th February 2002. The theme of discussion for this workshop was “Security Implications of a Fragile Environment.”

2. Participants

The Workshop on Environmental Security was attended by representatives from all relevant government departments such as Power and Irrigation Department, Sarhad Chamber of Agriculture, Forest Department and Environmental Protection Agency, NWFP. Although, the government sector dominated the Workshop, other participants from diverse origins attended the seminar including non-

government organisations. Majority of who were members of IUCNP like SUNGI, WWF, SPO and AKRSP. Within the academic sphere, Professors from University of Peshawar and NWFP Agriculture University attended. The private sector and media representatives from Dawn Newspaper and Radio Pakistan were also present at the workshop. (See Annex I - List of Participants).

3. Summary of the Workshop Proceedings

The workshop began with introductory remarks from Head of IUCNP Sarhad Office Programme, Mr. Mohammad Mujib Khan on the historical background of WSSD and what it meant for Pakistan. This was followed by a brief speech by Mr. Shahibzada Saeed Ahmad (Additional Secretary, Planning & Development Dept.GoNWFP), analysing the current situation, in the wake of issues like terrorism, globalization, environmental degradation, refugee problems, and stressing the need for collective serious efforts from all segments of society to alleviate these ills. Next was the main presentation, which highlighted the critical linkages between environment and security. The detailed agenda of the workshop is attached as Annex II. The key points of the presentation are presented below:

3.1 Main Presentation

The presentation forming the basis of subsequent discussions was based upon a study called "In the Balance...Environment and Security in North West Frontier Province (NWFP) of Pakistan" carried out in 1998 to explain the correlation between environment and security. The main hypothesis of the research revolved around the belief that environmental degradation could potentially trigger violent conflict, by fuelling the already fierce competition between local users to exploit natural resources. Environmental degradation would in all probability imply a depletion of these natural resources, resulting in a situation where the same number of users in any given locality/region would be bound to fulfil their requirements from within the depleted resources. In many cases, such a situation would invariably lead to local conflicts, and potentially create law and order situations. Hence, environmental degradation would (and does) heighten insecurity and promote lawlessness. As a consequence, transboundary pollution could accentuate the enforcement of international environmental law by force. To avoid such catastrophes, traditional institutions should seek to support environment. A model advocating this relationship was also demonstrated in the presentation to show how micro¹ and macro² stresses on the environment can have adverse socio-economic effects on communities. Moreover, the weight of vulnerability factors³ relative to the capacity factors⁴ is likely to determine the path towards conflict or resolution. These micro and macro stresses identified in the model were also located in Pakistan, particularly in the NWFP region.

The presentation concluded with the formulation and announcement of key recommendations for both provincial and national institution along with international donors and development agencies. Majority of the recommendations emphasised capacity building of institutions in order to adequately implement policies and to strengthen cooperation between the military institutions, government sector and civil society. Donors and development agencies were advised to incorporate environment and security assessments in all of their projects and to continue investments in humanitarian, rural and urban development with a special focus on environmental preservation issues (See Annex III - A detailed version of the Presentation on Environment and Security).

Following the presentation on environment and security, detailed discussion took place among the participants.

¹ Micro stresses mentioned in the study refer to the absolute poverty, high population growth rates and weak institutional framework problem faced by a third world nation.

² Macro stresses include the geo-political situation of the country as well as other external shock, which may be incurred by a country.

³ Vulnerability factors refer to per capita income, literacy rate, mortality rate etc.

⁴ Capacity factors signify technical, managerial, governance and creative skills.

3.2 Scope of Discussion

Mr. Gul Najam Jamy, Head of Policy and Constituency Development, IUCNP facilitated the discussion session. The moderator commenced the discussion period by asking the participants to voice their questions and concerns with regards to the presentation. Moreover, in order to confine the debate to the possible linkages between environment and security, Mr Jamy attempted to center the arguments on the three questions listed below:

- i. What were the major achievements for Pakistan with regards to the incorporation of environmental conservation concerns and stakes in sustainable development projects, over the past decade?
- ii. What were the failures?
- iii. What could be done in the future to minimise such failures and promote the awareness and adequate consideration of environmental issues in sustainable development interventions in Pakistan?

Likewise, this workshop account has also been split into the above three discussion areas identified by the facilitator.

3.2.1 Questions on the Main Presentation

- The participants were uncertain as to whether transcountry issues could be included in the debate or would the discussion be simply confined to the NWFP region. To this effect, Mr. Jamy clarified by informing the forum that the whole purpose of the debate was to gain a national perspective, and hence the debate was not to be restricted to regional issues only, although the basic theme would still have to be pertinent and responsive to regional issues and needs.
- Mr. Ghulam Jilani from AKRSP Chitral in an attempt to bring local level institutions and interventions in the ambit of discussion, suggested that key recommendations noted for both provincial and national level institutions should also be applicable for organisations working at the grassroots level.
- Ms. Meraj Khan (Coordinator, Sarhad NGO Ittehad) stressed the need for identifying possible areas of regional and provincial conflict that may need to be addressed, resolved and removed, in order to realize the country's development potential without having to worry for nagging and lingering inter-provincial and inter-regional hostilities.

3.2.2 Achievements of the Past

- Environment concerns did not figure out as an essential feature of sustainable development interventions in Pakistan during the past decade. Although, there was a consensus among the participants about an underlying awareness of environmental issues found in development measures adopted in the past, these concerns were found to have had little follow up in subsequent policy advocacy and development implementation stages.
- The active involvement of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and various other civil society organisations in raising environment related issues was appreciated. However, it was evident by the sheer frustration of the partakers that much still needs to be done to give adequate attention to environmental conservation in Pakistan.
- Mr. A. K. Gandapur (ITC Project, NWFP Forest Department) informed the forum about the initiation of a new project which is directly aimed at reducing deforestation by planting one billion saplings and thereby increase the forested area in NWFP from the current 17% to 25%. The first phase of the project is said to have been completed.

3.2.3 Lessons from the Past

- During the Workshop there appeared to be a strong sense of underachievement felt by all participants/stakeholders. Majority of the failures incurred on the road towards sustainable development were associated with a weak institutional framework, which simply does not provide

an adequate setup for the enforcement of environmental laws. As a result, projects goals associated with resource preservation are seldom realized to the full. This point was reiterated by various participants and in particular by Dr. S. Shafiqul Rehman (Chairman, Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Peshawar) who complained of the lack of technical expertise within government organisations such as EPA. Mr. Arshad Samad Khan from IUCNP pointed out weak implementation of Environment Protection Act 1997 for being weak in implementation.

- Equally, policy implementation measures were highlighted for not being in tune with the bottom-up approach to development. As a result, grassroots level organisations were omitted from the execution process. This point was repeated by participants from the government sector and civil society. In specific, Ms. Viqar-un-Zeb (District Coordination Officer, Nowshera), Mr. Mohammad Iqbal (NWFP Forest Department) and Mr. Manzoor Ali Shah from Planning & Development Department strongly advocated a greater role for local level institutions in implementing policies.
- Other major reasons contributing towards the failure of policy measures were stated to be the so-called micro stresses namely, mass poverty, illiteracy, malnutrition, disease and high fertility and mortality rates. These combined with an inappropriate infrastructure and absence of a safety net, were seen as the main reasons for consistently failing environmental policies in Pakistan.
- Basic environmental awareness although appreciated previously in the workshop to have at least found a place in policy drafting, was still criticised for having failed to bring about any major changes in attitudes. It was stressed that in order for environmental policies to be precisely effective, it was necessary to make sure, as a first step, that the adverse effects related to poor environmental practices be made well known to the all project beneficiaries.
- The huge refugee influx into the region was found to be a major cause of economic and environmental degradation, causing massive ecological damage to irrigation, forests and roads. According to Col. (Ret.) Hamid Afridi from PEPF since 1979, 70% of the total of 3 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan had taken up residence in NWFP, which had dealt a tremendous blow to natural resources in the concerned localities and regions. Furthermore, natural disasters such as long-lasting droughts had further strained the water management and ecological systems.

2.2.4 The Way Ahead

- The recommendations made in the Workshop were mostly directed towards eradicating the main causes of environmental insecurity. It was commonly agreed by the forum that the prevention/lessening of micro and macro stresses burdening the Pakistani economy would eventually reduce the weight of the vulnerability factors. This coupled with strengthening of the capacity factors would give way to the process of pre-empting insecurity and lawlessness ensuing from environmental degradation
- Mr. Manzoor Ali Shah asserted the view that sustainability in any field, be it economic growth or environmental preservation, had to be a function of a coherent and stable democratic system. Political stability would eventually penetrate into all sectors of the economy and would in due course induce foreign and local investment, thereby enhancing industrialisation and employment opportunities. Moreover, economic development had to be preceded by social development in the form of better education and health standards. Other stakeholders emphasised the urgent necessity to have a social welfare network in order to strengthen infrastructure and to bridge gaps between the main proponents of the society such as the military, government sector, private sector and civil society. It was also suggested by the forum to incorporate 'environment consciousness' enhancing activities in all government policies and programmes.
- As noted earlier, the involvement of local and district level governments was considered to be a vital factor in determining all policies. It was argued that village committees and union councils were the most decentralised and effective means to assign work and responsibilities, and to foster a sense of ownership. Therefore, their active involvement was required to achieve more effective results in the future.

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- Mr. M. Iqbal (NWFP Forest Department) urged the forum not to ignore the 'basics' and to improve the living standards of the masses, which requires major improvements in health, education and transport sectors. Dr. Nasir-ud-Din (Dean Faculty of Science, Peshawar University) agreed with Mr. M. Iqbal and demanded further research for the development of a new meaning of 'security.' It was argued that the definition of 'security' should be widened to take into account socio-economic aspects such as death, disease, hunger, malnutrition and illiteracy.
 - Basic education was considered to be the prime mean of increasing environment awareness. According to Mr. Shafique-ur-Rehman environment related ideas should be incorporated within the syllabuses right from primary education. Other academics emphasized the significance of educating mothers so that they can teach their children about the environment. Ms. Meraj built upon this notion and talked about improving the prevalent value system to ingrain the dire need for environment protection in the minds of future generations.
 - Other recommendations entailed the initiation of projects with rate of return considerations. Environmental insecurity costs were suggested to be taken into account in future Gross National Product determinations. In addition, a process of checks and balances was advised for development agencies who were unable to adequately implement environmental strategies in the past and to keep a check on development organizations executing projects in the future. Mr. Gandapur wanted further participation of donor agencies in such forums so that they realise the meaningfulness of the correlation between environmental degradation and the disharmony it causes among local competitors. Only this could ensure the inception and realization of more environment friendly projects and schemes in the future.

4. Conclusion

The Workshop concluded by remarks from the chief guest Mr. Shamsul Mulk, Provincial Minister for Irrigation and Power, GoNWFP on the discussion session. During his concluding statement, the chief guest pointed out that security not only involved security against external aggression but also against internal conflict. He urged the forum to encourage inter-provincial cooperation on the use of natural resources. The chief guest remarked that mankind had learnt how to share affluence to an extent, but not how to share poverty and shortages leading to conflict and strife. He mentioned that despite having solid strategies and action plans in Pakistan, the poor implementation procedures ensure that environmental degradation continues. The minister expressed his concerns about findings of the Task Force, which clearly states that by 2050 Pakistan is said to become a water deficit country. He alerted the forum about Peshawar sitting on a time bomb, with no treatment plants resulting in polluted river water, heavy discharge of industrial waste by the rivers and poor condition of the sub-oil water in the city. The final recommendations presented by Mr. Shamsul Mulk highlighted the need for an extensive consultative process to fully explore this newly discovered notion of environmental security. It is only when an all-inclusive notion of security is taken into account, that its links with environment and security become apparent.

**List of the Participants
WSSD Public Consultation
Security Implications of a Fragile Environment
February 19, 2002 at PARD, Peshawar**

S. No.	Name	Designation and Institution	Organization
1.	Mr Shams ul Mulk	Provincial Minister	Works & Service and Irrigation & Power, GoNWFP
2.	Mr Sahibzada Saeed Ahmad	Additional Secretary	P&D Department, GoNWFP
3.	Mr Yusuf Khan	Director General	,CIP, Peshawar
4.	Mr Mohammad Mujib Khan	Head	IUCNP Sarhad Office, Peshawar
5.	Mr Shuja ur Rehman	Manager SPCS	IUCNP, Peshawar
6.	Mr Gul Najam Jamy	IUCNP	Country Office, Karachi
7.	Mr Fazal Abbas	Secretary Irrigation,	GoNWFP
8.	Mr Sahibzada M Anis	Additional Commissioner	Afghan Refugees, GoNWFP
9.	Mr S Manzoor Ali Shah	Chief, Green Sector	P&D Department, GoNWFP
10.	Dr M Iqbal Sial	Conservator of Forests	GoNWFP
11.	Mr Muhammad Zulfiqar	Planning Officer	Agriculture & Livestock Department
12.	Mr Abdul Ishtiaq Ahmad	Controller	Printing and Stationary Department, GoNWFP
13.	Mr Inamullah Khan	Deputy Director	CIP , Peshawar
14.	Mr Ikramullah	Director General	EPA, GoNWFP
15.	Dr Muhammad Bashir Khan	Director,	EPA, GoNWFP
16.	Mr Alamgir Khan Gandapur	Team Leader	ITC, Peshawar
17.	Mr Henry Suter	Deputy Coordinator	SDC-IC, Peshawar
18.	Mr Ghulam Jilani	Manager	Social Development, AKRSP, Chitral
19.	Mr Mumtaz Tanoli	Programme Manager	SUNGI, Abbottabad
20.	Mr Ashiq Ahmad Khan	Chief Technical	Advisor WWF, Peshawar
21.	Col (Rtd) Hamid Afridi	Programme Manager	PEPF, Peshawar
22.	Ms Meraj H Khan	Chief Executive	De Las Gul, Coordinator SNI, Peshawar
23.	Mr Shahid Mehmood	Programme Coordinator	SPO, Peshawar
24.	Dr Riaz A Khattak	Profes sor	Soil and Environment Sciences , Agricultural University, Peshawar
25.	Dr Nasir ud Din	Dean	Faculty of Science University of Peshawar
26.	Professor Dr Shafiqur Rehman	Chairman	Department of Environment Science, University of Peshawar
27.	Mr Shakeel Kakakhel	Manager	Khushali Bank, Mardan
28.	Mr Mian Attaullah	Provincial Chief	Small and Medium Enterprise Bank, Peshawar
29.	Professor Bashir A Durrani	General Secretary	Sarhad Chamber of Agriculture, Peshawar
30.	Dr Idrees Masood	District Officer Planning,	Peshawar
31.	Ms Viqar un Zeb	DCO	Nowshera, GoNWFP

32.	Mr Hazrat Ullah	Producer Peshawar	Radio Pakistan
33.	Mr Habib Ullah	Assistant Director	Information Department, GoNWFP
34.	Mr Intikhab Amir	Staff Reporter and President	Peshawar Press Club
35.	Mr Rizwan Ahmad	Coordinator Agriculture	SPCS, Peshawar
36.	Mr Waqar Ahmad	Coordinator	P&D, SPCS, Peshawar
37.	Mr Mohammad Yusuf	Head	IUCNP Forestry Programme, Sarhad Office, Peshawar
38.	Mr Arshad Samad Khan	Coordinator	Public Sector, SPCS, Peshawar
39.	Mr Abid Hussain	Information Manager	SDNP/IUCNP, Peshawar
40.	Mr Mohammad Fayyaz	Coordinator	Knowledge Management, IUCNP, Peshawar
41.	Ms Atefa Pervaiz	Intern	IUCNP, Islamabad

**‘Security Implication of a Fragile Environment’
Provincial Consultative Workshop
for the
World Summit on Sustainable Development
On Tuesday, 19th February 2002 at PARD, Peshawar**

Workshop Programme (930-1300)

1. Recitation from the Holy Quran
2. Welcome and Introduction of the Participants
3. Introduction to the WSSD Process by Mr. Mohammad Mujib Khan, Head IUCNP Sarhad Programme Office, Peshawar
1. Opening Remarks by Mr. Abdul Wajid Rana, additional Chief Secretary, GoNWFP Peshawar
2. Presentation by the Keynote Speaker, Mr. Yusuf Khan, Director General, Community Infrastructure Project (CIP) Peshawar
3. Discussion – Moderated by Mr. Gul Najam Jamy, Head, Policy and Constituency Development, IUCN Country Office Karachi
4. Concluding Remarks by the Chief Guest, Mr. Shamsul Mulk, Provincial Minister For Irrigation, GoNWFP Peshawar
5. Vote of Thanks
9. Lunch and Departure

“Environment & Security”
Mr. Yousaf Khan, Director, Community Infrastructure Project
19th February 2002, Peshawar

EXPANDING CONCEPT OF SECURITY

- Not merely protection of territorial integrity and political independence
- New challenges might resist military solution and may require cooperative responses

LINK BETWEEN ENVIRONMENT & SECURITY

- There is consensus that environmental degradation can and does trigger and amplify conflict and instability
- Security institutions are being called upon to secure access to global common and environmental resource
- Transboundary pollution can lead to use of force to enforce international environmental law.

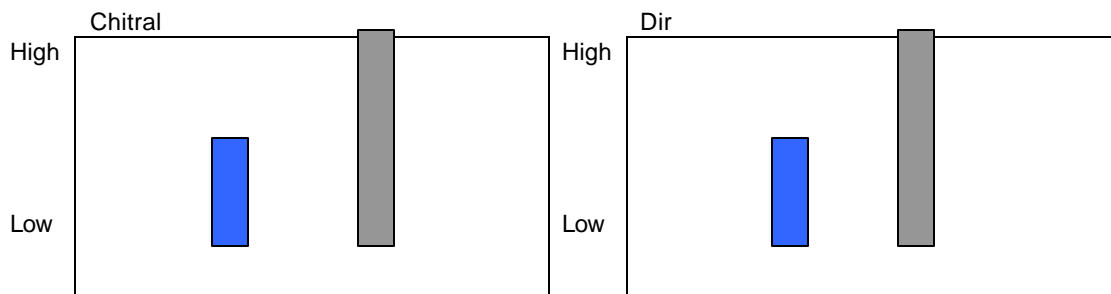
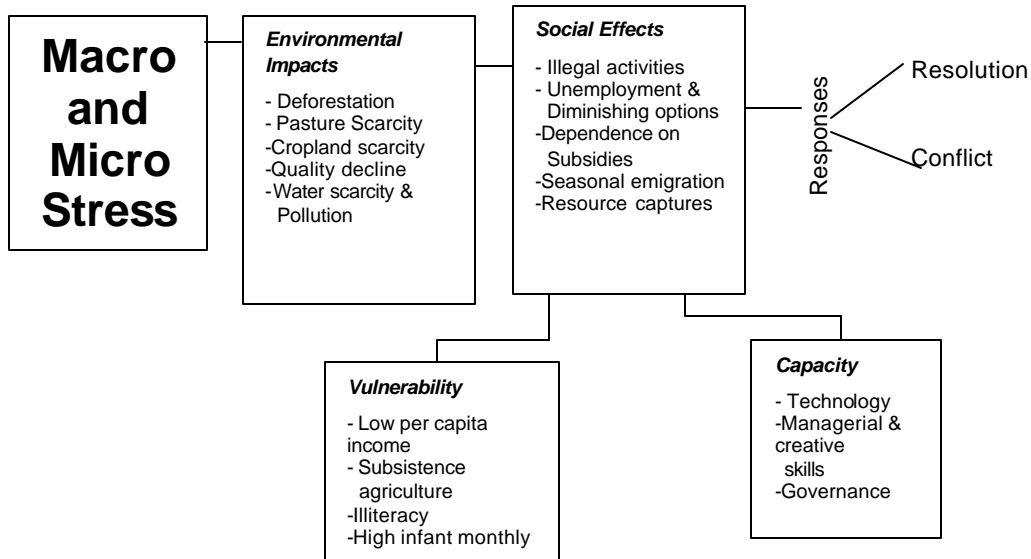
MACRO STRESSORS ON THE ENVIRONMENT IN PAKISTAN

- Geo-political situation and
- External Shocks
- Decline in ODA Structural Adjustment

MICRO STRESSORS ON THE ENVIRONMENT IN PAKISTAN

- High Population Growth
- Resource Capture, Unclear Property Rights & Unsatisfactory Conflict Resolution
- Ecological Marginalization
- Threshold Poverty
- Institutional Failure
- Rise of Extremism

A MODEL FOR STUDY NWFP



FLASHPOINTS

- Dir District
- City of Peshawar
- Afghan Border Regions
- Chitral District
- Bannu District
- Kohistan, Upper Swat and Upper Hazara
- South Waziristan and Balochistan Border Region

KEY CONCLUSIONS

1. NWFP is at a critical threshold – trending to crisis and away from sustainability
2. Conditions exist for violent events over the next 5-10 years (environmental disasters or social strife)
3. Further external shocks will amplify vulnerability and reduce capacity
4. Local participation and project 'ownership' are not sufficient to guarantee environmental or human security – continued institutional failure will cause both environmental and security deterioration
5. The uneducated, with limited opportunity opens doors to future extremism and conflict
6. Even with increasing population density and other pressures many opportunities do exist for improving environment and security relationships

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROVINCIAL INSTITUTIONS

1. Build capacity for dealing with environment and security within planning, line agencies, Frontier Corps, Peshawar University, and IUCN district level conservation strategies
2. Conduct environment and security pilot projects for Dir and Peshawar Districts, including early warning indicators
3. Develop and implement a provincial strategy for addressing the problem of “Flashpoints”

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

1. Introduce environment and security into national level sectoral decisions
2. Consider national implications of environment & security trends identified in NWFP, especially for the National Planning Commission
3. Introduce environment and security into regional strategic analysis and intelligence gathering
4. Consider joint projects for environmental restoration and development in Afghanistan using Pakistani expertise
5. Build bridges between military, government and civil society on environment and security topics, starting with short courses.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL DONORS AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES

1. Incorporate simple environment and security assessments within all new projects. Where appropriate, add an environment and security component.
2. Include a conflict resolution strategy within all natural resource, environmental, rural and urban development projects
3. Continue investment in humanitarian, environmental and rural and urban development projects. No investment now means bigger problems later
4. Consider a regional environment and security initiative covering Central and South Asia