Environmental Destruction, Peace and Security: Challenges and Pathways to Global Sustainability

Fru Mangwi Faith

3rd year Ph.D candidate, University of Yaoundé II Soa, Cameroon

Abstract

The world's natural resources have recently been affected by environmental exploitation for purposes of technology, consumption patterns and the repercussions of armed conflicts. Environmental conservation has thus become indispensable in the face of the continuous depletion of natural resources. Environmental damage has been increasingly associated with insecurity and unrest, creating a double jeopardy. This double jeopardy manifests in that, humanity is sure of one consequence regardless of which source it evolves; a state of uncertainty as concerns human civilization, wellbeing, peace and livelihoods. The trend seems to be that governments are opting for development over environmental sustainability, and not trying to reconcile both. Indeed, environmental destruction raises a lot of questions on any government's ability to ensure a smooth distribution of assets to their compatriots, sustainably. It becomes clear that there is an urgent need for engagement and cooperation from all sectors: peace, security and environment to ensure stability. Obviously, with the depletion of natural resources comes a host of other adversities. Peace becomes threatened as there might be various conflicts wired by survival, communities fighting over natural resources. Security also becomes threatened. Hence, there is a change in the normal pattern of natural provision for livelihood. There has been a great development of existing laws, principles, and regulations that address environmental protection. These laws are vast and yet, have not succeeded in addressing the problem. Thus, a global approach of cooperation is imperative between states

to adopt alternative measures at balancing environmental exploitation and protection.

1. Research questions

This research seeks to answer the following questions:

1. What is the nexus between environmental destruction, peace and security?
2. How does environmental destruction impede peace and security?
3. What strategies can be used to ensure environmental conservation and thus ensure stability?

2. Research objectives

This research has as objectives:

1. To illustrate the relationship between environmental destruction, peace and security
2. To examine the repercussions of environmental destruction on peace and security
3. To illustrate various means which can be used to ensure environmental conservation

3. Significance

At the end of the Cold War, environmental security became a concept from which a set of policies developed.[1] As a result, new discussions about the nature of the threat and the meaning of security erupted simultaneously. According to Simbolon K., environmental security swiftly became one of the most prominent topics. Environmental destruction has no territorial limits; hence genuine environmental security can only be achieved if there is common concern globally. Environmental security connects the human security to ecology,

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[1]Simbolon K. *et al*(2021),Environmental Security Threats in Bandar Lampung: A Case Study of Household Waste Management Comparative Study of Waste Management Between Seoul and Bandar Lampung to Support Environmental Security (researchgate.net) (accessed 4th June 2024) p. 232

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advocating that human security approach be used to focus on ecological interdependence.[2] The concept of human security became wildly known through the Human Development reports published by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 1993 and 1994.[3] The World Health Organization, Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean in their Health and Human Security report provides that the 1994 report introduced the term human security as a people-centred, universal framework having seven interconnected components: economic security (assured basic income); food security (physical and economic access to food); health security (relative freedom from disease and infection); environmental security (access to sanitary water supply, clean air and a non-degraded land system); personal security (security from physical violence and threats); community security (security of cultural identity); and political security (protection of basic human rights and freedoms).[4] Researching on the topic: environmental destruction, peace and security: challenges and pathways to global stability is thus significant for the purpose of vividly illustrating the bonds that link environmental destruction, peace and security. More so, environmental destruction and its threats to peace and security have global implications. Thus, as the world is struggling towards achieving the sustainable development goals in 2035 and with Africa's vision 2063, it is imperative that environmental conservation is taken more seriously, with global cooperation.

4. Introduction

One cannot put aside environmental destruction as a cause and consequence when looking at the world's increasing insecurity and conflict, both locally and internationally.[5] In "The Nature of Conflict and Peace: The Links between Environment, Security and Peace and their Importance for the United Nations", Rüttinger L. surmises that the war in Ukraine has led to

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[2] Ibid

[3] World Health Organization, Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean (2002) Health and Human Security
extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/122021/em_rc49_17_e_en.pdf (accessed 4th August 2024) P. 2

[4] Ibid

[5] Rüttinger L.(2022)The Nature of Conflict and Peace: The Links Between Environment, Security and Peace and their Importance for the United Nations WWF-adelphi_The Nature of Conflict and Peace_mid res_0.pdf (climate-diplomacy.org) (accessed 5th July 2024)p. 5

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geopolitical tensions that reflect the Cold War era, this will likely shape global politics and relationships for the years to come. Furthermore, both the consequences of biodiversity loss and climate change, as well as conflict and insecurity, are far-reaching and touch all aspects of human society. When Environmental degradation and biodiversity loss become rampant as it is in the world today, insecurity and conflict becomes imminent. As environmental degradation and biodiversity loss accelerates, there is a creeping threat on global peace and security. Environmental degradation and biodiversity loss can be attributed to a merge of various drivers which have social, economic, political and environmental characteristics. It is not hidden knowledge that the climate crisis aggravates the degradation of ecosystems. The importance of ecosystem services in the mitigation and adaptation of climate change cannot be over emphasized.[6] For example, climate can be regulated when forests capture and store carbon; coastlines can be protected and floods mitigated by wetlands, incorporating green spaces in urban areas can reduce temperatures. The consequences of biodiversity loss, climate change, conflict and insecurity are far-reaching and touch all aspects of human society.[7]

In a bid to address the security threats posed by natural resource mismanagement, the UNSC has taken an active role by establishing a direct link between natural resources and conflict for the first time in 1998, when it adopted a resolution[8] to prevent the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA) from procuring income from diamond exports to finance the civil war. The resolutions mostly focused on hydrocarbons and minerals, but forestry, wildlife and biodiversity have played an increasingly important role.[9] It goes without say that if climate and environmental destruction distort the normal stream of nature that serves as livelihood for the human race, there becomes a state of insecurity. The insecurity is enough to contribute to various forms of conflicts.

There are extensive and entangled laws, principles, and regulations that provide for environmental conservation and the sustainable use of the environment's resources. To name a few:

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[6] Ibid p. 11
[7] Ibid
[8] Resolution 1173 (1998) (S/ RES/1173 (1998)
United Nations Security Council Resolution 1173 - Wikipedia (accessed 12th October 2024)
[9] Ibid p. 12

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Ramsar Convention also known as the Convention on Wetlands was adopted in the city of Iran, Ramsar in 1971. This convention was adopted to promote the sustainable use of wetlands worldwide. Wetland habitats are so important for biodiversity and human wellbeing. Thus the convention encourages cooperation between states states to protect wetlands of international importance.

The Stockholm Convention also known as the convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) was adopted in 2001 in Geneva, Switzerland. It focuses on preserving human health and the environment as various chemical substances that threaten the state of the environment and human health. The convention thus calls for interstate cooperation for the restriction of production or use of persistent organic pollutants.

CITES also known as the convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora was adopted in 1963. This convention encourages the conservation of plants and wild animals, and aims at ensuring that wild animals and plants are not threatened in the process of international trade. Just like the other treaties, the convention calls on interstate cooperation to attain this goal.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is a convention for the conservation of biological diversity, adopted in 1992. This convention promotes the conservation and the sustainable use of biological diversity. It encourages equity and fairness in sharing the benefits that arise from genetic resources. These measures are particularly important because of the crucial role biodiversity plays in maintain ecological balance. Thus, integrating biodiversity into various sectors of life, such is fishing and agriculture is imperative.

The Bonn Convention, also known as the convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals was adopted in 1979. The convention reinforces the importance of protecting interstate movement of species and calls on cooperation between states for the conservation of migratory species.

The Vienna Convention **is** a convention for the Protection of Ozone Layer adopted in 1985. This convention calls on interstate cooperation to gradually reduce, hoping to eventually eliminate the manufacture and consumption of substances that deplete the ozone layer.

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The Montreal Protocol is an international environment protocol on substances that deplete the Ozone Layer. It was adopted in 1987. The Montreal protocol provides a framework that sets targets and guidelines to be followed for the purpose of phasing out the manufacture and consumption of substances that deplete the ozone layer.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is an international environmental treaty adopted in 1992. The purpose of this convention is to combat climate change through adaptation and mitigation efforts. This convention also sets out to control the emission of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs), which are the cause of global warming. It was adopted in 1992.

The Kyoto Protocol is an international protocol to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adopted in 1997. This protocol was adopted as an extension of the UNFCCC, mainly to set binding greenhouse gas emission targets for developed countries for a specific period.

The vast stretch of environmental law is yet to provide solutions to the various environmental problems. This however does not mean there is need for more laws. Instead, the way to go would be an awakening to the actual state of environmental deterioration and a reliable international community tasked particularly with environmental issues. A shift is required from the number of international laws to the quality and enforcement measures of environmental laws.

Natural resources are the only assets that many developing countries depend on for generating income.[10] For this reason, the existing laws should advocate for sustainability. Once the laws are not backed by enforcement mechanisms, they seem more like suggestion, ones which can be dispensed with. The link between wildlife poachers, traffickers, and armed conflict in some regions of Africa paint a vivid picture of the assertion above. According to the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), over 20,000 elephants are killed each year for their ivory tusks, many of them in central African conflict zones. Rebel groups use the illegal ivory trade as a source to generate finances or otherwise to benefit from such trade. [11]The UN has thus taken steps to prohibit the use of ivory, which has become a major source of finance or

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[10]Voigt C. (2015)Environmentally Sustainable Development and Peace: The Role of International Law Environmentally Sustainable Development and Peace: The Role of International Law | Promoting Peace Through International Law | Oxford Academic (oup.com) (accessed 2nd July 2024) p. 169
[11] Ibid

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armed groups. The United Nations Security Council adopted two Resolutions[12], which sanction armed rebel groups in the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo financed by the illegal exploitation of natural resources, including poaching and illicit wildlife trade.[13]

5. Establishing the link between environmental destruction, peace and security

The security-environment relationship is characterized by geographical and global interconnectedness.[14] Interfering with the environment is a necessity, as humans depend on it for livelihood. However, when such interference affects the chances of fair survival and development which is a basic condition of peace and stability, most of all when they tamper with the location of ecosystem services essential to human livelihood, environmental degradation becomes a dreadful "crime" that should no longer be taken for granted, as the case has been in the past years. A glance at most crisis accelerators will show that environmental degradation is usually part of the causes-or even the main cause of conflicts. The concept of peace had always been viewed from a very narrow approach.[15] It was only after the world wars and the the tragedies of the 20th century that a broader perspective of peace became evident. Peace is much more than the simple absence of war. Although various political views and the quest for power may be the most pronounced conflict triggers, the environment can be an enabling factor, characterized by social, political, economic or even cultural pressures affecting livelihoods. In other words, during the last century, it became clear that conflict is generally environmental related.[16]

The relationship between environmental change and human security is apparent, although it may seem complex. In recent years, it has become clear that environment change can affect security by sabotaging livelihoods, or by leading to conflict over scarce or abundant resources, as the case may be. Amongst other repercussions, such conflicts lead to increased migration

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[12] Resolution 2134 (2014) and Resolution 2136 (2014) on 28 January and 30 January 2014 respectively,
[13] Ibid p. 170
[14] Mastrojeni, G. ((2017) Peace, Security, Land and Sustainable Development 9.
Peace,+Security+and+Land__G_Mastrojeni.pdf (unccd.int) (accessed 5th July 2024) p. 3
[15] Ibid p. 4
[16] Ibid p. 5

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rate in search for better opportunities for survival. Migration also has ecological impacts, which are usually the bedrock of insecurity.[17] With the developed countries' habit of unsustainable consumption, there is an aggravation of conflicts over both scarce and abundant resources in the developing world. Throughout much of the 1990s, for example, war over diamonds in Sierra Leone continued, at least in part, because diamond markets in the North were blind to the provenance of those diamonds.[18]

There are four key concepts necessary for stability: Peace, Security, Development, and Environment. These concepts should be given the same attention for the enhancement of sustainability. In most if not all states, the primary goal is development. This goal has encapsulated the minds of some nationals, so much so that consumption patterns are wired only for unsustainable consumption patterns. However, there could really be no development without security and vice versa.[19] Both concepts rely on one another. During the post war period, the concept of security was tied down to the absence of violence and military threats. However, as the UN High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change argued in 2004,[20] that threats to security encapsulate a host of other issues that are threats to security: violence within states, including civil wars, large-scale human rights abuses and genocide; poverty, infectious disease and environmental degradation; nuclear, radiological, chemical and biological weapons; terrorism; and transnational organized crime. Against this broader background, the link between peace and development becomes obvious. Sustainable development requires, above all, change and innovation in the way in which economic activities are carried out.[21]

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[17]Brown O. (2005) The Environment and our Security: How our understanding of the links has changed Published by the International Institute for Sustainable Development ,
extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.iisd.org/system/files/publications/security_env_peace_iran.pdf (accessed 5th July 2024)p. 4

[18] Ibid

[19] Atieno C. *et* al(2019)"Post-conflict Security, Peace and Development Perspectives from Africa, Latin America, Europe and New Zealand" Post-conflict Security, Peace and Development: Perspectives from Africa, Latin America, Europe and New Zealand | SpringerLink (accessed 4th August 2024) p. 2

[20] Brown O. *et al* (2007)Trade, Aid and Security: an Agenda for Peace And Development Trade, Aid and Security | An Agenda for Peace and Development | Oli Br (taylorfrancis.com) (accessed 4th August 2024)P. 4

[21] Ibid

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6. The strains of Environmental destruction on peace and security

To present a vivid picture of the strains Environmental destruction brings to peace and security, the term eco-terrorism has been applied to describe circumstances where terrorism and radical environmentalism are used as mechanisms of conflict.[22] The second half of the twentieth century saw the introduction of a different kind of terrorism, in what is referred to eco-terrorism. In this case, the term refers to damage or destruction of an ecosystem or to the environment for political gain or during warfare.[23] Thus it can apply to the actions of President Saddam Hussein of Iraq for setting alight oil wells in Kuwait during the first Gulf War in 1990-1991, as well as acts of vandalism or sabotage by environmentalists protesting industries that may be damaging the environment or ecology of an area or perceived to cause needless harm to animals.[24] As concerns environmental destruction, the acts that would effortlessly amount to Ecoterrorism could occur during war time and peace time. Whether the environment is merely a casualty or the environment is a clear target from the onset, all unreasonable acts which undermine the natural manifestation of the environment's natural resources so much so that there is an outburst of dreadfulness amongst the population, especially the vulnerable population should fall under the category of eco terrorism.

A very prominent environmental issue impeding human security is waste management. The importance of sustainable waste management is emphasized in several international regulations. For example, sustainable waste management is important for the achievement of several United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), such as ensuring clean water and sanitation (SDG6), creating sustainable cities and inclusive communities (SDG11), mitigating climate change (SDG13), protecting life on land (SDG15), and demonstrating sustainable consumption and production patterns (SDG12).[25] In most developing countries, households waste is disposed of in landfills or dumpsites. For several decades, dumping and burning waste in open space, throwing garbage in water bodies was the norm. This method

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[22]Alpas H. *et al*(2011) "Environmental Security and Ecoterrorism" Environmental Security and Ecoterrorism | SpringerLink (accessed 5th August 2024) p. 19

[23] Ibid

[24] Ibid

[25] Abubakar I. *et al* (2022)Environmental Sustainability Impacts of Solid Waste Management Practices in the Global South, Article in International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health (IJERPH) Environmental Sustainability Impacts of Solid Waste Management Practices in the Global South - PMC (nih.gov) (accessed 4th August 2024) p. 1

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of waste disposal is still practiced in several cities that still partake in unregulated dumping and open air waste burning. The repercussions of these practices are felt mostly by the vulnerable population near the disposal sites. Moreover, this practice threatens sustainability in the form of resource depletion, environmental pollution, as well as increasing public health problems such as the spread of communicable diseases.[26] At the Earth summit in 2002, much time was dedicated to pouting for sustainable production and consumption. Even though the waste problem is global, the situation is more crucial in developing countries. This is so because such nations should be more focused on improving the quality of life, rather than dealing with the repercussions of unsustainable waste management, which could lead to the spread of bacterial infections, polluting ground and surface water, and clog air filters.[27] Effective waste management entails more than just keeping the surroundings clean. Clean environments don not always translate to sustainable waste management methods.[28] The method of waste disposal is a contributing factor to the aggravation of climate change, heath issues and pollution. Thus, the implementation of sustainable waste management practices should be regarded with utmost urgency. Initiatives such as beach clean-ups, waste collection drives, and recycling should be encouraged in order to mitigate the impacts of waste on biodiversity.[29]

Amongst other environmental concerns, the rising challenge of climate change is a growing threat on development gains as it undermines all efforts at development and pushes people back into poverty.[30] Many countries struggle with various forms of climate change adversities, with little or no knowledge and resources to salvage the situation. Such was the case of South Sudan in 2022, where record-breaking rains and floods extended for four years. The flooding affected two-thirds of the country. Homes and livestock were destroyed, forcing thousands to

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[26] Ibid p 2

[27] Jamal H. *et al*(2023) An Overview of Solid Waste Management and Privatization in Kingdom of Bahrain (PDF) An overview of solid waste management and privatization in kingdom of Bahrain (researchgate.net) (accessed 4th August 2024) p. 6

[28] Waste control, waste and cost reduction experts (2024) How Waste Management Practices Contribute to Environmental Conservation How Waste Management Practices Contribute to Environmental Conservation - Waste Control Incorporated (accessed 4th August)

[29] Ibid

[30] Bharadwaj R. *et* al (2023) Shock Responsive Social Protection in Fragile and Conflict Affected States: Pathways to Supporting Adaptive Peace Building extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.iied.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/2023-07/21526IIED.pdf (accessed 4th August 2024) p.11

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flee. Boreholes and latrines were submerged, contaminating water sources and threatening disease outbreaks.[31] Nigeria also faced a similar situation in 2022, as millions of people met adversities as a result of floods.[32] If such calamities continue to befall these states; they would gradually find themselves among the category of loss and damage (L&D). The status of L&D is derived when communities and countries are faced with climate issues, so much so that they are unable to manage the situation or adapt to the impacts. This status is detrimental for development, security, peace and the general welfare of the country.[33]What worsens the situation is the fact that the governments, notably those in the Global North, have collectively expressed ineptitude in finding solutions for climate change issues and loss of nature. This has prompted increased insecurity.[34] African countries, most of which are still struggling to foster development should not be spending their annual GDP on climate adaptation measures. However, the reverse is true in reality. Somalia's Budget for climate adaptation needs each year is very close to its entire GDP. In the same light, the extreme climate issues in the Caribbean cause economic losses that could amount to a country's annual GDP.[35]

Many countries currently face development challenges relating to the unsustainable use of the environment's natural resources and the allocation of natural wealth.[36] The high demands of natural resources are the cause of much tension, which eventually mounts to armed conflicts when these demands are not met, or are met at the expense of others. In most cases, especially in developing countries, the governments are unwilling to adopt appropriate measures that would dilute such tensions. As a result, the repercussions of these conflicts are felt mostly by the vulnerable groups who are already poor and struggling to make ends meet. When governments fail to do right by their nation, many indigenes resolve to illegal exploitation. Such is the case of Danfur Sudan which has been characterized by armed conflict and civil

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[31] Ibid

[32] Ibid

[33] Ibid

[34] Wallström M.(2022)Environment of Peace-Security in a new era of risk extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.sipri.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/environment_of_peace_security_in_a_new_era_of_risk_0.pdf (accessed 9th March 2024)p. 24

[35] Ibid

[36]UN Regional office for Central Africa (2022) Sustaining Peace in Central Africa through Addressing the Adverse Impact of Climate Change on Peace and Security executive_summary_sustaining_peace_in_central_africa_through_1.pdf (unmissions.org) (accessed 4th May 2024)p. 3

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unrest for more than half of a century.[37] There has been great loss in Danfur due to drought, increase in population and thus production by unsustainable means, political marginalization. The violence in the country has led to a great number of deaths, over 300,000 deaths and the displacement of more than two million people since 2003.[38] The causes of conflict in Danfur are numerous, and environmental issues contribute a whole lot. The United Nation Environmental Program (UNEP)'s environment and conflict analysis found that Issues relating to climate change, water scarcity and the scramble for fertile land are very important contributing factors. The scramble for fertile land and water is aggravated by persons fleeing from the civil war in southern Sudan. With this additional population comes Overgrazing and deforestation which reduces vegetation cover, leading to a decrease of topsoil volume and quality.[39]

From the preceding paragraphs, the relationship between the environment, peace and human security no longer lingers in circles. Environmental dimensions of conflict have become more visible. The gap remains at how to respond to these concerns: what measures can be taken to ensure stability? One of the main challenges is the fact that many activists refuse to accept the existence of this link, and insist that environmental and humanitarian issues be treated separately. The environment is almost always affected in conflicts, and this in turn leads to some struggle for the indigenous people, especially vulnerable groups. The discriminate partition of natural resources often leads to uprisings. In one way or the other, the environment is always involved: as a cause or as a casualty. Therefore, this trio link- the environment, peace and security can also be utilized for the enhancement of sustainability.

7. **Possible strategies to ensure environmental conservation and consequently, peace and security.**

i. **Social protection**

After painting a picture of the reality of environmental impediment to peace and security, there is need to ascertain ways by which the victims of environmental destruction

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[37] Ibid P.8
[38] Ibid
[39] Ibid p. 9

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can bounce back from the various repercussions and reinforce stability. Social protection, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN is about the extent to which a society is able to manage and transcend environmental conflicts peacefully and constructively.[40] The Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN further provides that social protection addresses food insecurity and poverty, which are both areas which rely greatly on the state of the environment. Social protection can make potential contributions to environmental sustainability. Social protection comprises "a set of policies and programmes that addresses economic, environmental and social vulnerabilities to food insecurity and poverty by protecting and promoting livelihoods." These policies and programmes include a vast number of interventions that can be delivered by government or non-government actors, and in some cases can be provided by communities as informal social protection.[41]

It is imperative that efforts are geared towards reversing the deterioration of the environment and enhancing environmental conservation so as to balance economic goals with environmental protection. The present development and consumption pattern which places economic policy paramount and environmental conservation is neglected has reached a breaking point.[42] The importance of economic growth cannot be ignored. After all, economic growth serves as a springboard for human wellbeing. However, such growth should not be at the detriment of the environment. There must be some level of preponderance to the importance of environmental conservation in every single economic strategy. After all, a healthy environment sprouts more potential for economic progress. Traditionally, there has been much speculation that environmental protection is an obstruction to economic growth. This assertion is ill founded as sustainable exploitation for economic development would do better than negligent exploitation could ever. With sustainable exploitation, there is provision for a continuous supply of natural resources for all, while negligent exploitation pays no mind to future needs nor does it ensure the equity for all. The persistence of poverty and inequality

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[40] Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN(2024)Social Protection as a Pathway to Sustaining Peace Social protection as a pathway to sustaining peace |Policy Support and Governance| Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (fao.org)
 (accessed 4th June 2024) p.1
[41] Ibid p. 3
[42] García,A. *et al*(2003)Social Protection: A Life Cycle Continuum Investment for Social Justice, Poverty Reduction And Sustainable Development, Published by International Labour Office Social Protection: A Life Cycle Continuum Investment for Social Justice, Poverty Reduction and Development | WIEGO (accessed 6th August 2024) p. 10

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especially in developing countries should serve as enough evidence that economic growth independently without environmental conservation is futile in an attempt to improve general wellness.[43] This might have been one of the major drivers of the UN General Assembly resolution[44] which affirms the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as human right.

ii.   Environmental peace building for stability

Environmental peace building is a concept much welcomed for environmental conservation thrives, because it advocates for environmental protection as a factor for creating peaceful relations. Peace building according to Dresse A. makes reference to a broad set of actions aimed at shifting the relationships between former conflict parties towards sustainable reconciliation.[45] Peace building was originally focused on state actors and organisations. It subsequently expanded to other social sectors of life, and now cuts across various platforms for decision making. A strong foundation environmental peace building rests on is the fact that a proper mastery of the mechanisms for peace building could foster a shift from transboundary rivalry (whether administrative, political or territorial) to an alliance.[46] Transboundary dialogue about mutual gains such as eco systems can promote reconciliation and instill trust.

According to Dresse A., in "Environmental peace building: Towards a theoretical framework", Environmental peace building can take three routes: the first is technical environmental peace building which aims to reduce environmental scarcity and degradation, using technical solutions implemented through coordinated action. The second route is grounded on peace building's restorative dimension, as it provides shared spaces to acknowledge past injustices and recognise the other as a legitimate interlocutor. The third route is sustainable environmental peace building –which addresses the root causes of potential conflicts by focusing on equitable resource distribution as a pre-requisite for

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[43] Ibid p. 11
[44] Resolution 48/13UN General Assembly declares access to clean and healthy environment a universal human right | UN News
[45] Dresse A.*et al*(2018)Environmental peace building: Towards a theoretical framework, Cooperation and Conflict Journal- Vol 54 issue 1, Environmental peacebuilding: Towards a theoretical framework - Anaïs Dresse, Itay Fischhendler, Jonas Østergaard Nielsen, Dimitrios Zikos, 2019 (sagepub.com) (accessed 4th March 2024)p. 102
[46] Ibid p 103

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sustainable development and peace.[47] If these three routes are the subjects of discussion between parties in conflict, the drive for mutual benefit should and would override most issues which may have been the cause of conflict. When cooperation is wired for environmental issues which would boost livelihood, there are prospects for more substantial forms of integration, especially on a local level.[48] During the 1957-1963 drought in southern Israel, several areas saw cooperation between Israeli farmers and Bedouin nomads, such as grazing cattle on harvested fields, which provided fodder for the nomads' cattle and fertilisation for the farmers' fields. In rare cases, such environmental cooperation grew into more substantive collaboration, for instance when Israelis supported Bedouins in claiming their rights vis-à-vis the state.[49]

iii. Enabling global cooperation and community involvement

As noted in the preceding paragraphs, there are diverse understandings of what peace really means, and ways to build peace. To Harari N. in "Environmental Peace building- Theory and Practice: A Case Study of the Good Water Neighbours Project and an in-depth Analysis of the Wadi Fukin / Tzur Hadassah Communities", peace could be political, social, economic, cultural and ecological.[50] Considering ecological approaches could have more advantages than focusing on other approaches. Environmental issues require long-term cooperation and brainstorming before arriving at solutions. These long-term process of cooperation and brainstorming should be an interaction which builds trust between all societies struggling with various environmental issues. Interactions among civil society can serve as a blueprint for dialogue between states, since their ability to act on environmental issues enables cross-border linkages that could serve as antecedents to international state engagement.[51]

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[47] Ibid p 109

[48] Ide T.(2021) Environmental Peace building Environmental Peacebuilding - DOCUMENTO DE TRABAJO 2-2021 Tobias Ide - Instituto CAPAZ (readkong.com) (accessed 4th July 2024) p.15

[49] Ibid p 16

[50]Harari N.(200) Environmental Peace building- Theory and Practice: A Case Study of the Good Water Neighbours Project and an in-depth Analysis of the Wadi Fukin / Tzur Hadassah Communities extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://ecopeaceme.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/environmental-peacebuilding-theory-and-practice-a-case-study-of-the-good-water-neighbours-projectand-in-depth-analysis-of-the-wadi-fukin-tzur-hadassah-communities.pdf (accessed 4th August 2024) p. 8

[51] Ibid p 9

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After conflicts have been settled, international and domestic priorities are usually focused on paths to survival, such as access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene services, opportunities for public health improvements, all of which are dependent on the environment.[52] This presents an opportunity for elites to cooperate for the greater environmental good. It may seem as common knowledge that humankind is completely dependent on the environment for survival, but the deeper understanding of what it takes to sustain this provider of survival is at dearth to many. Thus, cooperation at a time of post conflict, when many have suffered the adversity of a poor environment may create a deep understanding and proper appreciation of the importance and what it takes ensure environmental sustainability for human survivorship.

iv.   Environmental Monitoring Mechanism-Conceptual Framework

According to Khan S., environmental monitoring mechanism means basically following up on relevant information concerning the status and impacts of overall environmental engagements due to development and consumption patterns.[53]. Environmental monitoring is important for an extensive follow up on the quality of air, soil, water and biota. The environmental monitoring process aids in preparation for trends and effects of exploitation, thereby creating awareness to the public on the condition of the environment. This information is important for the policy makers, to ensure that the environmental regulations are being complied, and to evaluate anthropogenic impacts or influences.[54] The importance of public participation in matters of the environment was emphasized in the United Nations Earth Summit Agenda 21, through the principle of public participation. This principle was much welcomed globally. Such participation would foster community interaction and constantly provide updates on knowledge of how to sustainably manage the environment. For this initiative to prove successful, community members would have to engage actively in

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[52]Krampe F.(2021)Sustaining peace through better resource governance: Three potential mechanisms for environmental peace building Sustaining peace through better resource governance: Three potential mechanisms for environmental peacebuilding - ScienceDirect (accessed 4th June 2024)p. 6
[53]Khan S. *et al* (2024) Monitoring & Coordination Mechanism for NCS Implementation eco-int/22. Monitoring and Coordination (Ash).pdf at main · Noldorwarrior/eco-int · GitHub (accessed 4th August 2024)p. 3
[54] Ibid

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the monitoring process. It is vital to strengthen the existing capacity building and knowledge on monitoring environmental system to implement effective monitoring mechanism.[55]

8. Conclusion

The relationship between environmental destruction, peace and security creates the most complex challenges. This research, amongst others has reviewed evidence of peace threats and insecurity that arise from environmental destruction. There is a tendency to criticize the interconnectedness of environmental destruction, peace and security for being exaggerated. This research illustrates that the impacts of environmental destruction on peace and security are felt in economic, social and political perspectives. These multifaceted impacts should be considered in policy applications. In a bid to provide forward looking perspectives on how to address these issues, it is prudent to consider Environmental peace building for stability, Enabling global cooperation and community involvement and Environmental Monitoring Mechanism-Conceptual Framework.

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