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#### **FORUM**

# Impacts of Political Crises on Protected Areas – An Eye-witness Account from Madagascar

By Isaia Raymond, Director of the National Park Sahamalaza Iles Radama, Madagascar

The political crisis in Madagascar between January and April 2009 caused major problems for the management of the country's protected areas, which harbour important terrestrial and marine ecosystems. In March, President Marc Ravalomanana was driven out of office and a transitional government under the former mayor of the capital Antananarivo was subsequently established. This eye-witness account describes the direct impacts on one of the protected areas, the Sahamalaza National Park, as well as repercussions in other national parks.

The Sahamalaza protected area was named UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 2001 and was declared a National Park in 2007. The area is situated in the North-West coast of Madagascar and includes large mangrove forests as well as protected marine ecosystems. The Sahamalaza National Park example illustrates how national problems reinforced existing conflicts, and even caused new ones, at the local level. The area is managed by the national protected area management organization MNP (Madagascar National Parks), whose office is situated in the town of Maromandia.

The national political problems initially led to a sort of disorganisation within the different administrative levels. While the first phase of the crisis did not affect the work of the technicians and the application of regulations, the local context became worse as the situation at the national level remained fragile. In Sahamalaza, tensions among two local political parties worsened: The party of the local traditional leader or chief, the so-called Prince, opposed local administrative authorities. In order to demonstrate their power, the Prince's party - the "Committee for the Defense of the Democracy (KMD)", - organized a weekly public meeting in Maromandia, which aimed to declare the failure of the local authorities and call for the collective resignation of all communal employees.

To the national park's detriment the KMD declared that everybody can enter Sahamalaza Park and exploit its natural resources without limit. People started entering the protected area and cutting wood for construction and for export to other regions, such as the nearby island Nosy Be.

The Prince then made a significant and completely false statement that there is no Environment Department in the new Transitional Government of Madagascar. This caused around 300 fishermen to enter the 'no take zone' of Sahamalaza's marine areas and fish using illegal gear. They also threatened park employees and representatives of the local community who are responsible for park control. Some of the delinquents cut mangrove trees and shipped them to Nosy Be Island. In only the short period of one month the resource base continued to decline due to these highly damaging activities, including destructive fishing practices, logging of mangrove and terrestrial forests, and the uncontrolled extraction of wood for construction.

During this period the Prince with his team on the one hand, and the local authorities on the other hand had a major conflict. The only thing we could do to settle the conflict was to contact the regional authorities. A delegation headed by the Chief of the Sofia Region came to Maromandia in May in order to facilitate the reconciliation between the Prince's team and the MNP (the local authorities and the author were included). A meeting was arranged to find a solution to the problem, which included all stakeholders such as the local administrative and traditional authorities, members of different local associations, responsible persons of the technical services, NGOs, fishermen, farmers and Park managers. Fortunately, this meeting achieved positive results. Through the facilitation of the regional authorities, all participants were convinced that despite of the national crisis, the regional authorities were still operational and that rules concerning the environment still needed to be respected.

Following that meeting the Chief of the Region and his teams participated in awareness raising activities with the local population in the field. The situation thus improved greatly. Even the Prince participated in these activities and joined in the local celebrations during World Environment Day on June 4, 2009.

Aside from Sahamalaza Park, other protected areas also face huge problems from illegal logging and uncontrolled exploitation of their forest ecosystems. In the cases of Masoala, Mananara and Marojejy National Parks, their exploitation focused on the very valuable trees called "bois de rose" (rosewood) and "bois d'ebène" (ebony). Thousands of tons of wood are removed on a daily basis from these areas. As was the case in Sahamalaza, park employees have also been threatened with death by armed loggers. Park managers and technicians in the forest department did nothing to stop these actions. A task force comprised of the Ministries of the Environment and Forests, National Defence and Economy and the Police was sent to these regions to enforce the law and raise awareness, hoping to stop the illegal logging and exploitation of the forest. Currently all local and regional authorities, as well as policemen and local radio stations, are involved in these awareness raising activities. These efforts will ultimately help to lessen this type of pressure on the environment. However, international funding for most of Madagascar's protected areas, including Sahamalaza have been put on hold since the breakdown of the government in February. This puts further restraints on the management and conflict resolution capacity of the parks.

For further information on the crisis in Madagascar's protected areas, especially on the problem of increased illegal logging, please see

http://www.panda.org/about our earth/all publications/?175761/Madagascar-accused-of-profiting-from-illegal-timber

Further information on Madagascar's protected areas including the Sahamalaza region is available on the Madagascar National Parks website at <a href="http://www.parcs-madagascar.com/index.php">http://www.parcs-madagascar.com/index.php</a>

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#### **POLICY & RESEARCH**

# Honour Where Honour is Due: Elinor Ostrom Receives Nobel Prize

How do you sustainably manage common natural resources that are characterized by free access? This is the central question of Elinor Ostrom's research on common property resources. In light of resource scarcity, increasing environmental problems such as overfishing and ocean pollution, deforestation, and climate change, it is also one of the most pressing challenges of our time. The decision of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences to award Ostrom the Nobel Prize for Economic Sciences reflects this fact. However, regarding the importance of her work to better understand cooperative behaviour in resource management, it could have also been the Nobel Peace Prize.

In her seminal book "Governing the Commons", published in 1990, Ostrom contested the assertion that only central state control or privatization could prevent the degradation of common pool resources. This "Tragedy of the Commons" was initially described by Garrett Hardin in 1968 using the example of a pasture open to all. The tragedy develops as each herdsman makes the rational choice to add another animal to his herd in order to maximize his individual gain. However, if the same decision is taken by each herdsman it leads to overgrazing and the degradation of the pasture, which brings ruin to all. Going beyond mere state or market regulation, and based on a vast amount of empirical case studies, Ostrom developed a third way out of the dilemma: she argues that through cooperation and the use of local institutions, communities may be able to manage their rangelands, waters or forests collectively in ways that benefit the whole community without destroying the resource. She emphasizes the importance of a great variety of institutional arrangements to cope with the diversity of socio-ecological systems. Ostrom places regional context specific solutions at the centre. Instead of applying uniform topdown approaches to solve global problems such as climate change, she calls for a polycentric approach. In a first interview after receiving the award she stated: "I am far from being against a global agreement on climate change. But when we sit and wait until these agreements become effective, it might be too late." (Christiane Roettger)

The Press Release of the Nobel Peace Prize Committee is available at <a href="http://nobelprize.org/nobel-prizes/economics/laureates/2009/press.html">http://nobelprize.org/nobel-prizes/economics/laureates/2009/press.html</a>

Further information on Elinor Ostrom's research, including a list of publications is available at <a href="http://www.indiana.edu/~workshop/people/lostromcv.htm">http://www.indiana.edu/~workshop/people/lostromcv.htm</a>
<a href="http://www.indiana.edu/~workshop/people/lostromcv.htm">http://www.indiana.edu/~workshop/people/lostromcv.htm</a>

# **Jatropha - The Miracle Biofuel?**

Among the plants that can be used for energy production, Jatropha has a special position. The plant has increasingly been called the ultimate wonder plant, combining all the positive features of a biofuel, without its pitfalls: it is drought resistant; its nuts have a high oil and energy content and it grows on and even restores degraded soils. The plant thereby does not compete with crops planted for food production, provides additional income for rural farmers in poor tropical and subtropical regions and does not endanger food sovereignty. As a result, Jatropha has been introduced in arid and semi-arid tropical regions worldwide, especially in developing countries.

However, recent developments are shedding further light on the dark side of large scale Jatropha biofuel cultivation. A recent study from Mozambique, prepared by the Mozambican organisations Justicia Ambiental and UNAC and commissioned by the Swiss Alliance Sud, outlines cases where local farmers have been forced off their lands by multinational corporations who use the land to plant Jatropha. Similar cases have recently been reported from Ghana and Tanzania. In India and the Philippines, Jatropha cultivation has displaced local agricultural crops, and even led to the outbreak of violent protests. Moreover, the plant is toxic for humans and animals and its spread may be uncontrollable. Australia has therefore banned Jatropha as an invasive species. Furthermore, the plant's oil yield has been overestimated, as has been its resistance to drought and disease. As a consequence, biofuel companies avoid cultivation on marginal lands and look for more productive soils - which limits the plant's most important advantage. The case of Jatropha illustrates how clear advantages can easily turn negative when managed unsustainably and without the meaningful integration of local stakeholders - a prerequisite, even when planting a potential wonder plant. (Stephan Wolters and Christiane Roettger)

Further information on recent developments of Jatropha cultivation in Ghana can be found at <a href="http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=86044">http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=86044</a>

Further news coverage on Jatropha is available at <a href="http://www.quardian.co.uk/environment/2009/may/05/jatropha-biofuels-food-crops">http://www.quardian.co.uk/environment/2009/may/05/jatropha-biofuels-food-crops</a>

The report "Jatropha! A socio-economic pitfall for Mozambique" is available at <a href="http://www.pronatura.ch/content/data/Report%20Jatropha%20">http://www.pronatura.ch/content/data/Report%20Jatropha%20</a> engl.pdf

# **Building Peace Through Water?**

Violent water conflicts are most likely to occur at the local level rather than between countries. This conclusion is confirmed by a new Catholic Relief Service (CRS) report, which provides guidance on how to integrate peacebuilding in water development. It further reveals how water allocation is linked to questions of social justice, and thereby significantly influences root causes of conflict or cooperation. While the publication has the merit of providing a comprehensive overview of relevant peacebuilding approaches, even the more practical second part of the report often remains too theoretical. For example, the authors provide a useful overview of international humanitarian laws protecting water. However, recommendations for their concrete implementation in a conflict situation on the ground are missing.

The identification of principles for conflict sensitive water development is useful for determining the overall approach to working in conflict affected areas. Nevertheless, many practitioners will appreciate the very last part of the study, which provides five water conflict cases including detailed and concrete suggestions for appropriate actions. Unfortunately, these case studies do not sufficiently point to the potential positive spill-over effects of efficient water cooperation on the overall socio-political stability. A more detailed appreciation of these links would require an analysis of the potentials and the risks of intervening in societal relationships linked to water distribution.

Nevertheless, the CRS report is a welcome overview on the role of the water sector in conflict and peacebuilding. It opens up avenues for thinking about a more sensitive implementation of technical water projects and provides the essential theoretical background for understanding conflict constellations. (Annabelle Houdret)

The report "Water and Conflict. Incorporating Peacebuilding into Water Development" is available online at <a href="http://crsprogramquality.org/pubs/peacebuilding/waterconflict.pdf">http://crsprogramquality.org/pubs/peacebuilding/waterconflict.pdf</a>
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#### The Global Race for Rare Earth Metals

The new objects of desire in the global race for resources are no longer oil or gas, but the so-called 'rare earth' metals; the race is also to capture a leading position in the production of future green technologies.

Rare earth metals have names such as Yttrium, Terbium, Neodym or Lanthan. With more than 95 percent, China is the world's leading producer. However, China recently threatened to halt exports of the rare metals, which sheds light on their increasing strategic importance within the global political power structures and interdependencies. A recent example from Australia highlights this fact further: The country's government blocked a Chinese state-owned company from acquiring a majority stake in the Australian mining company Lynas.

By restricting the export of raw earth metals, China could try to gain the lead position in the production of green technologies: Next to their use for the production of modern means of communication such as mobile phones, MP3-Player or flat screens, these metals constitute irreplaceable components of many sustainable future technologies such as solar and fuel cells. Likewise, running hybrid cars and wind turbines requires permanent magnets with Neodym; Lanthan for example is needed for the production of energy saving lamps. In order to counter this worrying dependency, closed mines such as the Mountain-Pass-Mine in the Californian desert are being re-commissioned and a quest for deposits outside of China has started. However, it might take years and even decades before such plans yield fruits.

Instead of engaging in this global race for metals, whose availability is currently not foreseeable – and thereby repeating the same mistakes as in the case of oil and gas – the planning and construction of future technologies should aim at using alternative resources. Efficient recycling processes that reuse the irreplaceable rare earth metals also need to be developed. (*Monika Kronz*)

More information on the global race for rare earth metals is available at <a href="http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/26/business/energy-environment/26rare.html">http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/26/business/energy-environment/26rare.html</a>

Please find more information on the deposits, production and utilization of the metals at <a href="http://www.ftd.de/unternehmen/industrie/autoindustrie/:exportbeschraenkung-rohstoffmangel-bedroht-hybridautos/50003678.html">http://www.ftd.de/unternehmen/industrie/autoindustrie/:exportbeschraenkung-rohstoffmangel-bedroht-hybridautos/50003678.html</a>

### **CONFERENCE REPORTS**

# **Transboundary Waters: Limits to Benefit Sharing**

It has become commonplace to say that benefit sharing from transboundary water cooperation should replace allocation simply based on water volumes. Some of the presentations at this year's World Water Week, however, refreshingly moved beyond this common notion to discuss the challenges and limits of this approach. "Transboundary Waters" was the special focus of the 2009 Stockholm World Water Week (WWW); the agenda included a high level panel on the opening day, a workshop and a number of seminars and side events that examined the transboundary concept from a variety of angles.

Benefit sharing was at the top of issues discussed. While there is much international support for the benefit sharing concept, its implementation has been hampered by a lack of structured approaches to identify and evaluate development options that generate mutual benefits. The recently published Transboundary Waters Opportunity analysis addresses this issue. It provides a systematic framework to evaluate different options through stakeholder interaction. The framework, as well as its application in the Nile and other basins, was presented at several of the WWW events.

Other presentations and events pointed to the limits of benefit sharing approaches, among others that joint development priorities and sharing agreements are quite difficult to negotiate. Moreover, the most powerful riparian can often determine the outcome of negotiations and thus prevent opportunities being taken that benefit all riparians. While the mere existence of riparian interaction is often labelled as cooperation, some of the resultant forms of such asymmetric "cooperation" are in fact quite unfair and ultimately perpetuate - not resolve - conflict. A seminar organised by the London Water Research Group and the Universities Partnership on Transboundary Waters challenged the general understanding of conflict and cooperation and pointed out that most often both actually co-exist. The seminar concluded that analysis and policy design should therefore consider existing power asymmetries, the hidden agendas of the different riparian states, as well as the power of domestic players. (Annika Kramer)

The complete programme of the WWW, most of the presentations as well as some background information on the transboundary water events are available at <a href="http://www.worldwaterweek.org/programme%202009">http://www.worldwaterweek.org/programme%202009</a>

The Transboundary Waters Opportunity analysis can be downloaded here <a href="http://www.siwi.org/sa/node.asp?node=423">http://www.siwi.org/sa/node.asp?node=423</a>

The London Water Research Group provides a range of publications on power asymmetries and hydro-hegemons in transboundary water interactions <a href="http://www.kcl.ac.uk/schools/sspp/geography/research/epd/londonwater/">http://www.kcl.ac.uk/schools/sspp/geography/research/epd/londonwater/</a>

# Foreign Policy in (Climate) Change?

"The security implications of climate change are too big a problem for us to fail in our policy response." This perception, underlined by Danish Foreign Minister Per Stig Møllers during a September conference in Copenhagen, is matched by recent discussions within the United Nations. As a result of these discussions the Secretary General of the United Nations published the final draft of his report on "Climate change and its possible security implications" in parallel to the Copenhagen conference. The UN report outlines once more the potential threat multipliers associated with a changing climate: apart from increasing threats to human security and development, it stresses the risks of domestic and international conflicts, as well as that of statelessness resulting from territory disappearance due to rising sea levels. During the conference in the Danish Foreign Ministry the security implications were concretely demonstrated: the first incidents of the upcoming climate crisis in the Middle East and Africa were illustrated, based on two regional risk assessments of climate change impacts prepared by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD). Oli Brown, one of the co-authors, discussed how climate change is likely to impact water and food security, most likely leading to a further destabilization of the respective regions. The IISD reports moreover, outlined that these regions already are facing water scarcity and decreasing agricultural productivity.

Despite these gloomy prospects the Danish Foreign Minister underlined that there exist already approaches that may be helpful to limit the risks: He emphasized the importance of the international community's leading role in fostering regional cooperation, especially building on ongoing initiatives to strengthen the regional security architecture. Mr. Møllers also referred to organisations like the Economic Community of West African States and the African Union as important examples in peace building and conflict prevention. In addition, the discussions in Copenhagen were inspired by the hope that a strong political will – during the upcoming climate conference held in the same place – help minimize some of the risks outlined by experts and policy makers. However, in the light of the widely perceived climate-security links, the focus on timely adaptation interventions seems to be more than appropriate – or as Geoff Dabelko, director of the Environmental Change and Security Program (ECSP) at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, outlined in his recent editorial comment for the Climatic Change journal: "Planning for climate change [is] the security community's precautionary principle".(Dennis Taenzler)

For more information on the conference "Climate Change and International Security" at the 18th September in the Danish Foreign Ministry, please see <a href="http://www.um.dk/nr/exeres/d27a966c-f30c-4760-8d2a-85b1c53c55db">http://www.um.dk/nr/exeres/d27a966c-f30c-4760-8d2a-85b1c53c55db</a>

The Secretary General's report "Climate change and its possible security implications" is available at <a href="http://www.un.org/ga/search/view doc.asp?symbol=A/64/350">http://www.un.org/ga/search/view doc.asp?symbol=A/64/350</a>, the IISD reports at <a href="http://www.iisd.org/security/es/climate/">http://www.iisd.org/security/es/climate/</a>.

To access the editorial comment by Geoff Dabelko to the Climatic Change journal, please see <a href="http://newsecuritybeat.blogspot.com">http://newsecuritybeat.blogspot.com</a>

# Transboundary Initiative for A Landscape Corridor between Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia

From the 5 - 6 October 2009, the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF), and the Great Apes Survival Project/United Nations Environment Programme (GRASP/UNEP), in collaboration with other partners, held a workshop in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire that aimed to initiate transboundary collaboration for the Taï-Sapo complex between Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia. The Taï-Sapo complex represents the largest remaining intact forest block of the Upper Guinean Forest Ecosystem. It is one of the world's 25 biodiversity hotspots and vital for the conservation of endangered species, such as the Western chimpanzee, the red colobus and the endemic and endangered pygmy hippo. Creating landscape corridors between the protected areas of the complex, the region's high levels of biodiversity and the livelihoods of the local communities that depend on the forest's ecosystem services will be maintained.

Throughout the workshop, initiatives were brought forward to effectively develop the corridor mechanisms. The workshop's results included a resolution on conflict prevention and resolution within the context of transboundary collaboration. The establishment of a corridor may create or exacerbate conflicts, such as those related to the lack of institutional coordination or community grievances regarding the lack of access to forest-derived benefits. Yet it may also offer peacebuilding opportunities by promoting dialogue and cooperation over the shared interests of development and biodiversity conservation at different levels. Parties and collaborators must devote resources towards identifying these risks and opportunities as well as employing conflict-sensitive approaches.

A steering committee composed of protected area managers, representatives from NGOs and donors from both countries will be responsible to monitor and supervise the work of technical committees. Recommendations for urgent actions and long term solutions will be proposed in a transboundary action plan, whose development and implementation will need further donor support.

The UNEP/GRASP Coordinator, Dr. Johannes Refisch, noted that "the active participation and commitment from delegates and government officials from both Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire is a very positive sign". He reiterated that "this represents only the first steps in a long term integrated approach for conservation in the region which could result in enhanced opportunities for biodiversity conservation, community development and peace building". (Ilka Herbinger, Wild Chimpanzee Foundation)

Detailed information on the workshop is available at the corridor website: <a href="www.tai-sapo.org">www.tai-sapo.org</a>

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Upcoming events are also regularly published at <a href="http://www.ecc-platform.org/">http://www.ecc-platform.org/</a>.

# "Post-Conflict Peacebuilding through Natural Resource Management" in Maastricht (12 November)

This event is part of a Social Policy Seminar Series organized by the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance. Its aim is to encourage dialogue within the area of welfare, social protection and social policy in a (European and) multidisciplinary perspective. The seminars invite scholars, academics and all those interested to discuss policy research and issues of social protection. As part of this series, the International Peace Research Institute Oslo will discuss the topic of post-conflict peacebuilding through natural resource management.

Further information available <u>here</u>.

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# " Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in the Context of Climate Change, the Energy Crisis and Food Insecurity" in Agadir, Morocco (12-14 November)

This conference is organized jointly by the Faculty of Law, Economics and Social Sciences of Agadir and the North-South Center for Social Sciences (NRCS). It invites stakeholders from research organizations, universities, government agencies, policy-makers and NGOs from developing and developed countries to share research results and identify future research prospects, challenges, issues and concerns in the fields of sustainable agriculture and rural development. The concept of food security will play a major role.

Further information is available at <a href="http://2009-international-conference.synthasite.com/">http://2009-international-conference.synthasite.com/</a>

# "Corporate Water Footprinting - Best Practices in Corporate Water Stewardship" in San Francisco, U.S. (2-3 December)

Corporate Water Footprinting, part of a series of events called "Action for a Sustainable America", will outline the risks and opportunities water poses to business and offer practical advice on mapping and reducing water consumption in products and across the supply chain. As well as discussing new methodologies and standards for water footprinting the event will examine how companies are addressing water issues at a strategic level.

Further information on the event is available <a href="here">here</a>
<a href="https://www.arable.com/here">here</a>
<a href="https://www.arable.com/here">ATop</a>

# "Integrating Approaches: Sustainable Livelihoods, Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation" in London, UK (3 December)

The seminar is part of an international series organized by the development charity "Practical Action". It aims at bringing together academics, practitioners and policy-makers to discuss the linkages between Sustainable Livelihoods Approaches (SLA) and approaches to Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation. Topics include the relevance of SLA for strengthening resilience to climate change impacts as well as policies, institutions and processes at different levels for supporting disaster and climate resilient livelihoods.

Further information is available at <a href="http://www.eldis.org/go/events-and-announcements/events&id=44922&type=Item">http://www.eldis.org/go/events-and-announcements/events&id=44922&type=Item</a>

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#### **IN BRIEF**

# Environmental Peacebuilding on YouTube, Climate Change and Security at the UN and New Books on Environmental Security

Alexander Carius, Managing Director at Adelphi Research, discusses the state of the climate change and security debate in a European context with Environmental Change and Security Program (ECSP) Director Geoff Dabelko. The interview is available at the ECSPWWC channel on YouTube, which regularly features videos from discussions and interviews on environmental security and peacebuilding. The channel is maintained by ECSP, which is part of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

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In response to the UN resolution and the request of the Member States in the UN General Assembly, the Secretary-General report (A/64/350) on "Climate Change and Its Possible Security Implications" has been prepared. The report and all materials, including a power point presentation, related to the preparation of the report are now available online.

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The Peace Research and European Security Studies (AFES-PRESS) has published the book "Facing Global Environmental Change: Environmental, Human, Energy, Food, Health and Water Security Concepts". The handbook's 100 chapters address in ten parts issues of water, food, and energy, as well as gender security. It also contains a chapter on action and policy outlook. The book launch is now fully documented online.

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Another book, edited by renowned researchers in the field of environmental security, is titled "Global Environmental Change and Human Security". It discusses the connections of global environmental change to urban poverty, natural disasters, violent conflict, population, gender, and sustainable development and cooperation including case studies from Hurricane Katrina and the civil war in Nepal.

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