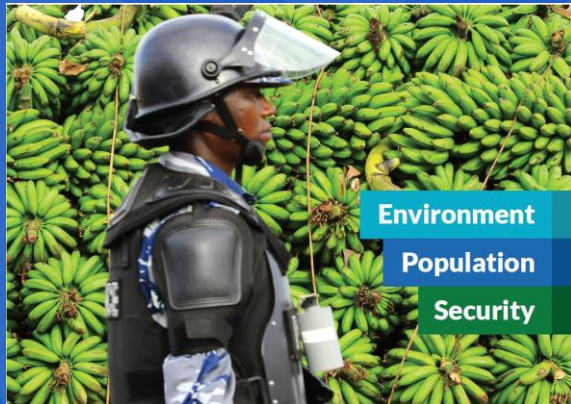


The State of the World: Navigating Complexity



Roger-Mark De Souza, Director

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

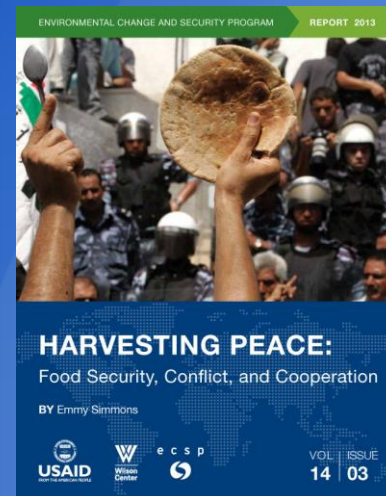
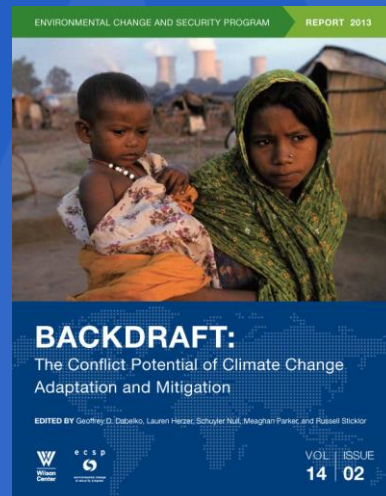
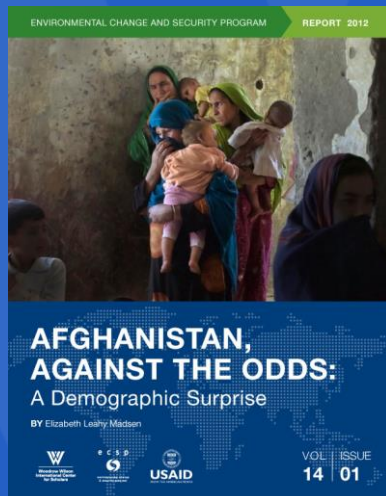
- Nonpartisan, non-advocacy
- Facilitating dialogue among research, policy and practice communities
- Jane Harman, Wilson Center President



Global Sustainability & Resilience

Seeking a Sustainable Future for a Lasting Peace

- Climate-security connections
- Environmental peacebuilding
- Humanitarian and development implications

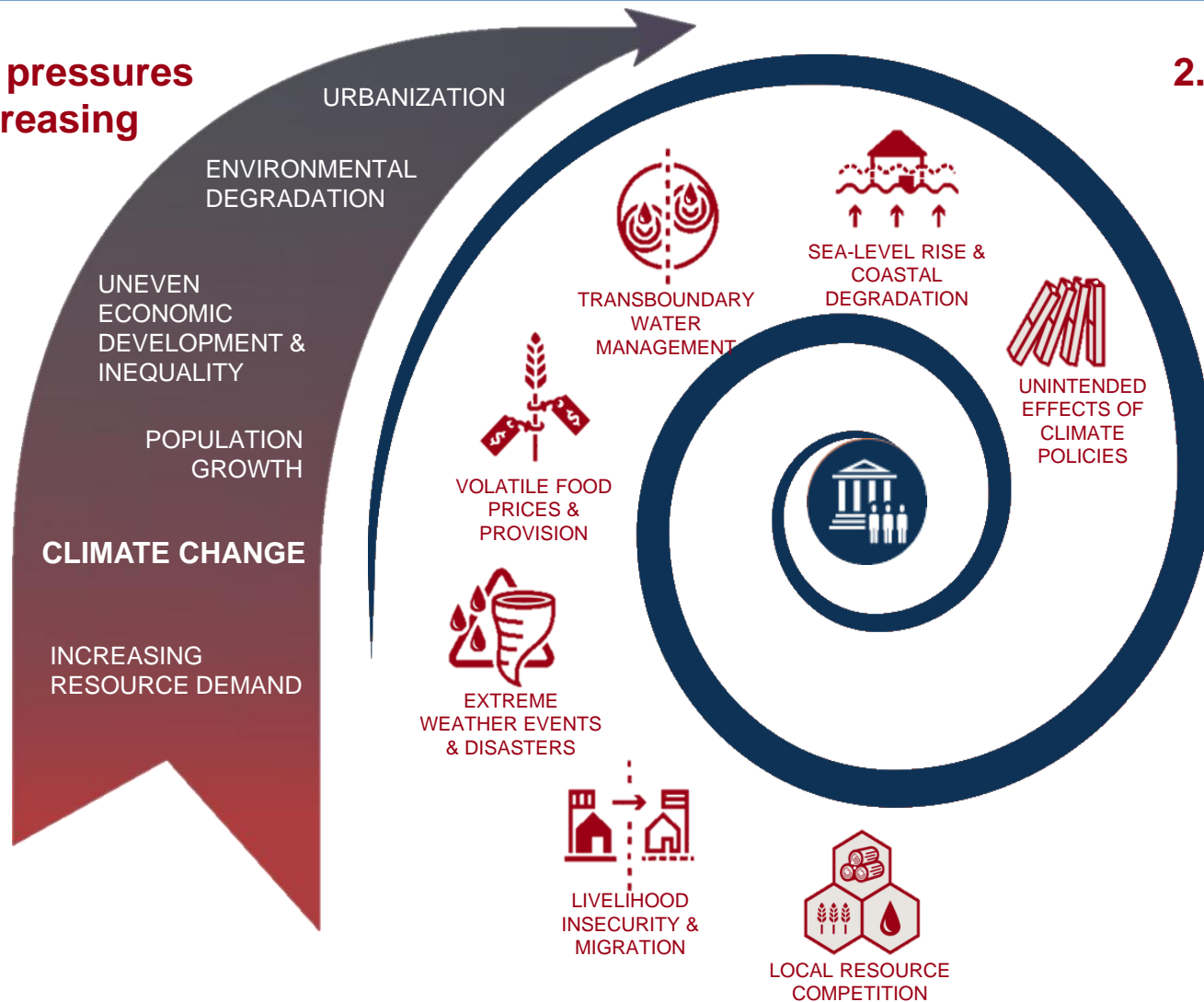


Shocks and Risks



Climate and fragility: Seven compound risks

1. Global pressures are increasing



2. Creating 7 compound risks that threaten states & societies

Climate as Threat Multiplier

- Powerful political avenue into environmental security
- Plays out in different natural resource sectors
- Makes more local dynamics much more challenging
- Can create new conflict dynamics
- Additional stressor



Navigating Complexity:

Climate, Migration, and Conflict in a Changing World

Photo: Tobin Jones/UN Photo

Displacement and Disasters

- In 2015, 19.2 million people were newly displaced by disasters
 - South Asia: 41%
 - East Asia and the Pacific: 44%
 - Countries with the highest level of displacement: India, China, Nepal, the Philippines, and Myanmar
 - Also facing high levels of displacement: Japan and Bangladesh
 - Mekong Delta and Ganges-Brahmaputra Delta
- Bangladeshi environmental migrants in India
 - India's Army Chief Bikram Singh: this migration is a threat to national security

Multilateral Institutions and Climate-Induced Migration

- “Creaky” international refugee laws and conventions
 - Don’t always apply to issues in the modern world
- International frameworks not equipped to deal with the nexus of issues
 - No talk of climate change or vulnerable groups like women, the LGBT community, or indigenous people
- No international framework for climate-induced migration

Changing Geopolitics

- Data and science highlight changed conditions
- Ups and downs commodity markets such as price of oil
- Economic actors finally moving including private sector and philanthropy
- Disaster-induced awareness: storms, floods, etc
- Public attention—public demands, UN processes, changing national leaderships
- New competition for resources

Policy and Institutional Gaps

- **Climate change adaptation:**
 - Rarely address fragility and conflict comprehensively
 - Fragile countries less well positioned to access climate finance
- **Development and humanitarian aid:**
 - Progress in “climate-proofing” development work by mainstreaming climate into development programming
- **Peacebuilding:**
 - Climate change not sufficiently incorporated into fragility or peace and conflict assessments.
 - Few financing instruments earmark funds for addressing climate and fragility risks

Some Conclusions

- Questions of high politics, high security
- Countering risk in face of uncertainty
- Need to prepare for the worst, hope for the best
- Less responsive to use of force yet key roles and key implications within both narrow and broad notions of security
- Both threat and opportunity

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