

Review of: "Armed Conflicts in Africa and Environmental Intelligence for Sustainability"

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This article can be said to highlight the complex implications arising from the relationship between armed conflict and environmental sustainability in Africa. It vividly describes the lasting ecological wounds inflicted by these conflicts, going beyond the immediate destruction and highlighting the disruption of natural cycles, loss of biodiversity, and long-term consequences such as deforestation and land degradation. Environmental damage seriously threatens access to vital resources such as water, thereby posing serious obstacles to sustainable development efforts.

A distinctive feature of the document is its emphasis on a proactive approach. By presenting an environmental intelligence framework for sustainable development (EIS), the paper shifts the focus from reactive conflict resolution to proactive action based on environmental intelligence. This paradigm shift offers a new perspective, opening up the potential for more effective and sustainable solutions in the long term.

The EIS is presented as a pragmatic resource for policymakers, development practitioners, and regional organizations. It offers a structured framework for integrating conflict risks into sustainable development planning, empowering them to build resilient communities and contribute to a more sustainable future for Africa.

Recognizing that issues of security and sustainable development often transcend national boundaries, the paper proposes the development of a regional strategy in West Africa. It emphasizes the importance of information sharing and joint efforts to address common threats and strengthen collective resilience. This recognition adds significant value by promoting a broader perspective and recognizing the interdependence of the region.

While the paper acknowledges barriers to EIS implementation, such as limited resources, political will, and limitations in information sharing, further exploration of these issues would add depth to the paper. Providing concrete examples and potential solutions can enhance the practical application of the concept.

While it is useful to focus on the case of Côte d'Ivoire, a broader study of the application of EIS in different African contexts will improve our understanding of its effectiveness. This broader perspective will allow implementation strategies to be refined to better suit different regional needs and challenges.

Armed conflicts in Africa cause not only immediate damage but also long-term environmental damage and threaten sustainable development initiatives. The EIS framework provides an optimistic path for proactive and collaborative strategies to reduce the environmental impacts of conflict and create a more sustainable future for Africa.

Stakeholders can use the EIS as a pragmatic resource to integrate conflict risks into sustainability planning, promoting the development of resilient communities.

Successful implementation of this framework requires addressing challenges such as limited resources and political will, and it is critical to explore the application of EIS in different contexts.