

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

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The article is well-written and touches on an important issue: the connection between conflict and environmental degradation, which in turn has negative impacts on development targets. It therefore calls for a strategic tool to assess the state of the environment and the potential risks to it by suggesting the development of possible conflict scenarios. The article continues with considerations about which regional and global bodies might take a role in this endeavour.

I miss the following considerations:

1: How are conflicts currently taken into account in development programs and projects? Given that the threat of outbreak, or indeed the presence of conflict, has affected many African countries over the past decades, what management tools are currently in use to assess the impact on development programs, for example, by the World Bank, the African Development Bank, or other international and national actors?

2: The relationship to the HDP-Nexus: to my understanding, the relationships between humanitarian, development, and peace have been acknowledged by the UN after the Humanitarian Summit in 2016 ([Humanitarian, development, and peace nexus | United Nations Development Programme \(undp.org\)](#)). How do the considerations in this article relate to the concepts and tools propagated by the HDP?

3: Is the notion of "Environmental Intelligence" wide enough to encompass the various effects of conflicts on countries and their development paths, or is it too narrow by looking only at the environment? The article mentions several conflicts in Africa, including those in north-east Nigeria, Mali, the Lake Chad basin, and northern Mozambique. These conflicts have multiple causes and consequences, as also stated in the article. Maybe what is needed is a better, ideally actionable, understanding of conflicts from a general, conflict research perspective, to better anticipate and mitigate the threat they pose to a healthy development. A view on the environment would certainly play a role in it, but only as one piece of information rather than being in the center of all considerations regarding conflicts.