

Manipal Academy of Higher Education

Impressions@MAHE

University Departments

MAHE Student Work

Spring 5-1-2021

Implications of Environmental Change for Eastern Africa's Security

Kinkini Gupta

Follow this and additional works at: <https://impressions.manipal.edu/maheud>



Part of the [Social and Behavioral Sciences Commons](#)

IMPLICATIONS OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE FOR EASTERN AFRICA'S SECURITY



KINKINI GUPTA

Department of Geopolitics and International Relations

Manipal Academy of Higher Education

Manipal

June 2021

Manipal Academy of Higher Education

Department of Geopolitics and International Relations

**IMPLICATIONS OF ENVIRONMENTAL
CHANGE FOR EASTERN AFRICA'S
SECURITY**

**A Dissertation Submitted to the Department of Geopolitics and
International Relations in Partial Fulfilment for Master's Degree
in Geopolitics and International Relations**

Supervisor

DR. DHANASREE JAYARAM

By

KINKINI GUPTA

June 2021



MANIPAL

ac:viiiDIY/iur.iii"i<i:i>u<:ri<>

(Deemed to be University under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956)

Date: 30.06.2021

DECLARATION

I declare that the dissertation entitled “**Implications of Environmental Change for Eastern Africa’s Security**” submitted by me for the award of the degree of Master of Arts in Geopolitics and International Relations of Manipal Academy of Higher Education is my own work. The dissertation has not been submitted for any other degree of this University or any other University.

(Kinkini Gupta)

CERTIFICATE

I recommend that this dissertation be placed before the examiners for evaluation.

(Dr. Nanda Kishor M S)

Associate Professor and Head

(Dr. Dhanasree Jayaram)

Supervisor

Department of Geopolitics and International Relations

Old TAPMI Building, Manipal - 576 104, Karnataka

dir. 91 820 2922398. 2922996 fax. 91 820 2570062 e-mail. nanda.kishor@manipal.edu. geopolitics.mu@manipal.edu www.manipal.edu

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Anything said is under-said in thanking a host of people who, knowingly or not, contributed immensely to this research. Firstly, I would like to extend my gratitude to the faculty members and the collegial fraternity of the Department of Geopolitics and International Relations, Manipal Academy of Higher Education.

I will be eternally grateful to Dr. Dhanasree Jayaram, my supervisor and mentor, for her relentless support, guidance and invaluable expertise. She has been instrumental from the time of drafting the proposal of the dissertation to the completion of it. Without her constant assistance, unwavering patience and honest inputs, this work would never have been complete. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work under her.

I am immensely grateful to Dr. Nanda Kishor, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Geopolitics and International Relations, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, for his support and encouragement during the course of this research. I would also like to thank Dr. Arvind Kumar, former Head of the Department of GIR for allowing and encouraging me to pursue this research.

I am thankful to my family for never failing to support, encourage and motivate me through every hurdle and through my darkest times. My brother, in his busiest of times has never failed to support me, motivate me and also provide important inputs. He has acted as my friend, brother and guide and I am extremely thankful for his help. I would like to thank my friends Tithi, Alina, Priyanjali and a special mention of my sister/friend Samayita, for their unwavering faith in me throughout the completion of this work. And finally, with the completion of this dissertation I sincerely also acknowledge Manipal Academy of Higher Education for providing me a platform to undertake my research.

ABBREVIATIONS

AMCEN	African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AMISOM	African Union Mission in Somalia
AU	African Union
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
C E WARN	Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
COVID-19	Corona Virus Disease 2019
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EAC	East African Community
EASF	East African Standby Force
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ENSO	El Niño / Southern Oscillation
EPRP	Revolutionary People's Party of Ethiopia
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FESS	Foundation for Environmental Security and Sustainability
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ICPAC	IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre
ICU	Islamic Courts of Union
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IRG	International Resources Group
ITCZ	Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone
MCC	Military Coordination Commission
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MEISON	Socialist Movement of All-Ethiopia
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development

NAPA	National Adaptation Programme
OCHA	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
ONLF	Ogaden National Liberation Front
ORF	Observer Researcher Foundation
QIP	Quick Impact Projects
RBSAP	Regional Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
RSCT	Regional Security Complex Theory
SADC	South African Development Group
SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapons
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SEA	Strategic Environment Impact Assessment
SIPRI	Stockholm International Peace Research Institute
SNM	Somali National Movement
SPLM	South Sudan Liberation Movement
TCZ	Temporary Security Zone
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNMEE	United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea's
UNOSOM	United Nations Operations in Somalia
UNPOS	United Nations Political Office in Somalia
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
WCRP	World Climate Research Programme
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organisation
WMO	World Meteorological Organisation

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contents	Pages
Declaration.....	I
Acknowledgement.....	II
Abbreviations.....	III-IV
Table of Contents.....	V-VI
List of Maps.....	VII
Abstract.....	VIII-X
CHAPTER – 1 INTRODUCTION.....	1-11
1.1 Background of the Study.....	2-4
1.2 Survey of Literature.....	4-8
1.3 Research Gap.....	8
1.4 Objectives of the Study.....	8
1.5 Significance and Relevance of the Study.....	9
1.6 Methodology Used in the Study.....	9-10
1.7 Limitations of the Study.....	10
1.8 Delimitations of the Study.....	11
CHAPTER – 2 A THEORETICAL AND CONCEPTUAL ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE AS A FACTOR IN THE SECURITY ASPECTS OF EASTERN AFRICA.....	12-25
2.1 Concept and Evolution of Security.....	13-17
2.1.1 Traditional Conception of Security.....	13-14
2.1.2 State-Centric Conceptualization of National Security.....	14-15
2.1.3 Post-Cold War Reconceptualization of Security.....	15-17
2.2 Concept of Human Security.....	17-20
2.3 Concept of Environmental Security.....	20-22
2.4 Regional Security Complex Theory.....	22-25
CHAPTER – 3 REVISITING THE SECURITY DYNAMICS OF EASTERN AFRICA.....	26-36
3.1 A Historical Context of the Security Dynamics of Eastern Africa.....	27-28
3.1.1 South Sudan.....	28-30
3.1.2 Somalia.....	30-31

3.1.3	Kenya	31-32
3.1.4	Ethiopia... ..	32-34
3.2	Cross Border Threats in Eastern Africa	34-36
CHAPTER – 4 IMPLICATIONS OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE FOR EASTERN AFRICAN SECURITY IN THE 21 ST CENTURY		37-52
4.1	Environmental Vulnerabilities in Eastern Africa.....	38-51
4.1.1	Environmental Change and Food Security in Eastern Africa	42-43
4.1.2	Environmental Change and Water Security in Eastern Africa	43-45
4.1.3	Environment Change and Migration in Eastern Africa.....	45-47
4.1.4	Environmental Change and Terrorism, Extremism and Piracy in Eastern Africa.....	47-49
4.1.5	Environmental Change and Health Security in Eastern Africa	49-51
4.2	How does Environmental Change Affect Human Security and Regional Stability in Eastern Africa?.....	51-52
CHAPTER – 5 RESPONSES BY INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS TO ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE IN EASTERN AFRICA: A FUTURISTIC OUTLOOK.....		53-70
5.1	The United Nations and its Efforts	55-60
5.1.1	The UN Security Council’s Role in Eastern Africa	55-56
5.1.2	UN Humanitarian Aid in South Sudan... ..	56-57
5.1.3	UN Climate Security Mechanism	57-58
5.1.4	United Nations Development Program.....	58-60
5.2	Regional Organisations and Their Efforts	60-68
5.2.1	Intergovernmental Authority on Development.....	60-63
5.2.2	East African Community	63-68
5.2.2.1	EAC’s Climate Change Projects	64-65
5.2.2.2	Natural Resource Management by the East African Community	65-66
5.2.2.3	Disaster Risk Reduction	66-67
5.2.3	IGAD, EAC and the East African Standby Force (EASF) as Combined Actors of Peace and Security	67-68
5.3	Future Policies: Environmental Security and Peacebuilding.....	68-70
CHAPTER – 6 CONCLUSION... ..		71-77
REFERENCES		i-v

LIST OF MAPS

Maps	Page
3.1 Horn of Africa	28
4.1 Eastern Africa Regional Collaborating Centre (EA-RCC).....	40

ABSTRACT

The study on the theme ‘Implications of Environmental Change for Eastern Africa’s Security’ is an attempt to assess and analyse the changing security aspects of Eastern Africa like national security, human security, and food and resource security along with the changing environmental conditions of the region. This study takes into account four specific countries of Eastern Africa – Somalia, South Sudan, Ethiopia and Kenya. These four countries have been particularly chosen for this research because of their geographical positions and proximity to each other as well as shared concerns. The four countries are also the victims of various threats due to spillover effects from security concerns of the neighboring countries.

The countries of Eastern Africa have been torn by different types of conflicts for decades. The political and socio-economic stability of the region is critically affected by civil wars, terrorism, ethnic conflicts, and other forms of violence. At the same time, it is economically highly dependent on agriculture, accounting for a large proportion of the Gross Domestic Product of the region’s countries, as well as central to livelihood security. The effects of human and environmental factors combined have disrupted the lives for the region’s inhabitants. The region, consisting of developing and least developed countries, does not have adequate capacity and infrastructure to cope with the first and second order impacts (including security implications) of environmental change on their own. Rather, the security conditions these countries have been facing for decades have aggravated and triggered more conflicts leading up to an endless loop of national and human insecurity, lack of development opportunities, different types of conflicts, mismanagement by the governments, natural hazards, resource scarcity etc.

The region of Eastern Africa has been plagued by many issues for years but it is one of the least emitters of greenhouse gases in comparison to other countries. But the region remains one of the worst sufferers of climate and environmental change, be it because of historical developments (such as colonial legacies or civil wars), or be it because it has remained as an under-developed and neglected region. Eastern Africa’s biodiversity is under the threat of becoming endangered, or even extinct and its natural resources have been overutilized or degraded because of wars and conflicts, increasing population and migration, and natural hazards, among others.

In addition to the above-mentioned factors, this governments in the region have not been able to address the root causes of conflicts, or newer challenges that influence the conflicts in many

ways. The four countries have a history of unstable and constantly changing governments, political and ethnic clashes which have led to many violent conflicts in the past; and these disputes and conflicts are far from resolved even today in many parts of the region, such as in Somalia and South Sudan. Thus, one of the underlying reasons of such insecurities plaguing these four countries are weak states and governments that have weak organisation of security mostly due to the lack of lack authority and legitimacy.

For years the United Nations Organisation has been conducting peacebuilding, peace keeping and climate adaptation operations in the region of Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya and South Sudan. Even the UN admits that their peacekeeping operations and sustainable development initiatives in the region are being hampered by environmental and climate change. Similarly, regional organisations such as the African Union, East African Community, and Intergovernmental Authority on Development, etc. have also been trying to tackle various security concerns in the region.

This research study has made use of International Relations theories (such as Regional Security Complex Theory) and concepts (from security studies) in an attempt to analyse the security implications of environmental change in Eastern Africa. These theories and concepts have been used to analyse the extent to which the security situation has deteriorated due to environmental factors. Moreover, these countries of Eastern Africa are extremely important for the economy of Africa and for the world, especially due to the richness of their natural resources. It is important note here that even though environmental change may not be the cause for conflicts in the region; nevertheless, it is important to acknowledge and address in what ways do environmental factors exacerbate or complicate security matters of the four countries, and the region at large.

In this context this research makes a modest attempt at assessing the threats faced by Eastern Africa. Keeping in mind the historical events of these four countries, this the study identifies the main security concerns that have been plaguing this region for decades. The central objective of this study is to understand and analyse the linkages between environmental and human actions which have played a role in deteriorating the security dynamics of the four countries in particular. This study elaborates and examines the role played by the international and regional organisations in Eastern Africa, and their policies and adaptation strategies for managing environmental problems in consonance with the security situation. It also analyses the futuristic possibilities and effects of environmental change in Eastern Africa and the actions

undertaken by international organizations to ensure a sustainable future and livelihood security, which could contribute to peace and stability in the region.