

Pre-COP27 Side Event

Climate and Security: Challenges in DRC

Co-hosted by Germany and Sweden

Supported by the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP)
and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)

October 5th, 2022, 9.00 am – 5.30 pm

@ Cercle Élaïs, Av. Lt. Colonel Lukusa, Kinshasa-Gombe

Aim and content of the event

The DRC, rich in natural resources and with an abundance of tropical rainforest, can play a pivotal role in international climate and environmental protection. Yet, conflict dynamics hamper the potential for positive development due to the persistent and abusive exploitation of natural resources. At the same time, the DRC is already affected by climate change, including droughts and floods, which can potentially exacerbate the current conditions. The Pre-COP27 Kinshasa provides an important opportunity to discuss the role of the nexus between security and climate change – as the DRC represents a state that carries both the chances and the hazards of the climate crisis.

This Side Event shall analyse the conflict situation in DRC and its connection with climate security. The event shall foster a dialogue by bringing together national, regional and international experts to discuss the challenges of the global climate transition, the risks and opportunities for countries like the DRC in this transition and will aim to identify recommendations for climate sensitive actions, which have the potential for conflict transformation.

The event comprises a keynote speech by the German State Secretary and Special Envoy for International Climate Action Jennifer Morgan. The morning session of the event includes a high-level panel discussion with academic experts and human rights activists that will give diverse perspectives on the interconnection of climate security and the conflict situation in the DRC. Thematic workshops will discuss the specific aspects of the DRC in the climate and security context: minerals and exploitation, protection of the rainforest and national parks. They will consist of specific expert inputs and will give participants the opportunity to debate and discuss topics in depth. As a follow up DGAP and SIPRI will provide a policy paper as incentive for further discussions in national and international fora.

Agenda

9.00 am	Arrival, Registration and Coffee
10.00 – 12.30 pm	Morning Session
10.00 – 10.10 am	Welcome Remarks by German Ambassador Dr. Oliver Schnakenberg
10.10 – 10.30 am	Keynote speech by German State Secretary and Special Envoy for International Climate Action Jennifer Lee Morgan
10.30 – 11.45 am	<p>Panel Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leading questions: <p>Which specific risks result from climate impacts for DRC and to what extent do they exacerbate already existing security risks in the region?</p> <p>What is the climate impact on armed groups and how do they affect the protection of biodiversity hotspots in DRC?</p> <p>How do conflicts around minerals affect the security of the Congolese society?</p> <p>How can international actors support DRC in achieving a sustainable, just, and peaceful utilisation of critical resources that are necessary for a global (energy) transition?</p> Speakers: <p>Dr. Kira Vinke, Head of the Center of Climate and Foreign Policy at the German Council on Foreign Relations</p> <p>Prof. Kalulu Taba, Professor of Chemistry at the University of Kinshasa</p> <p>Prof. Jolino Malukisa, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Catholic University of the Congo (tbc)</p> <p>Neema Namadamu, Founder of Hero Women Rising</p> <p>Moderator: Hafsa Maalim, SIPRI</p>
11.45 – 12.20 pm	<p>Round of questions</p> <p>Moderator: Hafsa Maalim, SIPRI</p>
12.20 – 12.30 pm	Take Aways and Closing Remarks by Swedish Ambassador Henric Råsbrant
12.30 – 2.00 pm	Lunch buffet for all participants
2.00 – 4.45 pm	Afternoon Workshops
2.00 – 2.30 pm	Input presentation



2.30 – 4.00 pm	Breakout sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Breakout group 1:<p>Lead Questions: How to deal with armed Groups in national parks? How can specific initiatives address the role of armed groups in national parks? How can peacebuilding, dialogue and local mediation address the situation?</p><p>Facilitator: Dr. Antje Herrberg</p>• Breakout group 2:<p>Lead Questions: How do climate impacts and biodiversity loss contribute to insecurity in DRC? What implications does this carry for inequalities inside the Democratic Republic of the Congo?</p><p>Facilitator: Dana Schirwon</p>• Breakout Group 3:<p>Lead Questions: How does the exploitation of conflict minerals and other critical resources in DRC interplay with climate protection? What proposals for action are there for national and international actors?</p><p>Facilitator: Johannes Ulke</p>
4.00 – 4.45 pm	Closing panel <p>Facilitators: Dr. Kira Vinke and Hafsa Maalim</p>
4.45 - 5.30 pm	Cocktail at venue