Hexagon Series on Human and Environmental Security and Peace VOL 8

Series Editor: Hans Günter Brauch

Jürgen Scheffran · Michael Brzoska · Hans Günter Brauch · Peter Michael Link · Janpeter Schilling Editors

Climate Change, Human Security and Violent Conflict

Challenges for Societal Stability

With Forewords by Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of Nigeria – Connie Hedegaard, European Commissioner for Climate Action – Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary, UNFCCC – Rajendra Pachauri, Chairman of the IPCC, Winner of Nobel Peace Prize

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Climate change is becoming a focal point of security and conflict research and poses challenges to the world's structures of policymaking and governance. This handbook explores empirical and theoretical links between climate change, environmental degradation, human security, societal stability and violent conflict that could trigger cascading events and critical tipping points in climate-society interaction. Based on an extensive analysis of the securitization discourse, various conflict constellations are assessed, including water scarcity, food insecurity, natural disasters and mass migration. The security risks of climate are discussed in detail with regard to regional climate hotspots in Africa, the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific. Constructive approaches are examined for improving climate security through capacity-building for sustainable peace and cooperative policies leading to local and global governance structures.

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The Research Group Climate Change and Security (CLISEC) conducts multidisciplinary research and education on potential security risks, social instabilities and conflicts induced by climate change and on strategies for international cooperation, conflict management and sustainable peace.

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