- A key variable is the rate of technological progress and the dissemination of innovation. While over-simplified, the implication of a high level of technological advancement is less environmental stress, and correspondingly less pressure for environmentally motivated conflict. The capacity of social institutions to evolve is also an important factor.

- There are many historical examples of the scarcity of non-renewable resources contributing to interstate conflict. Environmental stress, such as degradation of the global commons, poses new challenges.

- The type of environmental stress, local or global, is likely to influence the nature of potential conflict. National and multilateral mechanisms are needed to identify abusers, to measure abuse, and to develop nonviolent mechanisms to address the abuse. Multilateral encouragement of the political will to address domestic environmental degradation, and, in the case of developing countries, assistance to enhance the domestic capacity to do so effectively is a prudent approach. Multilateral approaches are likely to be the most lasting, but also the most difficult to achieve.

- Fears of environmental degradation leading to large numbers of emigrants from the developing countries need to be realistically assessed. While large numbers of people from developing countries may seek to enter developed countries, these people are more likely to be economic migrants or refugees rather than environmentally generated migrants.

These points reflect the immense scope of the environmental stress-national security interface, and highlight areas and issues where more analytical work and critical thinking is needed. They also reflect inherent data limitations problems, and that the research agenda does not lend itself to quick conclusions. In particular more empirical work on the various elements of the conceptual framework, and how the elements interrelate, is needed. This is not, however, a simple or strait forward undertaking. Given the theoretical linkages set out in this Paper a multidisciplinary approach, including analysis by country specialist, will be required. Databases that included motivational factors for emigrants, or the degree to which indigenous people consider immigrants a threat to their "national security", would for example be useful, but may not be possible to establish. The lack of databases on technology and how different technologies are employed, and how such technologies contribute to sustainable development and affect the environment, leaving aside the question of how future technology may develop, also poses a problem.

A practical approach to increasing our understanding of environmental stress-