

are circumstances where it may draw attention to an existing environmental problem. Rather, the root cause of environmental degradation lies in the failure of markets fully to reflect environmental costs, often due to inadequate or inappropriate government policies or consumer information. Consequently, the most effective solution lies in implementing measures that will allow markets to reflect these costs more accurately and thus influence the behaviour of producers and consumers away from environmentally hostile decisions.⁵

While an over-simplification, the broad definition of national security may be considered as having a military security component, i.e., violence and the threat of military activities, and an economic/social security component. By broadening the concept of national security, all environmental, as well as economic, and social factors may be brought within its purview. All aspects of human and economic development, including the domestic distribution of income, for example, would fall within the larger national security envelope. From an analytical perspective, such a conceptualization of national security in respect to environmental considerations is not always useful as it increases the scope of the issue to unmanageable proportions.⁶ In the extreme, the environment-national security nexus could be conceptualized as including almost all human activities.

2.2 Environmentally Enhanced National Security

A narrower concept of national security, and a more traditional or conventional concept, has required the use, or at least the potential use, of violent measures. The focus of national security has been on interstate activity and violence, but also to a

⁵Michael Hart and Sushma Gera, "Trade and the Environment: Dialogue of the Deaf or Scope for Cooperation?" Policy Staff Paper No. 92/11, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, p. 15.

⁶Such issues are not, however, being ignored. In June 1992, the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), i.e., the "Earth Summit", attempted to address a wide range of environment issues. A full understanding of environment-national security linkages, with national security being defined essentially as human security, would require another "Earth Summit" with an analysis of the environment with respect to all the component parts of human security, such as environment-food security, environment-health security and environment-political security. To an extent, work on some of these various elements is being conducted in various organizations of the United Nations, such as the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, the UN Environment Program (UNEP) and the UN Development Program (UNDP).