

- **Transboundary or Regional**

Certain environmental issues, while international in scope, are not global. This would include sulphur dioxide emissions ("acid rain") effects on neighbouring states, and access to bodies of fresh water that crosses national boundaries. Belligerent behaviour and conflict over access to fresh water could arise over differences in views on the level of effluent allowed into a body of water traversing countries. Conflict could also arise from a state limiting the volume of water available to another state, but this would more appropriately be considered a case of direct resource scarcity than environmental stress.

- **Local or National**

Local environmental stresses include wildlife management, unsustainable land use and local industrial pollution in urban areas. Unsustainable land use includes sedentary farming of marginal lands that are quickly exhausted, degradation of aquifers and watersheds, the waterlogging or salination of irrigated land, and pollution of surface and groundwater. Municipal dumping of commercial and household waste has in a number of localities become an acute environmental problem. This is not to say that local environmental degradation has no transborder or global effects, but that the principal direct impact is on local conditions.

4.3 Types of Environmental Stress and their National Security Implications

The typology of environmental stress goes some way to clarifying that the environmental threat to national security is really a set of simultaneous yet diverse threats. In a hypothetical situation where there were no threat of global warming or ozone depletion, other environmental threats would still exist, including unsustainable agricultural practices and production levels and the reduction of biodiversity of plants and animals. This said, the environmental threats are interrelated. For example, changes in climatic conditions could exacerbate regional and national environmental problems, such as soil and water degradation.

With the traditional definition of national security, i.e., military violence, the source of the threat is mainly outside the country. With the traditional definition, the source of the threat, country X or country Y, is also clearly identifiable. The sources of environmental stress are less identifiable. Sources are both inside and outside a country, and many individual agents, firms, people and governments contribute to environmental degradation. This is important, as there is a danger that political thinking may tend to fall into an "us" versus "them" cross-border mentality. This could result in over-emphasizing the "foreign" component of environmental