

WINNING THE ENVIRONMENT. THE ECOSYSTEM APPROACH AND ITS VALUE FOR MILITARY OPERATIONS, A WAY TO IMPROVE YOUR MISSION.

Piet Wit¹, Kim Janssen²

¹IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management, ²Witteveen+Bos

Principle 12 of the Ecosystem Approach, as endorsed by the CBD, states that “the ecosystem approach should involve all relevant sectors of society and scientific disciplines.” IUCN’s Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM) is planning to publish a booklet with cases on the application of the ecosystem approach for different sectors, to illustrate its value for each of these sectors and to promote its application. After a short introduction of CEM, the present presentation develops the application of the ecosystem approach by the military sector, in particular in relation to peace-support operations and reconstruction programmes. It describes a simple model of 4 steps. The first step deals with the physical system (“the ecosystem”), the second step with the use of the ecosystem and the third step with its management (institutions and regulations). The fourth step guides the military in taking decisions what (not) to do given the information from steps 1, 2 and 3. The results will be published in an instruction booklet by the CCOE (Cimic Centre of Excellence, Enschede, The Netherlands), an army think-tank sponsored by the nations of the Denmark, Germany, Latvia, The Netherlands, Poland and Slovenia.