Since 2003, the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) has developed into a unique multi-agency programme aimed at identifying and reducing interlinked environment and security risks through strengthened cooperation in four regions: Eastern Europe, South Eastern Europe, Southern Caucasus and Central Asia.

Environment and security risks
A platform for cooperation

Changes in the environment and competition over natural resources can lead to political disputes and threaten stability of societies. Human security is also vulnerable to environmental disasters. The Environment and Security Initiative is working to transform these risks into opportunities for cooperation. Environmental cooperation in vulnerable situations can act as a bridge for improved mutual understanding, and lay the foundations for agreements on transboundary environmental management.

Environment and Security Initiative
Spotting shared benefits and solutions

ENVSEC works to identify and reduce interlinked environmental and security risks on a regional case-by-case basis. All actions are carefully built into a series of four steps:

Step 1: In-depth vulnerability assessments of environmental and security risks
Identifying hotspots for rising tensions over environmental resources

Step 2: Strengthening policies, awareness and participation
Building capacities and frameworks to prevent and address environmental and security problems.

Step 3: Joint management of environmental and security risks
Supporting coordination and concrete actions at country and regional level

Step 4: Solutions for safe environment and sustainable development
Mobilizing financial support and technical expertise for environmental clean-up and remediation.

ENVSEC main donors:
- Austria
  Austrian Development Agency
- Canada
  Canadian International Development Agency
- Finland
  Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Sweden
  Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
  Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

www.envsec.org
ENVSEC in action
A formula for sustainable results

Key results of the ENVSEC work

- Improved monitoring, information exchange and cooperation on environmental and security risks in several transboundary river basins
- Remediation solutions for hazardous mining sites and the secure elimination of hazardous chemicals such as obsolete pesticides and rocket fuel
- Strengthened regional coordination and capacities for radioactive waste management and affected site rehabilitation
- Improved policies and regulations on environment and security challenges such as dam failures, illegal logging and wild fires
- Increased regional monitoring and coordination on adaptation to the impacts of climate change on security
- Increased awareness and participation of civil society in environmental and security decision making at local level

ENVSEC added value
Enhanced products and services

- A coordinated regional approach and diverse projects with far reaching, and tangible environment and security benefits
- Policy advice backed up by concrete demonstrations on the ground
- An extensive network of stakeholders and focal points for improved national ownership
- A long term approach to environment and security supported by an extensive portfolio of lessons learned
- Benefits from specialized and complementary mandates of the six partner organizations and cooperation between them

ENVSEC partners
A unique combination of skills, experiences and networks

The complex challenges that ENVSEC seeks to address require combined action on different fronts, often simultaneously. The ENVSEC Initiative is a partnership of six international agencies with specialized and complementary mandates and expertise.

ENVSEC partner organizations:

- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- Regional Environment Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC)

Associated partner:
North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)