

New BICC Publications

BICC *brief 38 (upcoming)*

Jolien Schure and Lena Guesnet. 2008. "Côte d'Ivoire—Resource governance and the peace process" (working title). November/December

BICC *brief 37*

Lars Wirkus and Ruth Vollmer, eds. 2008. "Monitoring Environment and Security. Integrating concepts and enhancing methodologies." July
<http://www.bicc.de/publications/briefs/brief37/content.php>

BICC Endbericht

Hartmut Küchle. 2008. „Innovationen zum Schutz deutscher Flughäfen vor Anschlägen. Sicherheitstechnologien und Arbeitsplätze am Beispiel des Düsseldorfer Flughafens.“ Juli.

Ein Projekt der Hans-Böckler-Stiftung.

http://www.bicc.de/publications/concept_papers/endbericht_sicherheit/endbericht_flughafens.php

BICC Endbericht

Hartmut Küchle. 2008. „Seehäfen als neuralgische Zonen der kritischen Infrastruktur. Sicherheitstechnologische Lösungen und Arbeitsplätze am Beispiel des Hamburger Hafens.“ Juli.

Ein Projekt der Hans-Böckler-Stiftung mit freundlicher Unterstützung der Atlas Elektronik GmbH.

http://www.bicc.de/publications/concept_papers/endbericht_sicherheit/endbericht_seehafens.php

BICC Notes

Together with the *Evangelische Akademie im Rheinland*, BICC is organizing a study day on the Peace Report 2008 (*Friedensgutachten*) on 7 October. Four panels will discuss the topics of "Arms control regimes on the brink of collapse?", "European security and defence strategy—the role of the arms industry", "Threat perceptions as causes for the arms race", and "Unstable authoritarianism: the example of Zimbabwe." Authors of the Peace Report present their contributions, which will be then commented by Rolf Mützenich and Paul Schäfer, both Members of the German *Bundestag*, Ulrich Frey, Committee for non-European Ecumenism and Mission (*Ausschuss für außereuropäische Ökumene und Mission*), and Peter J. Croll, BICC.

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In July, BICC signed two new Memoranda of Understanding (MoU). They define research and project-related collaboration with the Research Triangle Institute (RTI) and the Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies (ACPACS).

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Peter J. Croll, Director of BICC, participated in the "International Disaster and Risk Conference" (IDRC) in Davos from 25-29 August. On 26 August, he facilitated the panel "Critical Information Infrastructure, Prospective Issue on Vulnerabilities, Protection and Resilience."



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On 7 August, BICC invited to a talk and discussion on "African Diaspora Groups as Key Actors in Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation Initiatives" with Dr. Awil A Mohamoud, Director of the African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC), Amsterdam. BICC and the ADPC collaborate within a three-year research project on diasporas and peacebuilding (DIASPEACE), which is funded by the European Commission under the 7th Framework Programme.

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The 13th International Metropolis Conference – "Mobility, Integration and Development in a Globalised World" will take place from 27–31 October 2008 in Bonn, World Conference Center. The goal of the Metropolis Conference, hosted by the Ministry for Intergenerational Affairs, Family, Women and Integration (MGFFI), and organized by the International Metropolis Project, is to gather and link all important participants in the area of migration development and integration and to discuss the present state of research, the current political strategies as well as the desires and needs of the people concerned. The project aims to enhance academic research capacity, encourage policy-relevant research on migration and diversity issues, and facilitate the use of this research by governments and non-governmental organizations. On 29 October (2:30 – 6:00 p.m.) BICC will organize the workshop "African Diaspora Groups as Facilitators of Peace and Development."

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July–September 2008

bulletin

A light at the end of the tunnel?

By Peter J. Croll

Public opinion in Europe often sees Africa from a particular viewpoint—or tunnel vision—which leads us to perceive Africa as the continent with 'big issues', such as wars, crises, conflicts, corruption and illness.

But it is worth having a look at Sub-Saharan Africa, which not only shows us the dark side but also achievements in the field of peace and security, thus raising hope for a light at the end of the tunnel.

One example is Kenya after the general elections in December last year. Media reports were frightening. We heard, read and saw rioting Kenyans burning houses of their fellow countrymen, setting fire to a church where men, women and children had taken refuge. Many of them were killed. Terrible and cruel things happened. This news went around the world, and the international community intervened. The crisis in Kenya found an end, with a coalition between the former conflicting parties; a compromise between the political elites who were co-responsible for the most part of the violence.

What is still unknown today are the numerous activities that took place in Kenya without which these negotiations would in all likelihood not have taken place so quickly. A small number of persons of various ethnic origin, amongst them Ambassador Kiplagat, one of the Eminent Persons in Africa, tried to positively influence the conflicting parties through the use of local media and also through the involvement of regional actors, such as current African state leaders; their attempts have indeed led to a containment of the conflict.

Such directly opposed, i.e. conflict-reducing, activities and initiatives supported by a broad range of Kenyans were not news material and thus did not enter our picture of the conflict and its management. These initiatives still exist and play a

mediation role in the current reconciliation process of the two conflict parties—a successful attempt at African ownership.

Clashes in the townships of South Africa in May this year were a surprise to everyone, even if the existence of xenophobia was a generally-known fact. To me, it seems to be too easy to say that the clashes in South Africa are of a racist, xenophobic origin. Or that it has something to do with the general willingness to use violence, which, as everyone knows, is more pronounced in South Africa than in other countries.

What was noticeable, however, was the restraint of the politicians in taking action. This is possibly due to the fact that they were considerate of the population's voice and thus did not want to enter in the foreground too much.

The commitment shown by civil society, on the other hand, is to be admired; enterprises, too, are taking a very clear stance. The high unemployment rate and the lack of social services in the townships can be considered to be central issues of the unrest.

In late September the inner tensions led to the point that the African National Congress (ANC), South Africa's governing party, prevailed on President Thabo Mbeki to resign. Jacob Zuma, President of the ANC, will presumably become the nation's leader after the elections in April 2009. There is great concern that the political splitting of the ANC will increase the country's instability.

Still, despite all skepticism and worry, which is also permitted when looking honestly at Africa, the total picture of the continent should not be narrowed down too much by this.

Sub-Saharan Africa is made up of 48 states in different phases of social, economic and political development. Despite their heterogeneity, in the past 15 years, some general developments in the field of statehood and governance can be recognized. Pan-African initiatives, such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the African Union (AU) have broken through the political taboo of non-interference in internal affairs.

The extent of external support by development aid is a major influence on political structures and content of the supported countries. Often, however, governance structures are weakened by external actors.

The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), on the other hand, is a voluntary procedure of reciprocal qualitative review of governance in African countries within the framework of the AU. The APRM is part of NEPAD, the socio-economic program of the AU. Up to now, the APRM can count 29 member states from the AU. Six states (Ghana, Rwanda, Kenya, South Africa, Nigeria and Algeria) have successfully completed the APRM process. Mozambique will follow.

Regime change from authoritarian structures to pluralistic regimes has taken place in a number of states: Benin, Cape Verde, Mali, Ethiopia, Ghana, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Namibia, Mozambique; are they sufficiently known; reported in the media?

It is true, however, that on average, Sub-Saharan Africa, next to Europe, is the continent, the evaluation of which in terms of political rights and civic liberties has improved the most in the past 15 years.

15 countries (with a total of 35 percent share of the population in Sub-Saharan Africa) have shown sustained economic growth of an average of five percent for a number of years. A proud figure compared to the average growth figures in Europe.

We are all asked to constantly verify media reports and our own attitudes and to consciously ask for good news. Who really wants to see Africa must think from problems to potentials and take both equally into consideration. We, too, have to change our standpoint if we want to change something.

Peter J. Croll, Director BICC (Bonn International Center for Conversion)

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Staff Spotlight



Lena Guesnet

Lena joined BICC in January 2008 as Research Assistant. Her interest predominantly lies with conflict resolution in Africa and the stabilization of peace processes. Within the *Fatal Transactions* team she works on the nexus of natural resources, conflict and development. Her first country study at BICC focused on resource-rich Côte d'Ivoire and, together with BICC Researcher Jolien Schure, Lena undertook field research in the West African country. Their analysis will be published as BICC *Brief* 38 in December this year. Following this experience, she is already looking forward to undertaking the next study on oil-rich yet conflict-prone Chad. Presently, she is also contributing to the preparations of the International Fatal Transactions Conference on "Private Companies and Emerging Economies in Zones of Conflict".

Before joining BICC, Lena studied Political Science, Peace and Conflict Studies and Law at Marburg University. She spent one semester at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques of Rennes, France, and one semester at the Otto-Suhr-Institut of the Free University Berlin. Before finishing her studies she went for a six month- internship with GTZ in Kigali, Rwanda. There she was involved in the program contributing to democratization and reconciliation efforts. Building on her stay in Rwanda, her final thesis concentrated on the question of post-conflict peacebuilding in Rwanda after the 1994 genocide.

Lena enjoys living in the quiet yet attractive city of Bonn and loves discovering the surroundings by bike. She is also learning Kiswahili and spends time reading.

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Digging For Peace

This year, the campaign Fatal Transactions is holding its Annual Conference in Bonn, from 21–22 November, hosted by its member BICC. The conference "Digging for Peace: Private Companies and Emerging Economies in Zones of Conflict" will offer a platform for analyzing the current *status quo* of resource extraction in (potential) conflict areas by presenting case studies of current hot spots in Africa such as Chad, Liberia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The context in which resource extraction is taking place is changing with its impact mostly felt in African developing countries. Large mining investors and multinational corporations start their explorations in resource-rich countries that are at times recovering from years of violent conflict and struggling to keep up a fragile peace. Institutional donors talk about 'responsible resource management' as a possible solution for dealing with conflict potential and stimulating positive development. Fatal Transactions wants to analyze this problem and discuss possible interventions by companies as well as governments to address the issue. The spotlight of the first day will be on 'Doing business in (post-) conflict areas', 'Contemporary resource conflicts and fuel for peace in Sub-Saharan Africa' and 'Private sector perspectives'.

At the same time, new actors such as China have entered the resource market closing large mining deals that change the landscape of the African resource sector. Therefore the emerging role of China in Africa's resource extractive business is the main topic of the second day of this conference. With references to this the emerging South-South relations and the EU and China-Africa relations with their responsibilities in resource management in (post-) conflict Africa will be the focus of the discussion.

The conference will be chaired by Peter Eigen, chair of EITI (Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative). International experts, such as Festus Mogae (former President of Botswana), Sanusha Naidu (Research Director Fahamu, network for social justice, South Africa), Andrew Bone (Head of Public Affairs, De Beers Group) and Man Kei Tam, (Sustainable Finance Campaigner Greenpeace, China), together with conference participants will discuss the topics outlined above.

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Monitoring Environment and Security

BICC published *brief* 37 "Monitoring Environment and Security—Integrating concepts and enhancing methodologies" (Lars Wirkus and Ruth Vollmer, eds.) in July.

Brief 37 is based on the proceedings of the Seminar 'Environment and Conflict—Evaluating and strengthening the means of interdisciplinary cooperation', which took place in Bonn from 18–20 September 2007. This Seminar was organized by BICC in cooperation with GMOSS (Global Monitoring for Security and Stability).

The initiative for the Seminar was rooted in three different factors:

- Environmental security and questions concerning the conflict relevance of environmental change have featured more significantly than ever before on the political agenda.
- Environmental monitoring has been a classical application area of remote sensing (RS). However, faced with the recent developments and insights on global environmental and climate change, GMOSS has initiated a new discussion on how the application of available RS technologies can be beneficial to this area of research.
- The political science-oriented framework provided by the research BICC and other invited institutions have conducted in this field was hoped to spark initiatives for interdisciplinary cooperation.

The primary goal of the seminar was thus to locate GMOSS thematically in the field of environment and security research. The focus was on (1) the identification of research gaps in this field and (2) the elaboration of options for interdisciplinary cooperation, especially with regard to how opportunities and benefits of remote sensing can be implemented in the framework of the challenges posed by global environmental and climate change.

Brief 37 collects the results of the Seminar and shows where further research is needed and also where and how cooperation is seen to be most important and beneficial.

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