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## **ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY: WHY IT WILL BE A STRATEGIC FACTOR IN NATIONAL DEFENCE**

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*This paper was written by a student attending the Canadian Forces College in fulfilment of one of the requirements of the Course of Studies. The paper is a scholastic document, and thus contains facts and opinions, which the author alone considered appropriate and correct for the subject. It does not necessarily reflect the policy or the opinion of any agency, including the Government of Canada and the Canadian Department of National Defence. This paper may not be released, quoted or copied except with the express permission of the Canadian Department of National Defence.*

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*La présente étude a été rédigée par un stagiaire du Collège des Forces canadiennes pour satisfaire à l'une des exigences du cours. L'étude est un document qui se rapporte au cours et contient donc des faits et des opinions que seul l'auteur considère appropriés et convenables au sujet. Elle ne reflète pas nécessairement la politique ou l'opinion d'un organisme quelconque, y compris le gouvernement du Canada et le ministère de la Défense nationale du Canada. Il est défendu de diffuser, de citer ou de reproduire cette étude sans la permission expresse du ministère de la Défense nationale*

## ABSTRACT

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

*Global political-strategic relationships are in the midst of a profound transformation that will end in either an essentially democratic, environmentally sustainable global community by the middle of this century, or a hell on earth, as a beleaguered, affluent, mostly white minority fight to protect their privileged, apartheid-like existence.<sup>1</sup> \$*

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*International Journal\$*

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*sustainable*

*development\$ environmental sustainability*

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*Scientific American.com ;*

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## 2. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

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Our Common Future

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*Green Guide\$*

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*Green Guide\$*

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*Humanity has the ability to make development sustainable — to ensure that it meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. The concept of sustainable development does imply limits — not absolute limits, but limitations imposed by the present state of technology and social organization on environmental resources and by the ability of the biosphere to absorb the effects of human activities. But technology and social organization can be managed and improved to make way for a new era of economic growth... [I]n the end, sustainable development is not a fixed state of harmony, but rather a process of change in which the exploitation of resources, the direction of investments, the orientation of technological development, and institutional change are made consistent with future as well as present needs.*

&

*We are deeply convinced that economic development, social development, and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development, which is the framework for our efforts to achieve a higher quality of life for all people. Equitable social development recognizes that empowering the poor to utilize environmental resources*

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*Environment\$  
A Guide to Green Government*

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*Our Common Future*

*sustainably is a necessary foundation for sustainable development. We also recognize that broad-based and sustained economic growth in the context of sustainable development is necessary to sustain social development and social justice.<sup>7</sup>*

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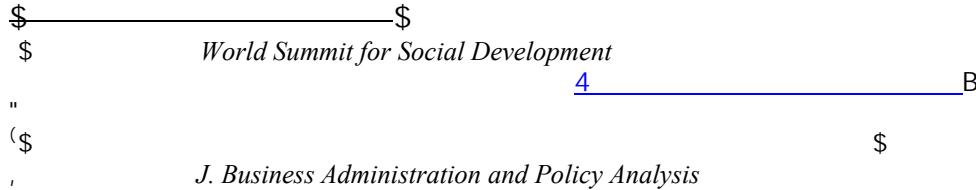
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*Earth Summit*

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- *Warfare is inherently destructive of sustainable development, and Nations shall respect international laws protecting the environment in times of armed conflict, and shall cooperate in their further establishment.*
- *Peace, development, and environmental protection are interdependent and indivisible.*\$

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*Global Environmental Politics*

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*Rio Declaration on Environment and Development*

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*development mechanism\$*

*Joint Implementation\$*

*International emissions trading\$*

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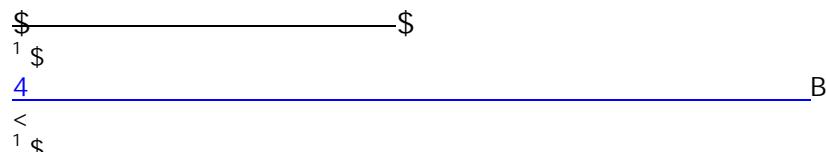
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### 3. DEFENCE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

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## The Environment as a Factor in Conflict: Environmental Degradation and Resource Scarcity

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*Global Environmental Politics*

<sup>1</sup> \$ *New Roles for the Military,\$*

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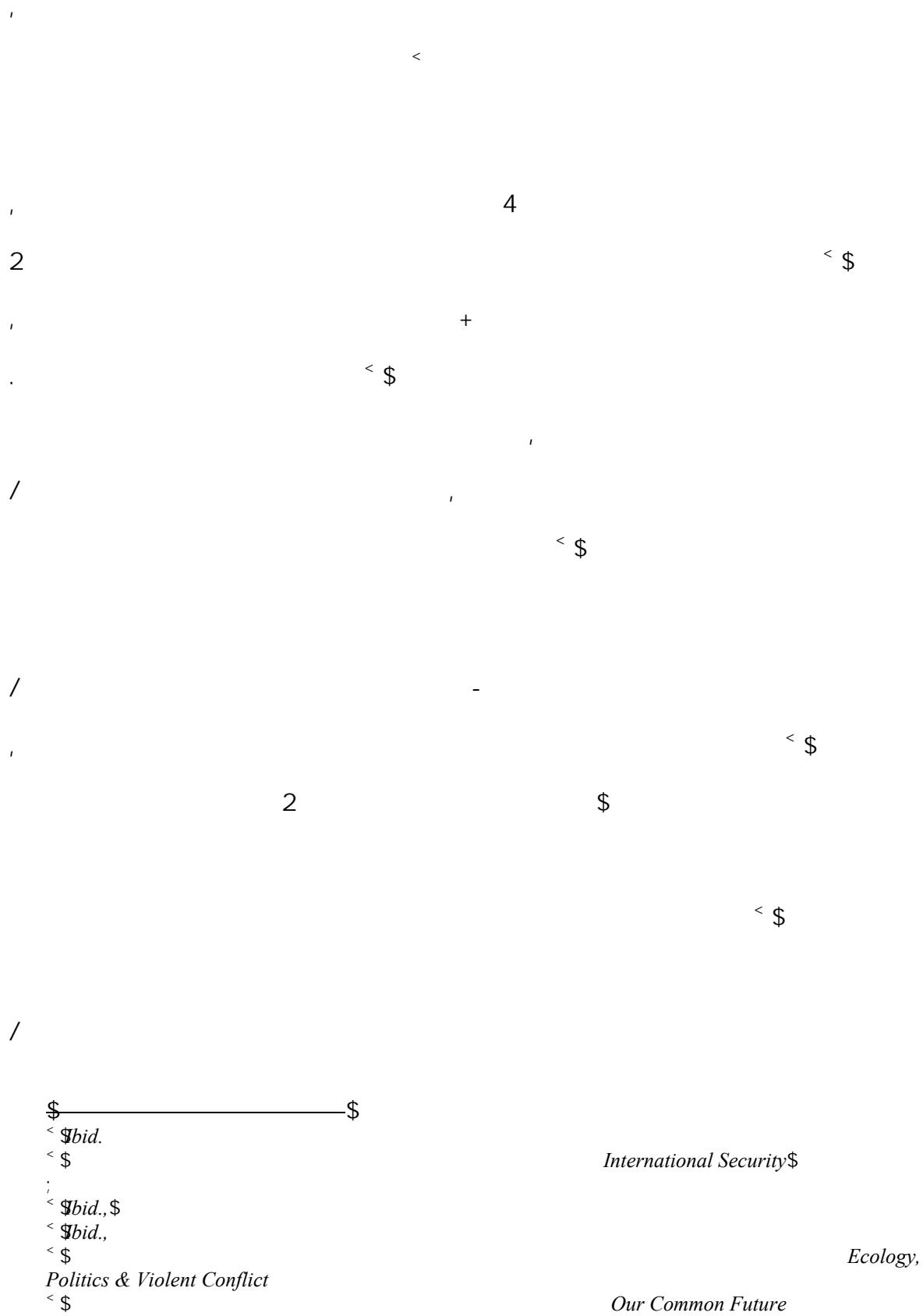
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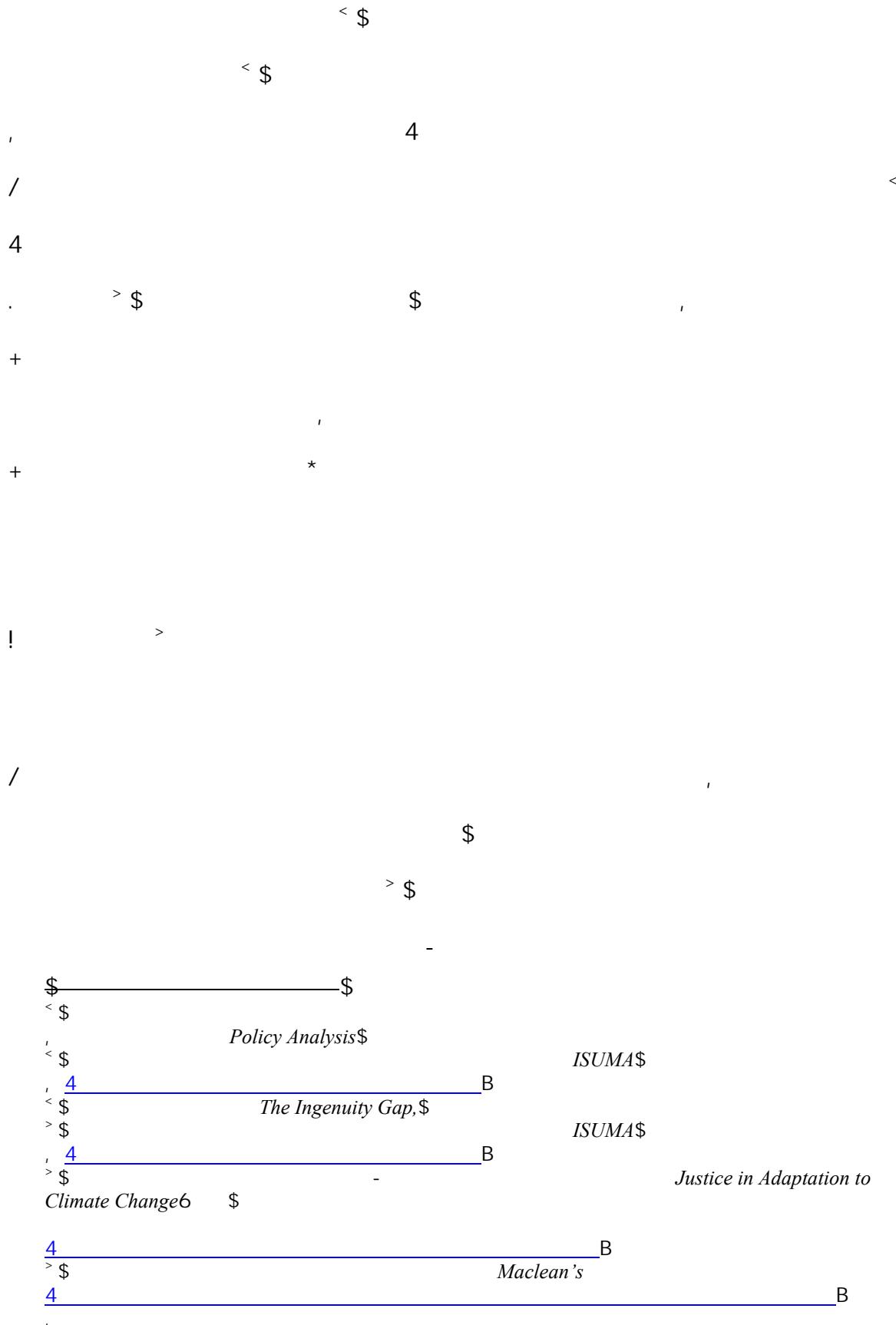
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F                   *Guns, Germs, and Steel*  
<sup>1</sup> \$                   *Environmental Security and UN Reform*  
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*International Security*\$  
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## The Environment as a Factor in Operations: Environmental Effects of Military Activities

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*The United Nations force is prohibited from employing methods of warfare which may cause superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering, or which are intended, or may be expected to cause, widespread, long-term and severe damage to the natural environment.* \$ \$

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> \$ *Seapower at the Millennium*

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& *Seapower at the Millennium*  
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> \$ *Seapower at the Millennium*

> *Observance by the United Nations forces of international humanitarian law*

> \$ *Aftermath: the remnants of war,*\$  
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*the onset of a new Cold War strategic rivalry between two, or among three or more, of the major nuclear armed states would carry with it immense economic and environmental costs that would jeopardize the ability of the global community to survive the 21st century by diverting resources away from the quest for sustainable development, environmental cleanup and pollution prevention.* <sup>></sup> \$

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*International Journal*

*Our Common Future*

*Global Environmental Politics*

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#### 4. THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY<sup>55</sup>

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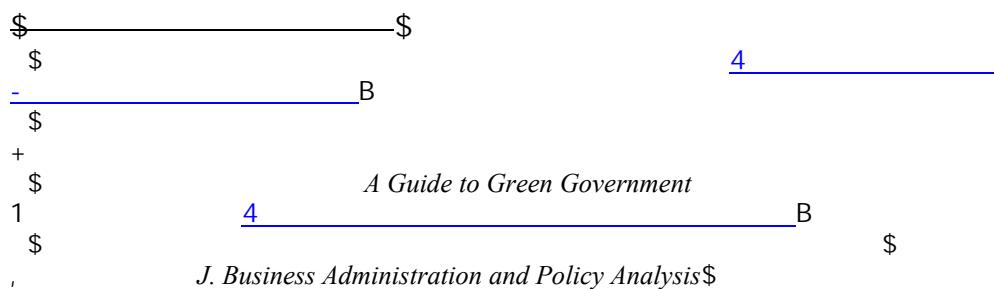
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*A Guide to Green Government,\$*

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- *a commitment to meet or exceed federal environmental statutes and regulations, and the emulation of best practices from the public and private sector;*
  - *implementation of environmental management systems, starting with the principles of the Canadian Standards Association's Standard Z750-94; and*
  - *inclusion in departmental sustainable development strategies, of plans that incorporate principles for environmental management systems and best practices to improve environmental performance in procurement, construction and operation of buildings, fleet management and land utilization.*

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*The Ottawa Citizen*  
*Canada in the World;*  
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## *Promoting Sustainable Development\$*

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CIDA's Policy for Environmental Sustainability

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## 5. DND's RESPONSE

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*Environmentally Sustainable Defence Activities*

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*Sustainable Development in Government Operations Committee\$*  
*Interdepartmental Network on Sustainable Development Strategies.<sup>88</sup>\$*

*Infrastructure and Environment Oversight Committee*

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- Incorporate environmental considerations into decision-making and project management;
- Respect federal policies, laws, and regulations governing the environment, and where appropriate, consider provincial and municipal legislation, and international standards;
- Encourage pollution prevention and adopt practices respectful of the environment;
- Continuously strive to improve environmental management practices;
- Communicate the environmental policy to all DRDC personnel and make it available to the public on request. \$ \$

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<—————Greening R&D, Our Environmental Commitment—————B

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*Environmental Impacts of Weapons*

*Working Group, \$*

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*Army takes the initiative in protecting the environment*

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## 6. OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS' RESPONSE

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*Interdepartmental Network for Sustainable Development Strategies\$*

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*Working Across Government to Advance Sustainable*

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## 7. INTERNATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS: THE RESPONSE OF ALLIES

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*The Economist*\$

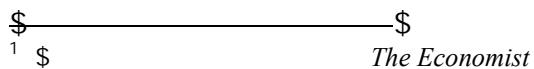
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- *Sustainability is a concept; not a program, process or system.*
- *Sustainability is focused on the mission and its link to the natural and built environments and includes land management, operations and infrastructure.*
- *It involves a cross functional approach including all stakeholders - inside and outside the fence line.*
- *Installation Sustainability, like safety, is everyone's business.* <sup>§1</sup>

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*Defence Environment and Heritage*

*Management*

*Defence is entrusted with the stewardship of our oceans and more than three million hectares of land, water, and the air space over it. With the primary mission of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) to defend Australia and its national interests, our aim is to demonstrate to the community that we are worthy of their trust by contributing to sustaining the environment for future generations.<sup>118</sup>*

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*Programme for Security through Science\$ Committee on the*

*Challenges of Modern Society\$*

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1 Water – a key security asset.\$  
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## 8. STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS: HOW WE SHOULD PLAN

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*Policy at the Turn of the Century;*

<sup>1</sup> !

*Executive Action*

<sup>1</sup> *Ibid.* \$ \$

*Our Common Future*

*Campaigns for International Security: Canada's Defence*

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*Green Book*\$

*Adopt the principle of life-cycle management by applying sustainable criteria at every stage of the enterprise's activity —from R&D, design for recycling and reuse, and the utilization of raw materials and hazardous substances, to production processes, transportation and distribution, sales and customer use, and ultimate disposal.*

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## 9. CONCLUSION

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*et al. Preliminary assessment of the dispersion of propellant residues  
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