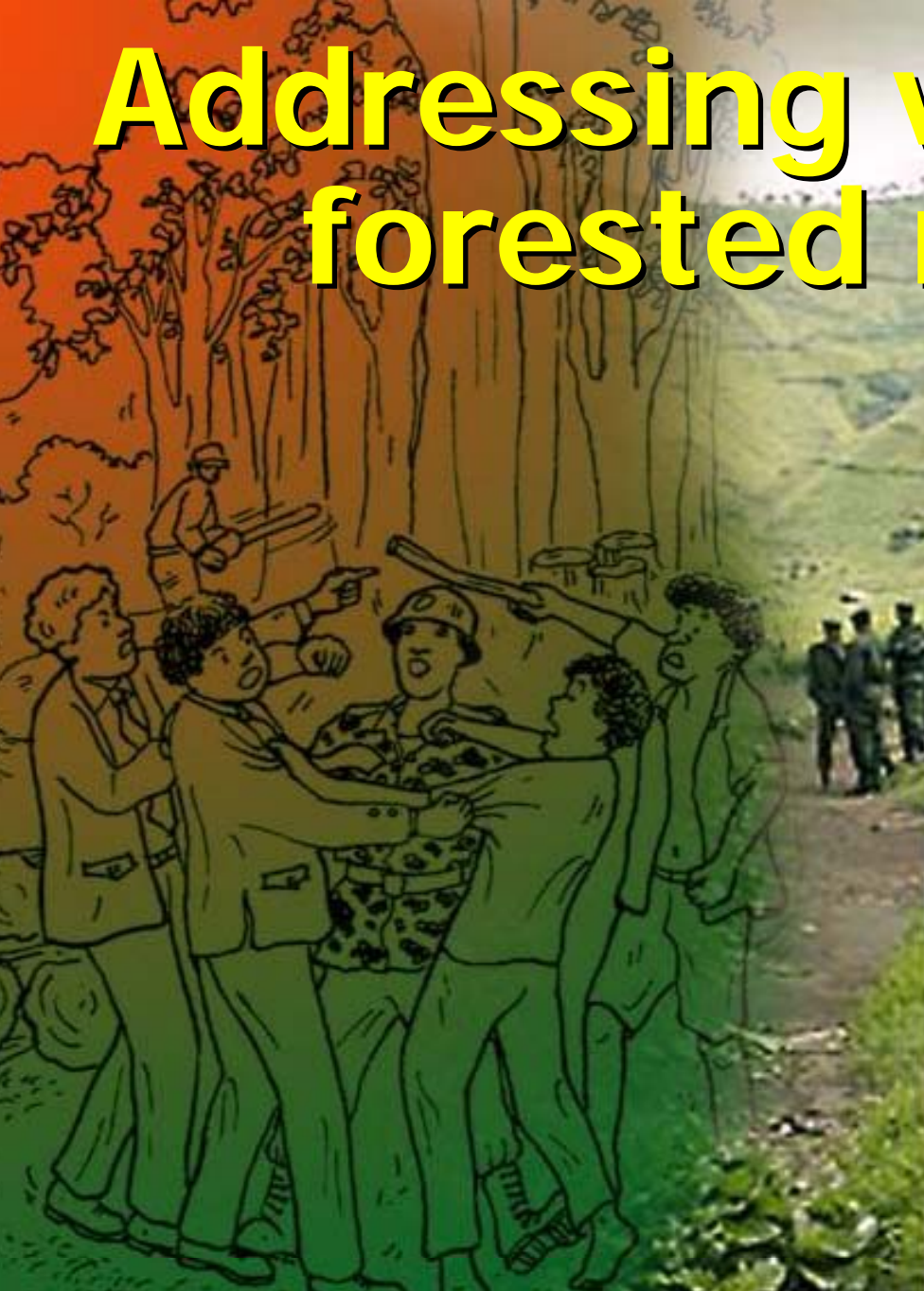




**Center for International Forestry Research**

# Addressing violence in forested regions



# Violent conflict is common in forest regions

In recent years it affected two dozen countries

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## BBC NEWS

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Monday, 18 September, 2000, 17:20 GMT 18:20 UK

### Colombia's child warriors



Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) recruit

A minor is killed every two hours in Colombia's civil conflict, but children continue to be recruited to the front lines. The BBC's Jeremy McDermott visited a

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See also:

- 17 Sep 00 | Americas: Fierce fighting in Colombia
- 03 Sep 00 | Americas: Rebel attack in Colombia
- 09 Feb 00 | UK Politics: Children urge action on young soldiers
- 17 Aug 00 | Americas: ... children



# It makes sense to invest in forested regions, despite small populations

- Violence that starts there often spreads (e.g. Chiapas, Colombia, Nepal, Philippines)
- Treat them well before it is too late



# Could better approaches to these regions really avoid violence?

It is hard to say. Still:

- Nicaragua's Miskitus rose up while Panama's Kuna did not
- India's Naxalites flourish in Jharkand but faded in W. Bengal

We need more research



# Sanctions on conflict timber may help end violence:

- did in Cambodia
- may have in Liberia
- could have in DRC



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UN Security Council in session

## UN Security Council adjusts sanctions against Liberia

22 December 2003 – Responding to recent changes in Liberia, where a transitional government has been established, the United Nations Security Council today adjusted its embargoes against the West African country, especially its ban on timber and diamond exports and war materiel imports.

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# Forests belong in peace talks to:

- build confidence (e.g. Colombia)
- protect patrimony (e.g. Rwanda)
- address conflicts over resources (e.g. Myanmar, Nicaragua)



# Forests play key roles post-conflict

Think of Cambodia, Liberia, DRC, Sudan, Aceh:

- Using forests as pay-offs is risky business
- Encouraging logging may promote conflict
- So may forcing people out of parks



# Don't forget the environment when:

- dealing with refugees & displaced persons
- addressing post-conflict



# Bridging security, development, and conservation

- Short-term thinking can undermine long-term goals
- We need dialogue & coordinated action



# Thank you

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"Soldier on the field" by **BBC NEWS**: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/spl/hi/picture\\_gallery/05/africa\\_tales\\_of\\_rape\\_in\\_dr\\_congo/html/8.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/spl/hi/picture_gallery/05/africa_tales_of_rape_in_dr_congo/html/8.stm);

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- **SLIDE: Don't forget the environment**

"Sudanese Refugees" by **BBC NEWS**: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/4588974.stm>;

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