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SRC Abstract

Linking degradation of natural resources to the development and embroilment of a conflict is a common approach in the field of environmental security. Less common is the linking between cooperation over natural resources and the triggering of broader forms of peace between adversary parties (Ali 2007: 1). This is the approach that environmental peace-building takes. While not without challenges, this conflict resolution strategy has proven effective in various parts of the world. The common question that threads these cases together is how ecological factors can play an instrumental role in the resolution of the territorial conflict at hand.

The goal of this particular research endeavor is to discover the true potential for environmental peace-building in the case of the disputed island along the border between Costa Rica and Nicaragua. I will apply the framework for environmental peace-building and collaboration over transboundary resources to the case study of this disputed island. There is little research done on how environmental cooperation can lead to the effective and long-term resolution of a binational conflict involving an island in dispute and the triggering of political peace at large. As such, the final proposal on scenarios for environmental peace-building will shed light on border disputes of similar nature.

#### Work Cited

Ali, S. (2007). Introduction: A Natural Connection between Ecology and Peace? In S. Ali (Ed.), *Peace Parks: Conservation and Conflict Resolution*. Cambridge: The MIT Press.