

Preface

This volume is the result of the combined efforts of a number of individuals and organisations across the African continent, and beyond. It represents the continuation of a collaborative effort by the African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS) and the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) to explore and promote understanding of the complex dimensions and causes of conflicts in Africa, with a focus on environmental aspects of conflict.

ACTS is an inter-governmental policy research and training organization located in Nairobi, Kenya. The centre's mission is to strengthen the capacity of African countries and institutions to harness science and technology for sustainable development. As part of its programme on biodiversity and environmental governance, ACTS promotes better understanding of the links between biodiversity, livelihoods, resource rights, gender and conflicts, as well as effective prevention and management of conflicts involving natural resources.

The ISS is a regional applied policy research institute with offices in Pretoria and Cape Town with a mission to conceptualise, inform and enhance the security debate in Africa. The Institute undertakes research and analysis; supports policy formulation; awareness-raising; collecting, interpreting and disseminating information at national, regional and international levels, and capacity-building.

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Given the dynamic nature of African politics, it is important to point out that much of the research was completed in mid-2004, though the chapters have been updated to reflect changes since that time.

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It should be recognized that the contents of this book are wholly attributable to the authors and do not in any way represent the views of the individuals and institutions acknowledged.

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