Climate change, Destructive conflicts and Humiliation: matters arising

By

Adenrele Awotona
Center for Rebuilding Sustainable Communities after Disasters
University of Massachusetts Boston

A presentation at the 2009 Workshop on Humiliation and Violent Conflict representing the 14th Annual HumanDHS Conference and the Sixth Workshop on Humiliation and Violent Conflict, December 10-11, 2009

Abstract
A number of recent studies have advanced the view that climate change and environmental degradation are at the “roots” of a “succession of wars across Africa.” These were by the British, the US National Intelligence Council, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Columbia University's Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN), and the Center for Naval Analysis, amongst others. Indeed, a November 2009 report by Burke et al has concluded that “climate change is likely to increase the number of civil wars raging in Africa.”

This presentation briefly reviews these inferences and prognostications. It then identifies some unsettling issues for discussion at the Workshop and for further scrutiny.