

Eagle Hill Online Forum

Water Sustainability, Vulnerability, and Security: Preparing for More Stress, Floods, and Droughts

Tuesday, September 1, 5PM

Abstract: Fresh water is essential for human civilization. In addition to being used in the household for hydration and sanitation, it is used to grow food and fiber, manufacture goods, and provide services. The global population and economy is growing, meaning more people are using more water. At the same time, climate change is altering the spatial and temporal distribution of renewable fresh water. These trends are creating stresses and uncertainty in the balance between the supply and demand for water. Mr. Parris will discuss these trends and an analytic framework to understand water related vulnerabilities and their implications for international security and sustainability.

Biosketch: Mr. Parris is the President of ISciences, LLC. He has over 35 years of experience in the analysis of conflict, fragility, and sustainability using his skills in policy analysis, quantitative natural and social science, management information science, remote sensing and geospatial analysis. His work focuses on issues related to vulnerability, sustainable development, and the role of information systems in supporting integrated science and public policy enterprises. Recent projects include assessments of industrial vulnerability to chronic, episodic and long-term global water stress, the relationship between economic shocks and subsequent political instability, vulnerability to flooding in the Mekong River basin, food crises in Africa, and political instability in India. He has worked with several global corporations, the socially responsible investment community, and non-governmental organizations to define and assess measures of corporate sustainability.