In November 2016, the French Institute for International and Strategic Affairs (IRIS) launched the Observatory of Climate Change Impacts on Defence and Security, a four-year project financed by the Directorate General for International Relations and Strategy (French Ministry of Defence).

**Team**

IRIS gathers a multidisciplinary team with several scholars working on different topics (security, defence, migrations, energy, economy, climate change, regional areas), climate scientists, military officers, engineers, etc. The Observatory is headed by Bastien ALEX (IRIS) and François GEMENNE (Université de Liège) and brings together researchers from other think tanks like the Fondation pour la Recherche Stratégique (FRS) and the Group for Research and Information on Peace and Security (GRIP).

**Objectives**

- Anticipating morphological and physical changes on operation fields
- Assessing impacts on a range of Defence missions
- Preventing risks for France and its sphere of influence
- Adapting our capabilities, policies and doctrine
- Avoiding normative constraints due to mitigation needs
- Understanding correlations between climate change and conflicts

**Deliverables**

- **Study reports** to better understand, assess and prevent direct/indirect risks and threats related to climate change impacts:
  - Examining observed and expected changes and their impact on human systems
  - Studying national climate policies
  - Analysing disaster and risk management policies and the participation of armed forces.
  - Elaborating crisis scenarios

- **Bimonthly newsletter** to follow all news related to the Observatory’s work: current tensions and conflicts directly or indirectly linked to environmental and climatic factors, UNFCCC negotiations, scientific progress, innovations in the defence sector, political statements and commitments, energy policy:
  - Synthetic approach
  - Thematic groupings
  - Latest publications and reports
  - Events calendar (seminars, workshops, international conferences, etc.)
Other activities delivered by the Observatory:

- **Analysis** to further develop a specific topic of interest (strategic or operational) for the defense sector
- **Seminars** to share knowledge and ideas with European and international partners
- **One-off interventions** to disseminate the Observatory’s work and promote a French expertise on these issues.

**International outreach**

The Observatory regularly takes part in many international events such as:

IRIS is also one of the founding members of the **International Military Council on Climate and Security** (IMCCS). Launched by an international consortium, the IMCCS is a network of high graded military, defense experts, and security institutions from all around the world, that seeks to anticipate, analyze and address the security risks of climate change.

**Contacts**

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