

Background

In the last sixty years, at least forty percent of all intrastate conflicts have had a link to natural resources and the environment. From Darfur to the Middle East, and from the Democratic Republic of Congo to Nepal, violent conflict has been directly or indirectly fuelled by the scarcity of key resources like fertile land and water, or the abundance of lootable resources like timber and minerals. The growing impacts of climate change now threaten not only to exacerbate existing tensions, but to create additional ones. At the same time, the sound management of natural resources in post-conflict settings can provide a foundation for addressing the pressing livelihood and governance challenges that are critical to sustaining peace.

In light of these important linkages between environment and conflict, peacebuilding efforts are increasingly focusing on institutionalizing transparent, effective and sustainable management of key natural resources to help post-conflict countries achieve stability and development. Much remains to be done to translate this commitment into concrete action, but the establishment of the UN Peacebuilding Commission provides a crucial opportunity to address these issues more systematically and coherently both within and outside the UN system.

With a view to offering independent expertise and advice to the Commission and the wider peacebuilding community, UNEP established the Expert Advisory Group on Environment, Conflict and Peacebuilding in February 2008. Consisting of leading academics, think tanks and non-governmental organizations with combined experience from over thirty conflict-affected countries, the Group provides policy inputs, develops tools, and identifies best practice for using natural resources and the environment in ways that contribute to peacebuilding and prevent relapse into conflict.

Mission

The Expert Advisory Group supports UNEP to assess and address the role of natural resources and the environment in peacebuilding by:

- Providing strategic and independent expert advice
- Identifying best practices and recommended policies
- Developing and applying analytical tools
- Participating in field missions, trainings and evaluations

Outputs

Recent activities by the Group include:

- Flagship policy paper: *From conflict to peacebuilding: The role of natural resources and the environment* (published February 2009)
- Expert presentation on the role of natural resources and environment in conflict and peacebuilding to the UN Peacebuilding Commission's Working Group on Lessons Learned
- Fieldwork on behalf of UNEP in post-conflict countries, such as Rwanda, DR Congo, the Central African Republic and Sierra Leone
- Participation in the high-level mission to the Sahel conducted by Jan Egeland, Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General

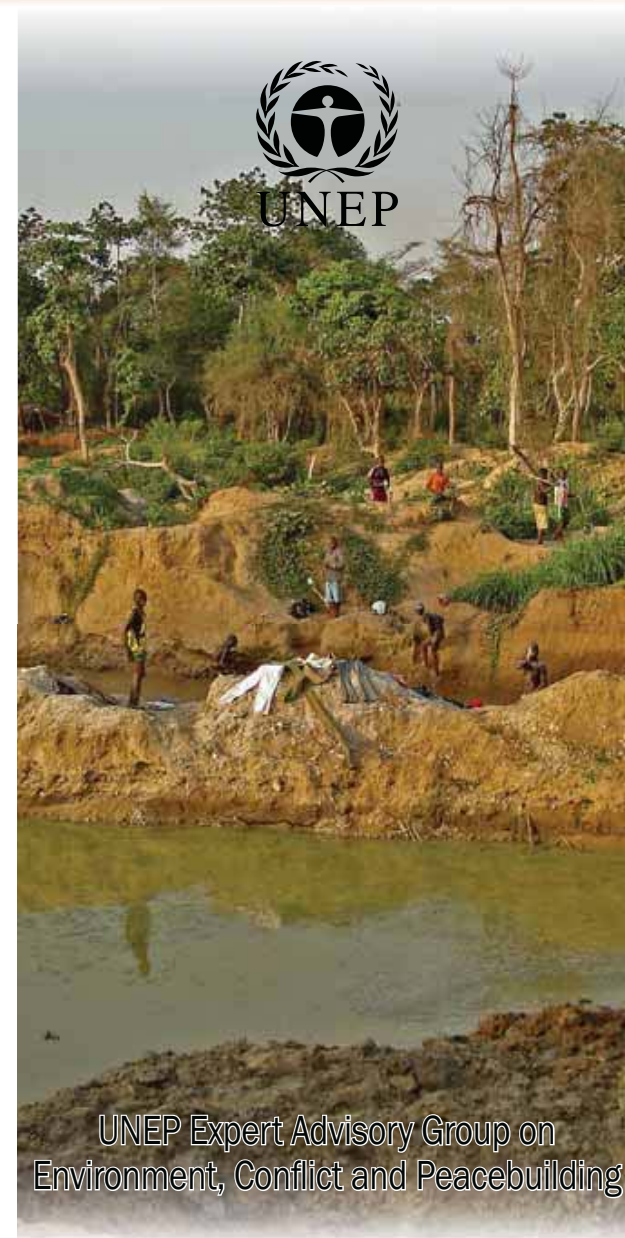
Management

The Expert Advisory Group was established by UNEP, in cooperation with the Environment and Security Programme of the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD). UNEP conducts field-based environmental assessments and strengthens national environmental management capacity in countries affected by conflicts and disasters. Through its Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch, UNEP has operated in more than 25 countries and published 18 assessment reports since 1999. Based on this expertise, UNEP is providing technical assistance to the UN Peacebuilding Commission to prevent natural resources and environmental stress from undermining the peacebuilding process, while at the same time serving as a platform for dialogue, cooperation and confidence-building. Since 1999, IISD has been examining how better environmental management can contribute to human security, including sustainable livelihoods, resilience to disasters, disease prevention, conflict avoidance, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction. Facilitated through partnerships with governments, NGOs and multilateral institutions, this work seeks to offer practical tools for addressing the links between environment and security.

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UNEP Expert Advisory Group on
Environment, Conflict and Peacebuilding

Members

The ten senior members of the Expert Advisory Group represent a diverse range of professional and geographical backgrounds. Each provides an authoritative perspective on a broad scope of issues related to natural resources and conflict, as well as the support of an extensive professional network, influential institutions, and respected specialists. Members are appointed for a two-year renewable term on a consensus basis.



Alexander Carius
 Founder and Director
 Adelphi Research, Germany

Alexander is a leading expert on environment, conflict and cooperation. His team at Adelphi has been a driving force behind many political initiatives on climate change and energy and environment and security, advising domestic government agencies, international organizations and the European Union. Supporting him are Achim Maas and Moira Feil.



Ken Conca
 Professor of Government and Politics,
 Director, Harrison Program on the Future Global Agenda
 University of Maryland, USA

Ken's research has focused on environment, conflict, and cooperation, with particular emphasis on the mechanisms of environmental peacemaking, stakeholder models of conflict management and conflict transformation, and watershed-scale resources conflicts. He has written extensively on topics related to environment, peace, security, conflict, and global governance.



Geoff Dabelko
 Director, The Environmental Change and Security Program (ECSP)
 Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington DC, USA

Geoff has facilitated dialogue among policymakers, practitioners and scholars grappling with complex links between environment, population, conflict and security for more than 15 years. His research focuses on environmental pathways to confidence-building and peacemaking, with an emphasis on managing transboundary freshwater resources. Supporting him are Gib Clarke and Sean Peoples.



Mike Davis
 Team Leader, Conflict Resources
 Global Witness, London, UK

Mike heads the Global Witness Conflict Resources Team, which works to break the links between conflict and extraction of natural resources. His work with Global Witness has encompassed field investigations, managing information-gathering networks, international lobbying and working with the media. Supporting him is Rosie Sharp.



Juan Dumas
 Director General
 Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano, Ecuador

Juan is a practitioner in conflict resolution methodologies for natural resources in Latin America, Europe and the United States. He joined Partners for Democratic Change – Argentina in 1999, from where he conducted various public conflict resolution and policy dialogue interventions. In 2003, Juan joined Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano as Director General.



Mark Halle
 Executive Director, IISD-Europe
 International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), Switzerland

Mark's career began in the field of international negotiations, serving in the diplomatic secretariat of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. He then spent five years with UNEP, before moving to WWF and IUCN. Mark is now Executive Director of IISD-Europe and Director of the Trade and Investment programme. Supporting him are Anne Hammill and Oli Brown.



Patricia Kameri-Mbote
 Programme Director for Africa
 International Environmental Law Research Centre (IELRC), Kenya

Patricia is an Associate Professor of Law at the School of Law, University of Nairobi. An internationally renowned scholar and a Senior Advocate of the High Court of Kenya, she holds a Doctorate from Stanford University. Her areas of specialization include environment and natural resources law and policy, human rights, property rights and women's rights.



Richard A. Matthew
 Associate Professor of Environmental Politics
 Director, Center for Unconventional Security Affairs
 University of California Irvine, USA

Richard's research focuses on the environmental dimensions of conflict and security in the developing world, especially South Asia and East Africa, where he has collaborated with IISD to study environmental change in relation to violent conflict, human security and post-conflict reconstruction in several countries including Nepal, Pakistan, Rwanda and the DRC. Supporting him is Bryan McDonald.



Silas Kpanan'Ayoung Siakor
 Director
 Sustainable Development Initiative, Liberia

Silas exposed then Liberian President Charles Taylor for using the profits of unchecked logging to cover the costs of a brutal fourteen-year civil war. His work led the UN Security Council to ban the export of Liberian timber in 2003. He has since been working with Liberia's new leadership to create sustainable timber practices. Silas is the winner of the 2006 Goldman prize for Africa.



Erika Weinthal
 Associate Professor of Environmental Policy
 Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University, USA

Erika's research focuses on environmental and natural resources policy, regional water cooperation, and the politics of the "resource curse". She has carried out field work in Central Asia, the Caucasus, the Russian Federation, and the Middle East. She is the author of State Making and Environmental Cooperation: Linking Domestic and International Politics in Central Asia.

