

: Programme

Draft: 19 September 2022

The Berlin Summer Dialogue – Online Edition 2022

Saving the environment, fostering peace?

Opportunities and limits of environmental peacebuilding practices

Online/worldwide

4 Sessions each Tuesday and Thursday from 20 September – 29 September
15:00-16:30 hrs (CEST)

Conference language

English

Cooperating Partners



#bsd22

BACKGROUND

Global environmental change and armed conflict are among the greatest challenges of the 21st century. Less in the public awareness are the multiple interlinkages between these two threats. According to the United Nations, 40 percent of interstate conflicts in the last 60 years have involved natural resource distribution disputes. In the very near future, climate change will further limit the availability of scarce resources such as land and water, potentially leading to further conflict both in regions that are massively affected by the negative consequences of climate change and in regions where people find refuge who have to leave their homes due to climate change.

Constructive solutions to break out of silo thinking and link both peacebuilding and environmental protection are needed more than ever. This is where the concept of environmental peacebuilding may come in. It was first explored and described in detail 20 years ago, and was further developed by local practitioners, but also endorsed by international programmes, i.e. the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Environmental peacebuilding is not a panacea, because it is primarily a local-level approach. But new attention to this has been generated, among other things, by the UN's sustaining peace agenda, which is more strongly concerned with peacebuilding that emerges locally and from within society. Long-term peace must also be shaped over a longer period of time and does not come about solely through the signing of ceasefires or peace treaties.

What difference can it make to use environmental peacebuilding practices? In the run-up to this year's climate negotiations in Egypt, the Berlin Summer Dialogue will focus on the opportunities and limits arising from environmental peacebuilding through hands-on experience from practitioners around the world.

: Session I: 20 September | 15:00-16:30 hrs (CEST)

ONLINE DIALOGUE

BUILDING TRUST – LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS AS A MEANS FOR PEACE

Conflict parties are often to such an extent caught up in traditional enemy stereotypes that it seems difficult to approach each other. Environmental peacebuilding assumes that working together on environmental issues can help to bring (former) conflict parties closer together and build new trust. This session will focus on practical examples. It will ask about the success factors and challenges of such approaches.

Chair

Angelika Spelten

Former Senior Researcher
Institute for Development and Peace (INEF)
University of Duisburg-Essen

Welcome to the series

Dr Marcus Kaplan

Executive Director
Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn

Ana-Maria Trăsnea

Representative of the State of Berlin to the Federal Government
State Secretary for Engagement, Democracy Promotion
and International Affairs, Berlin

Meeting your fellow participants (breakout rooms)

Best practice from Israel/Palestine/Jordan

Yuval Ben David

Investment Officer
EcoPeace Middle East, Tel Aviv

Rana Qaimari

Programme Manager
EcoPeace Middle East, Ramallah

Best practice from DRC/Uganda/Rwanda

Dr Andrew G. Seguya

Executive Secretary
Greater Virunga Transboundary Collaboration, DRC/Uganda/Ruanda, Kigali

Discussion with the audience

: Session II: 22 September | 15:00-16:30 hrs (CEST)

ONLINE DIALOGUE

CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND PEACEBUILDING: TWO SIDES OF THE SAME MEDAL?

The challenges posed by climate change as well as conflicts are immense, as unequal access to resources such as water or land can exacerbate such conflicts. At the same time, adaptation measures can also lead to inequalities and thus further conflicts. To enable sustainable peace, it may make sense to link peacebuilding efforts and climate adaptation. What are tools to integrate both on a national or regional level? What are the lessons learned so far?

Chair

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Meeting your fellow participants (breakout rooms)

Panel Discussion

Alec Crawford

Director of Nature for Resilience

International Institute for Sustainable Development, Toronto

Ousseyni Kalilou

Ecological Security Fellow at the Council for Strategic Risks, Washington D.C.

Founder of the Gum Arabic Institute of Poverty Alleviation, Greensboro

Ansoumane Samassy Souare

Regional Program Officer – Peace Monitoring Center (PMC)

West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), Conakry

Discussion with the audience

🟡 **Session III: 27 September | 15:00-16:30 hrs (CEST)**

ONLINE DIALOGUE

MAKING A DIFFERENCE – THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN ENVIRONMENTAL PEACEBUILDING

In recent years, peace research has repeatedly highlighted the importance of women's participation in peace processes. Although they make up half of the population, their role in political processes is often marginalised. With regard to environmental peacebuilding, there is another component: especially in rural areas, women are often the ones responsible for natural resource management and have experience in how to continue to provide for themselves and their families despite changing climate conditions. How can women be empowered and their expertise be better recognized and integrated in environmental peacebuilding projects, in particular, when international donors are involved?

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University of Duisburg-Essen

Meeting your fellow participants (breakout rooms)

Hands-on experience

Josephine Ekiru

Peace Coordinator
Northern Rangelands Trust Kenya, Isiolo

Response - Connecting the local experience with the international level

Molly Kellogg

Gender, Climate and Security Advisor
UN Environment, Geneva

Discussion with the audience

🟡 **Session IV: 29 September | 15:00-16:30 hrs (CEST)**

ONLINE DIALOGUE

THE CLIMATE – PEACEBUILDING NEXUS ON THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE – NEXT STEPS

In the past 20 years, there has been a wider recognition of the importance of connecting the climate and peacebuilding nexus; in particular UNEP has been a strong advocate to mainstream environmental peacebuilding. However, critics say that COP26 last year hasn't moved enough to integrate the importance of peacebuilding more in the climate negotiations. Will there be a chance to put it more prominently on this year's agenda? Could (or should) international organisations and/or donors play a role in expanding the practice of environmental peacebuilding?

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Meeting your fellow participants (breakout rooms)

Roundtable Discussion

Harriet Mackaill Hill

Advocacy Advisor "Climate and Conflict"

International Alert, London

Dr Catherine Wong

Policy Specialist - Climate and Security Risk

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), New York

Discussion with the audience