



Announcements

Apply Now! Practicum on Experiential Peacebuilding: The Environment

10 April 2015 | Outward Bound Peacebuilding

Join an extraordinary journey in the Costa Rican cloud forest that integrates conflict resolution and leadership training in the context of natural resources via a unique multicultural outdoor experience. [Read More](#)

Livelihoods Development Critical to Post-Conflict Peacebuilding and Economic Recovery – New Study

3 April 2015 | ELI & UNEP

In the wake of armed conflict, rebuilding livelihoods is critical to peacebuilding and economic redevelopment, according to a new study launched today by the Environmental Law Institute (ELI), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the University of Tokyo, McGill University, and Tufts University. [Read More](#)

Events

Warfare, Environment, Social Inequality and Peace Studies (WESIPS) Conference

29 May 2015 | Winthrop University and James Madison University, Seville, Spain

Over millennia, warfare, environmental degradation, and social inequality have brought much suffering to humankind. Historically, scholarly attempts at understanding the nature of these problems have been conducted through the prisms of their respective disciplines. In order to facilitate interdisciplinary cross-fertilization, this conference brings together a cadre of internationally recognized scholars to... [Read More](#)

The 8th International Spatial Socio-Cultural Knowledge Workshop: Defence Regional Engagement – The Role of Human Geography in Enabling Defence Engagement

1 June 2015 – 3 June 2015 | The Defence Academy of the United Kingdom and Cranfield University, Shrivenham, UK

Past workshops have considered data requirements, the associated operational needs and the tools for addressing those needs. In 2014 the event drew these initiatives

together to consider strategies for sharing data in the fields of stabilisation and disaster response. [Read More](#)

Culture in Conflict Symposium

3 June 2015 – 5 June 2015 | The Defence Academy of the United Kingdom and Cranfield University, Shrivenham, UK

Whoever we are, our culture and cultural heritage dominates how we see and experience the world. It gives us attitudes, expectations and assumptions that seem natural – so natural that we do not notice. But different groups have different cultures, and that's where the trouble starts. [Read More](#)

MENA Economies: Diversification, Growth and Employment

8 June 2015 – 9 June 2015 | Chatham House, London, UK

How can countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) diversify economies, create new employment opportunities, and unleash the potential of an increasing number of young, educated and underemployed citizens? [Read More](#)

21st International Symposium on Society and Resource Management

13 June 2015 – 18 June 2015 | The International Association for Society and Natural Resources and the College of Charleston, Charleston, SC

The theme for the 2015 ISSRM centers on understanding and adapting to change. Drivers of and responses to change can take many forms and be observed and measured in many contexts – whether social, behavioral, economic, political, or technological; changes to natural or built environments; or changes to culture or tradition. [Read More](#)

6th Annual Responsible Extractives Summit

29 June 2015 – 30 June 2015 | Ethical Corporation, London, UK

The Responsible Extractives Summit is now established as the meeting place for oil, gas and mining sustainability professionals looking to learn the latest in corporate responsibility and sustainable innovation. [Read More](#)

Witness Peacebuilding in Action

9 July 2015 – 18 July 2015 | Karuna Center for Peacebuilding, Sri Lanka

The Karuna Center for Peacebuilding announces a 10-day educational journey on “Witness Peacebuilding in Action” in Sri Lanka; the agenda is still under development and may include themes such as natural resources and climate change. Participants will meet with diverse Sri Lankan peace leaders and learn about the successes and... [Read More](#)

Water Security in the Middle East

9 July 2015 – 11 July 2015 | Chatham House, London, UK

The speaker will outline critical water security issues facing countries in the Middle East, including the impact of a drying Euphrates on food production and livelihoods, as well as the rising use of oil and gas in desalination in the Gulf states. [Read More](#)

Advanced Training for Company–Community Mediation in Complex Environments

19 July 2015 – 25 July 2015 | ACCESS Facility and The Graduate School of Business, University of Cape Town (GSB), Cape Town, South Africa

With its focus on helping parties find common ground and a collective vision for moving forward, mediation can be a useful intervention for companies and communities. But in places lacking the legal, social or political infrastructure commensurate with the range of challenges posed by large–scale company operations, mediation – and... [Read More](#)

Library

In the last two weeks, 23 new publications were added to our [online library](#) of materials on environmental peacebuilding. Here is a sampling of the new additions:

Hollow Promises: An FPIC Assessment of Golden Veroleum and Agri–Resource Palm Oil Project in Liberia

Forest Peoples Programme, 2015

This review is the result of several years of fieldwork by the Forest Peoples Programme and civil society partners in Liberia, and is the first step of a UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) funded project that examines putting into practice in Liberia the FAO Technical Guide entitled ‘Respecting free,... [Read More](#)

Livelihoods, Natural Resources, and Post–Conflict Peacebuilding

Helen Young and Lisa Goldman (Routledge, 2015)

In developing countries around the world, local natural resources – such as charcoal, wildlife, and fisheries – have strong microeconomic and cultural importance. So vital to traditional livelihoods, these resources are unfortunately not exempt from the brutal effects of conflict. [Read More](#)

Copper Giants: Lessons from State–Owned Mining Companies in the DRC and Zaire

Natural Resource Governance Institute (Natural Resource Governance Institute, 2015)

Throughout much of the world, governments have entrusted state–owned enterprises with major responsibilities for developing and managing natural resource extraction projects. In some cases these companies have been effective vehicles for the development and execution of state policy. In others, they have fostered inefficiency, revenue shortfalls and corruption. [Read More](#)

Global Food Policy Report

International Food Policy Research Institute, 2014–2015

This 2014–2015 Global Food Policy Report is the fourth in an annual series that provides a comprehensive overview of major food policy developments and events. In this report, distinguished researchers, policymakers, and practitioners review what happened in food policy in 2014 at the global, regional, and national levels, and—supported by the latest... [Read More](#)

Hydrogeology and Water Quality of the Chakari Basin, Afghanistan

Thomas J. Mack, Michael P. Chornack, Sarah M. Flanagan, and Ann T. Chalmers (USGS, 2014)

The hydrogeology and water quality of the Chakari Basin, a 391–square–kilometer (km²) watershed near Kabul, Afghanistan, was assessed by the U.S. Geological Survey and the Afghanistan Geological Survey to provide an understanding of the water resources in an area of Afghanistan with considerable copper and other mineral resources. Afghanistan’s mineral resources... [Read More](#)

Harnessing Natural Resources for Inclusive Growth

Paul Collier and Caroline Laroche (International Growth Centre, 2015)

Natural resources can support sustainable and inclusive growth in sub-Saharan Africa if key policy areas in the natural resource management chain are tackled and strong institutions are put in place. This brief presents a framework for natural resource management, which can be useful for policy-makers looking to strengthen and better... [Read More](#)

Jobs

In the last two weeks, 5 new jobs were added to our online listing of job postings. Please visit our [jobs page](#) to view these positions and other job opportunities.

USA: Operations Associate

6 April 2015 | Enough Project

Under the direction of the Managing Director—and working closely with the Special Assistant to the Co-Founder and Operations Coordinator—the Operations Associate will support and coordinate the day-to-day business and administrative needs of the Enough Project, as well as process improvements, standard operating procedure development, and organization development initiatives. [Read More](#)

Central African Republic: Policy Analyst

6 April 2015 | Enough Project

Reporting to the Director of Research and Editorial and working in collaboration with

staff and contractors working on the Central African Republic, the Policy Analyst on the Central African Republic, or CAR, will be responsible for researching and writing about the drivers of conflict in CAR and the surrounding region,... [Read More](#)

Democratic Republic of the Congo: Senior Policy Analyst

6 April 2015 | Enough Project

The Senior Policy Analyst on the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Great Lakes Region will be responsible for researching and writing about the drivers of conflict and policy options in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo and related U.S. [Read More](#)

Central African Republic: Forest Programme Coordinator (Deadline: 2015-04-23)

12 April 2015 | World Wildlife Fund

We seek a Central Africa Forest Programme Coordinator who will ensure the effective development, implementation and monitoring of the sub-regional and national forest components of the Central Africa Forest Strategy. The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) is one of the largest independent conservation organizations in the world, active in almost 100 countries. [Read More](#)

Haiti: WASH Build Specialist (Deadline: 2015-05-02)

12 April 2015 | Build Change

For the position of WASH Specialist, Build Change is seeking an experienced WASH Professional with design and construction management experience. In addition to the implementation of the WASH component of on-going Build Change housing projects, the successful candidate will be responsible for developing a WASH knowledge and resource base for Build... [Read More](#)

International News

Conflict Minerals: European Parliament Debates the Proposed Conflict Minerals Regulation

10 April 2015 | National Law Review

On March 19, the International Trade Committee of the European Parliament (INTA) met to debate the amendments to the conflict minerals regulation that were proposed by its members. The amendments reflect the views of the political parties that have been expressed in the ongoing discussions in the committee. [Read More](#)

Afghanistan: UN Reports Partisan Free State Land Distribution, Land Grabbing in Afghanistan

9 April 2015 | RTT News

A new UN report on land use in Afghanistan shows that there are significant vulnerabilities in the country's land distribution system that provide an opportunity for

individuals to distribute valuable land, including entire townships, at no cost and to whomever they choose. The report, titled "The Stolen Lands of Afghanistan and... [Read More](#)

Liberia: Liberian President Instructed 'Lobbying Fees' to Lawmaker

9 April 2015 | Kennedy L. Yangian, Front Page Africa

Barely two weeks after losing a motion to dismiss the indictment that charged him with multiple criminal offences, Clemenceau Urey former Board Chair of the National Oil Company of Liberia (NOCAL), has asked the court for a separate trial. After losing the motion to dismiss the indictment against them, lawyers representing... [Read More](#)

Liberia: Ex-NOCAL Official: Legislature Demanded 'Lobbying Fees'

8 April 2015 | Bettie Johnson, Front Page Africa

The bribery case involving ex officials of the National Oil Company of Liberia (NOCAL) continues to bring some internal dealings to the surface. Statements from several indictees in the case have revealed that the alleged bribery that they are now being prosecuted for was initiated by members of the then... [Read More](#)

South China Sea: Science and Geopolitics Converging in the Troubled Waters of the South China Sea

8 April 2015 | James Borton, Geopolitical Monitor

The South China Sea remains at the epicenter of one of the most volatile maritime areas in the world, with little or no agreement on sovereignty claims to the ownership of atolls, submerged banks, islands, reefs and rocks. [Read More](#)

Iraq: Iraq Starts Campaign to Clear Southern Oilfields of Landmines

7 April 2015 | NRT

BASRA -- In Iraq's vast southern desert, de-mining teams are working to remove millions of Saddam-era landmines and explosive ordnance that litter Iraq's giant oil fields, hampering the country's oil boom and delaying investment. Teams of the Arabian Gulf Mine Action Company are now striving to ramp up production from 17-billion-barrel... [Read More](#)

Libya: One of Libya's Rival Governments Moves to Control Oil Revenue

5 April 2015 | David D. Kirkpatrick, New York Times

One of the two factions battling for control of Libya took steps on Sunday to divert incoming oil revenue away from the central bank and into its own new account, a steep escalation in the contest over the country's vast wealth. [Read More](#)

China/India: Water Wars: China, India and the Great Dam Rush

3 April 2015 | Sudha Ramachandran, The Diplomat

China's grand plans to harness the waters of the Brahmaputra River have set off ripples

of anxiety in the two lower riparian states: India and Bangladesh. China's construction of dams and the proposed diversion of the Brahmaputra's waters is not only expected to have repercussions for water flow, agriculture, ecology,... [Read More](#)

Mali: UN Agency Launches Project to Boost Agricultural Production in Northern Mali

1 April 2015 | United Nations

A new project aimed at restoring the livelihoods of some 33,000 households affected by armed conflict and climate change in northern Mali has been launched today by the country's Government and the United Nations agriculture agency. "This work represents a contribution to Mali's peace process, because without security there cannot be... [Read More](#)

India: DRI to Auction Blood Diamonds

1 April 2015 | The Times of India

Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has decided to auction Rs 3.85 crore worth of illicit diamonds seized from two smugglers in 2008. Official sources said blood diamonds worth Rs 3.85 crore were seized during an operation by the DRI against two Lebanese nationals—Robai Hussain and Yusuf Ossely—in September 2008 in the city. [Read More](#)

Blogs

President Obama's Visit to Jamaica: Doubling down on Climate Security Collaboration

9 April 2015 | Oliver–Leighton Barrett

President Obama is making a short but historic trip to Kingston, Jamaica, on the eve of the Summit of the Americas to be held in Panama (April 10–11). During his visit, Obama will meet with the Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) for discussions on regional security and trade. [Read More](#)

Collapse War in the Middle East?

7 April 2015 | Jean–Michel Valantin

The current war raging throughout Syria and Iraq is profoundly singular, because it combines itself with the social and environmental collapse, combined with the severe effects of climate change, known by these societies. In Iraq, the current war is waged between, on the one hand, the Kurdish forces, and the... [Read More](#)

Baghdad Scores a Goal in its Oil Dispute with Kurdistan

2 April 2015 | David Romano

Last September, the federal government in Baghdad filed a \$300 million lawsuit against the Kurdistan Regional Government's (KRG) most important oil tanker shipping partner,

Greece's Marine Management Services (MMS). MMS' oil tankers may be familiar to readers who followed the news about the KRG's efforts to pursue independent Kurdish exports:... [Read More](#)

Sand Pebbles: Why are Superpowers Squabbling over Rocks?

2 April 2015 | Keith Johnson

China's aggressive behavior in the South China Sea is alarming the Navy and prompting calls for a more vigorous U.S. response. Over the past year, Beijing has significantly raised the temperature in the South China Sea with a series of provocative actions that have unsettled nearby neighbors and furrowed brows... [Read More](#)

Unplanned Plans!

1 April 2015 | Kashmir Images

In 1961, diamond-rich Botswana and Sierra Leone had approximately the same per capita income of about US\$1,070, however, both these countries in Africa adopted and experienced extremely different paths of economic development. While diamonds caused an economic miracle in Botswana, the same diamonds led to a total state collapse in... [Read More](#)

About Our Community of Practice

[Environmental Peacebuilding](#) is a knowledge platform and global community of practice on natural resources, conflict, and peace, hosted by the Environmental Law Institute (ELI), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), McGill University, and the University of Tokyo. The platform unites a global network of researchers, practitioners, and decision makers in sharing experiences and lessons from managing natural resources in fragile states and conflict-affected settings. The platform also helps people to access new publications on the topic, conduct new research, and participate in events to support the growth of the field. As part of our Community of Practice, we bring you biweekly updates on recent developments, including news about our program as well as links to new publications, upcoming conferences and events, and job openings.

Please visit us at www.environmentalpeacebuilding.org for more information. Financial support for the platform has been provided by the Government of Finland, USAID, and the European Commission.

Credits – April 2014

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Sharing and Posting Materials

The strength of the knowledge platform depends on submissions and suggestions on contents from users. To share publications and information on events, job opportunities, and other announcements, please contact share@environmentalpeacebuilding.org. Please also feel free to share ideas on how the platform can be further improved to meet your needs.

Platform Statistics

	Members	Page Views	Library
March, 2015	2331	6014	1449
February, 2015	2275	5646	1370
January, 2015	2252	6916	1277
December, 2014	2192	6020	1189
November, 2014	2187	7694	1165
November, 2013	298	5866	108

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