



Over the past 60 years, 40-60% of internal conflicts were linked to natural resources



From 1989-2010, at least 18 conflicts were financed by revenues from natural resources



Resource-related conflicts are more likely to relapse, and do so twice as quickly

60 to 80% of livelihoods in conflict-affected countries depend on natural resources



50-80% of a post-conflict country's exports come from natural resources



50-80% of excombatants return to agriculture—requiring access to secure land tenure



Post-Conflict Peacebuilding and Natural Resource Management

a partnership between



Natural resources are often closely linked to conflict, stabilization, and peacebuilding. Grievances over access to land have been central to wars in Guatemala and Nepal; and inequitable sharing of oil and gas revenues have driven separatist movements in South Sudan and Aceh. Revenues from diamonds, timber, and other conflict resources have provided financing for armed groups, including in Sierra Leone, Liberia, and DR Congo.

Natural resources are also central to building a durable peace after conflict, and are increasingly important in the conclusion of peace agreements. Land, minerals, and other resources provide livelihood options necessary to reintegrate former combatants and displaced people. Rebuilding livelihoods and the national economy depends on how post-conflict countries manage their land, extractive resources, and renewable resources. Restoring water, electricity, and other basic services requires effective utilization of natural resources. Natural resources provide revenue streams that are essential to supporting government operations, and improving governance usually requires addressing past inequities and corruption associated with the trade in natural resources and management of resource revenues. Cooperation around shared resources can be used as a platform to build trust and confidence among divided communities.

The post-conflict period presents a window of opportunity to address the underlying causes of conflict, manage the legacy of conflict, and lay the foundation for a durable peace and sustainable development. Natural resource management provides multiple opportunities to advance peacebuilding objectives, providing tangible peace dividends that can propel the peace process forward. Conflict-affected states face many challenges in leveraging their natural resource heritage for peacebuilding, including a growing global demand for resources, an intensified resource scramble in fragile states and post-conflict countries, and weakened capacity. Under these conditions, such countries are particularly vulnerable to poor contract terms, non-transparent decision making, corruption, and other negative impacts. The stakes are high; choices made early in the peacebuilding process tend to get locked in for decades.

To learn from past experiences in post-conflict peacebuilding and natural resource management, UNEP and ELI together with McGill University and the University of Tokyo coordinated a groundbreaking research program involving over 225 experts from 50 countries. A wide range of natural resources are considered, from oil and minerals, to water and land, to timber, fisheries, and agricultural products. The program aims to identify the ways in which good governance and effective resource management can enhance post-conflict peacebuilding and reverse the resource curse—in short, capitalizing on the promise and avoiding the peril.

This innovative research program is producing six thematic books with 150 case studies of experiences and lesson learned from 60 conflict-affected countries, and one overarching book that synthesizes the findings across resources, countries, and peacebuilding activities. These books provide a critical source of knowledge for the design of policies, programs, and training across the UN system and other international actors.

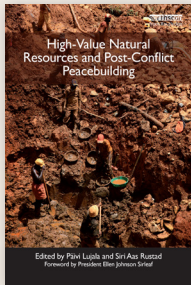
For more information on the project:

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See our TED Talk:

TED^x Geneva
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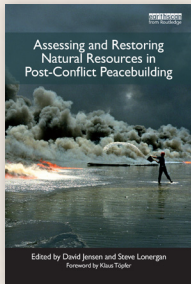
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High-Value Natural Resources and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding

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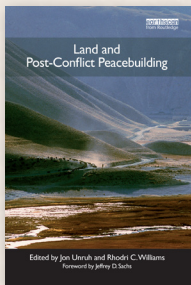
In post-conflict countries, economic recovery and the achievement of a strong and lasting peace are the primary goals. High-value natural resources, such as timber, diamonds, gold, and oil, offer governments the means to reach these goals, but poor governance of these resources too often turns them from a blessing into a curse. Forty-one authors analyze the ways in which wealth sharing, transparency, and other elements of good governance of high-value resources can support the economy, livelihoods, and revenue generation.



Assessing and Restoring Natural Resources in Post-Conflict Peacebuilding

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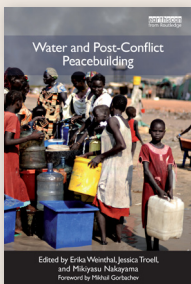
Repairing infrastructure, restoring basic services, and cleaning up damage left in the wake of armed conflict are the first order of business for post-conflict states. Doing so provides a basis for badly needed economic recovery and improved livelihoods, yet the environmental dimensions of these activities are often neglected. Thirty-five authors examine post-conflict environmental assessment, remediation, restoration, and reconstruction, as well as the role of humanitarian assistance in post-conflict peacebuilding.



Land and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding

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In many conflict-affected countries, land is one of the most valued resources providing a means for advancing livelihoods, food security, and economic development. It is also important to people's identity. Yet property rights and land tenure are often contested, and conflict only increases the complexity of land governance. Twenty-five authors discuss the division of land during peace negotiations, resettlement of refugees and internally displaced persons, land management, and the legal aspects of land disputes.



Water and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding

Coming Late 2013

While essential to health, livelihoods, and life, clean water is all too scarce in post-conflict environments. Broken infrastructure can leave whole regions without access to clean water, without which living standards and public health quickly decrease. Thirty-five authors analyze the importance of and approaches for managing water for basic services and human security, livelihoods, and peace processes and cooperation, as well as legal frameworks for allocating water resources.



Livelihoods, Natural Resources, and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding

Coming Early 2014

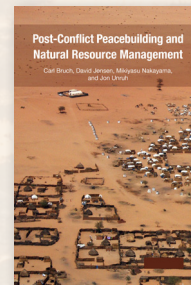
In most conflict-affected countries, natural resources such as charcoal, pasturage, wildlife, and fisheries are important for livelihoods and culture. However, armed conflict often depletes these resources and erodes the capacity of institutions to govern them. Thirty-four authors examine strategies in managing natural resources to support the restoration of livelihoods in post-conflict environments.



Governance, Natural Resources, and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding

Coming Early 2014

Natural resource management is crucial to rebuilding governance and the rule of law, combating corruption, improving transparency and accountability, engaging disenfranchised populations, and building confidence after conflict. Good governance is also essential for ensuring that natural resource management can meet immediate needs for post-conflict stability and development, while simultaneously laying the foundation for a sustainable peace. More than 70 authors examine experiences in improving governance of natural resources after conflict.



Post-Conflict Peacebuilding and Natural Resources: The Promise and The Peril

Coming Mid-2014

What does the future hold for post-conflict natural resource management? Will the use, abuse, and depletion of resources fuel future conflict? Or will increased political will, certification mechanisms, and good governance come together to reverse the resource curse? Synthesizing approaches and lessons across the entire series, this book evaluates core issues and presents an eye into the future, revealing both the promise and the peril of post-conflict natural resource management.



Policy Briefs

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Policy Briefs distill the key findings from the books into a series of targeted 6-page papers that examine specific themes of natural resource management and post-conflict peacebuilding. A number synthesize a book's findings, while others examine cross-cutting issues, such as how to adapt natural resource management projects to post-conflict settings.

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