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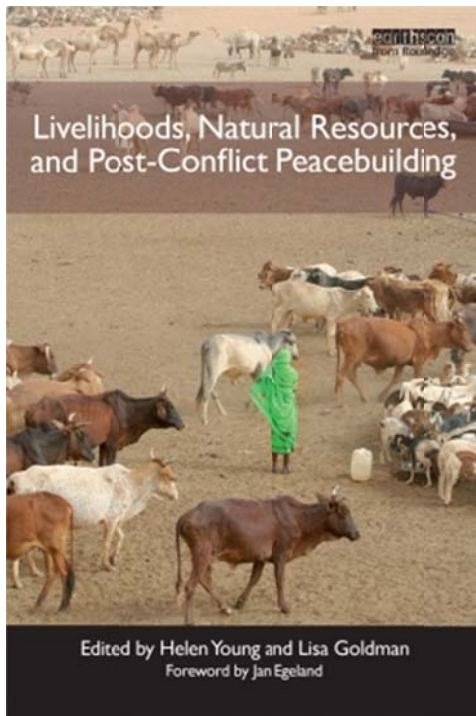
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This chapter first appeared in *Livelihoods, Natural Resources, and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding*, edited by Helen Young and Lisa Goldman. It is one of six edited books on Post-Conflict Peacebuilding and Natural Resource Management (for more information, see [www.environmentalpeacebuilding.org](http://www.environmentalpeacebuilding.org)). The full book can be ordered from Routledge at <https://www.routledge.com/products/9781849712330>.

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## Part 2: Innovative Livelihood Approaches in Post-Conflict Settings

Helen Young<sup>a</sup> and Lisa Goldman<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> *Feinstein International Center, Tufts University*

<sup>b</sup> *Environmental Law Institute*

Online publication date: November 2015

Suggested citation: H. Young and L. Goldman. 2015. Part 2: Innovative Livelihood Approaches in Post-Conflict Settings. In *Livelihoods, Natural Resources, and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding*, ed. H. Young and L. Goldman. London: Earthscan.

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## **PART 2**

# **Innovative livelihood approaches in post-conflict settings**



# Introduction

Because livelihood issues often lie at the heart of conflict, the failure to address such issues in context-sensitive ways can impede peacebuilding and hinder social and economic development. The structural adjustment programs instituted in Central America in the 1990s, for example, not only ignored the rampant economic inequality underlying the region's extensive history of conflict, but may even have exacerbated post-conflict tensions (Paris 2004).

A number of agencies and organizations have attempted to develop innovative, context-sensitive programs to promote livelihoods after conflict. The seven case studies in part 2 of this book explore these approaches. Although the initiatives vary significantly in scope, context, and geography, they illustrate the importance of fostering sustainable economic growth—not only to generate dividends for national governments and formerly warring parties, but to support communities that have been scarred by conflict and that will serve as the primary sites for the reintegration of excombatants into society.

The post-conflict period offers an opportunity to reorient predominant livelihoods toward greater sustainability—an opportunity that is especially important where disputes over natural resources contributed to the cause or financing of conflict, or where violence occurred in or near important ecosystems. Post-conflict recovery can thus benefit from creative solutions that enable communities to incorporate their natural resource wealth into a sustainable approach to livelihoods that not only generates income but fosters cooperation and reconciliation.

Each chapter in part 2 considers innovative pathways to sustainable, natural resource-based livelihood opportunities in post-conflict situations. The first three chapters describe how transboundary protected areas, including peace parks, can promote peacebuilding by creating and supporting livelihoods, cooperation, and other peacebuilding objectives. Transboundary protected areas are a creative means of linking peacebuilding to conservation and ecotourism, and thereby facilitating cooperation between adversaries and promoting socioeconomic development. In “Transboundary Protected Areas: Opportunities and Challenges,” Carol Westrik describes how peace parks and other transboundary protected areas can promote livelihood creation, fostering employment both directly (through the management of such areas) and indirectly (through increased ecotourism). By encouraging former adversaries to cooperatively manage shared natural resources, protected areas not only provide the stability necessary to support viable livelihoods but also encourage sustained peace.

The political will and institutional frameworks needed to establish peace parks are not always present in post-conflict situations, however. In “A Peace Park in the Balkans: Cross-Border Cooperation and Livelihood Creation through Coordinated Environmental Conservation,” J. Todd Walters considers a proposed transboundary peace park in Albania, Montenegro, and Kosovo as a means of

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easing tensions in a conflict-affected region and generating natural resource-related opportunities in conservation and ecotourism. The failure to formally establish the necessary national parks in Albania, Montenegro, and Kosovo has so far prevented the creation of a proposed transboundary park that would include the three national parks. Walters argues, however, that a multitrack approach—in which local officials and residents, nongovernmental organizations, and members of the international community all engage simultaneously—could shift incentive structures, ultimately producing sufficient political support to push officials to formally establish the national parks. The kinds of initiatives Walters describes can also encourage individuals and organizations to work together to create sustainable livelihood opportunities that will enable residents to remain in their communities.

The protection of culturally and biologically important symbols provides yet another means of supporting local livelihoods and building peace in post-conflict situations. In “Mountain Gorilla Ecotourism: Supporting Macroeconomic Growth and Providing Local Livelihoods,” Miko Maekawa, Annette Lanjouw, Eugène Rutagarama, and Douglas Sharp explore the livelihood benefits achieved through transboundary management of the mountain gorilla population in a protected area shared by Rwanda, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Despite facing various challenges in establishing ecotourism as a viable livelihood option and maintaining sufficient political stability to support the growing industry, Rwanda and Uganda have expanded tourism by developing effective pricing and economic plans for the park, engaging in public outreach, marketing ecotourism nationally and internationally, and gaining the participation and support of the private sector through regulatory reform of the tourism industry. Moreover, the two countries have reinvented their ecotourism sectors while addressing both the conservation needs of the mountain gorilla population and the economic and livelihood needs of local communities. (DRC has yet to achieve the political stability necessary to support a thriving tourism industry.)

The successful disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) of former combatants has been identified as one of the most important—if not *the* most important—factor in the success or failure of post-conflict peacebuilding (SIDDR 2006). By providing viable livelihood opportunities to individuals who might otherwise be vulnerable to recruitment into armed groups, peacebuilders can actively engage excombatants and conflict-affected communities in economic redevelopment, thereby increasing the likelihood of successful recovery and lasting peace.

In addition to placing considerable stress on local ecosystems, conflict undermines social cohesion, making it difficult for excombatants to move beyond their wartime roles. In “The Interface between Natural Resources and Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration: Enhancing Human Security in Post-Conflict Situations,” Glaucia Boyer and Adrienne M. Stork posit that DDR approaches designed to reintegrate both excombatants and conflict-affected individuals into civilian society can be strengthened through the incorporation of resource-related

livelihood opportunities—which, in turn, can increase security in conflict-affected regions. In place of a linear model, in which livelihoods are not addressed until reintegration, the authors argue for a livelihoods-based approach, which includes livelihood support schemes at each phase of the DDR process. Such an approach, centered on access to and management of natural resources, can increase excombatants' incentives to move toward a peace economy. Boyer and Stork offer four case studies—from Afghanistan, Colombia, Indonesia, and Mozambique—in which excombatants used their wartime skills and experiences to develop productive livelihoods that were closely tied to sustainable natural resource management.

Although most DDR programs provide opportunities for excombatants to join new national security forces, additional employment opportunities are still needed. In “From Soldiers to Park Rangers: Post-Conflict Natural Resource Management in Gorongosa National Park,” Matthew F. Pritchard explores the DDR process in the aftermath of the civil war in Mozambique. Recognizing the civil war's devastating effects on the park (forces on both sides had hunted game and destroyed park infrastructure), government officials retrained and hired a group of excombatants to act as game wardens and park rangers. The program enabled the excombatants to use the skills they had developed during the civil war, including tracking and spending extended time in the bush, in their new roles as game wardens and park rangers. Although the scope of the program is modest, it demonstrates the potential for integrating natural resource-related livelihoods into DDR programs. National governments looking to adopt this model must promote acceptance of reintegration by working closely with adjacent communities, particularly to ensure ongoing access to natural resources necessary for sustainable livelihoods.

The need for sustainable post-conflict livelihood opportunities is even more acute in countries facing a significant youth bulge. In “Mitigating Conflict in Sierra Leone through Mining Reform and Alternative Livelihoods Programs for Youth,” Andrew Keili and Bocar Thiam identify the challenges impeding post-conflict recovery, including a lack of transparency and accountability in mining revenue management, the difficulty of reintegrating excombatants into the labor force, disputes over mining rights, and problematic mining laws and regulations. The chapter's main focus, however, is on the challenge of providing viable livelihood alternatives for artisanal miners and unemployed youth in Sierra Leone.

During the country's protracted civil war, limited livelihood opportunities drove youth into mining camps and urban centers, where many were recruited by armed rebel groups. Today, Sierra Leone's diamonds—long a source of employment and livelihoods—are being exhausted, and the country is beginning to explore other livelihood options. Many of the alternative livelihood programs reviewed by the authors focus on reclaiming mining land for agriculture; others feature microloans, job training, or assistance with developing business plans. The authors conclude that such programs constitute a step in the right direction,

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but that lack of funding and political commitment risks undermining the programs' success.

Ultimately, no suite of programs can create sustainable post-conflict economic development without the active participation of the private sector. Multitiered value chains that add economic value (and livelihood opportunities), from natural resource extraction through processing and final sale, can facilitate private sector involvement and help countries capitalize more fully on natural resource wealth. Such value chains must be sustainable, however, and should incorporate sound natural resource management practices. In "Linking to Peace: Using BioTrade for Biodiversity Conservation and Peacebuilding in Colombia," Lorena Jaramillo Castro and Adrienne M. Stork examine the BioTrade Initiative, a sustainable value chain program established by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Although the BioTrade Initiative was not created specifically for use in post-conflict situations, Jaramillo Castro and Stork argue that it could help link DDR and economic development to natural resource management, including biodiversity conservation. A review of several BioTrade Initiative programs in Colombia indicates that they promote conservation and sustainable natural resource use while providing the primary source of income for many local residents. Moreover, because BioTrade Initiative projects require a participatory process, stakeholders have the opportunity to work collaboratively and build partnerships, which helps support broader peacebuilding goals while preserving economic benefits. The authors warn, however, that future BioTrade projects in conflict-affected situations must be sensitive to conflict drivers and directly connected to peacebuilding strategies.

Taken together, the seven chapters in part 2 offer a variety of creative and innovative ways to link post-conflict peacebuilding (including dialogue and cooperation) with livelihoods and sustainable natural resource management. Although the methods described may not succeed in every situation, the chapters provide a useful starting point for policy makers and practitioners. One of the most important lessons is the need to support both excombatants and conflict-affected communities, in order to avoid intensifying existing tensions or creating new rifts.

## REFERENCES

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