



environmental
PEACEBUILDING

Annual Report 2019

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President's Note

Dear Members,

2019 saw many practical, conceptual, and institutional developments in environmental peacebuilding. We are pleased to share with you some accomplishments and highlights from the year.

2019 was a momentous year in many ways. The International Law Commission continued its work on international law protecting the environment in relation to armed conflict, and the UN Security Council continued its targeted engagement on the linkages between environment and security. Scholarship and news coverage was robust. The Environmental Peacebuilding Association grew, expanding its membership and activities to consolidate the field of environmental peacebuilding.

A significant development in 2019 was the growth of the Environmental Peacebuilding Association. The Association was launched in 2018 to support the consolidation of environmental peacebuilding as a field by: fostering knowledge development and exchange; building capacity and awareness; and strengthening relationships between scholars, practitioners, and decisionmakers working on issues related to environment, conflict, and peace. By the end of 2019, there were more than 400 individual members from 63 countries on 6 continents, and 17 institutional members of the Association. The membership composition is 75% professional and 25% student. The Association engaged the Environmental Law Institute (ELI) to serve as the Secretariat, and the Association now provides an enduring institutional home for the Environmental Peacebuilding Knowledge Platform, the Environmental Peacebuilding Community of Practice, the biweekly *Environmental Peacebuilding Update*, and social media outreach. By the end of 2019, the Association had established nine Interest Groups (on Africa, Disasters & Resilience, Education, Forest Resources, Gender, Law, Monitoring & Evaluation, Water, and Young Professionals), and was exploring other Interest Groups.

The Association held the First International Conference on Environmental Peacebuilding on October 23-25, 2019, at the University of California, Irvine. The biennial conference brought together 240 members of Association and the international community (with representation from more than 40 countries) to share experiences, learn from one another, and strengthen the bonds within the community. The first conference emphasized two special themes: (1) technology and innovation in environmental peacebuilding, and (2) environmental peacebuilding in Colombia. The conference also covered other important topics related to environmental conflict and peacebuilding.

Our massive open online course (MOOC) on Environmental Security and Sustaining Peace was run a second time (in the synchronous format), and we started a third running in a self-paced format. The second running attracted 7,200 people from 176 countries, and the self-paced iteration (ongoing through June 2020) has more than 2,000 people from more than 130 countries with more joining each week. The MOOC was developed by UN Environment, ELI, UC-Irvine, Columbia University, and Duke

University, in partnership with the nascent Environmental Peacebuilding Association. More information is available at <https://epmooc.org>.

As EnPAx has grown in size and scope, we have benefitted from substantial assistance from diverse groups. The founding Board of Directors has provided guidance. We have an amazing team of volunteers supporting the Secretariat, led by Joel Young and Sierra Killian. Brooklyn Hildebrandt at Beveridge & Diamond has provided pro bono legal assistance. The Nelson Talbott Foundation and the Martin Dickinson Charitable Fund have provided financial support. And a wide range of institutions and individuals, led by Richard Matthew at the University of California, Irvine, came together to convene our First International Conference on Environmental Peacebuilding.

The First Conference highlighted two key matters. First, the warmth and enthusiasm of the 250 people participating in the conference drove home the value of bringing people together to share experiences and learning. Second, the conference was a point of inflection. It brought together people who had been working on these issues for more than twenty years; it also brought together students and others who are newer to the field. Both functionally and symbolically, the conference consolidated learning from decades of experience and laid the ground for the years to come. And this reflects the broader role of the Association. The Association is uniquely positioned to bridge generations and disciplines to foster learning, build capacity, and improve theory and practice. We are delighted and honored by the number of people who are actively engaged in this process!

Sincerely,
Carl Bruch
President

Status of the Association

The Environmental Peacebuilding Association was incorporated in Washington, D.C., and formally launched April 2018. In 2019, the Association continued to grow and attract members from more countries as interest in the diverse activities and programming picked up pace. The Association also finalized its certification as a non-profit professional organization (in the parlance of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, a 501(c)6)).

Board of Directors

The inaugural Board of Directors includes 11 people:



Carl Bruch
President

Erika Weinthal
Vice-President

Richard Matthew
Vice-President

Päivi Lujala
Treasurer

Janani Vivekananda

Geoff Dabelko



Britta Sjöstedt

Katie Peters

Philippe Le Billon

David Jensen

Anne Hammill

In 2019, the Board met four times. Initially, the Board meetings were frequent and focused on making strategic decisions and developing the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, and other key documents necessary to stand up the Association.

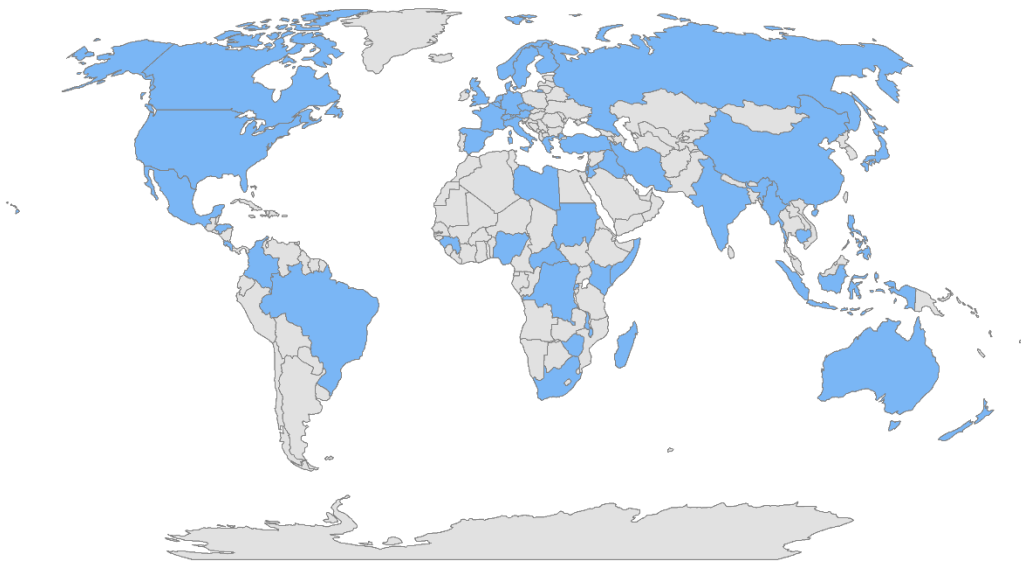
By July—with the Association established, the core institutional framework set (including formal designation of the Secretariat), and the membership growing—the Board decided to decentralize activities and shift to quarterly meetings.

Membership

As of December 31, 2019, the Association has 401 individual members and 17 institutional members from 63 countries. Following is a figure that shows the growth of the association by month:



The membership composition is 79% professional and 21% student. Approximately 31% of the Founding Members signed up as 3-year members. As illustrated in the following map of the membership (current as of December 31, 2018), the Association is a geographically diverse community of practitioners, researchers, decisionmakers, and students.



Members hail from six of the seven continents, from areas representing a wide range of stages of economic development, and from countries in conflict, recently emerged from conflict, long emerged from conflict, and stable. They include people from diverse disciplines and perspectives, ensuring a rich exchange of learning.

In 2020, we expect the membership will continue to grow, driven by the biennial conference and other Association activities.

Secretariat

The Environmental Law Institute (ELI) is serving as the inaugural host for the Association's Secretariat. The selection recognized the substantial contributions that ELI had made in establishing and building the Association. ELI's record of partnering with practitioners and researchers to establish and maintain the Environmental Peacebuilding Knowledge Platform, the Environmental Peacebuilding Community of Practice, convene the Al-Moumin Award and Distinguished Lecture in Environmental Peacebuilding, and coordinate a global research project on post-conflict peacebuilding and natural resource management, among other efforts, also make it well-suited to host the Secretariat.

In 2019, ELI Research Associate Sierra Killian was invaluable in standing up the Association. In addition, a group of amazing volunteers (interns, law clerks, visiting researchers, visiting attorneys, and visiting scholars) supported the Association activities, including: Sonia Ahmad, Alex Boyce, Rollin Bresson, Kelly Bridges, Alex Caplan (MOOC Administrator), Jamine Chen, Wenzhu (Alice) Chen, Mckenna Coffey, Charlotte Collins, Adrienne Derstine, Trevor Dolan, Scott Drinkall, Kevin Eggert, Marisa Ensor, Luis Pérez

Espinosa, Andrea Folds, Liz Foster, Giovanni Gio, Nina Hamilton (Interest Group Administrator), Liz Hessami, Baidu Idriss, Jiameizi Jia, Marlotte de Jong, Alyssa Kann, Sahara Kahn, Jacqueline Kessler (Conference Administrator), Marcella Kim, Elena Kochnowicz, Eileen Li, Jessica Lis, Marie Mavrikios, Tara McClanahan, Juliette Millies, Charmaine Mills, Julia Monsarrat (Membership Administrator), Sarita Ruiz Morata, Íris Moriyama, Isabelle Morley, Jasmin Muñoz, Liliana Pimentel, Anya Raadam, Laurie Roubas, Maya Sandel, Sera Song, Clementine Sraha, Rachel Stern (Coordinator), Tyler Thomas, Emma Tulley, Olga Ulchenko, Josephine van Zanten, Erin Wenk, Sidney Williams, Zabrina Welter (Conference Administrator), Ann Williamson (Membership Administrator), Joel Young (Coordinator), and Junjun Zhou. Most of the activities highlighted in this report would not have been possible without their substantial commitment of time and energy. Our two coordinators in particular warrant special mention: Joel Young (the long-time editor of the *Environmental Peacebuilding Update*, who has also provided essential support to the Board’s operations) and Rachel Stern (who has co-coordinated the volunteers for most of 2019, and provided core support to the Association).

Financial Summary

Following is the income statement and balance sheet for the Association through December 31, 2019. Most of the Association revenue comes from membership dues. In 2019, the conference revenue and expenses constitute significant portions of the budget and expenses.

In 2021, revenues are expected to increase from membership fees and from donations. The Association is seeking grants to support Association activities. Members interested in helping to build the financial security of the Association are encouraged to contact the Secretariat.

Balance Sheet

	Dec 31, 19	Dec 31, 18	\$ Change	% Change
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Checking/Savings				
10000 • Bank	46,415.33	6,382.14	40,033.19	627.27%
10010 • Bank Receiving Account	6,931.25	0.00	6,931.25	100.0%
12000 • PayPal	654.66	1,755.60	-1,100.94	-62.71%
Total Checking/Savings	54,001.24	8,137.74	45,863.50	563.59%
Total Current Assets	54,001.24	8,137.74	45,863.50	563.59%

Other Assets				
13000 · Prepaid Expense	<u>2,903.18</u>	<u>198.55</u>	<u>2,704.63</u>	<u>1,362.19%</u>
Total Other Assets	<u>2,903.18</u>	<u>198.55</u>	<u>2,704.63</u>	<u>1,362.19%</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>56,904.42</u>	<u>8,336.29</u>	<u>48,568.13</u>	<u>582.61%</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY				
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Accounts Payable				
20000 · Accounts Payable	<u>66,647.68</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>66,647.68</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
Total Accounts Payable	<u>66,647.68</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>66,647.68</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
Total Current Liabilities	66,647.68	0.00	66,647.68	100.0%
Long Term Liabilities				
27200 · Deferred Revenue	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,227.71</u>	<u>-2,227.71</u>	<u>-100.0%</u>
Total Long Term Liabilities	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,227.71</u>	<u>-2,227.71</u>	<u>-100.0%</u>
Total Liabilities	66,647.68	2,227.71	64,419.97	2,891.76%
Equity				
32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	6,108.58	0.00	6,108.58	100.0%
Net Income	<u>-15,851.84</u>	<u>6,108.58</u>	<u>-21,960.42</u>	<u>-359.5%</u>
Total Equity	<u>-9,743.26</u>	<u>6,108.58</u>	<u>-15,851.84</u>	<u>-259.5%</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>56,904.42</u>	<u>8,336.29</u>	<u>48,568.13</u>	<u>582.61%</u>

Income Statement

	<u>Jan - Dec 19</u>	<u>Jan - Dec 18</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
43400 · Direct Public Support		
43450 · Individ, Business Contributions	<u>1,658.67</u>	537.10
43400 · Direct Public Support - Other	118.80	<u>0.00</u>
Total 43400 · Direct Public Support	<u>1,777.47</u>	537.10
47200 · Member Income - Dues		
47230 · Professional Membership		

47235 · Student/Retired Dues	2,559.40	1,367.01
47230 · Professional Membership - Other	<u>15,549.14</u>	<u>14,247.78</u>
Total 47230 · Professional Membership	18,108.54	15,614.79
47240 · Institutional Member	<u>4,452.50</u>	1,295.00
47200 · Member Income - Dues - Other	<u>2,227.71</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total 47200 · Member Income - Dues	<u>24,788.75</u>	16,909.79
48000 · Conference Income	<u>70,251.88</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Income	<u>96,818.10</u>	<u>17,446.89</u>
Gross Profit	96,818.10	17,446.89
Expense		
62100 · Contract Services		
62110 · Administrative Services	24,123.13	8,913.36
62140 · Legal Fees	80.00	0.00
62150 · Web Contract	<u>3,650.00</u>	<u>1,500.00</u>
Total 62100 · Contract Services	27,853.13	10,413.36
65000 · Operations		
60920 · Business Registration Fees	1,425.55	198.55
65020 · Postage, Mailing Service	21.60	0.00
65040 · Supplies	49.00	0.00
65060 · PayPal/Bank Fees	<u>3,103.66</u>	<u>726.40</u>
Total 65000 · Operations	4,599.81	924.95
68310 · Conference, Convention, Meeting	<u>80,217.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total 68300 · Conference	<u>80,217.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Expense	<u>112,669.94</u>	<u>11,338.31</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>-15,851.84</u>	<u>6,108.58</u>
Net Income	<u>-15,851.84</u>	<u>6,108.58</u>

Activities of the Association

Throughout 2019, the Association developed new activities and expanded existing activities designed to foster knowledge development and exchange; build capacity and awareness; and strengthen relationships between scholars, practitioners, and decisionmakers working on issues related to environment, conflict, and peace. Noting that many activities advance more than one objective of the Association, these activities include:

- **fostering knowledge development and exchange**

- Expanding and maintaining the Environmental Peacebuilding Knowledge Platform
- Developing an affiliated Knowledge Platform on Gender, Natural Resources, and Peace (in collaboration with the UN Joint Programme on Women, Natural Resources and Peace)
- **building capacity and awareness**
 - Delivering a massive open online course (MOOC) on Environmental Security and Sustaining Peace
 - Developing the First International Conference on Environmental Peacebuilding
 - Convening other events, including the Al Moumin Award and Distinguished Lecture
- **strengthening relationships between scholars, practitioners, and decisionmakers**
 - Creating Interest Groups
 - Launching a Membership Directory
 - Developing profiles of members
 - Conducting outreach on social media

These activities are briefly summarized below.

Environmental Peacebuilding Knowledge Platform

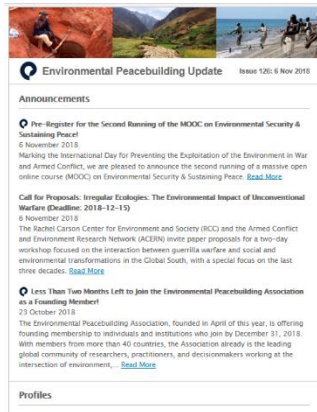
The Environmental Peacebuilding Knowledge Platform (www.environmentalpeacebuilding.org) is the leading website where people can find books, articles, media, events, jobs, and news about environment, conflict, and peace.

In 2019, the Platform added 808 publications to the Library, covering a wide range of topics and geographical locations. In addition, the Platform added 74 announcements, 170 events, 267 job opportunities, 990 news articles, and 336 blogs and opinion pieces. Many of these publications and other items were identified, coded with metadata, and posted by Secretariat staff, with a growing number shared by Association members. At the end of 2019, the Platform has over 4,200 Library items.



As the Association grew, new webpages were added to the Knowledge Platform to support the Association, the Membership, and the Conference.

Environmental Peacebuilding Update



Every two weeks, the Association Secretariat compiled, edited, and produced the *Environmental Peacebuilding Update*. The *Update* includes a sampling of the key publications, news items, upcoming events, job openings, EnPax Member profiles, and other items posted on the Knowledge Platform in the previous two weeks.

The *Update* is circulated free of charge to more than 3,300 members of the Environmental Peacebuilding Community of Practice.

In 2019, the Association produced issues 130 – 156 of the *Environmental Peacebuilding Update*.

Gender Website

Recognizing the sustained effect of the Environmental Peacebuilding Knowledge Platform, *Update*, and Community of Practice, the UN Development Programme and UN Environment approached the Environmental Peacebuilding Association and the Environmental Law Institute to develop a similar knowledge platform, newsletter, and community of practice focusing on gender, natural resources, and peace.

In February 2019, EnPax launched the Knowledge Platform on Gender, Natural Resources, Climate, and Peace. The website draws on the structure and existing database of the Environmental Peacebuilding Knowledge Platform. Like the existing knowledge platform, the gender website provides links to relevant publications, news, events, and jobs, with an additional level of curation.

This website provides a much-needed resource for those interested in the gender dimensions of environmental peacebuilding. It also seeks to engage an audience that is focused more broadly on gender issues (especially as they relate to conflict *or* environment) than on the particular context of environmental peacebuilding.

In addition to the Gender website, EnPax launched a monthly *Gender, Natural Resources, Climate, and Peace Newsletter* on March 21, 2019. In 2019, Issues 1-10 were published and were circulated to a new and growing community of practice on gender, natural resources, and peace.

Massive Online Course (MOOC) on Environmental Security and Sustaining Peace

From February 11 to April 21, 2019, the second iteration of a massive open online course (MOOC) on Environmental Security and Sustaining Peace (ESSP) was held. This MOOC was developed by the Environmental Law Institute, UN Environment, Columbia University, Duke University, and the University of California – Irvine, and was hosted on the SDG Academy’s edX platform. The MOOC offered over 7,000 enrolled students the opportunity to engage with a global cohort of experts and practitioners in the fields of natural resource management, peacebuilding, and conflict resolution.

The course provides an in-depth introduction to the multiple roles that natural resources and the environment play in the onset, escalation, resolution of, and recovery from violent conflicts. Many of the considerations and approaches are also relevant to understanding and addressing social conflicts around natural resources and the environment.

The MOOC was developed using the lessons learned on environmental peacebuilding from conflict-affected countries such as Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Ivory Coast. In addition to featuring in-depth case studies on each of these countries, the course also included key lessons from 62 other post-conflict states, and provided students with over 30 professional toolkits. The MOOC synthesized approximately 100,000 pages of material and lessons learned from 1,000 experts into seven hours of engaging video content spread out over an eight week period. At the end of the eight weeks, students were given a two-week grace period to catch up. The course was broken up into five modules, each of which was broken up into chapters (lectures) corresponding with the module’s theme. Each chapter contained a video and associated set of readings, as well as optional videos and readings for participants wishing to explore the topic more in-depth.

The course is delivered primarily by a core team of five faculty that have been working on issues of environmental peacebuilding and environmental security for two decades: Carl Bruch (Director of International Programs at the Environmental Law Institute and President of the Environmental Peacebuilding Association), Erika Weinthal (Lee Hill Snowdon Professor of Environmental Policy at Duke University and Vice President of the Environmental Peacebuilding Association), Marc Levy (Deputy Director of CIESIN at the Earth Institute at Columbia University), David Jensen (Head of the Environmental Peacebuilding Programme at UN Environment and Director of the Environmental Peacebuilding Association), and Richard Matthew (Director at the Blum Center for Poverty Alleviation

and Sustainable Development at University of California, Irvine and Vice President of the Environmental Peacebuilding Association).

The course also has many guest speakers from different countries and backgrounds, including Bernarda Elizalde (Co-founder of the Center for Responsible Mineral Development (RMD) Inc. and a member of the Executive Committee of the Canadian



CSR Center for Excellence), Rebeca Arias Flores (Resident Coordinator and United Nations Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme in Guatemala), Silja Halle (Coordinator of Women, Natural Resources and Peace at UN Environment), and Ken Conca (Professor of International Affairs at American University).

Participants were able to earn a certificate demonstrating their success in the course in two ways: a verified certificate offered by edX and a signed certificate of completion issued by the core faculty and affiliated institutions. To receive the edX certificate, students had to pay a fee and earn 70% or above overall. To receive the faculty-issued certificate, students were required to earn 50% or above. Approximately 5% of enrollees earned a 50% or higher, with a total of 466 students receiving the certificate of completion. It is worth noting that as far as MOOCs go, this is a very high success rate.

The implementation of this MOOC would not have been possible without the assistance of a group of volunteers coordinated by ELI.

To see the MOOC trailer and for more information, please see <https://www.edx.org/course/environmental-security-and-sustaining-peace-0>.

First International EnPAx Conference

A hallmark event of the Association is a biennial international conference that brings together Association members and the international community more broadly to share experiences, learn from one another, and strengthen the bonds within the community.

The First International Conference on Environmental Peacebuilding was held October 23-25, 2019, at the University of California, Irvine. The first conference featured over 250 scholars, practitioners, decisionmakers and students from 40 countries. The program included two high-level panel discussions, seven roundtables, 27 panels, nine training sessions, 17 posters, the Environmental Peacebuilding Gala and Awards Ceremony, a photographic exhibit curated by Jason Houston and Carl Bruch, inspiring performance by Perla Batalla and House of Cohen, and diverse mentorship opportunities and spaces to engage creatively with environmental peacebuilding colleagues. There were two special themes: (1) technology and innovation in environmental peacebuilding, and (2) environmental peacebuilding in Colombia. The conference will also covered other important topics related to environmental conflict and peacebuilding, including:



- Environmental Governance, Law, and Conflict Prevention
- Environmental Mediation and Peacemaking
- Post-conflict Environmental Peacebuilding
- Gender and Environmental Peacebuilding
- Environmental Peacebuilding in a Changing Climate
- Causes of Conflict

The lead organizers of the conference were Association Vice Presidents Erika Weinthal and Richard Matthew, with the full Scientific Committee for the conference comprising:

Ángela María Amaya Arias, *Professor and Researcher, Universidad Externado de Colombia*
Carl Bruch, *Director of International Programs, Environmental Law Institute*
Silja Halle, *Programme Officer, Disaster and Management Branch, UN Environment*
Anne Hammill, *Director of Resilience, International Institute for Sustainable Development*
Tobias Ide, *Coordinator of Research Field Practice and Conflict, Georg Eckert Institute*
David Jensen, *Head of Environmental Cooperation for Peacebuilding Programme, UN Environment*
Philippe Le Billon, *Professor of Geography, University of British Columbia*
Richard Matthew, *Director, Blum Center for Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Development, University of California, Irvine*
Elizabeth Sellwood, *Chief, Environment and Security Unit, UN Environment*

Juha Siikamaki, *Chief Economist, IUCN*

Erika Weinthal, *Lee Hill Snowdon Professor of Environmental Policy, Duke University*

Further information on the conference is available at <https://environmentalpeacebuilding.org/2019-conference/>.

Events and Webinars

In addition to the MOOC and the upcoming First International Conference on Environmental Peacebuilding, the Environmental Peacebuilding Association has hosted and been involved in a number of in-person and virtual events. These include:

- Seminar: “Environmental Peacebuilding: The Year in Review and the Year Ahead”, 17 January 2019 | Washington, DC / online
- Seminar on the Geneva List of Principles on the Protection of Water Infrastructure in Relation to Armed Conflicts, 20 March 2019 | Washington, DC (*organized with the Geneva Water Hub and Environmental Law Institute*)
- Science Diplomacy and Environmental Peacebuilding: Prospects and Challenges in the Mediterranean (First Webinar in a Series on Science Diplomacy), 15 April 2019 | online
- Science Diplomacy and Environmental Peacebuilding: Prospects and Challenges in the Polar Regions (Second Webinar in a Series on Science Diplomacy and Environmental Peacebuilding), 3 May 2019 | online
- Science Diplomacy and Environmental Peacebuilding in Oceans Governance (Third Webinar in a Series on Science Diplomacy and Environmental Peacebuilding), 9 May 2019 | online
- Webinar on “Hydrogovernance in Afghanistan” (Second in an Occasional Series of Discussions on Environment, Conflict, and Peace in Afghanistan), 27 September 2019 | online
- First International Conference on Environmental Peacebuilding, 23-25 October 2019 | University of California, Irvine
- Breakfast Meetings for Interest Groups, 25 October 2019 | University of California, Irvine

Recognizing that its membership is global and that technology can provide cost-effective means for exchanging knowledge, the Association has been developing a series of webinars. Some of these webinars foster exchange within Interest Groups, and others with the wider community of practice.

On September 27, 2019, the Association hosted a webinar on “Hydrogovernance in Afghanistan” which was the second in an occasional series of discussions on environment, conflict, and peace in Afghanistan. This webinar took a closer look at current issues relating to water, security and peacebuilding in Afghanistan. Speakers included Mr. Abdul Basir Azimi, former Deputy Minister for Finance and Administration of the Ministry Energy and Water of Afghanistan, Elizabeth B. Hessami, Visiting Attorney at the Environmental Law Institute, and Professor Mara Tignino, University of Geneva, Faculty of Law, Switzerland (and co-chair of the Water Interest Group). Following on the topics discussed in our first webinar, the event provided an informal discussion into hydrogovernance in Afghanistan with the former Deputy Minister for Finance and Administration of the Ministry Energy and Water of Afghanistan, Dr. Mara Tignino, and Elizabeth Hessami, J.D., LL.M.

More webinars are planned for 2020.

Outside of webinars, the Association also made presentations to diverse audiences, raising awareness of the new Association and sharing lessons in environmental peacebuilding. A sampling of these include:

- Environmental Peacebuilding Working Group Meeting, 20 May 2019 | Arlington, VA
- Protection of the Environment in Relation to Armed Conflict, 6 November 2019 | New York, NY

Al-Moumin Award and Distinguished Lecture

The Al-Moumin Award and Distinguished Lecture on Environmental Peacebuilding recognizes leading thinkers who are shaping the field of environmental peacebuilding. The lecture series is co-sponsored by ELI, American University, and UN Environment, and is named for Dr. Mishkat Al-Moumin, who was Iraq’s first Minister of Environment, a human rights and environment lawyer, and a Visiting Scholar at ELI.

The winner of the 2019 Al-Moumin Award was Nancy Lee Peluso from the University of California Berkeley. Nancy Lee Peluso is an expert in resource management policy with a strong interest in how regional histories and social factors like ethnicity, class, and gender play a role in natural resource management and conflict.

Interest Groups

To strengthen relationships between scholars, practitioners, decisionmakers, and students—and to help foster knowledge development and exchange and build capacity and awareness—the Environmental Peacebuilding Association has developed a number of Interest Groups.

EnPAx Interest Groups are spaces for collaborative work, networking, mentoring, and sharing knowledge and expertise. Although specific activities vary depending on the Interest Group, activities include organizing panels, webinars, and other events; preparing technical papers and other publications; selecting and maintaining a group of experts that can be contacted for information by individuals and groups outside the Association; and organizing sessions at the First International Conference on Environmental Peacebuilding in October 2019. Interest Groups are encouraged to focus on assessing what we know about particular issues within that topic, taking stock of the evidence base, and developing an agenda for further research and action.

Nine Interest Groups have been launched:

Africa

The Africa Interest Group of the Environmental Peacebuilding Association assembles academics, practitioners, and decision makers interested in local, national, regional, or international issues concerning the relationship between natural resources, the environment, conflict, and peacebuilding in Africa. In alignment with the Association's purpose, the Africa Interest Group is multidisciplinary and nonpolitical in nature. Its operations are limited to educational and scientific goals as defined in the Mission, Purpose, and Actions.

(1) The Africa Interest Group's Mission (overall goal) is to foster environmental security and sustainable peace (environmental peacebuilding) in Africa. The Group aims to promote conflict prevention, mitigation, resolution, and recovery through sustainable and equitable management of natural resources and environments in Africa.

(2) The Group's Purpose (specific goals) consists of facilitating exchanges of information and dialogue; identifying concerns; stimulating research and awareness; promoting capacity building; and disseminating and sharing information and knowledge on environmental peacebuilding in Africa.

(3) The Group's Actions (practical goals) refer to its activities and entail networking and connecting with Association members and non-members; organizing events; creating and maintaining an online knowledge platform with information on scholars, publications, and programs that involve environmental peacebuilding; and preparing technical papers and other publications about environmental peacebuilding in Africa.

The Group is open to all Association members interested in environmental peacebuilding in Africa. The Chair of the Africa Interest Group is Munini Mutuku.

Disasters and Resilience

Building on a nascent body of evidence on the links between natural hazard-related disasters and dynamics of peace and conflict, the Interest Group on Disasters and Resilience aims to examine normative constructions of disasters to better understand the potential contributions and limitations of Disaster Risk Reduction to achieving and sustaining peace. Through the lens of environmental peacebuilding, this innovative Interest Group will bring together physical and social scientists, policymakers, and others from diverse disciplinary fields related to disasters, climate, and conflict and peace.

The Interest Group is open to all Association members interested in disasters and/or resilience. The Chairs of the Interest Group are Katie Peters and Dr. Ayesha Siddiqi.

Education

The mission of the Education Interest Group is to provide resources for educators, practitioners, and students to advance their knowledge and knowledge-based practice in Environmental Peacebuilding. Environmental Peacebuilding Education includes one or more of the following:

- (1) Study of conflict about the environment and how it can benefit from different peacebuilding methodologies.
- (2) Use of environmental education as a context/scenario/building block for bringing parties in conflict together to help build peace.
- (3) Education about the environment in order to have peace with the environment, others, and yourself (sustainability, experiential learning, and health-wise).

Environmental Peacebuilding Education occurs in a wide range of domains, ranging from formal (universities, primary and secondary education), informal (popular and community-based education, citizen education, socio-communitary mediation), professional (institutions), and practitioners. Environmental Peacebuilding Education is a multidisciplinary field and draws from geography, energy and environmental policy, political science, international relations, anthropology, comparative public administration, security studies, and more. The Interest Group aims to define the “What, Where, Who, and How” of this education and to provide resources to support these studies and endeavors. Our main interest in this highly interdisciplinary, emerging field is to highlight different approaches, tools, methodologies, and practices that exist and are needed. This approach will give us the possibility to discover synergies and potential bridges between the areas for new applications.

The Chairs of the Education Interest Group are Nancy Boyer and Romane Boyer.

Forest Resources

The Forest Resources Interest Group provides a venue for sharing knowledge and expertise and offers networking and mentoring opportunities related to the interplay between forest resources and environmental peacebuilding. A session on Forests, Conflict, and Peace was delivered at the First International Conference on Environmental Peacebuilding in October 2019. Other activities of the interest group may include organizing panels, webinars, and other events; participating in events organized by other organizations; preparing technical, policy and white papers and other publications; selecting and maintaining a database of experts that can be contacted for information by individuals and groups outside the Association; and generally promoting learning and understanding of the role forest resources play in conflict and environmental peacebuilding.

The Interest Group is open to all Association members interested in forest resources. The Chairs of the Interest Group are Greg Corbin, Jan Grabek, Nora Moraga-Lewy, and Bernd Unger.

Gender

The Gender Interest Group of the Environmental Peacebuilding Association® brings together individuals and institutions committed to ensuring that intersectional gender perspectives are fully incorporated into environmental peacebuilding approaches. The Gender Interest Group is committed to the principles of inclusion and diversity and to addressing the broad range of gendered experiences and identities in its work and deliberations.

Specifically, the Gender Interest Group seeks to strengthen understanding of the gender dimensions of environmental peacebuilding, to advance research and learning on this topic, and to foster an inclusive and collaborative network that bridges existing communities of practice. The Gender Interest Group will follow closely the developments in international and national policies related to gender, security and environment, including climate action; it will also seek to identify and document approaches that respond effectively to the challenges and opportunities presented by this nexus, including planning, monitoring and learning practices and systems. Additionally, the Gender Interest Group will strive to coordinate advocacy and outreach on these topics.

The Gender Interest Group is open to all Association members interested in gender, environment, conflict, and peace. The Chairs of the Interest Group are Ms. Silja Halle and Ms. Joanne Lebert.

Law

The Law Interest Group seeks to enhance understanding of legal elements and implications of environmental peacebuilding, and to advance research and learning on this topic. This Interest Group explores ways of protecting the environment before, during, and after armed conflicts. In addition, the Group follows closely the work that is developing on this topic in different fora, including the International Law Commission, the International Law Association, and the International Committee of the Red Cross. Finally, the Group explores emerging approaches to international law on environmental peacebuilding, such as how international law related to gender, climate change, and trade can shape environmental peacebuilding.

The Interest Group is open to all Association members interested in legal aspects of environmental peacebuilding. The Chairs of the Interest Group are Dr. Britta Sjöstedt and Amanda Kron.

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

The M&E Interest Group seeks to enhance learning and capacity to assess and document the results of environmental peacebuilding, and to track progress, unintended consequences, and learning for the future. This Interest Group will explore the reasons for undertaking monitoring and evaluation, the primary approaches that currently exist (and their strengths and limitations), and emerging and proposed alternative approaches to monitoring and evaluation that might address the limitations of existing approaches.

The Interest Group is open to all Association members interested in monitoring and/or evaluation. The Chairs of the Interest Group are Dr. Juha Uitto and Dr. Amanda Woomeer.

Water

The Interest Group on Water seeks to enhance the multidisciplinary knowledge, research, and practice on the use of water as an incentive for peace. Members will discuss and examine the different scales of cooperation on shared water resources ranging from the global and regional to the basin and local levels. The strengths and weaknesses of different models of water management and protection will be considered with a view toward preventing and resolving water disputes, and toward helping countries manage water to recover after conflict.

The Interest Group is open to all Association members interested in the relationship between water, peace, and security. The Chairs of the Interest Group are Dr. Mara Tignino and Marie-Laure Vercambre.

Young Professionals

The Young Professionals Interest Group provides a peer-led platform aiming to support young professionals entering or currently working in the field of environmental peacebuilding. Through connecting an active and diverse network of peers with broad academic and career interests in environmental peacebuilding, this group will create access to opportunities ranging from mentorship, knowledge sharing, networking, and engagement at the EnPAx annual conference, while facilitating learning exchange through webinars and discussion forums tailored to the groups' diverse interests.

The Interest Group is open to all Association members who self-identify as being early or mid-career professionals within the field of environmental peacebuilding. The group hosts a variety of members, including those representing academia, the public sector, civil society and more. The Chairs of the Interest Group are Ms. Clare Church and Ms. Lydia Cardona.

Profiles

To help introduce members who are doing interesting work, the Association has been profiling individual members. These profiles have spanned geographic regions, types of resources, and disciplinary approaches.

To date, Profiles of members have highlighted researchers, practitioners, and decisionmakers working in the environmental peacebuilding field. They work on topics from cooperation over water and other renewable resources to forestry management and environmental defenders in indigenous communities to resolution over resources as a way to promote peace in diverse places such as Sudan, Colombia, the Philippines, the Lake Chad Basin, and Israel and Palestine.

In 2019 the Association produced 13 profiles highlighting Jon Barnett, Michael Bothe, Gidon Bromberg, Oli Brown, Sharon Burke, Maxine Burkett, Geoff Dabelko, Paula Hanasz, Amanda Kron, Joanne Lebert, Richard Pearshouse, Bocar Thiam, and Doug Weir. The profiles were included in the *Environmental Peacebuilding Update* and have been archived at <https://environmentalpeacebuilding.org/news/profiles/>.

Outreach on Social Media

In 2019, the Association assumed responsibility for the suite of social media accounts that had previously been managed by ELI. These include:

- Twitter (@EnvPeacebuild, for up-to-the-minute news and developments): 1,930 followers (a one-year increase of approximately 25%); 413 tweets in 2019, with 295,000 impressions
- LinkedIn (Environmental Peacebuilding, with content focusing on jobs, events, calls for papers, and other items of professional interest): 1,202 members (a one-year increase of 30%)
- Facebook (@environmentalpeacebuilding, for more popularly oriented items): with 1150 Likes

The Environmental Peacebuilding Association (also known as EnPAX) is the premiere global association dedicated to bringing together researchers, practitioners, and decision makers working on issues of environment, conflict, and peace. Founded in 2018, the Association is a multidisciplinary forum with three main aims. First, it seeks to identify promising research avenues and best policy practices, as well as foster exchange of knowledge and data. Second, it builds capacity and awareness among practitioners to advance the field and increase impact. Third, it fosters interactions among scholars, practitioners, decision makers, and others across disciplines, genders, geographical locations, and stages of professional development.

EnPAX™ is governed by a Board of Directors, comprising leaders in the field. The Environmental Law Institute serves as the Secretariat for the Association. Questions about the Association may be addressed to info@environmentalpeacebuilding.org.