

**Community of Practice on Environment,
Climate, Conflict, and Peace:
Meeting 46**

12 September, Zoom

13 participants

Meeting participants were invited to introduce themselves, their work, and how their work relates to environment, climate, conflict, and peace.

Introductions

- CEOBS
 - The way war and military activity impacts the environment
 - Military greenhouse gas emission impacts on climate change
 - Hybrid conference coming up on 26 Sept on military / conflict emissions
 - <https://ceobs.org/conference-military-and-conflict-ghg-emissions-from-understanding-to-mitigation/>
 - You can register online at the link above, or send Ellie an email at ellie@ceobs.org if you're UK based and would like to attend in person!
- Conciliation Resources
 - Peacebuilding NGO based in London
 - Cross-regional programming work includes climate change, conflict, and peacebuilding
 - Work over the past few years has been trying to draw out lessons and do internal learning on what the intersection means for their work
 - Launching two papers this month
 - First is out today:
<https://www.c-r.org/learning-hub/changing-climate-peace-navigating-conflict-climate-crisis>
 - One forthcoming on gender, climate change, and conflict - stay tuned
- PhD candidate at the University of Manitoba
 - Writing a chapter on poetry, peacebuilding, and folk tales
 - Musician, working at the intersection of environment, peace, and art!
 - Anyone interested in connecting about art-peace-conflict please reach out jessematas@gmail.com
- Quaker UN Office
 - Program on human impacts of climate change
 - Working with international policy processes and discrete mediation
 - Human Rights Council
 - IPCC
 - UNFCCC
- Quakers in Britain

- Exploring possible synergies at the intersection of two of their advocacy campaigns: one on climate change, the other on peace
 - At an early stage of that exploration
- Search for Common Ground
 - Peacebuilding organization in many countries around the global
 - Climate and natural resources management file
 - Farmer-herder conflicts
 - Business, government, and civil society convening to increase respect for human rights:
 - This is a link to the voluntary principles on security and human rights: <https://www.voluntaryprinciples.org/> - which we see as key for improving work of companies in conflict zones. And we see this is needed even more as part of the drive to green transition and critical raw materials needed for that. - we've been successful in DRC joining the initiative in 2023 and are about to launch a report on DRC and the voluntary principles
- UNEP
 - Climate security work in a variety of contexts
 - Wrapping up a project in Haiti, done in collaboration with 50 different institutions there (from UN bodies to civil society)
 - Study will be published soon, but the policy brief is here: https://www.gppatform.ch/sites/default/files/Haiti%20Policy%20brief_v%2005092023.pdf
 - Environmental peacebuilding work in different contexts, as well
 - Including a UNBPF-funded project on EP with youth
- Oxfam
 - Humanitarian and development INGO
 - Climate, conflict, and fragility advising
 - Evaluating whether the organization needs to adapt approaches in places most affected
 - Designing a multi-country program to address the interlinkages, including in Niger, Somaliland
 - Still in a conceptualization phase, and hoping to share learnings externally
- Baha'i International Community
 - Engage in UN discourses on peace, food security, public health
- SIPRI
 - Research body
 - The Climate Change and Risk programme publishes a lot of articles that are more specifically related to the intersection of climate and security
 - <https://sipri.org/research/peace-and-development/climate-change-and-risk>
- Nicoline/Cameroon - Pathways for Women's Empowerment and Development/Integrated Agricultural Training Center (PaWEDIATC) Cameroon

- Frontline organization in Cameroon on peacebuilding, climate change, and environmental protection
 - Ongoing food crisis and uncontrolled logging on the forest reserve
 - Working with young people to identify environmental projects for environmental protection and community cohesion
 - Water catchments in youth communities
 - Tree planting, particularly in the forest reserve being depleted with logging
 - Alternative livelihood training - beehives, poultry, fishing
 - Evaluating how conflict and climate change is affecting women
- Attended the Bonn Intersessional in June
- Women for Women International
 - Based in DC, with offices in the UK, Germany, etc.
 - New to the environment and conflict field, currently undertaking a survey to analyze and assess adaptations made in their programs with regard to climate/conflict sensitivity
 - They have made many adaptations over time, but trying to be more systematic about it
 - Will be releasing a report on their own learning later this year
 - Deliver programs for women, as well as masculinity advocacy work
 - Hoping to connect with other women-led organizations - nsingh@womenforwomen.org - please do feel free to reach out if you'd like to connect on our upcoming work/report on gender, conflict, and environment

How, if at all, does your institution approach the difference between environmental degradation, natural resources, biodiversity, and the impacts of climate change?

- In most cases, most participants said they do not make large distinctions or differentiations between them.
 - For actors that work on programming, they do not make differentiation because it's hard to tease out causality / no *need* to differentiate between them all
 - In lived experience, they find it to be a large cycle of interlinked issues, exacerbated by climate change
 - Many actors do not only *not* differentiate between different types of environmental impacts but ALSO the difference between conflict, peace, climate security, etc. on the "social" side
 - We sometimes get too caught up in terminology that we fail to see the concrete issues in peoples' lives
 - Getting stuck at the definitional level can prevent forward motion
 - "Définition de paix qui m'a inspirée: La paix, ce n'est pas juste l'absence de conflits, c'est aussi aller à contre courant du discours dominant. Ça demande de se battre aussi (Manon Massé)."
- Instead, most folks take an issue or area-based approach:

- What are the concrete issues that you face? What words do you use to describe your situation and potential solutions that you see?
- Not “pre-labeling” things has aided the conversations and action
- Climate change doesn’t always resonate as a frame
- For example, one type of tree that is planted can address climate change, biodiversity, and livelihoods all at the same time. Why silo it?
- In some cases, it can make sense to use different frames/terminologies..
 - For international advocacy, we do need to narrow it down. For example at climate change COP, you need to be able to speak concretely about the difference between climate change adaptation vs. climate change mitigation and why conflict sensitivity matters to both.
 - Similarly, it sometimes makes sense to call on experts from certain fields (agroecology, conservation, etc.) to support programs or research.