

White Paper on the Future of Environmental Peacebuilding



White Paper: Concept Note

The [Geneva Peacebuilding Platform](#) (GPP) acts as a neutral convener of the [Geneva Dialogue on Environment, Climate, Conflict, and Peace](#) in order to improve the exchange between environmental and peacebuilding communities. In collaboration with the [PeaceNexus Foundation](#), the [International Union for Conservation of Nature](#) (IUCN), and the [Environmental Peacebuilding Association](#) (EnPAX), GPP proposes a collective process to develop a *White Paper on the Future of Environmental Peacebuilding* in order to advance a forward-looking practical agenda.

What is the White Paper?

The *White Paper* is a policy-oriented document, to be developed through a reflective, consultative, multi-stakeholder process. It aims to deliver a strong, cogent message about the future of the field to the Stockholm+50 forum in June 2022.

This project was developed not only to advance a policy agenda for environmental peacebuilding, but also to foster inter-institutional collaboration and shared innovation for the field. It is intentionally designed as a highly collaborative project, inviting institutions to work together to develop submissions, and creating space for field-wide reflection on drafts at each step of the process.

What will the final product look like?

Practically, the final product will consist of two major written components:

First, a 10 page *White Paper on the Future of Environmental Peacebuilding* that is translated into multiple languages. This paper is a policy-oriented document, drawn and crafted out of the contributions to the compendium.

Second, a compendium featuring all of the accepted contributions spanning different regions, perspectives, themes, and topics.

Additional presentations and projects along the [Road to Geneva](#), for [Geneva Peace Week 2021](#), and for the Second International Conference on Environmental Peacebuilding are expected.

Who is writing the White Paper?

The *White Paper* is a two-part product. The compendium is composed of contributions from environmental peacebuilders, practitioners, policymakers, researchers, advocates, funders, and other actors.

The *White Paper* itself is written by a single editor under the supervision of the Steering Committee, hired particularly to work on this project. The paper is reviewed and refined through a series of public and open consultations, offering contributors the opportunity to discuss the final version.

What are the goals for the White Paper?

The *White Paper on the Future of Environmental Peacebuilding* is a policy document with a clear call to action.

1. Its goal is to stimulate thinking, policy, and funding for innovative programs and solutions around environmental peacebuilding.
2. While it is not an advocacy document, it illustrates a number of options available to actors.
3. It is not comprehensive, but it tries to encompass many topics while still maintaining a cogent, focused narrative.
4. Its primary target audience is policy-makers.
5. The *White Paper* process *itself* aims to generate inter-sectoral and inter-institutional collaboration across different types of actors to advance the field of environmental peacebuilding.

The *White Paper* will be presented at the Second International Conference on Environmental Peacebuilding in Geneva in February 2022, as well as the 50th Anniversary of the UN Conference on Environment (Stockholm+50) in June 2022.

How will the White Paper process work?

The *White Paper* will unfold in four main steps.

<p>Step One: Casting a net</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The steering committee asks the community what they would like to contribute, substantively, to the process through an open call for proposals. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A keystone of the contributions is that they must already be collaborative in nature. Collaboration is recognized as both cross-sectoral (i.e. from environment to peace; from conservation to security, etc.) as well as cross-actor (from policy to practice; from scholarship to advocacy; international-local). The point of collaboration is to intentionally reach across silos.
<p>Step Two: Identifying gaps</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Using the responses to the call, the steering committee pulls together a summary document of proposed contributions, grouped according to theme. ● Proposals reviewed according to outlined criteria and successful applicants are notified. ● This document will be circulated and form the basis for a second large group brainstorm to explore any thematic gaps and opportunities of the White Paper project. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This stage will form the basis to request or commission additional proposals in the gaps (i.e. certain topics or regions).
<p>Step Three: Generating perspectives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The final stage involves the drafting and submission of final contributions from the white paper collaborators. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Submissions are made to the steering committee and editor. ● The contributions are pulled together in a draft of the compendium which forms the basis for a third large group brainstorm to ask: How might we articulate a forward-looking policy agenda for the future of environmental peacebuilding? ● A final, shorter document is then drafted by the editor, in close coordination with the Steering Committee, to be circulated at the community discussions consultations outlined below.
<p>Step Four: Community discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The working and final drafts of the paper are presented for exchange and review at, among other opportunities to be determined: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the IUCN World Conservation Congress in September 2021. ○ Geneva Peace Week in November 2021. ○ the Second International Conference for Environmental Peacebuilding in February 2022. ● The final paper is presented for Stockholm+50 in June 2022.

What is the timeline for the White Paper?

19 January 2021 - First group brainstorm

February 2021 - Process development from Steering Committee

8 March 2021 - Call for Proposals launched

16 April 2021 - Deadline to submit proposals

May 2021 - Group brainstorm on the submitted proposals

June 2021 - Final contributions due

See above in Step Four additional milestones for group discussion throughout 2021-2022.

Why should you or your institution join the White Paper process?

The Steering Committee hopes that institutions and actors will engage in this joint effort, which will provide opportunities to:

- Include your key messages in a paper that will be circulated and consulted upon at a series of high-profile, international events and conferences.
- Bust silos and learn from colleagues in different fields, stimulating innovation for the field overall.
- Network and meet colleagues in different fields.
- Contribute to the strengthening of policy outcomes leading to practice change in environmental peacebuilding.
- Make a soft entry into the environmental peacebuilding field.
- Build legitimacy within your institution for environmental peacebuilding work.

The *White Paper on the Future of Environmental Peacebuilding* offers an opportunity to its participants to engage in a global, collaborative process to advance the field.

How can you participate in the White Paper?

Please visit the [Call for Proposals](#) for more details on how you can participate in the substantive and intellectual development of the *White Paper on the Future of Environmental Peacebuilding*.

You can contact Annika Erickson-Pearson, Community Management at the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform at annika@gpplatform.ch with questions or ideas.

White Paper Steering Committee

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Note: *While this project focuses on the development of a broader White Paper on Environmental Peacebuilding, please also see our partners' UNEP report on Frontier and Digital Technologies for Environmental Peacebuilding which currently calls for contributions on very specific cases of technology that has environmental goals and potentials. To learn more, please have a look at their application here: <http://bit.ly/3oesVWR>.*