

APRIL 2014

SPECIAL ISSUE NEWSLETTER:

NATURAL RESOURCES AND PEACEBUILDING



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In many post-conflict countries and fragile contexts, natural resources are a cornerstone for peacebuilding and development. The challenge lies in sustainably transforming a country’s natural assets into employment, livelihoods, revenues, infrastructure and state services without creating new sources of conflict or causing major environmental damage. This Special Issue Newsletter is dedicated to exploring the latest developments at the field and policy levels in the UN system in addressing natural resources and peacebuilding. It aims to showcase and share lessons learned by practitioners and policy makers in an effort to support an emerging community of practice in this field. It is organized into four sections: 1) Policy Developments; 2) Field Updates; 3) Partnerships and Programmes; and 4) Training.

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United Nations Environment Programme

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IN FOCUS

UNEP, ELI and Partners Launch Global Knowledge Platform for Environmental Peacebuilding

A new website platform providing users with free access to hundreds of case studies and policy reports, as well as teaching and training materials on the role of natural resources in peacebuilding was launched on 6 November 2013 - the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict. The site serves as a global knowledge platform for sharing information, experiences, and learning on the linkages between natural resources, conflict, and peace.

The contents of the site were produced as part of a broad collaboration led by the Environmental Law Institute, the United Nations Environment Programme, McGill University, and the University of Tokyo, together with 225 researchers and practitioners around the world. The Governments of Finland and the US, together with the EU-UN Partnership on Land and Natural Resource Conflicts, provided the core financial support. Six books including 150 case studies and other analyses examining experiences from 60 conflict-affected countries and territories are being released to the platform, with 76 case studies already available online. Over 100 documents, including toolkits, guidance notes, country assessments and other policy reports have also been posted to the site library.

The new website can be accessed at: www.environmentalpeacebuilding.org



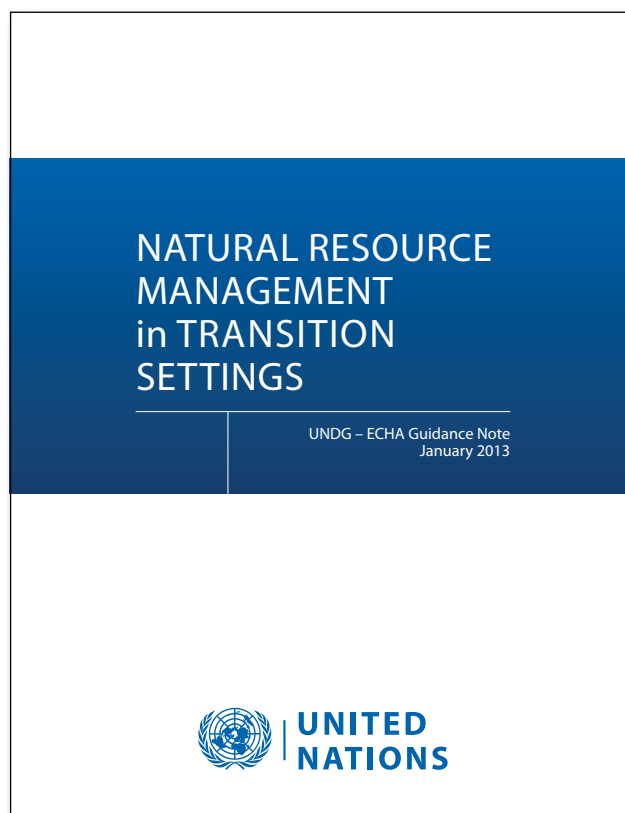
I. POLICY DEVELOPMENTS



UNDG-ECHA Guidance Note on Natural Resources in Transition

In January 2013, a new UN-wide guidance note on Natural Resource Management in Transition Settings was formally launched. Developed by a special task team within the UN Development Group (UNDG) and the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs (ECHA), the guidance note was endorsed by 38 different UN entities. The guidance note aims to help UN Country Teams and UN Missions understand the negative and positive roles that natural resources can play in peace consolidation. It provides practical guidance on how natural resource management principles and practices can feed into transitional analysis and planning frameworks. It also includes diagnostic tools to assist those on the ground in determining where and when such issues should be addressed, how this can be done, what types of roles the UN can take on, and how the UN can support other actors. As of May 2013, the guidance note had been disseminated to all UN country teams operating in post-conflict situations. This guidance note is a major milestone and could form the basis for more extensive and coherent UN support to address natural resource risks and opportunities.

The guidance note can be [downloaded here](#).



Report “Women and Natural Resources: Unlocking the Peacebuilding Potential”

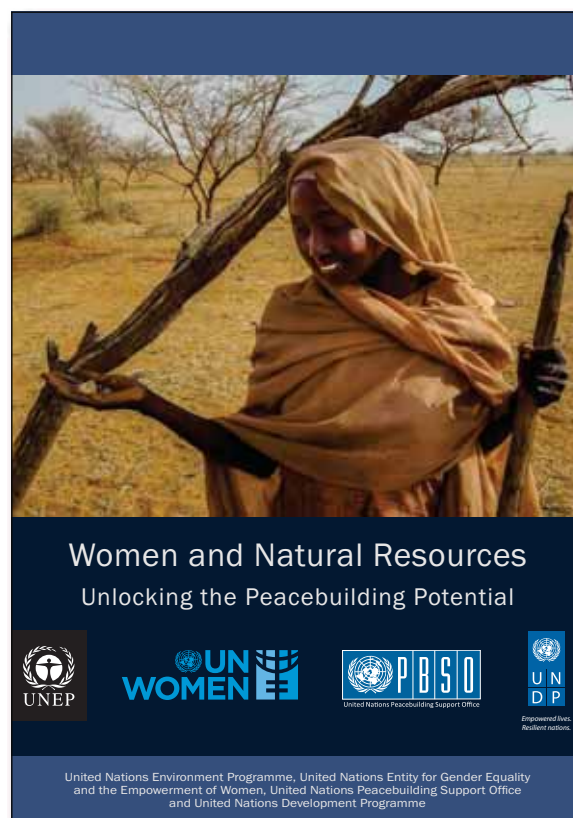
On 6 November 2013, a policy report titled “Women and Natural Resources: Unlocking the Peacebuilding Potential” was jointly published by UNEP, UNDP, UN Women and the UN Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO). The report, which is the first of its kind to examine the complex relationship between women and natural resources in conflict-affected settings, makes the case for pursuing gender equality, women’s empowerment and sustainable natural resource management during peacebuilding.

According to the report, women in conflict-affected countries are often primarily responsible for meeting the water, food and energy needs of households and communities. Many women are also active in forestry and artisanal mining and play a critical role in the use and management of natural resources. Despite this, women remain largely excluded from owning land, benefiting from resource wealth or participating in decision-making about resource management in peacebuilding settings. This exclusion often extends to negotiations over the way that natural resources are allocated following a peace deal, with the result that women’s specific needs are rarely met during the peacebuilding process.

The report contends that failing to seize the opportunity presented by women’s roles in natural resource management can perpetuate inequity and undermine recovery from conflict, as women have untapped potential as engines of economic revitalization. For example, research cited in the report from FAO shows that giving women farmers the same access to assets and finance as men could help increase yields on their farms by 20 to 30 per cent. In conflict-affected countries, where women’s roles in agriculture tend to expand, this could raise total agricultural output and significantly strengthen recovery and food security.

Financed by the Governments of Finland, Spain, Sweden, the Republic of Korea and the UK, the report draws on field research from over 20 different countries and some 200 academic sources and institutions. Part 1 of the report provides an analysis of the relationship between women and natural resources in peacebuilding contexts, reviewing key issues across three main resource categories, including land, renewable and extractive resources. Part 2 discusses entry points for peacebuilding practitioners to address risks and opportunities related to women and natural resource management, focusing on political participation, protection and economic empowerment.

The report can be [downloaded here](#).



The Role of Natural Resources in Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration

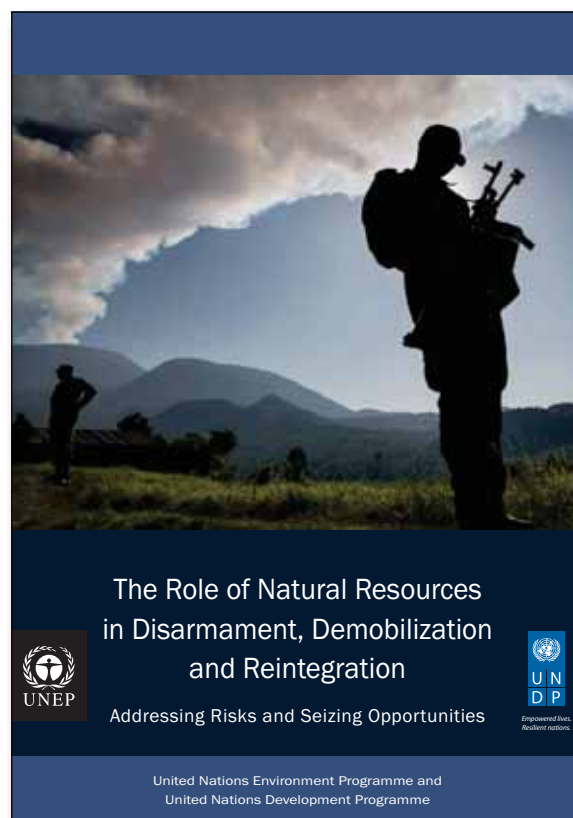
The illegal exploitation and poor management of natural resources can pose a stability risk in contexts where disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) programmes take place, either within countries or in neighboring fragile states. Alternatively, natural resources offer tremendous opportunities for both emergency employment for ex-combatants and associated groups, as well as longer term sustainable livelihoods benefitting their communities.

Recognizing the importance of natural resources in the context of DDR programmes, and following the UN Secretary-General's call in 2011 for more attention on the role that natural resources play in post-conflict contexts, UNEP and UNDP jointly launched a report entitled "The Role of Natural Resources in Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration: Addressing Risks and Seizing Opportunities" on 9 December 2013. This report is intended to inform DDR practitioners and policy makers on the risks and opportunities that natural resources pose for their programmes and to provide suggestions for appropriate responses. It focuses on the role of natural resources in DDR programmes and illustrates how the management of natural resources can be used to promote more effective and sustainable reintegration for ex-combatants and associated groups.

The report's main findings point to: 1) the importance of understanding the relationship between armed groups and natural resources; 2) the role of natural resources in the reintegration of ex-combatants and the provision of associated groups with alternative livelihoods; 3) the need to understand the different risks and opportunities posed by natural resources for DDR; and 4) the recognition of the various entry points for DDR programmes to engage in different natural resource sectors.

The development of this report was supported jointly by UNDP and UNEP. It is the outcome of work under the UNDP-UNEP Joint Initiative on Reintegration, Livelihoods Recovery and Natural Resources. In addition to the report, UNDP and UNEP have developed policy guidance on natural resources and DDR for the Integrated DDR Standards, which were adopted in 2013.

The report can be [downloaded here](#).



II. FIELD UPDATES



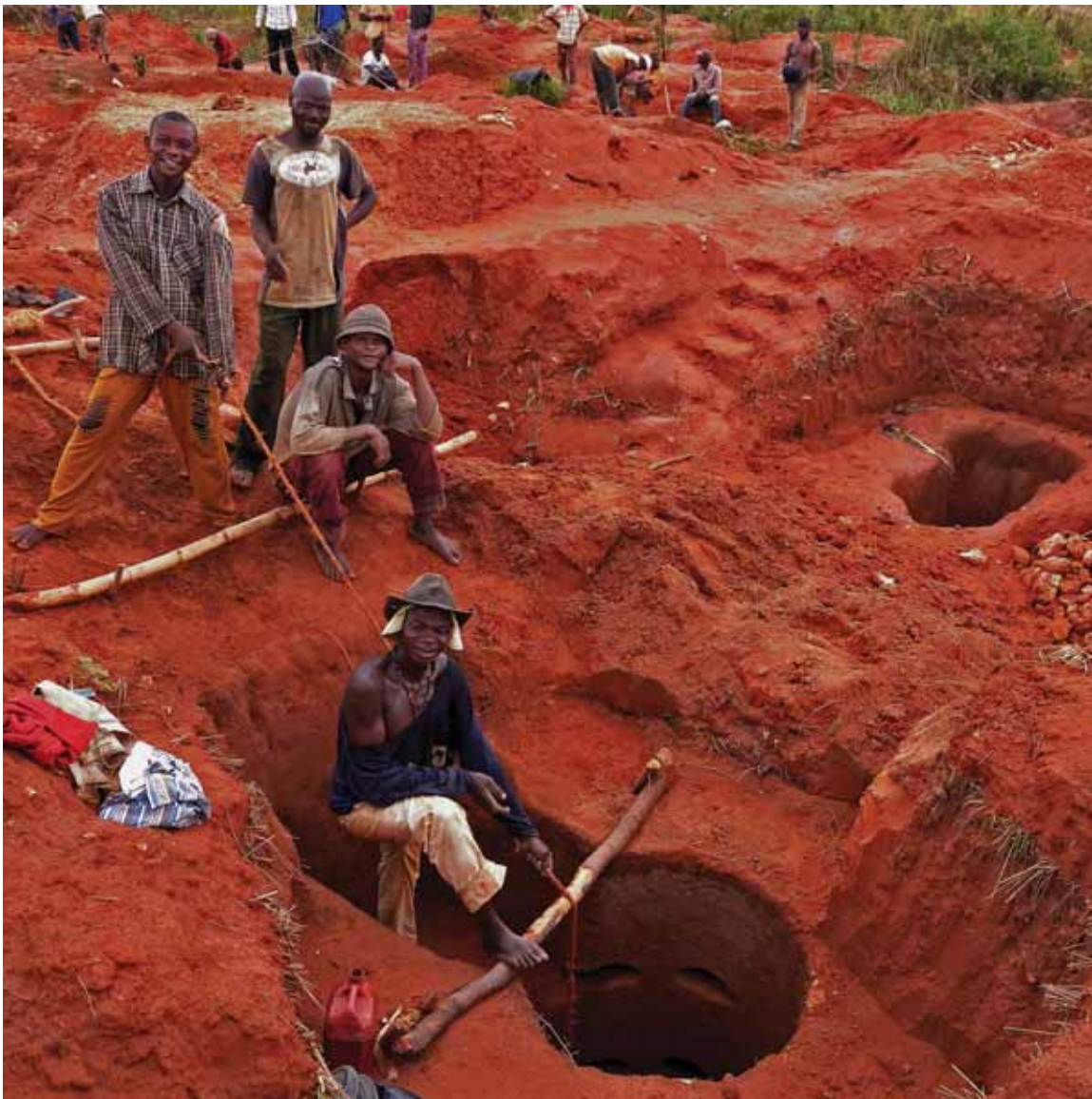
Integrated Regional Strategy for the Sahel: Natural Resource Dimensions of Stability and Security

Poor governance of natural resources and climate change are among the many factors driving the ongoing crisis in the Sahel region in sub-Saharan Africa, a region where the majority of the population is directly dependent on natural resources for their daily survival. As documented by the report, “**Livelihood Security: Climate Change, Migration and Conflict in the Sahel**”, climate change is compounding existing vulnerabilities, and historical data shows that the climate in the region is already changing, with increased temperatures, recurrent droughts, and more frequent and more severe floods. Countries in the Sahel have been dealing with successive political and humanitarian crises for years which have created vulnerabilities to insecurity resulting from armed conflict, terrorist activities, illicit trafficking and related organised crime. With a view to strengthening the collective action that addresses the root causes of instability in the Sahel, the **United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel** has been put in place, focusing on governance, security, and resilience in the region. The Strategy, recognizing the effect that climatic conditions have on availability of natural resources and competition over them, seeks to strengthen governance of natural resources to reduce tensions and potential for conflict between communities. Specifically, it seeks to strengthen the capacity of governments and other stakeholders to harness natural resources for the promotion of human development. It aims to achieve this by focusing on: participatory legislation, policy and planning; people-centered exploration; effective revenue collection and management; and investment in human development and structural transformation.



Global EU-UN Partnership on Land and Natural Resource Conflicts Launches its Activities in the Great Lakes Region

The **EU-UN Partnership on Land and Natural Resource Conflicts**, a joint initiative of the European Union (EU) and a group of seven United Nations agencies and departments (UNEP, UNDP, HABITAT, PBSO, DPA, DESA and IOM), have partnered to help countries prevent, reduce and resolve tensions over natural resources. As part of this initiative, a regional training targeting civil society was held in Bujumbura, Burundi on September 2013 to kick start the activities of the partnership in the Great Lakes Region. The training was organized to share lessons learnt, brief civil society on planned activities including the development of training material, and to provide details on the EU-UN call for proposals under the partnership. The partnership is making USD 1 million available to civil society organizations working on natural resources and conflict resolution in the Great Lakes region, financed by the EU Instrument for Stability.



Artisanal miners in DR Congo. The country has the largest artisanal mining workforce in the world, estimated at around two million people.

Governance for Peace over Natural Resources: A Review of Transitions in Environmental Governance across Africa as a Resource for Peacebuilding and Environmental Management in Sudan

At the 2013 Doha International Donor Conference for Reconstruction and Development for Darfur, UNEP launched the report "Governance for Peace over Natural Resources." The report, funded by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID), is written to support Darfur's efforts to rebuild environmental governance. It reviews how other countries across Africa, such as Kenya, Niger, and South Africa, have tried to improve the management of land, water, forests and other resources in the face of large-scale environmental and social changes.

Since the secession of South Sudan in July 2011 and the diminished oil export revenue, Sudan is increasingly dependent on the livestock and agriculture sectors to grow its economy. Consequently fair governance of the country's natural resources is critical as a foundation for the national economy.

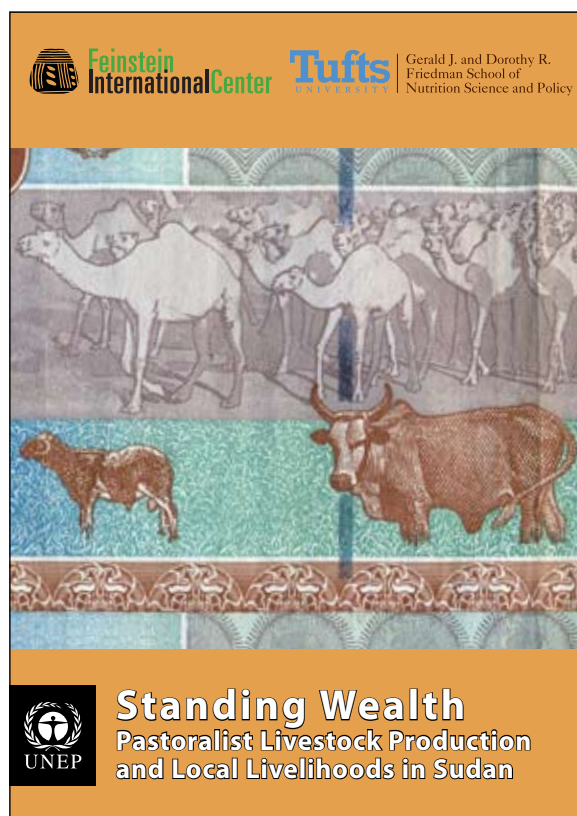
As natural resource governance touches the dynamic interface between traditional leadership and formal government, equitable natural resource management should inform peace processes in Sudan, such as the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Sudan. It is also imperative to place these issues on the agenda in the conflict affected border areas of Sudan such as Blue Nile and South Kordofan states.

The report can be [downloaded here](#).



Pastoralist Livestock Production is Vital for Livelihoods and the Economy in Sudan

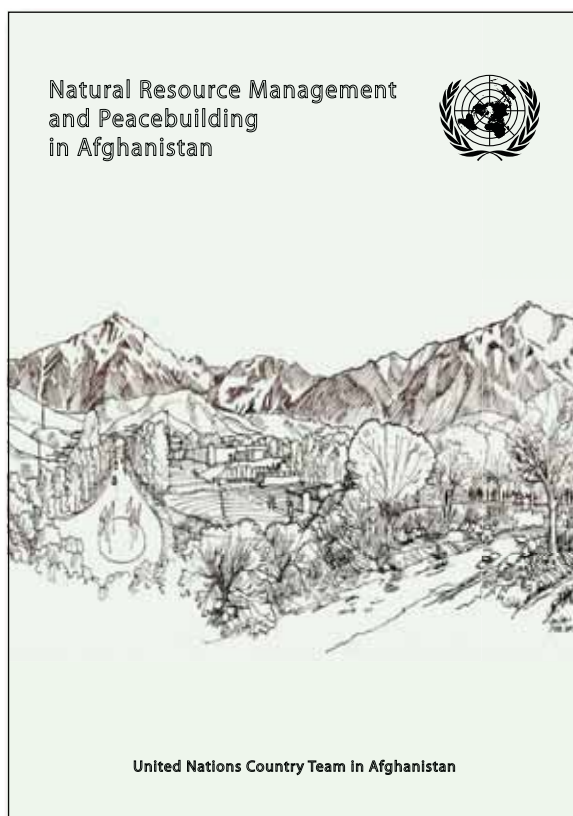
In Sudan, pastoralists turn environmental instability, characterized by variable rainfall, into an economic asset and a reliable source of food through livestock mobility and associated selective feeding strategies. In fact, evidence from Sudan shows that both 'nomadic' and 'sedentary' pastoralists consider livestock mobility vital to the success of their business, according to a recent report by UNEP, Tufts University and SOS Sahel Sudan. The report, entitled "Standing Wealth: Pastoralist Livestock Production and Local Livelihoods in Sudan" and funded by UKaid analyzes the importance of pastoralist livestock production for the country's economy, and ways in which pastoralism can be supported in the future to benefit livelihoods and the economy of Sudan.



Sudan is once again turning to agriculture as a major source of national income, and livestock is a cornerstone of Sudan's agricultural production. The characteristics of livestock supply, in terms of states of origin, breed composition and seasonality, indicate that most livestock in Sudan is sourced from pastoral production. Yet the importance of this production system, and the key elements that

make it operate successfully, are still poorly understood among decision makers and planners. Moreover, the full value of pastoralism remains largely 'hidden' from national accounts. This study examines the way that livestock management systems in Sudan contribute to securing livelihoods and the wider economy, and argues for constructively engaging with the logic of the system to craft policies and strategies that safeguard its continued contribution. It is only by fully understanding and appreciating the importance that pastoral livestock production has for Sudan, alongside better understood systems such as crop production, that there can be equity in decision making over natural resource access and use, and in livelihoods support in the country. This equity is a prerequisite for peaceful relationships over natural resources.

The report can be [downloaded here](#).



UN Country Team in Afghanistan: Effective Management of Natural Resources can Contribute to Peacebuilding in Afghanistan

Natural resources such as land, water, forests and minerals trigger and fuel conflict in Afghanistan, but sustainable and equitable management of these natural resources can contribute to peacebuilding in this landlocked nation, according to a United Nations study released in June 2013.

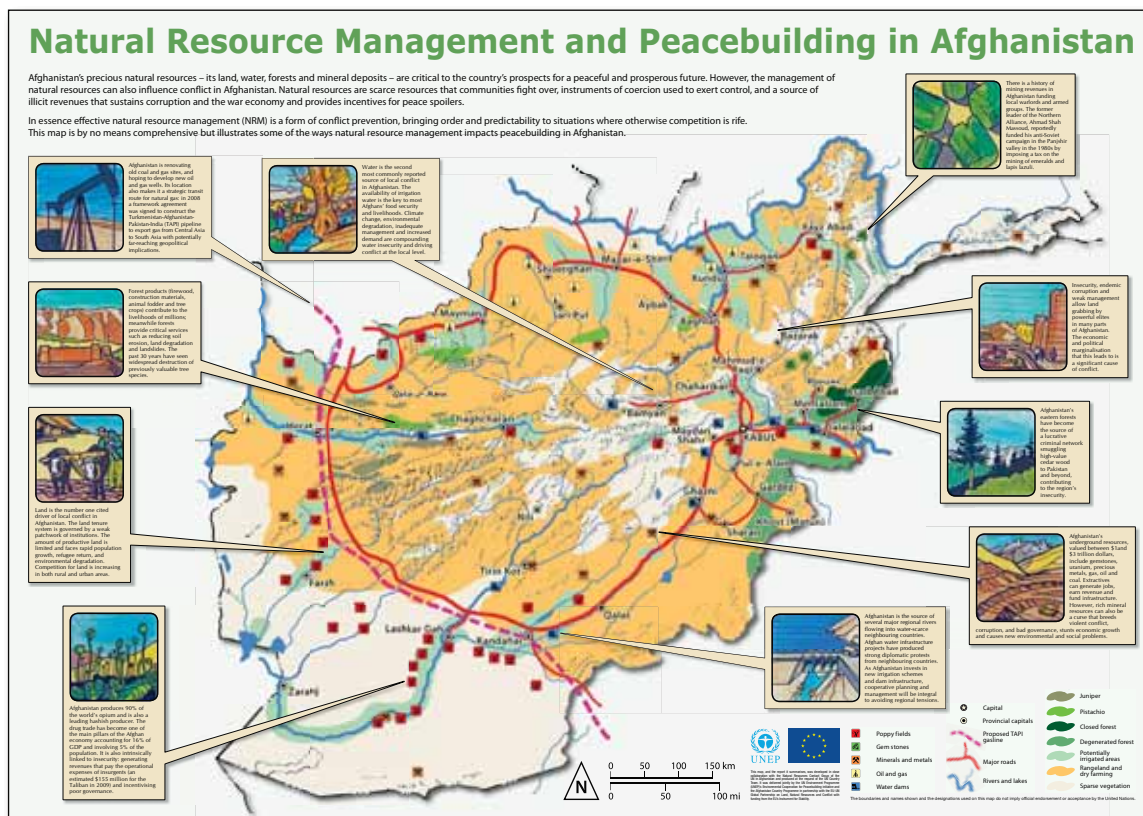
The report, 'Natural Resource Management and Peacebuilding in Afghanistan' and its accompanying 'Guidance Chart,' describe how the United Nations and the wider international community can assist the Government of Afghanistan to improve the management of natural resources in a way that contributes to peace and development on a national scale. Funded by the EU-UN Partnership on Land and Natural Resource

Conflicts, the study also aims to encourage international organisations to introduce mechanisms into their projects to ensure that they do not inadvertently exacerbate conflict over natural resources.

Good management of the environment can support sustainable and lasting peace. However, natural resources, and the control of these resources, contribute to underlying tension and violent conflict in Afghanistan in several ways, according to the report.

The report notes that the international community can play multiple roles in improving the management of natural resources in Afghanistan such as: building capacity to help implement management structures and laws relating to natural resources; supporting regional and community-level dispute resolution processes; improving data collection to enable early warning alerts when risks are detected; providing funding for conflict resolution that takes an environmental approach; and making environmental assessments and conflict-sensitive approaches a standard component of all development projects.





Building on the momentum of this report, UNEP conducted a training in Kabul to promote integration of natural resource management in country programming. Firstly, the training focused on ways to further incorporate environmental issues into the Common Country Assessment (CCA), a report that will help set targets for the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). Secondly, discussions were held on the links between natural resource management and peacebuilding with a focus on how to integrate conflict sensitivity into project planning. The training was attended by representatives from the United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the World Bank.



Concrete next steps for the UN's work on natural resource management and peacebuilding in Afghanistan are currently being developed. Considering that a new government will come to power after elections on April 5th, 2014, a comprehensive approach will require strong links between national and international partners, security forces, and development and business actors, especially in sectors such as extractives, large infrastructure projects, and land management.

The report can be [downloaded here](#) and the [guidance chart here](#).

UN Country Team Backs Conciliation and Peacebuilding in North Kivu, DR Congo

The new political-strategic context in Eastern DR Congo (DRC) following the defeat of the M23 in November 2013 by the DRC army with strong backing from MONUSCO, prompted the DRC UN Country Team (UNCT) to organize a retreat in Goma, North Kivu Province. The retreat, which took place from 11-13 December, had the objective of formulating a coherent response to the rapidly evolving situation. The signing of the Peace, Security, and Cooperation Framework (PSCF) by the DRC, 10 regional states and four international organizations on 24 February 2013, whose implementation is supported by Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region Mary Robinson, seeks to address root causes of the conflict through committing national, regional and international stakeholders to undertake tangible, and sustainable actions to achieve peace. The ending of the conflict between the Government of DRC and the M23 through the signing of the Nairobi Declarations in December 2013 have renewed hopes for breaking the recurring cycles of armed conflict in Eastern DRC.

All 18 UN agencies present in the country, as well as the country heads of the World Bank and IMF and key units and representatives of field offices from MONUSCO, participated in the retreat, attesting to the importance that the UN system as a whole gave to the new 'peacebuilding window' that has been created. The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General, Mr Moustapha Soumaré, and also included the participation of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General for the Rule of Law, Mr Abdallah Wafy, and MONUSCO Force Commander, General Carlos dos Santos Cruz.

Discussions focused on the UN's overall strategies in the East, coordination mechanisms within and between humanitarian, stabilization and development interventions, and an operational framework for the implementation of the revised International Support Strategy for Security and Stabilisation (ISSSS) in Eastern DRC. One of the main issues examined was how the UNCT can effectively contribute to stabilization in Eastern DRC through the various frameworks in place, in particular through the ISSSS, in support of the national programme for Stabilization and Reconstruction of War-Affected Areas (STAREC).



Conflict in the eastern part of DR Congo has resulted in a high number of internally displaced people (IDP) camps like the one in this picture.

The revised ISSSS strategy addresses the drivers of violent conflict, including security dilemmas, regional dynamics, mobilization around land and identity and exploitation of natural resources, as entry points to start a long term transformation of structural root causes of conflicts in the East. In relation to some of these drivers, UNEP, in consultation with various partners will be examining the opportunities and feasibility of implementing projects focused on the role of environmental and natural resource management in promoting peacebuilding, job creation and socio-economic recovery, and improving the quality of humanitarian relief delivery.

III. PARTNERSHIPS AND PROGRAMMES



Global EU-UN Partnership on Land and Natural Resource Conflicts

The European Union and seven UN partners (UNEP, UNDP, DPA, PBO, HABITAT, DESA and IOM) are working to support countries improve natural resource management for conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Through a joint programme called the “**EU-UN Partnership on Land and Natural Resource Conflicts**” and financed by the EU’s Instrument for Stability, technical assistance will be provided to help national stakeholders, as well as UN and EU staff in conflict-affected countries, to better understand and prevent tensions over environmental issues and the management of natural resources. The partnership is also designed to enhance policy development and programme coordination between key actors at the field level.

The EU-UN partnership has developed a number of practical guidance notes and training material on land and conflict, extractives and conflict, renewable resources and conflict, capacity building for natural resource management and conflict prevention in resource rich economies. The partnership also produced an analysis called “Capacity Inventory of the available capacities for the consensual and sustainable management of land and natural resources within the UN system.”

These Guidance Notes can be accessed at the [newly launched partnership webpage](#).



Based on these Guidance Notes, on-line interactive modules have been developed to impart this knowledge and skills particularly to field staff in both the UN and EU, as well as relevant HQ personnel and partners in countries. The online training programme begins with a global overview to enhance understanding of the link between natural resources and conflict. The second module focuses specifically on land and conflict, while the third and the fourth relates to extractives and renewable resources and conflict respectively. The training modules can be [accessed here](#).



Geomapping of Extractive Resources in g7+ Fragile States

In November 2012, the g7+ countries (the coalition of 18 fragile states) recognized during their Ministerial-level retreat that improving the governance of their natural resources and related revenues was a major factor in the path towards stability and development as nation states. As a follow-up to this meeting, the g7+ requested assistance from the World Bank's Center for Conflict, Security and Development (CCSD) to generate accurate and accessible information on the location of extractive resources together with the main concession boundaries and licensees. The World Bank established a pilot project entitled "Geo-mapping of Extractive Resources in g7+ Fragile States" to meet this request. UNEP was invited to join the project as a partner given its range of country programmes in g7+ countries and its work on natural resources, conflict and peacebuilding linkages.

The maps are intended to help fragile states strengthen information transparency for stakeholders on resource contract boundaries and ownership and to help visualize interactions between resource contracts and different kinds of risks (environmental, social and natural hazards). The mapping platform provides a common and accurate pool of resource contract information to all stakeholders to help equalize information asymmetries and inform expectations.

Since May 2013, UNEP and the World Bank have been designing the on-line platform and conducting the initial mapping. Phase 1 of the project has focused on the development of a prototype digital mapping platform and the production of a series of dynamic interactive maps on key resource concessions (oil & gas, mining, and forestry contracts) in three selected g7+ member countries: DR Congo, Afghanistan, and Sierra Leone.

UNEP and the World Bank held an expert meeting on 11 December 2013 in Geneva to review the scope, feasibility and functionality of the project and to identify the specific needs of user groups. A total of 34 international experts were in attendance presenting on state of the art technology in GIS and geo-mapping and elements of resource transparency and good resource governance.

UNDP Strategy for Supporting Sustainable and Equitable Management of the Extractive Industries

Recognizing the far-reaching impacts of extractive activities, UNDP has adopted a new Strategy for Supporting Sustainable and Equitable Management of the Extractive Industries. The Strategy builds on UNDP's past and on-going projects in the sector, implemented in diverse political, social and cultural contexts. The strategy adopts a broad approach to the governance of extractive industries. It supports countries to strengthen their legal and institutional frameworks to negotiate and enforce contracts in transparent and accountable ways and it also seeks to ensure that exploration and extraction operations are environmentally and socially sustainable. Likewise, the Strategy supports the transparent management of revenues, the management of revenue volatility, and the proper utilization of these funds, such as investment in economic diversification, as well as in human, social, physical and financial capital. UNDP works to enhance the participation of civil society, women's organizations, indigenous peoples and other affected groups in decision-making processes to ensure effective governance of the extractive sector. The Strategy also provides a framework for working with the private sector to put in place environmental and social safeguards, achieve local content regulations, and integrate their corporate social responsibility objectives with countries' national development plans. UNDP's mission is to ensure that natural wealth is used to improve people's lives, working with governments, the private sector, civil society, academia, local communities and other affected groups to accomplish this mission.



Aerial view of the rutile dredge and factory in the middle of a flooded rutile pit in south-central Sierra Leone. Sierra Leone has large quantities of rutile and illmenite which are found in topsoil along coastal areas of the country. The mining operation involves flooding large areas of ground and leaves wide expanses of mined area to be rehabilitated.



Governance of Extractive Industries (GOXI)

Governance of Extractive Industries (GOXI) is a knowledge platform and space for dialogue convened by the World Bank and UNDP for innovation and collaboration serving those actively working on governance issues in the extractive industries. Following a series of consultations with various stakeholders in extractive industries convened in 2009 by the World Bank Institute and partners, the need for a standing forum for innovation and collaboration across stakeholders, groups, countries, and initiatives within the industry was identified. GOXI was designed to meet this need, providing a place where people can: 1) discuss the big ideas; 2) share opinions and information, including new research and events; 3) connect with others actively working on the sector and dealing with similar challenges; 4) learn what is happening around the world; 5) find jobs; and 6) announce initiatives on the topic and garner support for them. The goal is for GOXI to be a top trusted source of knowledge, experiences, learning and connections in the sector and a richer platform for dialogue and exchange of practical experiences, policy and lessons learned on issues related to the governance of extractive industries.

The GOXI webpage can be accessed at: www.goxi.org

United Nations-World Bank Partnership Framework for Crisis and Post-Crisis Situations

As part of the ongoing collaboration between the UN and the World Bank, based on the **UN-WB Partnership Framework for Crisis and Post-Crisis Situations**, in May 2013 UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim had a three day mission to the DR Congo, Rwanda, and Uganda. They held extensive discussions with leaders of the three countries and pledged that both of their organizations will work closely to bring peace, security, and economic development for the Great Lakes Region. They highlighted the importance of assuring the proper management of natural resources for the benefit of all in order to improve the well-being, opportunities, and income of the entire population. In November, Dr. Kim and Mr. Ban visited the Sahel Region to draw attention to the economic and security challenges facing the highly vulnerable region and to hear from Sahelian leaders how the international community can better coordinate to provide increased support. The delegation visited Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, and Chad. This visit followed the formulation of the **United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel**, which puts a priority on governance, security, and resilience in the region, identifying increased competition over natural resources as a source of tensions between communities.

Further information on the Partnership Framework can be [found here](#).

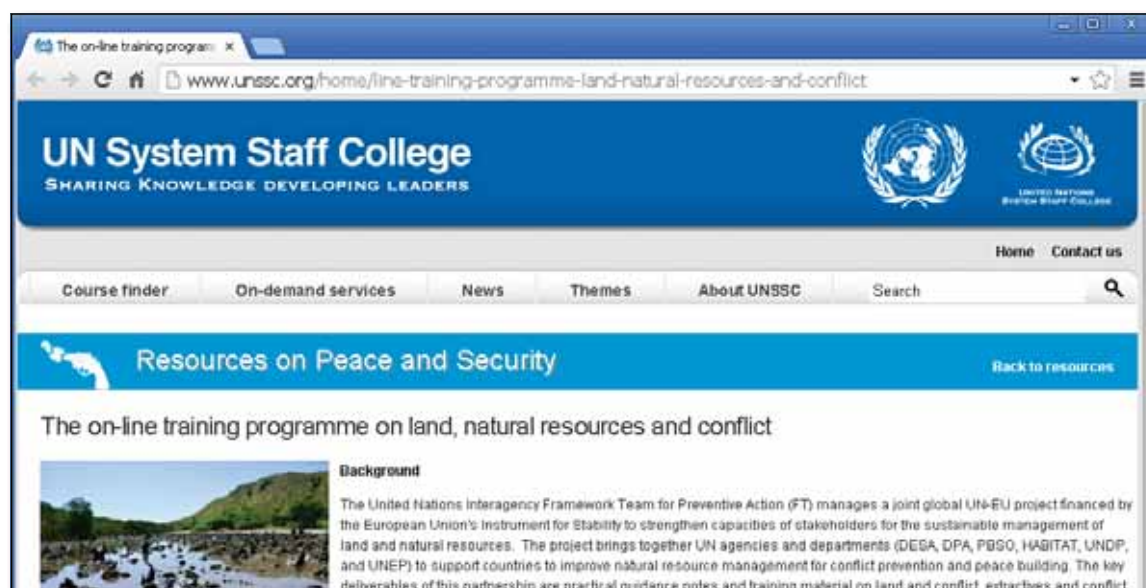
IV. TRAINING



UNSSC Online Training Programme on Land, Natural Resources and Conflict

The UN System Staff College (UNSSC) launched an on-line training programme focused on Land, Natural Resources and Conflict. Based on materials developed by the EU-UN Partnership on Land and Natural Resource Conflicts, the on-line programme begins with a global overview to enhance understanding of the link between natural resources and conflict, and their overall effect on development and the UN-EU interventions in managing them. The following 3 modules then relate to specific natural resources concerns: land, extractive industries and renewable resources. Throughout the course, the learner will follow three Peace and Development Practitioners during their missions to three countries facing critical situations exacerbated by natural resources. The learner will understand how natural resources can create or aggravate conflict and will learn to assess the situation and look for opportunities for interventions that can prevent or reduce conflict. The completion of the course is validated with a certificate through an assessment.

The UNSSC on-line training can be [accessed here](#).



UNITAR Training on Natural Resources and Peacekeeping Operations

As a follow-up to the report, “**Greening the Blue Helmets: Environment, Natural Resources and UN Peacekeeping Operations**,” a series of three e-training modules is being produced by UNITAR in partnership with UNEP and the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD). The training programme aims to support the UN’s 16 peace operations in improving their management of the environment and natural resources. The course is divided into three modules, with Module 1, “Introduction to environment, natural resources and UN Peacekeeping Operations,” being active since 2012. The remaining modules will be launched later in 2014 and will cover restoring governance of natural resources, and technical options for greening peacekeeping operations.

The UNITAR training can be [accessed here](#).

