

# Climate Diplomacy\_(/).

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Security   Global Issues

30 MAY, 2020

Climate change, conflict and fragility – The basics  
(<https://www.climate-diplomacy.org/news/climate-change-conflict-and-fragility-%E2%80%93-basics>)

Manon Levrey, EPLO



DMITRY PICHUGIN/SHUTTERSTOCK

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***Although there is no causality nor direct and automatic link between climate change and conflict, we can see that climate change can intensify conflict drivers and make it harder to find stability. The online workshop "Climate change, conflict and fragility: Increasing resilience against climate-fragility risks", organised by the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO) (<http://eplo.org/>) and adelphi (<https://www.adelphi.de/en>), looked into this complex relationship.***

70 percent ([https://climate-security-expert-network.org/sites/climate-security-expert-network.com/files/documents/csen\\_climate\\_fragility\\_policy\\_paper\\_-\\_climate\\_change\\_in\\_the\\_un\\_peacebuilding\\_commission\\_and\\_fund.pdf](https://climate-security-expert-network.org/sites/climate-security-expert-network.com/files/documents/csen_climate_fragility_policy_paper_-_climate_change_in_the_un_peacebuilding_commission_and_fund.pdf)) of the most climate-vulnerable countries also belong to the most fragile countries. This often comes down to questions of governance: communities are more vulnerable to climate change, and to conflict, because their governance system is not working for them, leaving them vulnerable.

Here are seven climate-fragility risks that can be shown to affect conflict dynamics:

1. **Resource competition:** climate change impacts the access and availability of natural resources, which can lead to competition which can in turn lead to conflict. Sometimes there are more resources but this can also lead to conflict as they have to be shared.
2. **Livelihood insecurity and migration:** climate change can increase insecurity for populations that rely on livelihoods like agriculture (droughts in Afghanistan ([https://climate-security-expert-network.org/sites/climate-security-expert-network.com/files/documents/csen\\_climate\\_fragility\\_risk\\_brief\\_-\\_afghanistan\\_o.pdf](https://climate-security-expert-network.org/sites/climate-security-expert-network.com/files/documents/csen_climate_fragility_risk_brief_-_afghanistan_o.pdf)), have led to more food insecurity). Livelihood insecurity may also increase the attractiveness of joining armed groups that offer some kind of economic security, and can also act as a push factor for migration (within and across borders, from rural to urban areas, putting more pressure on the resources in the hosting areas and its resources).
3. **Extreme weather events and disaster:** crime and violence can increase in the wake of major disasters. This poses a longer term challenge: if the response of the government is not seen as being fair, this can fuel grievances (<https://www.newclimateforpeace.org/blog/thailand-aceh-and-sri-lanka-how-extreme-weather-events-and-disasters-can-be-catalysts-fragility>). Disasters don't always lead to instability and can also be used to build peace.
4. **Volatile food prices and supply:** fast and significant changes in food prices can be caused by, and in turn, lead to political and economic crises. In 2011, during the Arab Spring, soaring food prices acted as a catalyst (<https://www.newclimateforpeace.org/blog/price-climate-change-how-volatile-food-prices-spur-social-unrest>), in an already fragile situation.
5. **Transboundary water management:** competition over water can lead to challenges to peaceful cooperation in international river basins.
6. **Sea level rise and coastal degradation:** the slow-onset risks to coastal communities and their implications on migration, urbanisation and security is an existential long-term threat caused by climate change.
7. **Unintended effects of climate policy:** climate action may risk creating new conflicts or exacerbates existing ones. We need to make sure that peacebuilding projects are climate sensitive, and vice versa – especially as funding for these projects is increasing (i.e. the European Green Deal (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1588580774040&uri=CELEX:52019DCo640>)).

Despite the positive momentum around climate change, we also witness an increased militarization (<https://diem25.org/how-military-industries-poison-our-planet/>) and securitization (global military expenditure is estimated to have been at the highest level since 1988 ([https://www.sipri.org/sites/default/files/2020-04/fs\\_2020\\_04\\_milex\\_o\\_o.pdf](https://www.sipri.org/sites/default/files/2020-04/fs_2020_04_milex_o_o.pdf))). Climate-fragility

conflict risks do not suggest military responses: in the face of these challenges, there is a need for an integrated response across key policy fields such as climate change adaptation, peacebuilding and conflict prevention, development and humanitarian aid.

Conflict sensitivity and climate response need to go hand in hand: the peacebuilding community should integrate the climate risks into their conflict analysis and responses (peacebuilding programmes can help build the resilience needed for climate adaptation), and the climate community should be more inclusive and address issues around the political economy, work on social cohesion, etc. when leading climate action.

UN Environment and the European Union (EU) are partnering with [adelphi](https://www.adelphi.de/en) (<https://www.adelphi.de/en>), for a four-year project (2017–2021), financed by the EU's Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP). The [project](https://www.climate-diplomacy.org/news/toolkit-addressing-climate-fragility-risks) (<https://www.climate-diplomacy.org/news/toolkit-addressing-climate-fragility-risks>), designed as a response to the recommendations of the '[A New Climate For Peace: Taking Action on Climate Fragility Risks](https://www.newclimateforpeace.org/)' (<https://www.newclimateforpeace.org/>) report (2015), is developing a toolbox and guidance material on how to integrate climate adaption and conflict sensitivity.

*This blog post, originally posted on the [EPLO blog](https://eploblog.wordpress.com/2020/05/26/climate-change-conflict-and-fragility-the-basics/) (<https://eploblog.wordpress.com/2020/05/26/climate-change-conflict-and-fragility-the-basics/>), was written in the framework of the online workshop '**Climate change, conflict and fragility: Increasing resilience against climate-fragility risks**', organised by the [European Peacebuilding Liaison Office \(EPLO\)](http://eplo.org/) (<http://eplo.org/>), together with [adelphi](https://www.adelphi.de/en) (<https://www.adelphi.de/en>) and the Climate Diplomacy initiative, with support from the [German Federal Foreign Office](https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en) (<https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en>).*



SOURCE:

[EPLO BLOG \(HTTPS://EPLOBLOG.WORDPRESS.COM/2020/05/26/CLIMATE-CHANGE-CONFLICT-AND-FRAGILITY-THE-BASICS/\)](https://eploblog.wordpress.com/2020/05/26/climate-change-conflict-and-fragility-the-basics/)

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RELATED READING

## [Addressing climate-fragility risks – Linking peacebuilding, climate change adaptation and sustainable livelihoods: Toolbox](http://www.climate-diplomacy.org/publications/addressing-climate-fragility-risks---linking-peacebuilding-climate-change-adaptation-1) (<http://www.climate-diplomacy.org/publications/addressing-climate-fragility-risks---linking-peacebuilding-climate-change-adaptation-1>)

To date, responses to climate change have failed to address the full range of knock-on effects. Most climate change programmes do not address conflict and ignore future conflict impacts. Most peacebuilding programmes do not take climate risks into account. As a result, development organizations frequently design separate programmes for climate change adaptation and peacebuilding, sometimes with conflicting objectives. This toolbox provides you with a number of tools and exercises, and offers further reading on selected topics.

[READ MORE \(HTTP://WWW.CLIMATE-DIPLOMACY.ORG/PUBLICATIONS/ADDRESSING-CLIMATE-FRAGILITY-RISKS---LINKING-PEACEBUILDING-CLIMATE-CHANGE-ADAPTATION-1\)](http://www.climate-diplomacy.org/publications/addressing-climate-fragility-risks---linking-peacebuilding-climate-change-adaptation-1)

## [A Toolkit for Addressing Climate Fragility Risks](http://www.climate-diplomacy.org/news/toolkit-addressing-climate-fragility-risks) (<http://www.climate-diplomacy.org/news/toolkit-addressing-climate-fragility-risks>)

Climate change is increasingly challenging global security and undermining peacebuilding efforts. UN Environment and the European Union have joined forces to address these challenges. With the support of adelphi, they have developed a toolkit on ‘[Addressing climate-fragility risks](https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/toolkits-manuals-and-guides/addressing-climate-fragility-risks)’ (<https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/toolkits-manuals-and-guides/addressing-climate-fragility-risks>). This toolkit facilitates the development and implementation of strategies, policies, and projects that seek to build resilience by linking climate change adaptation, peacebuilding, and sustainable livelihoods, focusing on the pilot countries Sudan and Nepal.

[READ MORE \(HTTP://WWW.CLIMATE-DIPLOMACY.ORG/NEWS/TOOLKIT-ADDRESSING-CLIMATE-FRAGILITY-RISKS\)](http://www.climate-diplomacy.org/news/toolkit-addressing-climate-fragility-risks)

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Adaptation & Resilience   Sub-Saharan Africa   Asia

20 JANUARY, 2021

## [How climate services can help mitigate crises and conflict](/news/how-climate-services-can-help-mitigate-crises-and-conflict) (</news/how-climate-services-can-help-mitigate-crises-and-conflict>)

Planetary Security Initiative

Extreme weather events such as droughts and floods are expected to become more severe under future climate conditions. This implies a concern for policymakers in national and international security.

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Conflict Transformation   South America

13 JANUARY, 2021

## [Assessing impacts of environmental peacebuilding in Caquetá, Colombia: a multistakeholder perspective \(/news/assessing-impacts-environmental-peacebuilding-caqueta%CC%81-colombia-multistakeholder-perspective\)](#)

Héctor Morales Muñoz (ZALF)

A major challenge in the field of environmental peacebuilding is showing the impact of its initiatives. Questions emerge, such as "Which dimensions of post-conflict peacebuilding are more likely to be affected by natural resource management projects?". Although quantitative studies assess the relation between natural resource management programmes and conflict risks, there is less research on what the specific mechanisms involved in implementing projects designed for environmental peacebuilding are.

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Conflict Transformation   Global Issues

11 JANUARY, 2021

## [The past and future\(s\) of environmental peacebuilding \(/news/past-and-futures-environmental-peacebuilding\)](#)

Tobias Ide (University of Brunswick), Carl Bruch (EnPAX), Alexander Carius (adelphi), Ken Conca (American University), Geoffrey Dabelko (Ohio University), Richard Matthew (UC Irvine) and Erika Weinthal (Duke University)

Chatham House's International Affairs Journal has just released a special issue focused on environmental peacebuilding. adelphi Managing Director Alexander Carius, alongside Tobias Ide, Carl Bruch, Ken Conca, Geoffrey Dabelko, Richard Matthew and Erika Weinthal, introduces the special issue giving particular emphasis on environmental opportunities for building and sustaining peace.

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Environment & Migration   Asia

23 DECEMBER, 2020

## [South Asia could profit from targeted policies on climate migration \(/news/south-asia-could-profit-targeted-policies-climate-migration\)](#)

Dhanasree Jayaram, MAHE



A lack of targeted policies to manage climate migration in South Asia is aggravating the vulnerabilities of various communities in the region. International and regional cooperation and strategy on climate action (broadly) and climate migration (specifically) is the need of the hour.

[LOAD MORE \(/NEWS/CLIMATE-CHANGE-CONFLICT-AND-FRAGILITY-%E2%80%93-BASICS?PAGE=1\)](/NEWS/CLIMATE-CHANGE-CONFLICT-AND-FRAGILITY-%E2%80%93-BASICS?PAGE=1)

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[Video Platform \(/video.ecc-platform.org/\)](http://video.ecc-platform.org/)

[A New Climate for Peace \(/www.newclimateforpeace.org/\)](http://www.newclimateforpeace.org/)

[Report \(/www.newclimateforpeace.org/\)](http://www.newclimateforpeace.org/)

[Resilience Compass Blog \(/www.newclimateforpeace.org/blog\)](http://www.newclimateforpeace.org/blog)

[Factbook \(/www.newclimateforpeace.org/thematic-reading/factbook\)](http://www.newclimateforpeace.org/thematic-reading/factbook)

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